# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
18 February 2008—7 March 2008

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 18 February 2008*

## DEFENCE

### NATO Defence Ministers

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** I attended an informal meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 7 and 8 February. It provided an important opportunity for discussions on operations and on the transformation of NATO capabilities in the run-up to the summit meeting to be held in Bucharest in April.

The main focus was on current operations. Ministers underlined the importance of the NATO operation in Afghanistan and agreed the need to work for a better co-ordinated and comprehensive effort by the international community. Ministers were also keen to ensure that NATO's KFOR mission was prepared to continue to provide a safe and secure environment in any eventuality in Kosovo. NATO Ministers were joined by their counterparts from non-NATO nations making valuable contributions both to KFOR and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and by the Afghan Defence Minister as well as by representatives from the UN, the EU and the World Bank.

At the meeting, Ministers reaffirmed the high value they placed on the NATO response force and approved its transition to a graduated force structure.

In addition, there were meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, where Minister Yekhanurov set out the new Ukrainian Government's priorities in security and defence policy, and the NATO-Russia Council which agreed a joint programme of work for 2008.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Freedom of Information Act (John Williams' Document)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** In accordance with the Information Tribunal's decision of 22 January 2008, I have today released what has been described as John Williams' draft of the September 2002 Iraq weapons of mass destruction dossier.

The document produced by John Williams, then head of the FCO's press office, was not commissioned as part of the formal drafting process and was not used as the basis for the dossier the Government subsequently published, which was produced by the Joint Intelligence Committee.

The document was originally withheld under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act on the important point of principle that for the effective conduct of public affairs the space which Ministers and officials have to consider and discuss ideas should be protected. Officials and others who draft policy documents should not feel constrained in presenting free and frank advice through fear that their ideas will be made public. This must continue to be an important principle for the effective conduct of government.

I have placed a copy of the document in the Library of the House. Copies are also available on the FCO website: www.fco.gov.uk

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Tackling Violence

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Today I am publishing "Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public", which sets out what we as a Government, together with the police and our other delivery partners, will be doing over the next three years, both to reduce the incidence of serious violence, and to reduce the harm to victims when tragedies do occur. We will be taking this forward within the framework of the Government's new public service agreements, which prioritise serious violence for the first time, recognising that this is core business for the police and local partners.

We have achieved a great deal over the past 10 years. The British crime survey shows that violent crime overall has fallen by 31 per cent. since 1997. Domestic violence has halved over the past decade. The number of deaths initially recorded by the police as homicides last year was the lowest for eight years. Offences resulting in serious wounding fell by 9 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Recorded gun crime fell by 13 per cent. in the same period. We know a lot about what works. The challenge is to ensure that the good practice we have developed is applied in all communities, to the benefit of everyone.

The actions in this plan will reduce serious violence, including gun and gang-related crime, knife crime, and sexual and domestic violence, and will improve the criminal justice response to these offences.

We will continue to prevent and detect illegal firearms entering the UK, and introduce new controls to remove deactivated firearms from our streets. We will work with the police to develop new technology to improve intelligence on firearms used in crime and we will ensure that, particularly in relation to gang violence, witnesses receive the best possible protection from the earliest stages of the criminal justice process. We will be educating 1.1 million children over five years on the dangers of carrying weapons. We will give the police and others 100 search arches and 400 search wands this year to increase detection of knife crime, and will roll out more over the next three years. We will increase the presumption to prosecute those caught in possession of a knife. And we will ensure that young people convicted of knife crime receive focused interventions to change their behaviour and prevent reoffending.

We will double the number of specialist domestic violence courts by 2011, to ensure that sensitive domestic violence cases can be heard in a safe and protected court environment; and we will roll out multi-agency risk assessment conferences nationally, to ensure that local agencies work positively and proactively together to reduce repeat victimisation among domestic violence victims.

On sexual offences, a particular focus will be on improving the criminal justice response. The current conviction rate for rape cases is unacceptably low, and I am determined to see a step change in this area. We will therefore be driving forward work to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape, including engaging with areas where performance is particularly poor, and we will be more than doubling the number of joint police-NHS sexual assault referral centres, so that victims of serious sexual offences across the country can benefit from the excellent services they provide.

We will work with the internet industry to ensure that the online protection of children from sex offenders is as robust as possible, and we will continue to implement the recommendations of the 2007 review of the protection of children from sex offenders, including allowing for the disclosure of child sex offenders' convictions to certain members of the public where this is necessary for child protection.

We will also be taking forward action on two key cross-cutting themes. First, the plan includes a number of actions to get local agencies working better together. It is important for them to share information about the relatively small number of people in their communities at risk of involvement in serious violence, either as victims or offenders, so that early interventions can be made to prevent serious violence from occurring in the first place, or from escalating where it has already started. We will be investing over £20 million over the next three years to support this.

Secondly, there are actions to improve the care we provide all victims of serious violence, both to reduce harm and to help secure more convictions and thereby reduce reoffending.

Our vision is to save lives, reduce harm and protect the public. The police and other delivery partners have been closely involved in the development of this plan, and we are committed to working with them all, and local communities, to implement it. We are confident that, by delivering the actions in this plan over the next three years and beyond, this vision will become reality.

## Prevention of Terrorism Act

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** In accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed the report on the operation of the Act in 2007, which will be laid before the House today.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 19 February 2008*

## TREASURY

### HM Revenue and Customs (Departmental Expenditure Limit)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the HM Revenue and Customs total DEL will be decreased by £3,595,000 from £4,624,117,000 to £4,620,522,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | 17,853 | -20,200 | 4,164,498 | 372,813 | 4,537,311 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration Budget [1] | 20,200 | -20,200 | 4,416,733 | 24,874 | 4,441,607 |
| Near-cash in RDEL [1] | 68,613 | -20,200 | 3,839,588 | 406,961 | 4,246,549 |
| Capital[2] | 24,259 | - | 288,230 | 3,739 | 291,969 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | -25,507 | - | -208,758 | | -208,758 |
| Total DEL | 16,605 | -20,200 | 4,243,970 | 376,552 | 4,620,522 |

[1]The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Near cash administration costs draw down of non-voted DUP of £20,200,000 taken up as voted provision to facilitate improvements to key operational activities.

Near cash programme transfer of £153,000 from the Department for Finance and Personnel in respect of the aggregates levy.

Non-cash revaluation costs of £2,500,000 reclassified as AME from DEL.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

The draw down of £24,259,000 from the modernisation fund to support costs for the PAYE modernisation project.

### Office for National Statistics Departmental Expenditure Limit

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Office for National Statistics' total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £6,672,000 from £175,178,000 to £181,850,000, and the administration budget will be increased by £6,520,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 12,672 | -6,000 | 175,176 | 1,027 | 176,203 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* [1] | 12,520 | -6,000 | 175,024 | 1,027 | 176,051 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 10,782 | -7,172 | 144,236 | 9,527 | 153,763 |
| Capital[2] | - | - | 27,580 | - | 27,580 |
| Depreciation[3] | - | - | -21,933 | - | -21,933 |
| Total | 12,672 | -6,000 | 180,823 | 1,027 | 181,850 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Reserve claim of £5,400,000.

The take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) of £6,000,000 in order to finance in-year pressures and to meet new priorities

Transfer from the BERR in respect of Construction statistics consisting of £152,000 programme and £1,120,000 admin.

The change in the administration budget arises from reserve claim of £5,400,000, the take up of DUP of £6,000,000 and the transfer of £1,120,000 from BERR.

### Government Actuary's Departmental Expenditure Limit

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Government Actuary's Department's total DEL will be increased by £222,000 from £424,000 to £646,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 222 | - | 794 | - | 794 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* [1] | 222 | - | 794 | - | 794 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 222 | - | 273 | 7 | 280 |
| Capital[2] | - | - | 228 | - | 228 |
| Depreciation[3] | - | - | -376 | - | -376 |
| Total | 222 | - | 646 | - | 646 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

the take up of DEL End-Year Flexibility (EYF) of £222,000 to cover reduced appropriations-in-aid.

The change in the administration budget arises from the take up of administration DEL EYF of £222,000.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### EU Competitiveness Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** I will be attending the EU Competitiveness Council in Brussels on 25 February.

The two main agenda items are likely to be the Lisbon economic reform process, and the single market review. The Council will be invited to adopt a key issues paper on the renewed Lisbon strategy. This will form the Competitiveness Council's contribution to the Spring European Council. The Council will then be invited to adopt conclusions on the Commission's single market review. The review follows much of what the UK called for—a new flexible approach to single market policy that puts the emphasis on promoting competition, reducing the burden of regulation, and encouraging innovation. It is important that the UK builds on the success of the review by ensuring positive conclusions.

The only other substantive agenda item for which BERR is responsible will be:

Strategic Energy Technologies (SET) action plan (an exchange of views). The UK strongly supports the need at Member State and EU level to increase the scale and impact of our investments in low carbon technologies.

There will be seven further items taken under Any Other Business for which BERR is responsible:

i) A presentation by the Commission on its recent package of proposals for the European defence industry,

ii) Information from the presidency on emissions of $CO_2$ from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

iii) Information from the Commission on a consumer markets scoreboard,

iv) Information from the presidency on the recent European clusters conference,

v) Information from the presidency on the climate-energy legislative package.

vi) Information from the Commission on the single market scoreboard,

vii) Information from the Commission on better regulation.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):**

SPRING SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2007-08

Expenditure Limits

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's DEL will be increased by £584,491,000 from £3,396,817,000 to £3,981,308,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £174,122,000 from £326,709,000 to £500,831,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource (£'000) | 201,746 | 356,373 | -443,681 | 3,230,940 | 2,787,259 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration[1] budget | 174,122 | | 500,831 | | 500,831 |
| Near cash in Resource DEL[2] | 6,905 | 356,373 | -791,704 | 3,286,885 | 2,495,181 |
| Capital (£000) | -59,892 | 86,264 | -758,716 | 1,952,765 | 1,194,049 |
| Less Depreciation[3] (£000) | | | -38,275 | -9,129 | -47,404 |
| Total (£000) | 141,854 | 442,637 | -1,240,672 | 5,174,576 | 3,933,904 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) Machinery of Government transfer of £810,000 non-voted expenditure from the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Northern Way;

ii) transfer of £311,000 to Department of the Environment Northern Ireland for the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive;

iii) transfer of £750,000 non-voted expenditure from the Ministry of Defence for Nirex;

iv) virement of £363,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies reflecting increased contributions from other Government Departments;

v) virement of £300,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of Capital for Enterprise Ltd;

vi) utilisation of £991,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of non-voted expenditure of the regional development agencies;

vii) utilisation of £256,159,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of non-voted expenditure of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

viii) Reserve claim of £97,000,000 in respect of non-voted expenditure of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

ix) utilisation of £4,400,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of global threat reduction;

x) utilisation of £10,841,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of British Shipbuilders non-cash;

xi) utilisation of £1,357,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of the renewable energy performance and innovation fund;

xii) utilisation of £3,252,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of sustainable development and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive;

xiii) Machinery of Government transfer of £152,000 to the Office for National Statistics in respect of construction statistics;

Also within the change to resource DEL above, the changes to the administration budget are (RfR1):

i) machinery of Government transfer of £42,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Northern Way;

ii) transfer of £100,000 from the Treasury solicitors in respect of European division;

iii) utilisation of £62,000,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of onerous property lease non-cash;

iv) Reserve claim of £122,000,000 in respect of onerous property lease non-cash;

v) virement of £2,000,000 to programme in respect of energy demand reduction pilot;

vi) virement of £1,700,000 to programme in respect of clean and sustainable energy;

vii) virement of £5,200,000 to programme in respect of in-year restructuring costs;

viii) machinery of Government transfer of £1,120,000 to the Office for National Statistics in respect of construction statistics;

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) machinery of Government transfer of £25,000,000 non-voted expenditure from the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Northern Way;

ii) virement of £2,364,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of the Regional Development Agencies reflecting increased contributions from other Government Departments;

iii) virement of £8,900,000 from voted expenditure on sustainable energy capital grants to fund a shortfall in non-voted launch investment CFER receipts;

iv) virement of £15,000,000 from voted expenditure on sustainable energy capital grants to non-voted expenditure by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

v) virement of £32,000,000 from voted expenditure on Regional Selective Assistance to non-voted expenditure by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

vi) transfer of £1,628,000 to the Ministry of Justice for the ETS and ACAS caseflow project;

vii) utilisation of £3,000,000 from the unused balance of the Department's EYF entitlement in respect of non-voted expenditure of the Regional Development Agencies;

SPRING SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2007-08—OFGEM WRITTEN STATEMENT

Expenditure Limits

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets' DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £1,652,000 to £1,653,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £702,000 to £703,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource (£000) | 1 | - | 703 | - | 703 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration[1] budget | 1 | - | 703 | - | 703 |
| Near cash in Resource DEL[2] | 1 | - | -92 | 991 | 899 |
| Capital (£000) | - | - | 950 | - | 950 |
| Less Depreciation[3] (£000) | - | - | -1,000 | - | -1,000 |
| Total (£000) | 1 | - | 653 | - | 653 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from a token increase in administration costs to bring to Parliament's attention a reclassification of Ofgem's expenditure in connection with environmental programmes from RfR2 to RfR1.

This change better reflects Ofgem's responsibilities for the administration of environmental programmes, and it is therefore no longer appropriate to treat it as a separate RfR.

There is no change in the capital element of the DEL

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Department Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £131,548,000 from £50,559,305,000 to £50,690,853,000, the administration cost budget will be increased by £3,300,000 from £192,477,000 to £195,777,000. There is no change for the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED), whose DEL remains at £221,790,000 and administration cost budget remains at £28,955,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| *DCSF* | *Resources* | | | | *Capital*[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Change* | *New DEL* | *of which: Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Change* | *New DEL* | *of which: Voted* | *Non-voted* |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| RfR1 | 219,537 | 43,538,008 | 42,322,400 | 1,215,608 | -86,000 | 5,210,255 | 4,165,399 | 1,044,856 |
| RfR2 | -22,933 | 1,200,121 | 1,200,121 | 0 | 86,000 | 617,425 | 617,425 | 0 |
| RfR3 | -65,056 | 125,044 | 125,044 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *DCSF Total* | *131,548* | *44,863,173* | *43,647,565* | *1,215,608* | *0* | *5,827,680* | *4,782,824* | *1,044,856* |

| DCSF | Resources | | | | Capital[3] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Change | New DEL | of which: Voted | Non-voted | Change | New DEL | of which: Voted | Non-voted |
| OFSTED | 0 | 220,809 | 220,809 | 0 | 0 | 981 | 981 | 0 |
| *Sub-Total* | *131,548* | *45,083,982* | *43,868,374* | *1,215,608* | *0* | *5,828,661* | *4,783,805* | *1,044,856* |
| Of which[2] | | | | | | | | |
| Admin Budget | 3,300 | 224,732 | 224,732 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Near cash in RDEL | 126,162 | 45,091,267 | 43,836,388 | 1,254,878 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation[1] | -6,718 | -17,817 | -12,835 | -4,982 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Total* | *124,830* | *45,066,165* | *43,855,539* | *1,210,626* | *0* | *5,828,661* | *4,783,805* | *1,044,856* |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.
[2]The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[3]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Within the administration cost budget changes, the impact is set out in the following table:

| DfES | Original | Change | Revised |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| DfES (RfR1) | 192,477 | 3,300 | 195,777 |
| OFSTED | 28,955 | 0 | 28,955 |
| Total | 221,432 | 3,300 | 224,732 |

RESOURCE DEL

The £131,548,000 increase in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from a decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £95,208,000 and an increase of £226,756,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL.

VOTED RESOURCE DEL

The £95,208,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

The take up of end year flexibility of £135,294,000 for central administration costs (£2,000,000), for central services programme costs (£16,685,000), for school central programmes (£27,300,000), children's services and programmes (£12,500,000), schools standards fund (£65,769,000), departmental restructuring (£11,040,000).

A movement from Sure Start RFR2 to RFR1 £4,026,000 towards the costs of early years foundations.

A movement of £65,056,000 from children's fund RfR3 to local area agreements.

A movement to Sure Start RFR2 of £50,000 from schools central programmes for the formula development project.

A movement to non-budget of £206,799,000 for learner support (£13,170,000), 14-19 development (£70,379,000), teachers' pay and performance (£119,629,000), TEC property costs (£3,621,000).

A transfer to the Department for Innovations, Universities and Skills for £4,746,000 in respect of adult training and skills.

RFR2

The take up of end year flexibility of £1,000,000 for Sure Start family unit grants.

A movement from RfR1 of £50,000 to Sure Start central grants for the formula development project.

A movement to RFR1 £4,026,000 for costs to support the roll out of the early years foundation stage (£2,000,000), for groups contribution to the flood recovery grant (£2,000,000), for the early years census (£26,000).

A movement to non-voted of £19,957,000 for teacher training.

RFR3

A movement of £65,056,000 to local area agreements RfR1.

NON-VOTED RESOURCE DEL

The increase in non-voted resource DEL of £226,756,000 arises from:

A movement from RFR1 of £206,799,000 for learner support (£13,170,000), 14-19 development (£70,379,000), teachers' pay and performance (£119,629,000), TEC property costs (£3,621,000).

A movement from RFR2 of £19,957,000 for teacher training.

CAPITAL DEL

There is no increase or decrease in capital DEL, but there are movements between voted and non-voted capital DEL.

VOTED CAPITAL DEL

RFR1

A movement of £86,000,000 from School Standard Funds to Sure Start Capital grants through Local Authorities RfR2.

A movement of £416,228,000 from non-voted capital DEL which is made up of £310,000,000 for city academies, £80,644,000 for school standards, £25,584,000 for ICT in schools.

RFR2

A movement of £86,000,000 from School Standard Funds RFR1 to Capital grants through Local Authorities.

NON-VOTED CAPITAL DEL

A movement of £416,228,000 to voted capital DEL which is made up of £310,000,000 for city academies, £80,644,000 for School Standards, £25,584,000 for ICT in Schools.

ADMINISTRATION COST BUDGET

The take up of End Year Flexibility of £2,000,000 to cover net pressure on departmental administration costs.

A reclassification of £1,300,000 from further education programme costs.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Department Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2007-08 will change as follows:

(1) The Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Programmes DEL will be decreased by £9,290,000 from £10,374,025,000 to £10,364,735,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £8,377,000 from £296,007,000 to £304,384,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | -6,131 | 22,408 | 4,118,195 | 218,414 | 4,336,609 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* [1] | 5,377 | | 304,384 | | 304,384 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | -10,596 | 24,124 | 4,065,075 | 140,493 | 4,205,568 |
| Capital[2] | -48,964 | 23,964 | 2,444,494 | 3,624,269 | 6,068,763 |
| Depreciation[3] | -947 | 380 | -29,494 | -11,143 | -40,637 |
| Total | -56,042 | 46,752 | 6,533,195 | 3,831,540 | 10,364,735 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:*

(i) take up of End Year Flexibility of £17,854,000 comprising :

*Programme Expenditure*

(a) £9,100,000 to provide cover to enable the settlement of the Thurmaston case. The Ombudsman has completed her report on the Co-operative Society claim of maladministration against the Department with respect to the handling of a planning appeal that was called in 1996, and finds the Department partly at fault. A financial compensation settlement is being negotiated.

*Administration costs*

(b) £8,754,000 for central administration comprising £6,005,000 to cover the work of the Department for Communities and Local Government and £2,749,000 for Government Offices to fund additional capital charges and a provision for future Government Office early staff exits.

(ii) transfer of £190,000 from Fire Publicity (Main DEL - RfRl) to Best value Inspectorate (Local Government DEL - RFR2 ) to cover additional Fire Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspection work on Fire and Rescue Authorities.

(iii) transfer of £200,000 from E-Planning (Main DEL RFR1) to Local Government on Line (Local Government DEL RFR2) to fund the National Process Improvement Project.

(iv) a transfer of £1,187,000 to other Government Departments, comprising:

*Programme Expenditure*

(a) £810,000 to reflect Machinery of Government Changes to provide funding to the Department for Enterprise, Business and Regulatory Reform for the Northern Way programme.

*Administration Costs (Central Department)*

(b) £377,000 to reflect Machinery of Government Changes comprising £42,000 to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for staff costs in respect of the Northern Way and £335,000 to the Government Equalities Office for accommodation costs.

(v) an increase in receipts of £27,517,000 offsetting increases in provision comprising £1,900,000 in respect of receivable costs incurred by the Department in the development of the Fire Regional Control Centre buildings; £3,100,000 for the re-charging costs in respect of expenditure incurred by Firelink on behalf of Scotland; £19,113,000 to reflect the new arrangements for management of new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes involving payments via the Regional Development Agencies; £300,000 for central administration for the outward costs of Secondees and £3,657,000 for the work being undertaken by the Government Offices on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families offset against a reduction in receipts of £553,000 for the Pan-Government Agreement.

(vi) a net transfer of £22,408,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising:

*From voted to non-voted provision*

(a) £2,000,000 from Housing Market Renewal Fund comprising costs incurred by the Department (£907,000), Housing Corporation (£455,000) and English Partnerships (£638,000) relating to informing the choice of policy options and identifying in detail the implications of proposals, scoping studies and work to inform the legislative process for the new Homes and Communities Agency;

(b) £171,000 from Planning and Publicity to Housing Corporation to cover the Housing Corporation's pension pressure;

(c) £1,670,000 within Thames Gateway comprising £570,000 to Thurrock Urban Development Corporation (£450,000 near cash to bring budget in line with revised forecast and for additional legal costs; and £120,000 non-cash to cover cost of capital charges and depreciation) and £1,100,000 to London UDC also to bring budget in line with revised forecast and for additional legal costs;

(d) £18,255,000 for ERDF new programmes. There is a switch from voted to non-voted expenditure because for the new programmes, DEL income is now voted, whereas its expenses are non-voted due to management of programmes by Regional Development Agencies (which are Non-Departmental Public Bodies); and

(e) £992,000 reduction in administrative non-cash to offset a corresponding increase in administration near cash to accommodate consultancy spend, previously treated as programme expenditure.

*From non-voted to voted provision*

(f) £380,000 to FireControl from non-voted Departmental Unallocated provision (DUP) to cover the non-cash charges related to the building of FireControl assets (IT infrastructure, software build, hardware and workstation for the Firecontrol Regional Control Centres); and

(g) £300,000 from non-voted DUP to the National Register of Social Housing to cover cost of capital charges.

*The change in the administration budget arises* from a take up of End of Year Flexibility of £8,754,000 (see above section (i)) to cover the work of the Department for Communities and Local Government and staff early exit schemes ; a net transfer from other Government Departments of £377,000 (see above section (iv)).

*The change in the capital element of the DEL* arises from:

(vii) a transfer of £25,000,000 to other Government Departments to reflect Machinery of Government Changes transferring the Northern Way programme to the Department for Enterprise, Business and Regulatory Reform.

(viii). an increase in receipts of £28,554,000 comprising £8,658,000 for Capital Pooled Housing Receipts to reflect revised forecast and £19,896,000 to reflect the new arrangements for management of new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes involving payments via the Regional Development Agencies. Receipts enable provision to be increased elsewhere on the Estimate.

(ix) Within the capital element of the DEL there is a transfer of £23,964,000 from voted to non voted provision comprising;

*From voted to non-voted provision*

(a) £711,000 from Capital Housing Pooled Receipts to fund pressures on the Housing Corporation's Information Technology costs;

(b) £250,000 from Planning Inspectorate also to fund pressures on the Housing Corporation's Information Technology costs;

(c) £4,000,000 within Thames Gateway to Thurrock UDC to reflect allocation of funding under the programme; and

(d) £19,003,000 for ERDF new programmes. There is a switch from voted to non-voted expenditure because for the new programmes, DEL income is now voted, whereas its expenses are non-voted due to management of programmes by Regional Development Agencies (which are Non Departmental Public Bodies).

(2) The Department for Communities and Local Government (Local Government) DEL will be increased by £390,000 from £22,944,116,000 to £22,944,506,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 288 | | 22,711,299 | 103,854 | 22,815,153 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 288 | | 22,711,299 | 103,279 | 22,814,578 |
| Capital[2] | 102 | | 126,353 | 3,500 | 129,853 |
| Depreciation[3] | 0 | 0 | 0 | -500 | -500 |
| Total | 390 | | 22,837,652 | 106,854 | 22,944,506 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL* arises from:

(i) transfer of £190,000 to Best Value Inspectorate - Request for Resources (Local Government DEL - RFR2) from Fire Publicity (Main DEL - RfRl) to cover additional Fire Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspection work on Fire and Rescue Authorities.

(ii) transfer of £200,000 to Local Government on Line (Local Government DEL RFR2) from E-Planning (Main DEL - RFR1) to fund the National Process Improvement Project.

(iii) £102,000 transfer from Resource DEL to Capital DEL for a number of Invest to Save Budget Projects.

*The change in the capital element of the DEL* arises from:

(iv) £102,000 transfer to Capital DEL from Resource DEL for a number of Invest to Save Budget Projects.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Department Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £20,004,000 from £2,008,031,000 to £2,028,035,000 and the administration cost limit will decrease by £4,000 from £55,574,000 to £55,570,000. Within the DEL change the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

*Departmental Expenditure Limits and Administration Budgets*

£'000

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | 9,593 | -9,589 | 101,284 | 1,506,128 | 1,607,412 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | -4 | | 55,570 | | 55,570 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 2,618 | -2,614 | 85, 791 | 1,333,012 | 1,418,803 |
| Capital[2] | 215 | 19,785 | 29,212 | 493,141 | 522,353 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | -6,975 | 6,975 | -12,917 | -88,813 | -101,730 |
| Total | 2,833 | 17,171 | 117,579 | 1,910,456 | 2,028,035 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Take up of £4,000 End Year flexibility: for the Participation Survey.

The administration cost limit has decreased by £4,000 from £55,574,000 to £55,570,000. This is as a result of an internal transfer from administration costs to programme costs to correct a misallocation.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

Take up of End-Year Flexibility of £20,000,000 to allow accelerated spending by the Olympic Delivery Authority within its agreed budget.

## DEFENCE

### Department Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Ministry of Defence Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) will be increased by £1,247,750,000 from £35,594,551,000 to £36,842,301,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 2,419,624 | -200,000 | 36,857,168 | 83,088 | 36,940,256 |
| Near-Cash in RDEL | 597,750 | 30,989 | 24,417,425 | 511,932 | 24,929,357 |
| Capital | 428,000 | - | 8,119,626 | 744 | 8,120,370 |
| Depreciation[1] | -1,599,874 | 200,000 | -8,218,325 | - | -8,218,325 |
| Total | 1,247,750 | - | 36,758,469 | 83,832 | 36,842,301 |

Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

the take up of the Department's End Year Indirect Resource Flexibility totalling £1,621,874,000 to reflect latest TLB forecasts of outturn of Indirect Resource expenditure;

an increase in the RfR2 of £566,000,000 Direct Resource DEL and £380,650,000 Capital DEL to reflect the forecast costs of peace keeping operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Balkans;

the transfer of £424,000,000 Indirect Resource DEL from RfR1 to RfR2 to cover depreciation, cost of capital and impairment forecasts with no overall impact on DEL;

a transfer out of £750,000 to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform;

the take up of Capital End Year Flexibility (EYF) of £40,000,000 resulting from the sale of QinetiQ in 2005-06, as agreed with Treasury;

draw down of £200,000,000 from the Department's (Unvoted) Unallocated Resource Provision to reflect the increased (Voted) Indirect Resource DEL forecast of outturn for RfR1 with no overall impact on DEL;

resource and capital transfers in from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of contributions to the Balkans Conflict Prevention Pool net costs, the Global Rest of the World Conflict Prevention Pool costs, and Afghanistan capital costs of £39,850,000.

The changes to Resource DEL and Capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £894,351,000.

I am placing a copy of the Ministry of Defence Votes A 2008-09 in the Library of the House.

### Review Board for Government Contracts

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** The Government have accepted the findings of the Review Board for Government Contracts as detailed in their report of the 2007 "General Review of the Profit Formula for Non-Competitive Government Contracts". The board's recommendations will be implemented with effect from the 1 February 2008, in accordance with arrangements agreed between Government and industry, recorded in an addendum to the published report. I will be placing a copy of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Carbon Offsetting (Code of Best Practice)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** Today I am announcing the final framework for a Code of Best Practice for Carbon Offsetting. The code will increase consumers' confidence when purchasing offsets by endorsing established mechanisms which offset in a clear and verifiable way. The code intends to inform and protect consumers by requiring providers of accredited offsets to supply clear information and transparent prices. A supporting quality mark and communications will help raise awareness about tackling climate change, the steps that consumers can take and the role offsetting can play. The Government encourage consumers to avoid and reduce their emissions and then use offsetting to tackle unavoidable emissions.

The Government's appointed accreditation body, AEA, published the draft code today, a copy of which is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/codeofpractice.htm

AEA are seeking industry comments on the planned practical arrangements and we intend the final code to be implemented in April.

Initially the code will grant accreditation only to providers of Kyoto-complaint credits. The Government believe that these credits provide the best available guarantee to consumers that the amount of carbon they have purchased represents verifiable, additional carbon savings.

We recognise, however, the value the non-regulated market can add, in particular by enabling innovative offset projects to be tested prior to entering the compliance market. However, there is not yet a single agreed formal definition or fully operational standard for "good quality" Voluntary Emissions Reductions (VERs), which currently prevents their inclusion in the Government code. Therefore, I am inviting the industry to agree and put into practice its own standard for VERs, which can provide a similar level of assurance as the compliance mechanisms. This standard should address the principles of additionally, avoiding carbon leakage, permanence, verification, transparency and avoiding double counting. We will assist the industry to come together to discuss how this might be done.

Once industry has reached a consensus on a standard and it has been fully operational for six months, the Government will conduct an audit to confirm whether credits approved under the industry standard can be included under the Government code.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £235,038,000 from £1,888,455,000 to £2,123,493,000. The administration budget will decrease by £9,424,000 from £870,060,000 to £860,636,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *New DEL £000* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 139,059 | -5,000 | 1,950.523 | 5,862 | 1,956,385 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | -9,424 | - | 860,636 | - | 860,636 |
| *Near-cash in Resource DEL* | 154,059 | -5,000 | 1,808,804 | 5,862 | 1,814,666 |
| Capital[2] | 60,814 | - | 243,567 | - | 243,567 |
| Depreciation[3] | 40,165 | - | -76,459 | - | -76,459 |
| Total | 240,038 | -5,000 | 2,117,631 | 5,862 | 2,123,493 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

*Administration*

I. A payment to the reserve of 9,424,000 as a result of the operation of the Overseas Pricing Mechanism.

*Programme*

I. Take up of £7,350,000 other current End Year Flexibility for a capital transfer to MoD.

II. A claim on the reserve of £16,500,000 for Consular premiums collected in the UK.

III. A claim on the reserve of £18,453,000 arising from the FCO/HMT 50/50 International Organisations cost sharing agreement.

IV. A claim on the reserve of £1,359,009 to increase grant to the British Council as a result of the operation of the Overseas Pricing Mechanism.

V. A claim on the reserve of £151,000 for the Emergency Disaster Relief Fund.

VI. A payment to the Reserve of £5,568,000 programme grants as a result of the operation of the Overseas Pricing Mechanism.

VII. A transfer of £7,350,000 programme EYF expenditure to capital for operations in Afghanistan.

VIII. A transfer of £5,363,000 programme expenditure to Home Office for the Border and Immigration Agency.

IX. A transfer of £5,000,000 programme expenditure to the Security and Intelligence Agencies

X. A transfer of £1,750,000 programme expenditure to Home Office for the Border and Immigration Agency to fund assisted Voluntary returns.

XI. A transfer of £100,000 programme expenditure to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

*Neutral Changes*

I. Increased other current expenditure of £20,000,000, fully offset by income, for Consular and Visa Work.

II. A transfer of £15,000,000 from non-cash resource to near-cash resource expenditure in respect of release of restructuring provisions.

*Capital*

I. Take up of £31,300,000 End Year Flexibility in respect of the FCO estate.

II. A claim on the reserve of £7,400,000 arising from the FCO/HMT 50/50 International Organisations cost sharing agreement.

III. A transfer of £22,396,000 capital expenditure from the Border and Immigration Agency for biometric passport equipment.

IV. A transfer of £7,350,000 of programme EYF expenditure to capital for operations in Afghanistan.

V. A transfer of £7,350,000 capital expenditure to MOD for operations in Afghanistan.

VI. A payment to the Reserve of £282,000 as a result of the operation of the Overseas Pricing Mechanism.

*Neutral Changes*

I. Increased expenditure of £5,300,000, fully offset by income.

*Request for Resources 2*

*Programme*

I. Take-up of £6,850,000 Global Conflict Prevention Pool End Year Flexibility.

II. A claim on the reserve of £95,845,000 for Africa Peacekeeping.

III. A claim on the reserve of £61,603,000 for Peacekeeping in the rest of the World.

IV. A transfer of £3,413,000 programme expenditure from DfID for conflict prevention in Africa.

V. A transfer of £1,500,000 programme expenditure from DfID for conflict prevention in Sri Lanka.

VI. A transfer of £31,000,000 programme expenditure to MOD for Peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

VII. A transfer of £9,660,000 programme expenditure to DfID for planned Global Conflict Prevention Activity.

VIII. A transfer of £2,200,000 programme expenditure to the Security and Intelligence for expansion and capability.

IX. A transfer of £1,500,000 programme expenditure to MOD for planned Global Conflict Prevention Activity.

X. A transfer of £50,000 programme expenditure to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

*Neutral Changes*

III. Increased expenditure of £2,500,000, fully offset by income from MOD, for Better Basra.

IV. Increased expenditure of £2,500,000, fully offset by income from DfID, for Better Basra.

## Political Developments (Kosovo)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** On 17 February the Parliamentary Assembly of Kosovo was convened for an extraordinary session at which Prime Minister Thaçi read out Kosovo's declaration of independence. The declaration made clear that Kosovo was a democratic, secular and multi-ethnic republic and that its leaders would promote the rights and participation of all communities in Kosovo. The declaration in particular committed Kosovo to implementing fully the obligations contained in UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Proposal for a Kosovo Status Settlement, including its extensive minority safeguards. And the declaration invited and welcomed an international civilian presence to supervise implementation of the Comprehensive Proposal, an EU rule of law and police mission (EULEX) and a continuation of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR). The declaration was endorsed by all Parliamentary members present.

The declaration took place following exhaustive negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina aimed at finding a mutually agreed resolution to Kosovo's status. UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari had presided over 14 months of intensive negotiations before concluding an agreement was out of reach. An EU-Russia-US Troika facilitated an additional four months of talks, with EU member Ambassador Ischinger concluding that the parties would not be capable of reaching agreement if negotiations were to be continued, in whatever format.

My statement of 11 December noted that, against this backdrop of inconclusive negotiations, almost all in the international community were agreed that the status quo in Kosovo was unsustainable. This is a point that had been underlined by the European Union, the UN Secretary General and the Contact Group. My statement made clear that we could not therefore allow the status process to grind to a halt, having learned in the 1990s the cost of an indecisive international response to developments in the Balkans. In the view of the Government, it would be important for the EU to play a leading role in bringing the status process through to conclusion. The UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Proposal, balancing independence with strong minority safeguards and international supervision, remained in our view the only viable way forward.

Since my statement, the Government have worked hard to ensure the necessary international community resolve and engagement to solve the Kosovo issue. The Government strongly supported the decision at the December European Council that the EU should play a leading role in implementing a settlement defining Kosovo's status.

Against this background, the General Affairs and External Relations Council met on 18 February, the day following Kosovo's declaration of independence. EU Ministers agreed that the EU should play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region. The EU has given effect to this commitment through a series of steps:

In terms of ensuring security and justice sector reform, the EU has agreed on the deployment of an ESDP Policing and Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) consisting of 2,200 international personnel. This will be the largest civilian ESDP mission to date.

In terms of ensuring Kosovo's political development and good governance, the EU has now agreed on the appointment of an EU Special Representative to Kosovo.

The EU has agreed to make a major contribution to the international civilian office which will oversee settlement implementation.

The EU has committed itself to the promotion of Kosovo's economic and political development. The Commission will use community instruments to take this forward and is planning to organise a donors conference.

EU Ministers were clear in their view that Kosovo constituted a sui generis case which did not set any precedent.

Taken together, these decisions amount to a clear and united EU approach towards contributing to Kosovo's future and to delivering stability in the Western Balkans region. I welcome the leadership that the European Union has shown in tackling this European foreign policy challenge.

EU Ministers also discussed the issue of recognition. There was agreement that this is a matter for national governments and the Council acknowledged that it was for member states to decide, in accordance with national practice and international law, on their relations with Kosovo.

Bringing all these elements together—the unsustainable status quo; Kosovo's commitment to the stringent safeguards in the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Proposal; and the international support for settlement implementation and, increasingly, recognition—the Government considers that UK recognition of Kosovo is fully justified. Our firm view is that it is the best way of resolving Kosovo's status, ensuring regional stability and solving this last remaining issue from the break-up of the Former Yugoslavia. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Sejdiu on 18 February indicating to the Kosovo government that the United Kingdom recognises Kosovo's independence. I have also written to Prime Minister Thaçi proposing the establishment of diplomatic relations. At least 16 other countries, including France, Germany, Italy, the US and Turkey, have also either recognised Kosovo or indicated their intention to do so.

Kosovo's independence will bring a long-awaited certainty and permanence to Kosovo's identity, marking an end to nearly nine years of political and economic limbo But it will also be just the beginning of a challenging journey ahead, building a stable, sustainable, multi-ethnic and democratic country. It will be important for Kosovo's Assembly and Government to adhere faithfully to the undertakings made in their declaration of independence. It will also be important for all sides to refrain from action that risks provoking or increasing ethnic tensions.

The UK will make a full contribution in support of Kosovo's efforts. The UK will second approximately 70 personnel to the ESDP mission and about 10 to the International Civilian Office. We will maintain our current contribution of around 140 troops to KFOR as well as maintaining a battalion on stand-by as part of the NATO operational reserve force. And in terms of development, the UK has committed £23 million in bilateral assistance to Kosovo over the next three years.

As Kosovo moves forward, there will remain a need to address the regional dimension. We recognise how difficult an issue Kosovo's independence is for Serbia. Despite the difference of view with Belgrade on Kosovo, the Government will remain keen to maintain a cooperative and warm bilateral relationship. We will also want to assist Serbia and the other countries of the region to move towards European standards and EU accession. The interim political agreement offered to Serbia following the January General Affairs and External Relations Council was a sign of the EU's commitment to Serbia's progress. There remains a compelling strategic case for enlargement to the Western Balkans as a whole so that this region can share in the security, stability, and prosperity that the EU offers.

## HEALTH

### Children's Palliative Care Services

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis):** In May 2006, the Secretary of State announced details of an independent review of palliative care services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses and their families.

This independent review was an important piece of work. It offered us a crucial opportunity to look at current provision and consider what more can be done

to improve the sustainability and accessibility of children's palliative care services in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. The Government accepted and endorsed the recommendations contained in the review report and committed to the delivery of a first ever national strategy for children's palliative care to meet the expectations of the review, of sector stakeholders and of children and families.

The strategy, which is launched today, sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place palliative care at the centre of local children's service provision. It highlights how commissioners, providers and teams of palliative care professionals can shape the provision of services to meet the needs of children, young people and their families. In addition, it emphasises the roles that each can play in providing child-focused, family-centred services and gives examples of what could be put in place to achieve this.

The policy sits as a framework for future service development. It seeks to highlight the key aspects of the Independent Review and challenge local areas to take this group of children more seriously. Accordingly, local areas will need to devise their own strategies and spend their money better to deliver more effective and more equitable services.

The findings of the Independent Review of Children's Palliative Care Services and the cross-Government programme "Aiming High for Disabled Children" are backed by a significant financial commitment to help deliver the step-change in service provision that is needed for these children, young people and their families, all of whom wish to pursue ordinary lives, achieve their full potential and make a contribution to society.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

## Food Standard's Agency's Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** Subject to the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department of Health's element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £7,208,000 from £93,848,552,000 to £93,855,760,000 and the Administration Cost Limit will be increased by £6,370,000 from £224,633,000 to £231,003,000. The Food Standards Agency DEL remains unchanged at £154,339,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will increase by £7,208, 000 from £94,002,891,000 to £94,010,099,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Department of Health | *£ million* | *£ million* | *£ million* | *£ million* | *£ million* |
| Resource DEL | 2,474.227 | -2,467.293 | 91,266.570 | -1,730.982 | 89,535.588 |
| Of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget1 | 6,370 | | 231,003 | | 231,003 |
| Near-cash in Resource DEL | 1,617,979 | -1,430,783 | 86,424,838 | -584,733 | 85,840,105 |
| Capital DEL | 66,075 | -65,801 | 1,803,265 | 2,516,907 | 4,320,172 |
| Total Department of Health DEL | 2,540,302 | -2,533,094 | 93,069,835 | 785,925 | 93,855,760 |
| Depreciation[2] | 114,672 | 76,313 | -785,253 | -109,569 | -894,822 |
| Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment) | 2,654,974 | -2,456,781 | 92,284,582 | 676,356 | 92,960,938 |
| Food Standards Agency | | | | | |
| Resources | | | 152,392 | | 152,392 |
| Of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget1 | | | 56,515 | | 56,515 |
| Near-cash in Resource DEL | | | 149,584 | | 149,584 |
| Capital | | | 1,947 | | 1,947 |
| Total Food Standards Agency DEL | | | | | |
| Depreciation1 | | | -2,004 | | -2,004 |
| Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment) | | | 152,335 | | 152,335 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has increased by £7,208,000 made up of:

the take-up of £6,000,000 (administration costs) end year flexibility as announced in the provisional outturn white paper (Cm 7156) for a range of planned non-recurrent expenditure which includes; activities for professional, regulation and leadership and the "Five Programmes with the NHS" work,

£838,000 (£214,000 capital) for round 8 and 9 Invest to Save budget awards.

a transfer of £370,000 (administration costs) from the Cabinet Office for services of the Parliamentary Counsel.

a £60,000 adjustment to budgets which reduces capital charges (revenue) for care standards tribunal services (which moved from the Ministry of Justice) and increases capital by £60,000.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit has increased by £6,370,000 as described above.

There is no change to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Plans of changes to the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and administrative budget for 2007-08.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2007-08 will be increased by £8,068,000 from £9,247,819,000 to £9,255,887,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £19,540,000 from £414,140,000 to £394,600,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | *£'000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | (3,021) | (437) | 7,941,122 | 718,332 | 8,659,454 |
| *Of which:* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Administration Budget*[1] | 4,502 | (24,042) | 394,600 | 0 | 394,600 |
| Near cash in RDEL[1] | 4,954 | (8,110) | 7,830,180 | 659,654 | 8,489,834 |
| Capital[2] | 11,224 | 0 | 472,179 | 291,507 | 763,686 |
| Less depreciation[3] | 7,975 | (7,673) | (107,495) | (59,758) | (167,253) |
| Total | 16,178 | (8,110) | 8,305,806 | 950,081 | 9,255,887 |

[1]The total of the 'administration budget' and 'near cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

| | *total* | *o/w near cash* | *o/w admin* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* | | | *£000's* |
| *The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:* | *(3,458)* | *(3,156)* | *(19,540)* |
| *Transfers from other Government Departments:* | *18,132* | *18,132* | *50* |
| Increase in programme near cash for UK visas (Section K). This is a re-allocation of resource DEL from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. | 12,363 | 12,363 | |
| Increase in programme near cash to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Section X) for property related costs. This is a re-allocation of resource DEL from the Cabinet Office. | 2,869 | 2,869 | |
| Increase in programme near-cash (Section K) for Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) and Public Expense Removal (PER) expenditure. This is a re-allocation of resource DEL from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. | 1,750 | 1,750 | |
| Increase in programme near cash to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Section X) following a transfer of functions from the Assets Recovery Agency. | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| Increase in programme near cash to the National Policing Improvement Agency (Section AH) following a transfer of functions from the Assets Recovery Agency. | 100 | 100 | |
| Increase in near cash admin central support costs (Section M) following the Home Office and Ministry of Justice Machinery of Government transfer that took place in the winter Supplementary Estimate. | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| Increase in admin near cash (Section B) to reflect the policy transfer of the respect database. This is a re-allocation of resource DEL from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| *Transfers to other Government Departments:* | *(21,590)* | *(21,288)* | *(19,590)* |
| Reduction in central support costs following the Home Office and Ministry of Justice machinery of Government transfer that took place in the Winter supplementary estimate | | | 0 |
| Admin near cash (Section M) | (19,288) | (19,288) | (19,288) |
| Admin non-cash (Section M). | (302) | 0 | (302) |
| Reduction in programme near cash (Section A) following a transfer of Criminal Justice IT resources to the Ministry of Justice. | (1,000) | (1,000) | |
| Reduction in programme near cash from the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) to the Ministry of Justice. This adjustment corrects a shortfall in the machinery of Government transfer that took place in the Winter supplementary Estimate. | (1,000) | (1,000) | |
| *(b)* | | | *CAPITAL* |
| *The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:* | | | 11,224 |

| | *total* | *o/w near cash* | *o/w admin* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *End year flexibility:* | | | 43,262 |
| Increase in capital grants (Section O) to meet the crime reduction and community safety group's strategic objectives of 'cutting crime, especially violent and drug-related crime, and ensuring people feel safer in their homes and daily lives, particularly through more visible, responsive and accountable local policing'. | | | 20,000 |
| Increase in Criminal Justice IT capital (Section O) to be transferred to the Ministry of Justice. | | | 9,262 |
| Increase in capital (Section K) to meet the Border and Immigration Agency's strategic objective of 'securing our borders, preventing abuse of our immigration laws and managing migration to the benefit of the UK'. | | | 14,000 |
| Transfers from other Government Departments: | | | 20 |
| Transfer from section O to correct a budget overpayment of criminal justice IT capital made to the Ministry of Justice in the winter supplementary estimate. | | | 20 |
| Transfers to other Government Departments: | | | (32,058) |
| Transfer of biometrics funding from section K to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. | | | (22,396) |
| Transfer of criminal justice IT capital from section O to the Ministry of Justice. | | | (9,262) |
| Transfer from section M to the Ministry of Justice representing a contribution towards building improvement works at a shared service centre. | | | (400) |

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

**The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be decreased by £348,341,000 from £18,087,949,000 to £17,739,608,000, the administration cost budget will be increased by £4,090,000 from £71,840,000 to £75,930,000.

Within the DEL, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | -674,303 | 230,805 | -4,415,296 | 20,089,015 | 15,673,719 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | 4,090 | - | 75,930 | 0 | 75,930 |
| *Near-cash in DEL* | -223,442 | 238,995 | -5,396,338 | 19,930,469 | 14,534,131 |
| Capital DEL[2] | 13,652 | 81,505 | -79,756 | 2,145,645 | 2,065,889 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | - | 9,292 | -4,567 | -119,465 | -124,032 |
| Total DEL | -660,651 | 321,802 | -4,499,619 | 22,115,195 | 17,615,576 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

*Resource DEL*

The decrease in the resource element of the DEL of £443,498,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £674,303,000 and an increase of £230,805,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL mainly in the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

*Voted Resource DEL*

The £674,303,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

*RFR1*

The take up of end year flexibility of £4,090,000 for central administration costs, for the resource consequences of Student Loans £63,869,000.

The reclassification from DEL to AME of the maintenance of student loan provisions £515,000,000.

A £1,625,000 virement to RfR2, for central administration costs.

A net transfer to the Ministry of Justice £1,872,000 for Prisoner Education.

A net decrease in voted receipts of £2,967,000 offset by a net decrease in non-voted resource DEL.

A movement to non-voted resource DEL of £227,306,000 for the Student Loan Company (£475,000), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£10,212,000), the Investors in People UK (£170,000), the Learning and Skills Council (£8,544,000), the Quality Improvement Agency (£5,683,000) and the Sector Skills Development Agency (£7,122,000), the Technology Strategy Board (£195,100,000).

*RFR2*

A £1,625,000 virement from RfR1, for central administration costs.

A movement to non-voted resource DEL of £6,097,000 for the Research Councils.

A movement from departmental unallocated expenditure of £5,046,000 for GO Science Group and science research.

*Non-voted resource DEL*

The £230,805,000 increase in non-voted resource DEL arises from:

The take up of end year flexibility of £399,000 for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

A transfer in from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £4,746,000 for the Learning and Skills Council.

A net decrease in non-voted expenditure of £2,967,000 offset by a net decrease in voted resource DEL receipts.

A movement from RfR1, £227,306,000 to non-voted resource DEL for the Student Loan Company (£475,000), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£10,212,000), the Investors in People Uk (£170,000), the Learning and Skills Council (£8,544,000), the Quality Improvement Agency (£5,683,000) and the Sector Skills Development Agency (£7,122,000), the Technology Strategy Board (£195,100,000).

Transfer in from central funds of £270,000 for the Learning and Skills Council.

A movement from RfR2 voted resource DEL of £6,097,000 for the Research Councils.

A movement to RfR2 voted DEL of £5,046,000 for GO Science Group and science research.

*Capital DEL*

The increase in the capital element of the DEL of £95,157,000 arises from a £13,652,000 increase in the voted element of capital DEL and an increase of £81,505,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

*Voted Capital DEL*

The £13,652,000 increase in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

*RFR1*

An increase in higher education receipts of £2,000,000 offset by an increase in non-voted capital DEL for the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

*RFR2*

The take up of end year flexibility £5,489,000 for science research.

A movement from non-voted capital DEL £10,163,000 for science research.

*Non-voted Capital DEL*

The £81,505,000 increase in the non-voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

An increase in Higher Education Funding Council for England expenditure of £2,000,000 offset by higher education capital DEL receipts.

The take up of end year flexibility £89,668,000 for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£35,668,000), for the Learning and Skills Council (£54,000,000).

A movement to RfR2, voted capital DEL £10,163,000 for science research.

*Administration Cost Budget*

*RfR1*

A take up of end year flexibility £4,090,000 to cover pressures on departmental running costs.

A virement of £1,625,000 to RfR2, for GO Science Group administration.

*RfR2*

A virement of £1,625,000 from RfR1, for GO Science Group administration.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for International Development's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £22,568,000 from £5,254,357,000 to £5,276,925,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 42,637 | -38,069 | 3,852,865 | 710,820 | 4,563,685 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | *10* | - | 232,070 | - | *232,010* |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | *62,637* | *-38,069* | *3,787,436* | *726,870* | *4,514,306* |
| Capital DEL[2] | 15,000 | - | 731,250 | - | 731,250 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | 3,000 | - | -18,010 | - | -18,010 |
| Total DEL | 60,637 | -38,069 | 4,566,105 | 710,820 | 5,276,925 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net change in the Resource element of DEL arises from:

*Additions*

£9,660,000 transferred from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in respect of Global Conflict Prevention Pool

£50,000 transferred from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

*Reductions*

£1,500,000 transferred to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Global Conflict Prevention Pool for projects in Sri Lanka.

£3,413,000 transferred to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in respect of Africa Conflict Prevention Pool.

£229,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of Africa Conflict Prevention Pool.

The net change in the Capital element of DEL arises from:

*Additions*

£15,000,000 draw down of Capital provision from end of year flexibility entitlement set out in the Public Expenditure 2006-07 Outturn White Paper.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) and The National Archives (TNA) Total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MoJ (RfR1, 2 & 3) is increased by £831,000 from £9,628,003,000 to £9,628,834,000 and the administration budget is decreased by £(233,327,000) from £712,716,000 to £479,389,000. This is due to a reclassification of

administration budget to programme budget following discussions with HM Treasury.

Total DEL for NICS is increased by £15,918,000 from £130,570,000 to £146,488,000 and the administration budget is decreased by £(3,000,000). This is due to an increase in administration income.

Total DEL for the TNA has remained unchanged.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (RfRl, 2 & 3), the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| *Resource DEL* | (23,439) | (204,703) | 5,784,187 | 3,151,859 | 8,936,046 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| Administration[1] | (233,327) | 0 | 479,389 | 0 | 479,389 |
| Near cash in Resource DEL | 29,428 | 7,128 | 4,686,786 | 3,873,476 | 8,560,262 |
| Capital[2] | 229,868 | 5,560 | 1,001,516 | 35,615 | 1,037,131 |
| Depreciation[3] | (6,455) | 0 | (338,389) | (3,954) | (344,343) |
| *Total* | *199,974* | *(199,143)* | *6,447,314* | *3,181,520* | *9,628,834* |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*1) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for the MoJ DEL arises from:*

*RfRl: To promote the development of a modern, fair, cost effective and efficient system of justice for all.*

*Resource Change: Admin (total decrease of £(235,177,000))*

*Reserve Claims:*

An increase in resource DEL of £6,271,000 in respect to the Diana Princess of Wales Inquest.

*Other Increases:*

An increase in resource DEL of £19,552,000 from the Home Office in relation to Corporate costs following the Machinery of Government changes.

*Decreases:*

A decrease in admin budget of £(261,000,000) in relation to a switch between admin and programme spend following discussions with HM Treasury.

*Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £320,018,000)*

*Reserve Claims:*

An increase in resource DEL of £35,000,000 in relation to keeping prisoners in police cells under operation Safeguard.

An increase in resource DEL of £15,000,000 in relation to providing extra 500 places for those committed to prison.

An increase in resource DEL of £5,000,000 in relation to the End of Custodial Licence Safeguard Programme.

*Other Increases:*

An increase in programme budget of £261,000,000 in relation to a switch between admin and programme spend following discussions with HM Treasury.

An increase in resource DEL of £2,000,000 from the Home Office in relation to CJIT.

An increase in resource DEL of £1,098,000 from the Department of Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) in relation to education and learning skills for offenders and prisoners.

An increase in resource DEL of £920,000 in relation to a net transfer to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in respect of the Compass, Progress and ExiSSrl Projects.

*Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of (£314,833,000))*

*Decreases:*

A decrease in resource DEL of £(250,000,000) in relation to a transfer to HM Treasury in respect of the release of provisions within the Legal Services Commission. £(47,567,000) of this was voted DEL and £(202,403,000) was non-voted DEL.

A decrease in resource DEL of £(44,6[illegible],000) in relation to the Netting Off scheme agreed with HM Treasury.

A decrease in resource DEL of £(15,000,000) in relation to a transfer of non-cash to the Northern Ireland Court Service.

A decrease in resource DEL of £(3,000,000) in relation to a transfer to the CPS in respect of the Victims Surcharge.

A decrease in resource DEL of £(1,190,000) in relation to a transfer to the Welsh Assembly in respect of Election Costs.

A decrease in resource DEL of £(1,043,000) in relation to a transfer to the Department of Health in respect of Prisoner Healthcare costs.

*Capital Change (total increase of £235,428,000)*

*Reserve Claims:*

An increase in Capital DEL of £60,000,000 in relation to the Prisoner Capacity programme.

*Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):*

An increase in Capital DEL of £131,000,000 in relation to the London accommodation Programme (Queen Anne's Gate).

An increase in Capital DEL of £39,800,000 in relation to a variety of specific projects.

*Other Increases:*

An increase in Capital DEL of £3,000,000 from the Home Office in respect of costs related to Phoenix House.

An increase in Capital DEL of £1,628,000 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) in respect of capital costs for the Case flow Project.

*RfR2: Overseeing the effective operation of the devolution settlement in Scotland and representing the interests of Scotland in the UK Government*

*Resource Change: Admin (total increase of £900,000)*

*Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):*

An increase in Resource DEL of £900,000 in relation to a draw down of EYF.

*RfR3: To support the Secretary of State in discharging his role of representing Wales in the UK Government, representing the UK Government in Wales and ensuring the smooth running of the devolution settlement in Wales.*

*Resource Change: Admin (total increase of £950,000)*

*Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):*

An increase in Resource DEL of £950,000 in relation to a draw down of EYF.

*There is no change in the Capital DEL for RfR2 and RfR3*

*2) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) arises from:*

Within the Total DEL change for Northern Ireland Court Service, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| *Resource DEL* | 1,741 | 14,259 | 55,122 | 94,058 | 149,180 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration*[1] | (3,000) | - | (689) | - | (689) |
| *Near cash in Resource DEL* | 1,671 | 15,000 | 40,377 | 90,928 | 131,305 |
| *Capital*[2] | (10) | (10) | 5,990 | | 5,990 |
| Depreciation[3] | (62) | 0 | (8,662) | (20) | (8,682) |
| *Total* | *1,669* | *14,249* | *52,450* | *94,038* | *146,488* |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £16,070,000)*

*Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):*

An increase in Resource DEL of £1,000.000 in relation to a draw down of EYF.

*Other Increases:*

An increase in Resource DEL of £15,000,000 from the MoJ in relation to a transfer of non-cash to NICS.

An increase in Resource DEL of £70,000 in relation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland changing its status from an NDPB to a business unit of NICS.

*Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £10,000)*

*Decreases:*

A decrease in net Resource DEL of £(10,000) in relation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland changing its status from an NDPB to business unit of NICS switch of spending to capital from resource.

*Capital Change (total decrease of £10,000)*

*Increases:*

An increase in net Capital DEL of £10,000; in relation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland changing its status from an NDPB to business unit of NICS switch of spending to capital from resource.

*Decreases:*

A decrease in Capital DEL of £(20,000) to cover costs related to the Northern Ireland Office for use of shared asset.

*3) The National Archives are not submitting a Spring Supplementary Estimate.*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Phil Hope):** Plans to change the Charity Commission's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and administration budget for 2007-08.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Charity Commission total DEL will be increased by £2,800,000 from £31,993,000 to £34,793,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE LIMITS AND ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

*£'000*

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non-voted | Voted | Non-voted | Total |
| RESOURCE DEL | 2,600 | 0 | 34,343 | 0 | 34,343 |
| *of which*[1]: | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* | 2,600 | 0 | 34,343 | 0 | 34,343 |
| *Near cash in RDEL* | - | 0 | 30,732 | | 30,732 |
| CAPITAL DEL[2] | 200 | 0 | 1,100 | 0 | 1,100 |
| Depreciation[3] | - | 0 | -630 | 0 | -630 |
| *Total* | *2,800* | *0* | *34,793* | *0* | *34,793* |

[1]The total of 'administration budget' and 'near cash in resource DEL' may be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting

The change in the resource element of the DEL and in the administration budget arises from the take up of £2.6 million from the modernisation fund—out of a total £3 million agreed in the CSR 07 settlement. This funding will be used to pay for staff severances consequent upon the Commission's reprioritisation and restructuring exercise, which will enable the Commission to meet the CSR settlement through to 2010-11.

The change in the capital element of the DEL reflects take up of £200,000 from prior years' EYF to fund the completion of capital projects to enhance the effectiveness of IT systems and increase the availability of on-line services.

The supplementary estimate also details changes in operating appropriations in aid, fully offset by changes in spending and not impacting on the Commission's Departmental Expenditure Limit:

project funding of £50,000 by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the continuation of the International Outreach project;

£50,000 additional accommodation charges funded by the sub-letting of a floor at the Commission's London office building.

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the Spring supplementary estimate 2007-08, the Cabinet Office total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) has changed from the amount voted in the Winter supplementary estimate 2007-08.

As a result, the Cabinet Office Total DEL has increased by £27,377,000 from £398,597,000 to £425,974,000.

The impact on Resource DEL (RDEL) and Capital DEL (CDEL) is set out in the following table:

| *£'000* | *Winter Supplementary Estimate DEL* | | | *Changes* | | | *Spring Supplementary Estimate New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non-Voted | Total | Voted | Non-Voted | Total | Voted | Non-Voted | Total |
| RESOURCE DEL | *310,959* | *45,027* | *355,986* | *+1,659* | *-75* | *+1,584* | *312,618* | *44,952* | *357,570* |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Administration Budget | 217,058 | - | 217,058 | -50,370 | - | -50,370 | 166,688 | - | 166,688 |
| Near cash in RDEL | 265,844 | 45,027 | 310,871 | + 16,923 | -75 | + 16,848 | 282,767 | 44,952 | 327,719 |
| CAPITAL DEL | *78,869* | *100* | *78,969* | *+5,997* | *+75* | *+6,072* | *84,866* | *175* | *85,041* |
| Depreciation[2] | -36,358 | - | -36,358 | *19,721* | - | *19,721* | -16,637 | - | *-16,637* |
| TOTAL DEL | *353,470* | *45,127* | *398,597* | *+27,377* | - | *+27,377* | *380,847* | *45,127* | *425,974* |

[2]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes in the spring supplementary estimate 2007-08 compared to the winter supplementary estimate 2007-08 are due to:

drawdown on the reserve for V matched funding,

take up of Resource DEL End Year Flexibility to cover grants in the Office of the Third Sector,

budgetary cover transfer to Department of Health to cover costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel,

reclassification of expenditure from administration to programme within RDEL,

transfer of non cash to near cash within RDEL,

a transfer from non cash RDEL to Capital DEL,

a transfer of non voted transfer from RDEL to non voted CDEL in respect of Executive NDPB (ENDPB),

an increase in non-operating appropriations in aid in CDEL reflecting a disposal of a fixed asset.

CHANGES IN RESOURCE DEL (RDEL)

£1,584,000 increase in the resource element of DEL arises from:

*Drawdown on the reserve*

Drawdown for V matched funding for the Office of the Third Sector to cover grant expenditure increases RDEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £4,729,000.

*End Year Flexibility (EYF)*

Take up of EYF to cover grants expenditure for necessary Third Sector projects increases grant expenditure in RDEL and net cash requirement by £3,300,000.

*Outward budgetary cover transfer*

A budgetary cover transfer to Department of Health to cover the costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) reduces RDEL and net cash requirement in the Estimate by £370,000.

*Transfers between budgets*

a) A transfer from non cash administration to Capital DEL to fund capital investment in IT projects including the Government Gateway Strategic Support Programme reduces RDEL by £6,000,000 and no change to net cash requirement.

b) A non-voted transfer of £75,000 from RDEL to CDEL to finance capital expenditure of ENDPB.

CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION BUDGET (RDEL)

£50,370,000 decrease in the administration budget arises from:

(a) £370,000 transfer to Departmental of Health

(b) £6,000,000 transfer from administration within non cash RDEL to Capital DEL

(c) £10,500,000 reallocation from administration to programme within non-cash

(d) £33,500,000 reallocation from administration to programme within near cash DEL.

CHANGE IN NEAR CASH IN RDEL

£16,848,000 increase in near cash in RDEL arises from:

(a) £3,300,000 take up of end year flexibility

(b) £4,729,000 drawdown from the reserve

(c) £10,000,000 conversion from non cash to near cash

(d) £370,000 budgetary transfer to Departmental of Health

(e) £75,000 transfer of non voted to Capital DEL

(f) £14,000 change in notional audit fee

(g) £750,000 change in provisions

CHANGES IN CAPITAL DEL (CDEL)

£6,072,000 increase in the capital element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of £6,000,000 from non-cash administration to Capital DEL to fund additional pressures which have

arisen within the department which relates to IT projects including the Government Gateway Strategic Support Programme.

Sale proceeds from the disposal of a minibus has increased non-operating appropriations in aid by £3,000 and reduced net cash requirement in the by the same amount.

A non-voted transfer of £75,000 from RDEL to CDEL to finance the capital expenditure of ENDPB.

CHANGE IN DEPRECIATION

£19,721,000 decrease in depreciation arises from:

(a) £10,000,000 conversion from non cash to near cash

(b) £6,000,0000 conversion from non cash to capital DEL

(c) £3,721,000 transfer to Cost of Capital.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** Subject to Parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2007-08 Spring Supplementary Estimate. The effect this will have is to increase the NIO's DEL by £39,813,000 from £1,353,675,000 to £1,393,488,000.

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 21,877 | 19,831 | 390,166 | 994,470 | 1,384,636 |
| *Administration budget*[1] | *-116* | - | *81,753* | - | 81,753 |
| *Near-cash* | *8,451* | *5,857* | *312,632* | *719,263* | *1,031,895* |
| Capital | 8,170 | -8,135 | 33,264 | 38,674 | 71,938 |
| Depreciation | -743 | -1,187 | -18,018 | -45,068 | -63,086 |
| Total | 29,304 | 10,509 | 405,412 | 988,076 | 1,393,488 |

The change in total DEL of £39,813,000 relates to the draw down of non-cash End Year Flexibility (EYF) of £17,285,000; an increase of £18,102,000 in respect of curtailment costs and a change in the discount rate for police pensions; and resource and capital budget transfers with other government departments totalling £6,356,000.

The EYF draw down is to fund additional non-cash resource requirements for compensation payment provisions in the Compensation Agency; pension scheme liabilities in the Youth Justice Agency; and asset revaluation costs in the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The administration budget decreases by £116,000 from £81,869,000 to £81,753,000 as a result of resource budget transfers of £100,000 to the Department of Culture, Arts and Learning for Ordnance Survey mapping services and £16,000 to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister for Stormont Castle messengers.

The increase in capital DEL of £35,000 is the budget transfer of £20,000 from the Northern Ireland Court Service for prison video links and £15,000 from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for prison healthcare costs.

The Northern Ireland Executive DEL will increase by £193,887,000 from £8,522,664,000 to £8,716,551,000.

The change reflects the draw down of EYF of £105,000,000 (£75,000,000 near cash and £30,000,000 capital) and an addition of £100,000,000 (£88,000,000 near cash and £12,000,000 capital) for funding the water industry and innovation. In addition there are net outward budget transfers totalling £11,113,000 (£6,163,000 resource near cash and £4,950,000 capital) to the Northern Ireland Office and HM Revenue and Customs.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** My hon. Friend the Member for Preston (Mr. Hendrick) has been appointed as a full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in place of my hon. Friend the Member for Caerphilly (Wayne David).

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (Des Browne):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) provision for the administration of the Scotland Office will be increased by £900,000 and takes account of the following routine adjustment:

a take-up of near cash End Year flexibility of £900,000.

The increase will be added to the planned total of public expenditure spending commitments in the current financial year.

The Scotland DEL will decrease by £4,500,000 from £27,077,409,000 to £27,072,909,000.

The Scotland DEL decrease takes account of the following routine adjustments to the Scottish Executive provision:

a reduction of £5,000,000 following the change in responsibility for the payment ofcertain staff in SEERAD; and

a reduction of £25,000,000 in non cash provision for impairments; and

an increase of £500,000 in respect of a further transfer from the Department ofTransport for rail services in Scotland.

cash accrual adjustments of £25,000,000.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

**The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird):** My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Spring Supplementary Estimate, the Attorney-General's DEL will be increased by £16,110,000 from £756,976,000 to £773,086,000 and the Administration budget will be increased by £3,450,000 from £119,643,000 to £123,093,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 5,530 | 9,200 | 754,871 | 9,200 | 764,071 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* | 3,450 | - | 123,093 | - | 123,093 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 4,780 | 9,200 | 740,878 | 10,913 | 751,791 |
| Capital | 2,100 | - | 19,000 | - | 19,000 |
| Depreciation[1] | -720 | - | -9,985 | - | -9,985 |
| *Total DEL* | *6,910* | *9,200* | *763,886* | *10,913* | *773,086* |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) element of the Attorney-General's DEL will be increased by £10,080,000 from £648,696,000 to £658,776,000. There is no change in the Administration budget.

The change in the CPS's DEL arises from:

£8,000,000 allocation to the Departmental Unallocated Provision for counter-terrorism.

An increase to DEL due to a budgetary transfer of £3,000,000 from the Ministry of Justice from the Victims Surcharge programme to continue to improve services to prosecution witnesses in court.

A decrease of £655,000 programme resources due to the reallocation of resource DEL budgetary cover from the Crown Prosecution Service to the Ministry of Justice to support Criminal Justice Information Technology (CJIT) projects.

A decrease of £265,000 programme resources due to the reallocation of resource DEL budgetary cover from the Crown Prosecution Service to the Ministry of Justice to support the Criminal Justice Information Technology (CJIT) Progress project.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) element of the Attorney-General's DEL will be increased by £300,000 from £54,814,000 to £55,114,000. The Administration budget remains unchanged.

The changes in the SFO's DEL arise from:

The take up of £300,000 Capital End Year Flexibility to meet the cost of additional Capital spend.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office's (RCPO) element of the Attorney-General's DEL will be increased by £3,700,000 from £36,409,000 to £40,109,000. The Administration Budget which will be increased by £2,500,000 from £17,936,000 to £20,436,000.

The changes in RCPO's DEL arise from:

A draw down of £2,400,000 near-cash administration resources from the EYF entitlement for 2007-08 in order to fund increased activity on Asset Recovery.

A draw down of £600,000 non-cash administration resources from the EYF entitlement for 2007-08 in order to depreciate refurbishment and IT establishment costs.

A reduction of £317,000 in administration spending to facilitate a reallocation of resource DEL to the Treasury Solicitor's Department to fund administration of the Attorney-General's Office. The transfer of budgetary cover was announced in the Winter Supplementary Written Statement and previously taken up by the Treasury Solicitor's Department in their Winter Supplementary Estimate.

An increase in forecast programme receipts of £2,142,000 not fully offset by spending of £1,642,000.

An increase in forecast administration receipts of £1,349,000 fully offset by spending of£1,349,000.

The take up of £800,000 from the capital EYF entitlement for 2007/08, in order to cover the establishment costs for the RCPO IT project and the capitalisation of the majority of refurbishment costs.

An increase of £1,000,000 in capital spending, to cover establishment costs for the RCPO IT project and the capitalisation of the majority of refurbishment costs. This is to be funded by a reallocation of capital DEL from the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

The HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor (TSol) element of the Attorney-General's DEL will be increased by £2,030,000 from £17,057,000 to £19,087,000. The Administration Budget which will increase by £950,000 from £12,769,000 to £13,719,000.

The change in TSol's DEL arises from:

Take up £800,000 of administration costs resource End-Year Flexibility (EYF) (near- cash) to meet the cost of policy support to the Attorney-General's office and accommodation. In budgetary terms, RDEL EYF entitlement transferred from the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office.

The take up of £150,000 administration costs resource EYF (non-cash) to meet the cost of policy support to the Attorney-General's office and accommodation.

An increase of £120,000 in depreciation costs.

An increase of £1,200,000 for resource EYF transferred from RCPO."

## TRANSPORT

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2007-08 will be increased by £584,299,000 from £13,105,578,000 to £13,689,877,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £5,142,000 from £289,384,000 to £294,526,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital, are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | NEW DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non-voted | Voted | Non-voted | Total |
| Resource | -115,508 | 86,931 | 6,335,982 | 560,918 | 6,896,900 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* | 7,845 | -2,703 | 293,026 | 1,500 | 294,526 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 62,232 | 79,191 | 5,852,661 | 717,593 | 6,570,254 |
| Capital | 35,651 | 605,744 | 5,473,487 | 1,711,286 | 7,184,773 |
| Depreciation[1] | 9,174 | -37,693 | -348,535 | -43,261 | -391,796 |
| Total | -70,683 | 654,982 | 11,460,934 | 2,228,943 | 13,689,877 |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*Resource Change: Administration (total increase of £5,142,000)*

*Voted: total increase of £7,845,000.*

*RfRl*

(i) Take up of £3,642,000 near cash end year flexibility for various pressuresincluding the implementation of Eddington work, recruitment costs and building costs; and

(ii) A transfer of £4,203,000 from non-voted near cash departmental unallocated provision to provide for opening budget allocations agreed in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

*Non-Voted: total decrease of £2,703,000.*

(iii) Take up of £1,500,000 near cash end year flexibility for utilisation of a provision in respect of building dilapidations ;and (iv) A transfer of £4,203,000 to voted near cash administration provision.

*Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £33,719,000)*

*Voted: total decrease of £123,353,000*

*RfRl*

(i) Take up of £43,598,000 near cash end year flexibility (including £17,500,000 from administration entitlement) for Crossrail;

(ii)..A transfer of £500,000 near cash to the Scottish Executive for the Rail Environmental Benefit Procurement Scheme;

(iii) A reduction of £150,000,000 non cash Highways Agency impairments reclassified as Annually Managed Expenditure;

(iv) A net transfer of £16,451,000 to non voted provision as follows:

a. 300,000 near cash from Power Shift to the Renewable Fuels Agency;

b. £17,587,000 from Rail, including £7,740,000 non-cash and £4,847,000 non-cash switched to near cash (see (v) below); partially offset by:

c. £1,436,000 near cash increase to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency enforcement;

(v) £20,000,000 of Rail non-cash headroom has been converted to near cash, permitted under Treasury guidelines, to fund the following:

a. £2,028,000 for concessionary travel;

b. £10,025,000 for Shared Services;

c. £3,100,000 for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency ; and

d. a transfer of £4,847,000 to non-voted provision included in (iv) b.above.

*Non-Voted: total increase of £89,634,000*

(i) Take up of £73,183,000 near cash end year flexibility for the net operating losses of London and Continental Railways

(ii) A net transfer of £16,451,000 from voted provision for:

a. £300,000 near cash for the Renewable Fuels Agency

b. £4,847,000 near cash for the utilisation of the following provisions: pensions (£2,847,000); early retirement (£1,500,000); and an HM Revenue and Customs tax liability for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (£500,000);

c. £5,000,000 near cash for shared services;

d. £7,740,000 non-cash for London and Continental Railways (£6,217,000); Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency cost of capital (£1,394,000); and towards the Shared Service Project depreciation (£129,000);

e. partially offset by £1,436,000 near cash transfer from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

*Capital Change: (total increase of £641,395,000)*

*Voted: total increase of £35,651,000*

*RfRl*

(i) Take up of £150,000,000 end year flexibility for a capital grant to the Greater London Authority to pass on to Transport for London to provide short term flexibility while the costs associated with Metronet's administration remain uncertain.

(ii) Net transfer of £114,349,000 to non-voted provision consisting of:

a. £58,439,000 from Network Grants to London and Continental Railways;

b. £59,951,000 from Local Transport Major Schemes; partially offset by:

c. £4,041,000 increase to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

*Non-Voted: total increase of £605,744,000*

(i) £304,000,000 reserve claim to part cover a notional charge (of £454,000,000 in total) scoring within Capital DEL to reflect the marginal impact on Public Sector Net Debt in 2007-08 of costs relating to Metronet in the light of its move into administration.

(ii) Take up of £187,395,000 end year flexibility, comprising:

a. £150,000 for the remainder of the notional charge relating to Metronet, as referred to in (i) above; and

b. £37,395,000 for London and Continental Railways to provide cover for their capital expenditure.

(iii) Net transfer of £114,349,000 from voted provision consisting of:

a. £58,439,000 for London and Continental Railways to provide cover for their capital expenditure;

b. £35,000,000 for the Integrated Transport Block;

c. £21,000,000 for UK Trustports;

d. £3,951,000 towards General Lighthouse Authority ship lease; partially offset by;

e. £4,041,000 to voted provision from Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency receipts.

## WALES

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy):** The Welsh Assembly Government's Departmental Expenditure Limit will be increased by £61,435,000 from £13,819,490,000 to £13,880,925,000. The increase is a result of:

(a) Take-up of £60,000,000 EYF—non-cash

And includes

(b) Transfers of £245,000 and £1,190,000 near-cash from the Ministry of Justice

The increase in DEL will be offset by transfers from other Departments and will not therefore add to the planned total of public expenditure.

Provision for the Wales Office is increased by £950,000 as a result of £950,000 near cash take-up of End Year Flexibility.

Wales Office spending is contained within single Ministry of Justice Departmental Expenditure Limit and Administration Costs Limit.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment and Social Policy Informal Meeting (Brdo, Slovenia)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Employment and Social Policy informal meeting was held on 31 January to 2 February in Brdo, Slovenia. I represented the UK.

The theme of the informal meeting was "How best to respond to the common principles of flexicurity", following their adoption at last year's December Council. There was a broad consensus around the concept of flexicurity and the discussion was positive and forward looking, but there was no agreement on how to make the "flexicurity" principles a reality.

Ministers agreed that there was no one model to copy, but that we could usefully learn from each other's experiences. All Member States raised the importance of better training and lifelong learning, and also the need to anticipate the economy's future requirements. There was also a strong focus on the need to facilitate job transitions, modernising social protection systems to ensure their long-term fiscal sustainability and ensuring that flexicurity worked for all workers, with a particular focus on young and older workers.

I spoke on the importance of maintaining flexibility at a time of economic uncertainty, the need to promote new approaches to skills and lifelong learning, and support for the idea of a European skills review.

The French also launched their idea of a "flexicurity mission". Its objective would be to explain flexicurity and what it meant in terms of reforms to European citizens. The mission would visit a few Member States before reporting back to the Council during the French presidency.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2007-08)

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Departmental Expenditure Limit will increase by £60,847,000 from £7,643,047,406 to £7,703,894,406 and the administration budget will decrease by £88,000 from £5,816,364,000 to £5,816,276,000.

Within the Departmental Expenditure Limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 142,825 | -117,913 | 24,912 | 6,592,712 | 1,165,437 | 7,758,149 |
| *Of which* | | | | | | |
| *Administration*[1] | 104,812 | -104,900 | -88 | 5,815,366 | 910 | 5,816,276 |
| *Near-cash* | 97,825 | -117,913 | -20,088 | 6,336,342 | 1,214,095 | 7,550,437 |
| Capital | 35,439 | 496 | 35,935 | 99,219 | 891 | 100,110 |
| Depreciation[1] | - | - | - | -153,023 | -1,342 | -154,365 |
| Total | 178,264 | -117,417 | 60,847 | 6,538,908 | 1,164,986 | 7,703,894 |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit*

The change in the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

*Request for Resources 2*

i. A machinery of government transfer of the Disability Rights Commission (sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions) to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (sponsored by Government Equalities Office).

ii. The Disability Rights Commission is an Executive Non Departmental Public Body. The Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit transactions were a reduction in Voted Administration of £88,000 (near-cash) and a reduction in Non-Voted Other Current £20,000,000 (near-cash).

*Request for Resources 5*

iii. A draw down of £45,000,000 Other Current End of Year Flexibility to support non-cash expenditure.

*Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit*

The change in the Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

*Request for Resources 3*

iv. A budget transfer from the Northern Ireland Executive of £4,935,000 in respect of expenditure incurred by the Pension Transformation Programme.

v. A draw down of £31,000,000 End of Year Flexibility to support expenditure on the Pensions Change Programme.

*Administration Costs Limit*

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted at items i and ii above.

*Movements in Non-Voted Resource Expenditure*

The changes in non-voted resource expenditure arise from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted at items i and ii above. In addition the following adjustments:

*Request for Resources 1*

vi. A reduction in non-voted resource expenditure of £104,900,000 offset by an increase in voted resource expenditure of £104,900,000 in respect of the allocation of the Departmental Unallocated Provision to support the Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan.

*Request for Resources 2*

vii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £1,461,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £1,461,000 in respect of increased spend of Working Ventures (UK) Limited.

*Request for Resources 3*

viii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £244,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £244,000 in respect of increased spend of The Pensions Advisory Service.

ix. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £189,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £189,000 in respect of decreased spend of The Pensions Ombudsman.

x. A reduction in non-voted expenditure of £839,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £839,000 in respect of decreased spend of The Pensions Regulator.

xi. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £6,532,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £6,532,000 in respect of planned expenditure for the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xii. A reduction in non-voted expenditure of £600,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £600,000 in respect of an adjustment to the classification of spend for Better Government for Older People.

*Movements in Non-Voted Capital Expenditure*

The changes in non-voted capital relate to the following adjustments:

*Request for Resources 3*

xiii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £5,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £5,000 in respect of increased spend of The Pensions Advisory Service.

xiv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £17,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £17,000 in respect of increased spend of The Pensions Ombudsman.

xv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £474,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £474,000 in respect of increased spend of The Pensions Regulator.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bluetongue Disease, Avian Influenza and Foot and Mouth Disease

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I wish to report to the House on the latest developments on last year's outbreaks of Bluetongue and Foot and Mouth Disease, and the recent cases of Avian Influenza in Dorset.

BLUETONGUE

Following confirmation of Bluetongue on premises located within the then restricted zones, the Bluetongue protection and surveillance zones were extended on 8 and 13 February. After confirmation of the disease on premises in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Greater London, Surrey and Sussex, the protection zone has been expanded westwards and into Eastbourne. A further case in Dorset has required that a separate protection zone be established covering all of Dorset and the New Forest. The surveillance zone now extends into all of Somerset and Devon and into the south-east corner of Wales. We are currently consulting industry representatives as to whether Cornwall should be included in the surveillance zone. Bluetongue has now been confirmed on a total of 80 premises since the outbreak was first discovered last year.

All of the infected animals on the recently confirmed premises were found as a result of pre-movement testing, which is currently required before animals can be moved out of the surveillance and protection zones during the vector-free period, which was declared from 20 December. This requirement is proving to be useful surveillance and is helping to identify previously undisclosed infected premises. Some 40,000 livestock have been tested under pre-movement testing. All evidence suggests that the infected animals on the newly confirmed premises were infected before the vector-free period commenced; there is no evidence to suggest that virus is circulating in the UK at present.

Following the extensions of the surveillance and protection zones, a voicemail message was sent to known keepers in the zone extensions who are registered on Animal Health's database. Each of these premises were also issued a letter with accompanying leaflets on how to spot disease.

In agreement with the core group of industry stakeholders, the UK remains in Phase 1 of the UK

Bluetongue disease control strategy—that is, seeking to contain disease rather than living with it. At present, we are not intending to move to a zone covering the whole country in advance of vaccine being available. However, this situation remains under review as events develop.

BLUETONGUE VACCINATION PLANS

Yesterday, I announced the publication of the UK vaccination plan, which sets out the proposed approach to vaccination in the months ahead. The plan, which is publicly available on the Defra website, has been sent to the European Commission, alongside a request for EU co-funding, should such funding be available on acceptable terms.

As part of the plan, Defra has placed an order with the animal health company Intervet for 22.5 million doses of Bluetongue vaccine. 20 million doses are reserved for use in England and 2.5 million doses are reserved for potential use in Wales. In keeping with the principles of the Bluetongue control strategy, livestock keepers in the protection zone will be able to purchase vaccine from the bank through their private vets. Intervet has indicated that vaccine will begin to be available from May.

The UK is the first country dealing with the current outbreak of BTV-8 in Northern Europe to make an order for vaccine. This will ensure that vaccine will be available in England and Wales as soon as possible.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA H5N1

Following confirmation on 10 January that the H5N1 strain of avian influenza had been isolated in three dead wild mute swans in the Chesil Beach area in Dorset, a wild bird control area and a monitoring area were established. The control area was larger than the minimum required under European rules and reflected expert ornithological advice about the movement of mute swans and other wild birds in the area.

Movement restrictions were introduced, including a requirement on bird keepers to house their birds or otherwise isolate them from contact with wild birds and a ban on bird gatherings. 10 dead mute swans submitted under the surveillance programme have been confirmed with the H5N1 virus, and the last positive sample was collected on 29 January and confirmed on 4 February. In addition we sampled 60 apparently healthy mute swans and faecal samples from other wild birds but with negative results.

Taking into account epidemiological evidence, a veterinary risk assessment and—as provided for under European rules—that it is now 21 days since the collection of the last positive case, I have today confirmed the lifting of the control area.

I have also reassessed the shape and size of the monitoring area, and have decided that this should not be changed at the moment. On the basis of advice from veterinary and ornithological experts I have concluded that the possibility of continuing undetected infection in wild birds other than swans cannot be ruled out and that retention of this wider monitoring area for a little longer would therefore be prudent. However, we will keep the situation under constant review. The European rules provide for the area to be lifted only when at least 30 days have elapsed since the last positive sample was collected. My aim is to return poultry keepers to normal business arrangements as quickly as possible.

Animal Health is contacting keepers in the area to advise them of how the changes will affect them. In addition we are reminding all keepers that the country remains at a constant, albeit low risk, from H5N1. Therefore it is vital that keepers remain vigilant and take precautionary measures to isolate kept birds from wild birds.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Finally, following last August's outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, Defra is continuing to work closely with the OIE to regain full FMD free status at the wider international level.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 20 February 2008*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing (25th Round)

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** I am pleased to inform the House that I am today inviting applications for petroleum licences for unlicensed seaward blocks which will form the 25th round of offshore petroleum licensing. These blocks are located in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) areas 1-7. A map of the SEA areas can be found on the website indicated below, and copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

*Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)—post-adoption procedures*

BERR's draft plan to offer licences for offshore oil and gas exploration and production through a 25th licensing round was the subject of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) initiated in 2005. The SEA is documented on a dedicated website—www.offshore-sea.org.uk—and includes commissioned reports on various components of the natural environment, cultural features and socio-economic considerations. In addition, as part of the SEA new information was collected, for example on selected seabed features through seafloor mapping, sampling and photography, and on the offshore distribution of small cetaceans. The draft plan for the 25th licensing round included offering blocks to the west of the Hebrides, and also in those areas that had been subject to earlier BERR SEAs—SEAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6—which covered the UK North sea exclusive economic zone and the UK EEZ in the Irish sea and to the north and west of Orkney and Shetland.

The potential implications of the exploration and production activities which could follow if the draft plan was adopted were considered at an expert assessment workshop and a stakeholder workshop. The results of these workshops were assessed further and documented in an environmental report which then formed the basis for consultation with the consultation bodies and the public. The initiation of a 3 month consultation period on BERR's draft plan and environmental report was advertised in a number of local and national newspapers and by email notification to a wide range of individuals and organisations.

All responses received from statutory and other consultees on the draft plan and the environmental report have been considered by BERR and a post-consultation report for SEA 7 prepared and placed on the SEA website. This summarises consultee comments and BERR responses to them. The full texts of consultee comments have also been placed on the SEA website.

In deciding to proceed with a 25th offshore licensing round BERR has considered the conclusions and recommendations of the SEA 7 environmental report together with feedback received from consultees. As a result of the SEA process, blocks west of 14 degrees west are being withheld from licensing for the present on environmental grounds.

A number of blocks excluded on the basis of recommendations of previous SEAs, or those currently in the process of appropriate assessment consultation will also not be offered.

The SEA recommended that the blocks in or overlapping with the boundaries of the Moray firth and Cardigan Bay SACs should also be withheld from licensing for the present whilst the further assessments initiated following the 24th Licensing Round applications are concluded. We have therefore excluded 11 blocks in the Cardigan bay area and 10 in the Moray firth.

In addition, 126 blocks will not be offered for licensing in the areas covered by SEAs 1-7 at the request of the Ministry of Defence due to them being intense military test areas.

Licensing of these blocks may be revisited in the future, for example as more information on the features of interest becomes available. In addition, a number of blocks may be licensed but with conditions attached restricting or prohibiting marine activities. It should be noted that the Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 and the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 variously require that all major activities undertaken in connection with UK offshore hydrocarbon exploration and production include environmental assessment as part of consenting.

Before any licence awards are made, an appropriate assessment will be undertaken to assess whether exploration licences applied for in the 25th round will have any adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This is required under EU Council Directive 79/409 EEC on "The conservation of wild birds" and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on "The conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora', and UK implementing regulations.

BERR has, with industry and statutory environmental advisors, established an offshore oil and gas environmental monitoring committee which is charged with coordinating the strategic monitoring of potentially significant environmental effects of the industry, including those that could arise from the implementation of the plan to hold a 25th round of offshore licensing.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### 47th Horserace Betting Levy Scheme

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe):** As the Horserace Betting Levy Board was unable to accept the Bookmakers' Committee's recommendations for the 47th levy scheme, covering the year commencing 1 April 2008, the matter was referred to me to determine under Section 1(2) of the Horserace Betting Levy Act 1969.

In considering the next scheme, I have taken into account submissions from the independent members of the Levy Board, the Bookmakers' Committee and the

British Horseracing Authority. In the interests of fairness and openness, these bodies were given the opportunity to comment on each others' submissions. I have also noted submissions from the Remote Gambling Association, the Sporting Exchange Ltd (Betfair) and the Independent Bookmakers Association. I have taken account of independent advice from Organisation Consulting Partnership (OCP) on those submissions. I am depositing copies of OCP's report in the House Libraries and sending copies to those who provided submissions, and it is available on my Department's website. I have also considered carefully the many other representations that have been made to me on this subject by Members of Parliament and others with an interest in the racing and betting industries.

The criteria which have customarily applied to the setting of levy schemes include the needs of horseracing and the capacity of bookmakers to pay. I can confirm that I have taken account of these considerations, among other factors I consider relevant which I refer to below, in reaching a view about how much bookmakers should be required to contribute in order to enable the Horserace Betting Levy Board to give effect to the improvement of horseracing and its other statutory purposes.

The exercise of my responsibility to determine the 47th scheme has been made particularly difficult by new considerations introduced by both the British Horseracing Authority and the Bookmakers' Committee. These include the effect of the growth of betting exchanges, the concept of a fair return to racing given the cultural and economic importance of the sport, the increase in the number of racing fixtures and in integrity costs, and the potential impact on bookmakers' ability to pay the levy of Gambling Commission fees and subscriptions to the new Turf TV pictures provider.

I have been able to reach a view on some of these new considerations. First, I have concluded that it would not be appropriate to seek to impose the levy on the turnover of betting exchanges rather than on the commission charged on betting transactions. In reaching this conclusion, I was mindful of the Treasury's conclusion, when assessing whether to impose Gross Profits Tax on betting exchanges turnover, that it was correct to apply GPT on commission only because the commission is the operator's gross profit and the consumers' net spend. The Treasury concluded that there was no real justification for changing exchanges' tax base or tax rate, and I have taken the same view in relation to the levy. Furthermore I am satisfied that any move to broaden the scope of the levy scheme in this way would necessitate a full consultative process, which has not occurred.

Secondly, on the matter of a fair return to racing, I fully accept the cultural and economic value of racing to the life of the nation. However, I consider that this was implicit in the initial creation of a statutory levy scheme.

Thirdly, I have borne in mind the British Horseracing Authority's claim that the needs of racing have grown, principally due to a sharp increase in the number of fixtures. However, I note that this increase has not resulted in any commensurate growth in betting on horseraces. I am therefore not persuaded that I should make any adjustment in the level of the levy on the basis of the increase in fixtures.

Fourthly, on the matter of the betting industry's desire to offset the cost of Gambling Commission fees from the levy, I have concluded that to accede to this would be in effect to pass the regulatory costs of the Commission on to customers in betting shops. This would clearly not be within the spirit of the Gambling Act and I therefore reject this application.

Finally, turning to the issue of Turf TV, I accept that an argument can be put forward that bookmakers' subscriptions to the new service constitute a commercially based flow of money to racing, albeit only from certain bookmakers to certain racecourses. I therefore accept that it may have a material effect both on bookmakers' ability to pay and on the needs of racing. However, it is apparent from the failure of the Bookmakers' Committee and the levy board to agree, and from the OCP report, that bookmakers and the racing industry hold widely divergent views on the status of Turf TV and the impact that it should have on the level of the levy. In time its full economic impact on bookmakers, racecourses and on horse racing generally may become clearer. However, at this stage I consider that it would not be appropriate to take Turf TV into account in setting the level of the 47th levy.

Despite thorough consideration, I have not been wholly persuaded by the submissions of either the Bookmakers' Committee or the British Horseracing Authority, nor have I been able to reconcile their starkly contrasting approaches. It is therefore my decision on this occasion to revert to the 46th levy scheme, being the last occasion on which all parties achieved consensus, and to direct that this be rolled over, with adjustments for inflation where appropriate, into 2008-09. This decision is provided for in Section 1(3)(b) of the Horserace Betting Levy Act 1969, and in making it I have placed weight on the valuable advice of the independent members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board as a non-departmental public body of my Department.

Accordingly, for off-course betting through licensed betting offices or media platforms—cash, telephone or internet—showing a gross profit on British Horserace Betting Business (BHBB) of £85,700 or more per year, a flat percentage rate of 10 per cent. will apply. Abated charges will apply to any LBO or media platform with gross annual profits of less than £85,700. A minimum payment of £2,144 will apply. The levy for on-course betting will be charged at a flat fee of £188 plus a fixed ring charge of £4 for the silver or minor rings and £8 for all other rings for each racecourse attendance. On-course bookmakers who use and/or operate a betting exchange will also be liable to pay the levy at a rate of 10 per cent. on their gross profits derived from BHBB. The levy payable by bet brokers including betting exchanges will be charged on a basis equivalent to 10 per cent. of their gross profits, defined as commission on BHBB deducted from the winnings paid out to bettors and bet-takers. Spread betting business will be charged at 2 per cent. of gross profits, and bookmakers who conduct betting on point-to-point and/or harness racing and/or trotting events will pay a fixed levy contribution of £150.

The determination concluded, I wish to add that it is a matter of serious regret to the Government that we have again found ourselves in the position of having to make a determination when it would clearly have been more appropriate for the betting and racing industries to have agreed a suitable settlement between themselves.

We have repeatedly encouraged the two industries to develop a modern relationship as business partners and move away from an adversarial approach. Representatives of both sides now need to proceed to detailed commercial negotiations without delay. To this end I am convening a meeting, under the auspices of the all-party racing and bloodstock industries group, to initiate discussions on a wide range of issues.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Explanatory Memorandum on the Lisbon Treaty

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** The Explanatory Memorandum on the Lisbon Treaty stated that the treaty extended qualified majority voting (QMV) in a total of 50 articles.

It should have stated that there were 51 articles, including the move to QMV on the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency (EDA). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence set out this move to QMV in a written answer to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 28 January, reprinted below. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has also provided oral and written evidence on the EDA to the Defence Select Committee.

We have provided the Vote Office with a corrigendum.

*(Official Report, 28 January 2008, column 38W)*

*EU Defence Policy*

*Dr. Fox*: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which areas of European Security and Defence Policy the Lisbon Treaty will introduce qualified majority voting; and if he will make a statement. [182335]

*Des Browne*: The Council will continue to act by unanimity among member states on all aspects of European Security and Defence Policy except for certain procedural items in respect of permanent structured co-operation and the European Defence Agency. The Council would act by qualified majority voting (QMV) when establishing permanent structured co-operation and when determining the list of participating member states, including when deciding on the participation of a member state that subsequently wishes to participate or suspending the participation of a member state which no longer fulfils the criteria or its commitments.

*In the context of the European Defence Agency, although the treaty provides for the adoption of a decision on the Statute, seat and operational rules of the agency by QMV, these matters have already been decided upon under the joint action establishing the agency. We therefore do not anticipate any further need for decisions in this area.* The "passerelle" clause, which allows the European Council unanimously to decide to adopt a decision by QMV does not apply to decisions having military or defence implications.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Correction to Written Answer

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** I regret that the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 863W was incorrect, as it did not include a letter from Social Fund Commissioner, Sir Richard Tilt.

*Letter from Sir Richard Tilt, dated 4 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the average length of time for (a) a decision on and (b) a review of social fund claims from the Birmingham office in the most recent period for which figures are available.

As the Social Fund Commissioner, it falls to me to respond in relation to the work of the Independent Review Service (IRS). The statutory role of the IRS is to provide an independent second tier review of social fund decisions that have been made and reviewed by the Jobcentre Plus. Independent reviews are carried out by Social Fund Inspectors. The IRS does not deal with initial social fund decisions or first tier reviews, both of which are the responsibility of the Jobcentre Plus.

The average completion times for IRS reviews for the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007 are given in the table below.

*IRS Reviews in Great Britain April - December 2007*

| *Application Type* | *Average Completion Time in Working Days* |
|---|---|
| Community Care Grants | 11.8 |
| Budgeting Loans | 6.9 |
| Crisis Loans for Items | 10.2 |
| Crisis Loans for Living Expenses | 2.2 |

The average completion times for reviews in the IRS are measured in working days from the date a case is ready for review to the date the inspector issues the decision. A case is ready when the application for independent review is made correctly and the Jobcentre Plus has provided the relevant social fund papers. The figures are derived from all cases in which a full review was conducted and exclude cases outside the inspector's jurisdiction.

The overall completion times (excluding living expenses) outlined in the table above include a period during which applicants are given the opportunity to participate in their reviews. Before conducting the review, the inspector sets out the facts of the case, the issues to be decided, asks relevant questions and invites the applicant to comment. Around 85 per cent. of applicants participate in their review. The completion times also include all cases in which applicants or their legal advisers requested, and were given, additional time to respond to the inspector.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 21 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Economic Regulators

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness has made the following ministerial statement:

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has today issued the Government's response to the House of Lords Select Committee on Regulators report into UK economic regulators.

The report is a helpful and useful addition to the regulatory debate and raises important issues for both Government and the economic regulators covered by the report.

Copies of the response have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the BERR website.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### ContactPoint

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan):** I am publishing today the findings of the independent review of the security procedures of ContactPoint, conducted by Deloitte, and the Government response. I acknowledge Deloitte's recognition that security is ingrained in the ContactPoint project team's work. The Government accept all the report's recommendations and will address them.

ContactPoint is a key element of the "Every Child Matters" programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention. Its goal is to improve outcomes and the experience of public services for all children, young people and families. ContactPoint will provide a tool to support better communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth offending. It will provide a quick way for those practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person.

ContactPoint will be a simple basic online tool containing:

minimal identifying information for each child; name, address, date of birth, gender, and contact details for parents or carers. Each child will also have a unique identifying number;

contact details for the child's educational setting and GP practice and for other practitioners or services working with them; and

an indication as to whether a service or practitioner holds an assessment under the common assessment framework or whether they are a lead professional for that child.

No case information will be held on ContactPoint.

Security is of paramount importance in the development of the ContactPoint. A number of measures will be in place to ensure security:

Access will be restricted to those who need it as part of their work and will be limited to that needed to fulfil each role.

Everyone with access to ContactPoint, including operators or administrators, will be subject to stringent security checks, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance and membership of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) scheme.

At least two-factor authentication will be used to access ContactPoint. Users will need a security token and a password.

All users will be trained in the importance of security and the importance of good security practice.

Every access to a child's record will be detailed in the ContactPoint audit trail. This will be regularly reviewed.

Sanctions will be in place for any misuse. These sanctions can include, if appropriate, prosecutions under the provisions of the Data Protection Act and Computer Misuse Act which may lead to fines or imprisonment.

The design and implementation of ContactPoint will continue to be reviewed by independent security experts during system build and before it is implemented. Security will of course be audited during operation.

These issues will be reflected in the guidance and staff training that will govern the operation of ContactPoint.

On 20 November, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families decided to commission an independent review of ContactPoint's security procedures, and I announced this in a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 27 November. The review was undertaken by Deloitte. The Secretary of State and I received Deloitte's confidential report in early February. I am today publishing the executive summary of this report, which includes Deloitte's recommendations. This statement includes the Government's response to the recommendations. Both this statement and the executive summary will be placed in the Libraries of the House for reference.

The main body of the report necessarily includes information about the security arrangements for ContactPoint. We will not, therefore, publish the full report in order to minimise the kind of security risk our procedures are designed to prevent.

CONTACTPOINT DATA SECURITY REVIEW

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Introduction

The Government welcome the report from Deloitte on the ContactPoint data security review. We acknowledge their recognition that security is ingrained in all aspects of the ContactPoint project team's work. We accept all the report's recommendations and will address them. The first task is to undertake an impact assessment of the detailed recommendations contained in the report. A statement outlining ContactPoint's security policy is available from www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/delivering services/contactpoint/security/. The statement will be updated to reflect changes as a result of ongoing work on security, including addressing the recommendations in this report.

The Report's Recommendations

*Clear communication of responsibilities and accountabilities when the governance process is communicated to sponsors and partner organisations*

We recognise the need for the Department to communicate clearly to local authorities and partner organisations, who will use ContactPoint, exactly what their responsibilities are and what is required of them. We are developing a comprehensive programme of training, readiness assessments and accreditation checks to ensure these organisations are properly prepared for these responsibilities. The review has identified a number of areas which will be critical to get right as these plans develop. We welcome this advice and will follow it as we finalise our plans.

*Technical and procedural controls are subject to formal assurance under a recognised standard*

In determining the security policy for ContactPoint, the project followed Government guidance on risk assessment and security controls set out in the manual of protective security. The manual was updated in August 2007. The design of ContactPoint is currently undergoing a re-baselining exercise. Once this is complete, we will fully update the risk assessment against the new criteria and initiate a formal, external assessment to ensure these risks are effectively controlled. The scope of this will include the self-certification and local data quality tool process issues highlighted by the review.

*Further controls are introduced over the access to data by central system users such as database administrators and report programmers*

The review has correctly identified that we have significant controls in place to ensure the security of the core database, but has identified some areas in which these could be further improved. The ContactPoint project will undertake a rapid impact assessment to determine the most effective approach in our specific context, and will build this into the deployment plan.

*Processes are defined for the secure disposal of electronic and hard copy media*

Temporary guidance was issued to ensure secure storage and/or disposal of media used for initial load of data into the database. This was effective at the time, and will be reviewed against latest Government-wide best practice to inform standards for production processes. These additional controls will be in place before any data are loaded into the user acceptance test or live systems. The live system will also be designed to minimise, and where possible eliminate, the use of physical media.

*Clear guidance about information security matters is provided to all helpdesk staff on the production system*

The Deloitte review has highlighted one occasion where helpdesk guidance did not reflect best security practice. Formal helpdesk training has not yet taken place, and training plans will be reviewed to ensure that helpdesk staff are aware of security best practice, including the areas highlighted by the review.

*The project board should consider the appropriateness of obtaining formal independent assurance and accreditation of the supporting security operating procedures at connecting organisations before allowing connectivity or sponsorship*

The Department is still preparing plans for accreditation of connecting organisations, and will take this recommendation into account as those plans are finalised.

*The DCSF participate in Government-wide security initiatives*

DCSF is already participating in these initiatives through our chief information officer, especially those focused on data security, privacy and strong user authentication. We will take into account all best practice guidelines arising from this work to keep ContactPoint at the leading edge of security practice.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Creative Economic Strategic Document

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham):** I will tomorrow launch a strategy for the Creative Economy, in partnership with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Copies of the strategy, "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy", will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Our creative industries have grown by 7.3 per cent. over the last decade—around twice the rate of the rest of the economy—and are in a strong position globally as demand for high quality media content in English grows. However, we need to ensure we remain competitive in a growing world market.

Following extensive consultation and discussion with industry, the strategy makes a series of commitments for Government and industry to secure the continuing success of this dynamic sector of the economy. This includes setting out the challenges for these industries, and measures to exploit British talent to the full through education and training, the removal of barriers to business growth, investment in research and innovation and protection of intellectual property.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will work closely with BERR, DIUS and other Government Departments to implement the strategy that we hope will adapt and evolve in response to a fast moving sector of our economy.

## JUSTICE

### Foreign National Prisoners

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson):** I have for some time been seeking more ways to remove foreign prisoners from our prisons, and to remove them earlier. I believe this will work to the benefit of our system, and today I can bring forward proposals that will help us to do this. The early removal scheme established under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 enables the Government to remove foreign national prisoners liable to deportation or administrative removal up to 135 days before the halfway point of their sentence. Since its introduction in June 2004, over 3,000 prisoners have been removed under the scheme. This has made a significant contribution to reducing the number of foreign national criminals in our prisons and on our streets. Given this success, the Government now believe the scheme can contribute more.

As of December 2007 there were 11,310 foreign national prisoners within the prison system, representing 14 per cent. of the total prison population. Foreign national prisoners represent a significant proportion of the prison population, although at 14 per cent. it is low in comparison to most other European countries. Of 17 western European states, the UK's proportion is the third lowest. France has 21 per cent., Germany 28 per cent., Italy 34 per cent., Greece 42 per cent. and Austria 43 per cent.

The early removal scheme applies only to those foreign national prisoners who are able to be removed to their country of origin. Such prisoners only benefit from the scheme if their removal from the UK can be given immediate effect. We have been working to ensure that arrangements are in place so as to enable us to remove prisoners to their country of origin.

Prisoners serving a life or indeterminate sentence are not eligible to be considered for removal under the scheme. Determinate sentence prisoners serving a sentence of four years and over under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 for a sexual or violent offence are removed under the scheme only if the parole board considers that they would present an acceptable risk to the community.

Details of prisoners removed under the scheme are placed on the Home Office's warnings index. Should they seek to return to the United Kingdom during their sentence they can be detected by the border control officer on arrival at the UK border and returned to prison custody until the point at which they would have been released had they not otherwise been removed.

Based on the successful experience of the last three and a half years, and in particular our increasing experience of and success in securing travel documents from overseas countries and making other arrangements with them that enable us to remove prisoners, I believe the scheme can make an even greater contribution to removing criminals from our shores. I have therefore decided to extend the early removal scheme so as to enable prisoners to be removed 270 days early rather than the current 135. I will be laying the appropriate draft Order, which is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, and time will be found for a debate shortly.

The measure is entirely consistent with our strategy and with our earlier announcements, and I commend it to the House.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 22 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Decommissioning Programme (Draft Guidance)

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** It was announced in the Nuclear White Paper 2008 that, in parallel with the energy Bill, the Government will publish for public consultation two sets of draft guidance on what an approvable funded decommissioning programme should contain.

I have today issued a consultation document which contains both sets of draft guidance. We want to hear from members of the public, industry, financial and other institutions that may be involved in the financing of new nuclear power stations, non-governmental organisations and any other organisation or body with an interest.

The consultation will close on Friday 16 May 2008. Copies of the draft guidance will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TREASURY

### Corporation Tax Bill

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** I am pleased to tell the House that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will shortly publish a draft of the tax law rewrite project's fifth Bill, the corporation tax Bill, which is the first of two Bills which will rewrite substantially the whole of the primary legislation relating to corporation tax. This Bill will cover the basic provisions relating to the charge to corporation tax and includes the main provisions used by companies in computing their income. It is planned to introduce the Bill in Parliament by the end of 2008. The project's four previous Bills were enacted as the Capital Allowances Act 2001, the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, the Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 and the Income Tax Act 2007.

The scope of this new Bill and the timing of consultation were agreed with the project's consultative and steering committees which together include the main representative bodies and other users. It benefits from a style and structure that has been developed as a result of consultation over the previous rewrite Bills. Earlier versions of the legislation in this new Bill have been revised in the light of comments and suggestions from tax professionals and others who engaged in the consultation process. There has been extensive dialogue on them between the project team and business interests, tax practitioners, the legal profession and HMRC specialists.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Kim Darroch (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

*Preparation of the European Council*

The Council discussed preparations for the European Council on 13-14 March. The European Council is expected to focus on the launch of a new three-year cycle of the EU's strategy for growth and jobs; an integrated climate and energy policy; and the stability of financial markets. The Government support the presidency's focus on delivering for the EU's citizens, and broadly agrees with the priorities identified for action.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

*Doha Development Agenda*

Commissioner Mandelson briefed the Council on prospects for negotiations on the World Trade Organisation's Doha development agenda (DDA) negotiations, following the release of revised papers on agriculture, non-agricultural market access and services. Ministers agreed to return to the issue at a later date. The Government support the Commission's efforts to engage constructively in negotiating for an ambitious and pro-development conclusion to the DDA. Progress in the DDA would give the global economy a welcome boost.

*Chad*

The Government agreed Council conclusions firmly condemning the renewed attacks of armed groups against the Government of Chad, calling on all Chadian parties to renounce the use of force unconditionally and engage in a constructive dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution, and supporting the African Union's efforts to resolve the crisis.

The conclusions also underlined the EU's deep concern regarding the regional ramifications of the conflict in Darfur and attempts to overthrow the Chadian Government and fully backed the African Union and the United Nations' call for the respect of the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Chad. It called on the Governments of Sudan and Chad to stop supporting and equipping armed groups immediately and to improve their relations.

*Kenya*

Commissioner Michel briefed the Council on his recent visit.

The Government agreed Council conclusions adopted by the Council, expressing deep concern that the violence, uncertainty and instability in Kenya continues; reiterating the urgent need for Kenya's leaders to engage seriously and flexibly in order to bring an immediate end to the violence and to ensure security, stability and protection of human rights; strongly supporting the efforts by the panel of eminent African personalities, led by Kofi Annan; and reaffirming that the EU stands ready to assist those efforts.

*European Neighbourhood Policy*

Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner updated the Council on the European neighbourhood policy (ENP), stating that trade, increasing mobility and resolving regional conflicts would now be the EU's priorities. The Commission would publish progress reports on the ENP countries in April 2008. The Government strongly support the ENP as a policy that is distinct from EU enlargement but keep the door to EU membership open for eastern partners.

The Council adopted conclusions welcoming the Commission communication "A Strong European Neighbourhood Policy" as a useful basis for further reflection on making the ENP more effective and attractive to ENP partners, with the aim of making full use of the ENP's potential.

*Burma*

The Government agreed Council conclusions underlining that the EU remains deeply concerned by the situation in Burma and urging the authorities to take rapid steps to move to a democratically elected government. The conclusions noted the authorities' announcement on 9 February of a referendum on a new constitution in May 2008 and multi-party elections in 2010.

The Government strongly support the clear message in the conclusions that only a process that involves the full participation of the opposition and ethnic groups will lead to national reconciliation and stability. The conclusions reiterate the EU's call for the release of all political detainees, including Aung San Suu Kyi, the start of a substantial time-bound dialogue with all political stakeholders, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

*Middle East Peace Process*

High representative Javier Solana briefed the Council on his recent visit to Egypt. The Commission gave Foreign Ministers an update on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and next steps following the Paris donors' conference in December 2008.

The Government's view is that the EU must actively continue to support the reopening the crossings under Palestinian authority control. A controlled reopening of the crossings is vital for Palestinian welfare and Israeli security. The EU should therefore continue to explore how it can provide practical support.

*Economic Partnership Agreements*

Commissioners Mandelson and Michel briefed the Council on the state of play in the economic partnership agreement (EPA) negotiations with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The key challenges would be to secure full signature of initialled agreements and to broaden and deepen those agreements that had been established. The Commission stood ready to have high-level talks in 2008 to achieve the goal of full regional EPAs. Delivering on development finance would be key. The Council will return to this issue in May, during a joint session with Development Ministers, prior to the June ACP-EC Council in Addis Ababa.

The Government welcome the Commission's progress in agreeing economic partnership agreements with 35 ACP countries and stands ready to support the Commission in concluding the remaining agreements.

*Western Balkans*

A separate Written Ministerial Statement laid before the House on 19 February 2008 (Official Report, columns 20-22 WS) reports Foreign Ministers' discussion of the western Balkans.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Immigration

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne):** Over the next year, the Government will deliver the biggest shake up of the immigration system for over 45 years. At the beginning of the year I said reform would include new measures to attack the cause of illegal immigration—illegal working.

To stop illegal journeys we must stop illegal jobs. For this reason I am bringing into force new powers to stop illegal migrant working. Employers who employ illegal migrants as a result of poor recruitment and employment practices from 29 February will face civil financial penalties of up to £10,000 per worker. Those who knowingly employ illegal migrants will face an unlimited fine and/or a maximum two year prison sentence.

Secondly, we will require businesses who want to employ skilled workers from outside the EEA to apply for a licence, to help safeguard against deliberate undercutting of UK wages and exploitation of migrant workers. We will begin accepting applications for these licences from 29 February. To earn and hold a licence businesses must satisfy us that they are trustworthy, and must agree to fulfil certain duties. We published a statement of intent setting out our detailed policy last November. We have carefully studied and taken account of responses to that statement in finalising the sponsorship rules, which I am publishing today. We are also publishing an assessment of the impact of sponsorship on employers and others affected. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library of the House. Other prospective sponsors, including educational institutions, will be able to apply for a licence from the summer.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 25 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### EU Energy Council

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** BERR will be represented by the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 28 February.

There are three substantive items on the Council agenda: a policy debate on the key issues surrounding the third internal energy market package; approval of draft conclusions on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) before adoption at the European spring Council; and a policy debate on the climate change and energy legislative package.

The item on the internal energy market will focus on the Commission's third package of proposed legislation to improve the functioning of the internal market in electricity and gas. This comprises proposals to amend the existing directives on common rules for the internal electricity and natural gas markets and the existing regulations on conditions for access to gas and electricity networks. These include proposals to strengthen the powers and independence of national regulators and increase market transparency. There is also a proposal to establish an agency to facilitate the co-operation between national energy regulators. The debate at the Council is likely to focus on ownership unbundling and the proposed agency. The UK has welcomed the Commission's proposals as crucial for creating a properly functioning EU energy market but will be pressing for a stronger regulatory agency.

On the SET-Plan, Ministers will be asked to approve draft conclusions for use at the spring Council, where the SET-Plan will be formally adopted. The UK welcomes the plan, which should provide a useful basis for the development of new energy technology. The UK is content with the draft conclusions.

The Council will hold a policy debate on the climate change and energy package, particularly on the draft directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. The presidency has proposed questions to focus the debate on aspects of the renewable energy proposal, including sustainability criteria for biofuels, providing stability for investments, and the transfer of guarantees of origin.

There will be an AOB agenda item on international energy relations, where the Commission are expected to report on Euro-Med co-operation, the MoU with Turkmenistan, G8 co-operation on energy efficiency, the energy community treaty and security of supply.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society: Disabled Facilities Grant (Funding)

**The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint):** Today the Government have launched "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing an Ageing Society". This strategy addresses the challenge of ageing, and what it means for housing and planning in England.

In our Green Paper "Homes for the Future", we announced our vision for housing and an ambition to build 3 million more homes by 2020. In "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" we outline how this housing programme will respond to one of the great challenges for housing in the 21st Century, an ageing population.

The cross-Government strategy explains why change is needed: the significant financial impacts on the country given demographic pressures and the quality of life for older people.

In "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" the Government set out the need for planning for ageing, with a commitment to build all public housing to lifetime homes standards by 2011 and a new aspiration to build all homes to lifetime homes standards by 2013. It sets out a new vision for lifetime neighbourhoods and how this will be tested.

The strategy sets out the need for increased investment in repairs and adaptations services and improved housing advice and information, supported by an additional £35 million over two years from 2009-11.

"Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" also outlines our programme of investment and reform of the Government's disabled facilities grant programme, which currently helps nearly 35,000 live independently in their homes through the provision of major home adaptations. The work for which a disabled facilities grant may be made is wide ranging, providing for access to the property and access to the basic facilities within a home, such as walk-in showers and stair lifts.

Disabled facilities grants are predominantly received by older people and so are integral to this strategy. Our proposals for the modernisation and improvement of this important grant represent our response to the recommendations of the Bristol report published in 2005.

In response to rising demand we have already announced an increase in the disabled facilities grant which will take the national budget to £146 million in England for 2008-09. And today we are announcing the individual allocations for local authorities.

There will be further increases for the next two years which will bring the disabled facilities budget up to £166 million by 2010. This represents a significant investment by the Government in this important policy and will enable even more people to benefit from the programme. Changes being made to the programme include raising the limit on disabled facilities grant to £30,000.

Other changes to the means test will speed up the process and bring extra help for people working but on a low income. Changes to the rules of the scheme will also simplify and speed up the process of providing adaptations.

The full list of changes to the disabled facilities grant programme can viewed on the following link: http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/housingadaptations/

The strategy also makes it clear that housing plays a critical part in staying well and independent in later life. "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" seeks to strengthen the links between housing and health. Key principles are to ensure the services for older people are joined up and personal to them. "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" also sets out a new vision for specialised housing for older people with growing dependency supported by new investment of £80 million in extra care housing from the Department of Health.

The Government are also announcing today £190 million of funding for successful bids from the fifth housing private finance initiative (PFI) bidding round for schemes to deliver additional social rented housing.

Kent and Cheshire county councils and Stoke-on-Trent city council have been invited to work with Communities and Local Government to develop their proposals for schemes to deliver new extra care and supported housing. These new homes will include a range of assistive technology and allow for future adaptations enabling the elderly and the vulnerable to live independent lives and be part of their local communities.

This announcement follows a review of the capital build costs of delivering new build social rented housing through PFI, which demonstrates that the capital build costs for PFI procured units can be comparable with those for schemes funded through the Housing Corporation's social housing grant. Communities and Local Government will work with the new schemes to take forward the next stage of the review to examine other costs associated with housing PFI projects.

"Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" and the programme of change outlined above, sets a radical vision to turn the challenges of ageing into opportunities, to improve the lives of older people now and for future generations.

The publications "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society", "Disabled Facilities Grant—The Package of Change to Modernise the Programme" and "Disabled Facilities Grant 2008-09 Local Authority funding allocations" are all available in the Libraries of both Houses.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Draft Code of Practice (Non-compliance with Biometric Registration Regulations)

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne):** The 2007 UK Borders Act gave the Government powers to issue identity cards to foreign nationals subject to immigration control. These new cards will confirm both a person's immigration status and their entitlement to work and access to public funds in the United Kingdom.

We are today publishing on a "Draft Code of Practice", as required under the UK Borders Act 2007, before we seek the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The "Draft Code of Practice" covers the operation of the civil penalty regime and the other sanctions. Hard copies of the documents are available in the Houses of Parliament. In addition, copies of the "Draft Code or Practice" were placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Alternatively, copies of the documents can be downloaded from the Border and Immigration Agency website at: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk

## JUSTICE

### Deaths in Custody

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle):** In December last year I updated Parliament on the Government's review of the forum for preventing deaths in custody as one aspect of its continued commitment to bring about real changes and improvements to reduce deaths of people being held in our custodial care (Official Report, 13 December 2007, col. 65WS). The review was being conducted by Robert Fulton, a former Home Office director. I am pleased to inform the House that Ministers have now received his report and I am making it available today.

Mr Fulton has recommended significant changes to the existing arrangements. An advisory panel on deaths in custody, formed of experts in the subject matter from outside Government Departments and operational services, would become the principal source of advice to a ministerial board on deaths in custody. The advisory panel would be supported by a broadly based practitioner and stakeholder group comparable to the existing forum. The board, replacing the ministerial round table on suicide, would bring together decision makers responsible for deaths in custody issues in the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and Department of Health.

The Government welcome this report and will be giving it careful consideration, taking into account the views of forum and round table members and others in and out of Parliament with an interest in death in custody issues. In making final decisions, Ministers will be considering such factors as the likelihood of the proposed structural changes delivering effective reductions in deaths in custody and cost.

Copies of the review of the forum for preventing deaths in custody have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at www.preventingcustodydeaths.org.uk.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 26 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Post-mortem Procedures (Nuclear Industry)

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** Further to the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on Thursday 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS, I wish to announce today slightly revised terms of reference for the inquiry currently being carried out by Michael Redfern QC. The revised terms of reference are as follows:

(a) Having regard to the provisions of the Human Tissue Act 1961, the Coroners' Rules 1984, the Coroners' Act 1988 and predecessor legislation, to enquire into the circumstances in which, from 1955, organs/tissue were removed from individuals at NHS or other facilities, and sent to and analysed at nuclear laboratory facilities.

(b) In particular, to establish so far as practicable:

(i) when, where, by whom and by what means the taking of organs/tissue was requested and authorised;

(ii) whether the taking of organs/tissue was based on informed consent by the family and/or surviving relatives;

(iii) the purpose to be achieved by the retention and analysis of the organs/tissue removed; the generic results of analysis; and the identity of all publications in which the results were presented and commented upon;

(iv) whether the families or surviving relatives were informed of the results of the analysis, or the identity of the relevant publications;

(v) when, where and by whom the retention, storage, transportation, analysis, reporting and disposal of the organs/tissue was authorised;

(vi) the circumstances in which the organs/tissue were retained, stored, transported, analysed, reported upon and disposed;

(vii) the general purpose to be served by such retention, storage, analysis and publication of results;

(viii) when this activity ceased, and the circumstances in which it ceased.

(c) To consider such other issues in connection with the above matters as the Secretary of State may direct.

(d) To report to the Secretary of State as soon as possible.

(e) To make recommendations.

Michael Redfern QC has requested these revised terms of reference in the light of the work that he and his inquiry team have undertaken so far.

## TREASURY

### Departmental Expenditure Limits

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's total DEL will be reduced by £73,000 from £229,448,000 to £229,375,000 and the Administration budget will be reduced by £2,670,000 from £173,851,000 to £171,181,000. The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 6,572,000 | -6,572,000 | 210,547,000 | 21,240,000 | 231,787,000 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | *3,902,000* | *-6,572,000* | *170,331,000* | *850,000* | *171,181,000* |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | *6,231,000* | *-6,572,000* | *198,385,000* | *32,418,000* | *230,803,000* |
| Capital[2] | | - | 7,200,000 | - | 7,200,000 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | -73,000 | - | -9,612,000 | - | -9,612,000 |
| Total | 6,499,000 | -6,572,000 | 208,135,000 | 21,240,000 | 229,375,000 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The resource and capital DELs remain unchanged while total DEL is reduced by £73,000 following an increase in depreciation. The reduction in the administration budget arises from the reclassification of Administration budget spending to other current to finance increased other current spending by HM Treasury to reflect a reduction of £390,000 in appropriations in aid and the Office of Government Commerce to fund the remaining costs associated with the OGC's voluntary early retirement and severance scheme costs arising from the Transforming Government Procurement review.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Blackpool Task Force Report

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** In March last year the then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, invited a taskforce to review the totality of economic, social and environmental development plans in the Blackpool area. The Blackpool taskforce comprised senior representation from Blackpool Council, ReBlackpool,

English Partnerships, the North-West Regional Development Agency and Government Office North-West.

The taskforce reported in July 2007 and made a number of observations and recommendations. Since that date, the Government have been actively engaged in discussions with Blackpool and national and regional agencies about how best to take forward the recommendations. On 1 February, the Secretary of State for Transport announced a centrepiece of the Government's response to the taskforce, confirming a £85 million investment of public funds to renew Blackpool's trams. This and other announcements are contained in the response I am publishing today, which includes:

*Education and Skills*: Over £100 million will be spent on a complete overhaul of Blackpool's education facilities, including new schools, a new town centre further education campus, a new higher education facility and major investment in skills training. This investment is vital to produce the highly skilled and qualified workforce that Blackpool needs to diversify from its traditional but declining employment base.

*Transport*: A £100 million boost to local transport is underway, with an announcement earlier this month for a modernised tram system, together with investments to improve the airport and important studies to take forward rail and road improvements. Improved connectivity is vital to bring not just visitors but also new investors and jobs to Blackpool and its Fylde coast neighbours.

*Resort*: £82 million already committed to improve the beach and resort offer, with improved seafront defences, investment in events and a promise to respond constructively to bids from Blackpool for investment in the illuminations and further beachfront improvements.

*Regeneration*: The NWDA is investing, with ReBlackpool, to take forward major town centre regeneration including theTalbot gateway. This initiative, together with environmental improvements, will help restore Blackpool's position as a major shopping and sub-regional centre.

*Housing and Accommodation*: English Partnerships will be investing an initial £35 million in the South beach and North beach areas to help improve the housing mix and create more mixed communities. Housing investment will help reduce the surplus of unsuitable houses of multiple occupation and stimulate private sector investment in improved hotels and housing.

*Working Across Administrative Boundaries*: The Government applaud the co-operation between Blackpool and its Fylde coast neighbours on a multi-area agreement, and the recognition that economic regeneration needs joined-up work both within the town and with neighbouring authorities.

Other recommendations in the report will be the subject of feasibility studies and funding bids, and I am pleased to note the co-operation between the NWDA, English Partnerships, HEFCE, Government Office North-West and Blackpool in developing future plans.

The regional director, Government Office North-West, will report to me on progress on a quarterly basis for the next year, and I intend to visit Blackpool within a year to discuss progress on regeneration.

## Regional Casino-led Regeneration (Alternative Approaches)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** I am today announcing the publication of a review of the "Alternative Approaches to Regional Casino-led Regeneration" prepared by my officials. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In July last year the Prime Minister asked me to undertake this review, in recognition of the lack of consensus in Parliament about regional casinos in light of the potential of a regional casino to increase problem gambling within the regional catchment area. The then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) in announcing the review on 16 July 2007 said:

"it would be prudent to examine afresh whether deprived areas can be equally well served by other forms of regeneration".

The aim of the review has been to examine the evidence of whether regional casinos are the best way to regenerate specific deprived areas. It has drawn heavily on evidence within the various documents submitted to the Casino Advisory Panel for the licensing of a regional casino, published literature on casinos specifically and the benefits of regeneration more generally. A list of these points of reference is included in the document.

Specifically the review examined:

What is the regeneration need which casinos are thought to meet and what is the nature of the market failures involved;

What are the economic benefits of casino-led regeneration;

What are the economic and social costs of casino-led regeneration; and

What are the alternatives to casino-led regeneration could be considered.

The review highlights the difficulty in establishing the evidence base for the generic benefits of casinos because the source material is strongly influenced by specific location factors, and by the underpinning purpose of individual pieces of research. In particular, there are uncertainties about the scale of the benefits of a regional casino for job creation; about the wider benefits to an area from multiplier effects; or about the degree of additionality a casino would bring to existing activities. Moreover, the leakage effects—where new jobs are filled by commuters not locals limiting the benefits to the immediate area of the casino—is potentially higher than other forms of regeneration because pay within casinos is relatively high and training opportunities make it attractive to people already in employment. Finally, the review concludes that, as with most regeneration projects, there are economic and social costs associated with casino-led regeneration. In the case of a regional casino there are potentially significant costs that would arise as a result of an increase in compulsive gambling.

The review does recognise that the unique nature of a regional casino, especially in terms of inward investment, would make it challenging for any one of the alternatives the review examines in isolation to achieve the scale of benefits that could be secured through a regional casino. However, when the potential economic and social costs are factored in alongside the uncertainties around the extent to which the benefits of a regional casino are

truly additional then the difference could be much reduced or even eliminated if a number of alternative options are packaged together.

## TRANSPORT

### First Great Western Franchise

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** The performance of First Great Western has persistently fallen short of its customers' expectations and has been unacceptable to both passengers and Government.

I can inform the House today that First Great Western has breached its franchise agreement by exceeding the limits on cancellations, and also by misreporting those cancellations.

I can now outline the measures I have taken, and the actions I have agreed with First Great Western, which were reported in an announcement by First plc to the Stock Exchange before the markets opened this morning.

First, I am today issuing First Great Western with a remedial plan notice for exceeding the threshold on cancellations which resulted in a breach of its franchise agreement. In response to this notice, First Great Western will submit a remedial plan for addressing this level of cancellations. Discussions are at an advanced stage on what the plan will contain.

Secondly, I am also today issuing First Great Western with a breach notice for misreporting its cancellations.

Thirdly, and importantly for those using First Great Western services, a substantial package of additional benefits for passengers has been agreed.

First Great Western's franchise contains strict limits on delays and cancellations; specifies the circumstances in which the franchise is in breach, and more seriously still, those circumstances that constitute an event of default; and it sets out the remedies for correcting poor performance.

Every four weeks, the company reports the number of cancellations, and may claim adjustments to the headline number in line with the provisions of the franchise. My Department tests any such claims, allowing only those we agree with. Typically we reach final agreement on performance within six weeks of the end of the reporting period.

For the period ending in mid-September 2007, there were a substantial number of claimed cancellation adjustments, which were then scrutinised by my Department. Early in November 2007, before a conclusion could be reached, First Great Western informed the Department that it had discovered that it had been miscalculating the base numbers of train cancellations. Over subsequent weeks it carried out an internal audit of its method of calculating cancellations that uncovered several errors in the methodology, which First Great Western has now corrected.

First Great Western now accept that they breached the franchise agreement from August to December 2007 in respect of cancellations. I will therefore be issuing later today a remedial plan notice.

This requires First Great Western to submit to me a remedial plan, to bring the standard of services back to acceptable levels, and it will be contractualised as a remedial agreement. Material non-compliance with the remedial agreement would be a default of the franchise agreement, which could lead to the Government terminating First Great Western's franchise

In order to prepare an acceptable remedial plan, First Great Western has committed to employ more drivers and other train crew, to deploy extra carriages and to implement a range of other measures to reduce the number of cancellations. First Great Western has already commenced implementation of several of the initiatives.

In addition to the remedial plan, First Great Western has offered a package of passenger benefits amounting to £29 million.

First Great Western has already announced that it has doubled passenger compensation for this year.

But First Great Western has also now committed to the following benefits, as described today to the Stock Exchange:

- further improved passenger compensation from 2009 to 2010;
- an additional 500,000 cheap off-peak tickets on some of the most popular routes from April of this year;
- additional carriages on the Cardiff-Portsmouth route from this summer, to provide extra capacity;
- new, and additional, high-quality information equipment to be installed at more stations than already committed in the franchise agreement; and
- refurbishment of Thames Valley commuter trains to a higher standard than committed in the franchise agreement to commence this year and to be completed by 2011.

It is also open to me to impose a monetary penalty on First Great Western for under-reporting their performance last year. Any penalty would be paid to central Government. Having considered this carefully, and given that a penalty would not, itself, help passengers, I have opted instead for passengers to receive a better benefits package as described above.

The franchising system has encouraged good performance from operators, with many train companies operating above target performance levels. However, in the light of the errors in self-reporting that First Great Western brought to light, I have asked my officials to audit reported performance on a risk basis, in particular for those train operating companies whose performance is close to their franchise benchmarks.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 29 February in Brussels. There are no health or consumer affairs issues. I shall be representing the UK.

The first and main item is the preparation for the spring European Council which will be held on 13 and

14 March 2008. The key messages paper, prepared by the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee, identifies the key messages emerging from the various other reports for adoption and endorsement at the March Council. The key messages paper will be adopted following a policy debate on strengthening skills, the social dimension and the role of stakeholders.

The second item is an exchange of views in preparation for the Tripartite Social Summit. This will be held on 13 March in advance of the spring European Council to allow the European social partners time to feed in their views to the spring Council. The social summit will be attended by the current presidency, the two subsequent presidencies (France and the Czech Republic), the Commission and the social partners. It meets at least once a year, including before each annual spring Council.

The Council will also endorse an opinion by the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on the single market review, which highlights that the single market makes an important contribution to jobs, growth and social cohesion under the Lisbon agenda. The UK supports this opinion.

The Council will also seek political agreement on the draft Council Resolution on the situation of disabled people in the European Union: the European action plan 2008-09, promoting human rights and the mainstreaming of disability issues. The UK supports the agreement of the resolution.

Under any other business, there will be a Commission presentation on the Mission for Flexicurity. Its objective will be to explain flexicurity and assist those member states who wish help with developing their own reforms, before reporting back to the Council during the French presidency.

In addition, the chairs of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee will give an oral presentation to provide information on their 2008 work programmes.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 27 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Low-level Waste Repository (Drigg)

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** I am announcing that I have, today, laid a departmental minute before the House regarding the granting of an indemnity related to nuclear occurrences forming part of new contracts for the LLWR at Drigg.

The NDA proposes to grant an indemnity against uninsurable claims from nuclear incidents that fall outside the regime offered by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and the Paris and Brussels conventions to the contractor (and limited specified affiliates) who will operate the LLWR site licence company. At present any such uninsurable claims are borne by the NDA. Given the low probability of a claim being brought the NDA has assessed that the benefits of engaging the contractor outweigh the small risk that the indemnity may be called.

A key element of the NDA's strategy has been to use competition to improve the management and operation of its sites. The LLWR contracts will be the first to be awarded as a result of competition

Copies of the departmental minute relating to this indemnity have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be posted on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at: www.berr.gov.uk.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Code for Sustainable Homes

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright):** The Government are today confirming the timing of implementation of mandatory ratings against the code for sustainable homes (the code) for new homes in England. This will come into effect on 1 May 2008. All sellers of new homes that apply for building control approval for their development on or after this date will need to include in the home information pack either a code sustainability certificate (where the home has been designed and assessed against the code) or a nil-rated certificate (when a home has not been assessed against the code). We will shortly be laying regulations to bring this into effect. In all instances as a result of the mandatory rating policy the purchasers of new homes will be given clear information about the sustainability of their home and house builders will have a clear and consistent basis on which to compare and market their products.

Communities and Local Government is also publishing an updated document explaining what the code is, how it works and what the main categories are within it. This can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/thecode. A copy will also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The technical guidance which is used by industry to design and assess code homes is also available on the Communities and Local Government website. This is a "living document" that is updated—as necessary—at the beginning of April and October each year to take account of feedback from industry and in light of any changes in regulations.

The code was launched in December 2006 and came into effect in England on 10 April 2007 as a voluntary national sustainability standard, following extensive consultation with environmental groups and the home building and wider construction industries. It is a key part of our package of measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and tackle climate change. The code provides a framework for builders to go further and faster than building regulations, and mandatory ratings will provide a clear incentive for the house building industry to build more sustainable homes.

We are also seeking to establish the code in primary legislation through clauses in part 3 of the Housing and Regeneration Bill. This will enable the Department to set up the code on a similar basis to energy performance certificates including the ability to set up accreditation schemes, a register of certificates and to ensure that the sellers of all new homes, not just those that are marketed for sale, will be required to give buyers clear information about the sustainability of their new home. It will also ensure that those buyers who receive only interim—design stage—certificates before a sale is agreed will receive a final post-construction certificates once the home is finished.

The code complements the system of energy performance certificates for new homes, which will be introduced in April 2008 under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Drugs Strategy

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and I have today published the new 10-year drug strategy, "Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities", which sets out the Government's objectives to tackle the harms caused by illegal drug use and actions that the Government and partners will take in meeting those objectives.

The strategy builds upon the existing 10-year strategy, which was published in 1998 and updated in 2002. In the 10 years since that strategy was published, we have seen some real success: drug-related crime has been cut by around 20 per cent., overall drug use, including young people's drug use, is at an 11-year low; an expanded treatment capacity has allowed us to exceed our target to double the number of users in

treatment two years early—with over 195,000 users in treatment in 2006-07 compared to 85,000 in 1998; we have targeted those who commit crime to feed their addiction through compulsory drug testing on arrest; over 1,000 crack houses have been closed; and we have seized record amounts of drugs, disrupting and dismantling organised drug trafficking groups.

In common with the earlier strategy, the new strategy seeks to balance tough enforcement action to tackle dealers, reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and to reduce the supply of drugs, with interventions to prevent drug use, to educate and intervene early and to reduce the demand for illegal drugs. The overarching aims are to grip existing drug users more firmly in treatment, increase the number of drug users re-establishing their lives and reduce the number of new problem drug users. It is focused on the drugs which cause the greatest harm to communities.

The strategy places a new focus on protecting families and on strengthening communities and, to support this new focus, is arranged around four strategic themes:

protecting communities through robust enforcement to tackle drug supply, drug-related crime and antisocial behaviour;

preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug misuse;

delivering new approaches to drug treatment and social reintegration; and public information campaigns, communications and community engagement.

While the strategy will cover a 10-year period to 2018, its delivery will be underpinned by a series of three-year action plans, which will run concurrently with the spending review cycles. The first such action plan, for the period 2008-11 has been published alongside the strategy.

In reaching decisions that inform the actions the Government will take to tackle drug-related harm, we have taken into account responses to the public and stakeholder consultation conducted between July and October last year. Over a thousand written responses were received and interviews were conducted with a wide range of consultees. A report of the consultation and summary of responses is also published today.

Key actions that are featured in the new strategy include:

identifying and targeting the drug-misusing offenders causing the greatest harm to communities, improving prison treatment programmes and increasing the use of community sentences with a drug rehabilitation requirement;

extending powers to seize the cash and assets of drug dealers, to demonstrate to communities that dealing does not pay;

embedding action to tackle drugs within the neighbourhood policing approach, to gather community intelligence, engage with and increase community confidence;

strengthening and extending international agreements to intercept drugs being trafficked to the UK;

focusing on families where parents misuse drugs, intervening early to prevent harm to children, prioritising parents' access to treatment where children are at risk, providing intensive parenting guidance and supporting family members, such as grandparents, who take on caring responsibilities;

developing a package of support to help people in drug treatment to complete treatment and to re-establish their lives, including ensuring local arrangements are in place to refer people from jobcentres to sources of housing advice and advocacy and appropriate treatment;

using opportunities presented by the benefits system to support people in reintegrating into communities and gaining employment, while also exploring the case for providing more tailored support for people; and, in return putting the responsibility on claimants to move successfully through treatment and into employment; and

piloting new approaches which allow more flexible and effective use of resources, including individual budgets to meet treatment and wider support needs.

Through this new drug strategy, and the work that will flow from it, we will continue to send a clear message that drug use is unacceptable; that we are on the side of communities; that we demand respect for the law and will not tolerate illegal or antisocial behaviour; but that we will provide help for those who are trying to turn their lives around, to get off drugs and into work, to ensure drug problems are not handed on to the next generation; and that we expect drug users themselves to take responsibility, and will help them to do so.

Copies of the strategy, its supporting action plan and of the consultation report are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website at: www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk.

## Justice and Home Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held on 28 February 2008 in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Solicitor-General of Scotland Frank Mulholland and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will start with a discussion of the draft Europol Council decision, with the presidency aiming to gain consensus on a number of fundamental issues surrounding the funding of Europol and the application of privileges and immunities to Europol staff that are crucial to being able to adopt the Council decision by June. The Government have concerns with the proposal to grant privileges and immunities to Europol working in joint investigation teams and are working to resolve this.

There will follow a discussion on common standards and procedures for returning illegally staying third-country nationals. The UK has not opted-in to this instrument.

We expect that the presidency will give a state of play report on the proposal for a directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law and the Commission to set out their plans concerning the proposal for a directive on ship-source pollution.

There will be an update from the presidency on the ratification of EU-US agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance. These measures were signed in 2003 but have yet to enter into force pending the completion of implementation measures in member states, including in the UK.

There will be a discussion of the draft framework decision on combating terrorism in relation to scope and proportionality. The Government are broadly happy with the instrument as it stands, however it has not yet cleared parliamentary scrutiny.

At the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland and Switzerland, the Commission will present a revised timetable for implementation of the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS). This follows the discussion at the informal JHA Council in January, where Ministers discussed the fact that more time for testing was needed. The Government are keen to ensure that the Commission timetable is robust and evidence-based.

This will be followed by a meeting of the Council in Mixed Committee with Liechtenstein, where the group will discuss the amendment of the rules of procedure of the Committee established between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation concerning the latter's association in the implementation, application and development of the Schengen Acquis. An amendment to the rules of procedure is required to enable the Principality of Liechtenstein to also participate in the Mixed Committee following signature of the protocol concerning Liechtenstein's accession to the Schengen area.

Over lunch Ministers will discuss the Visa Waiver Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In 2007, the US authorities proposed amendments to the criteria for the US Visa Waiver Program; the UK has participated in the program since its inception in 1986. The UK has a very significant interest in the proposed amendments because of the large amount of tourist and business traffic between the UK and the USA. The UK recognises and supports the need to improve the security of travel, but any amendments to the Visa Waiver Program should be managed to ensure as little impact on legitimate travel between the UK and the USA as possible. Candidate countries for the Visa Waiver Program have received a draft MOU from the US authorities that must be agreed and signed before they may join. Identical draft MOUs have been sent to other EU member states that currently participate in the program and we are studying this document carefully. All existing members (including the UK) will be asked to sign the MOU in order to continue to participate in the Visa Waiver Program.

Also over lunch, Interior Ministers will discuss SIS II, the High Level Contact Group with the US on data protection and sharing and relations with the European Parliament.

Justice Ministers will discuss the Commission's intention to create a forum for discussing EU justice policies and practice, for a first exchange of views. It is expected that they will also discuss the financing of E-justice projects and the need to give formal agreement to certain measures before the coming into force of the new treaty.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 28 February 2008*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing Market Renewal Programme 2008-11

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright):** The Housing Market Renewal Programme has made a major contribution to restoring confidence in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the country. I am therefore pleased to announce that we will be making a further £1.038 billion available to the programme over the period 2008-11.

Having considered business plans prepared by the 12 housing market renewal areas, I am today announcing allocations for individual areas as follows:

*Proposed Distribution Across Individual Years*

£m

| *Pathfinder* | *Total Allocation* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham Sandwell | 53 | 25 | 17 | 11 |
| East Lancashire | 150 | 52 | 50 | 48 |
| Hull and East Riding | 87 | 30 | 29 | 28 |
| Manchester Salford | 140 | 52 | 46 | 42 |
| Merseyside | 152 | 54 | 51 | 47 |
| Newcastle Gateshead | 95 | 34 | 32 | 29 |
| North Staffordshire | 114 | 40 | 38 | 36 |
| Oldham Rochdale | 90 | 32 | 30 | 28 |
| South Yorkshire | 116 | 46 | 39 | 31 |
| Tees Valley | 35 | 13 | 12 | 10 |
| West Cumbria | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| *Total* | *1038* | *381* | *346* | *311* |

*Note:*
The allocation for South Yorkshire includes an allocation of £12 million over the three years for HMR activity in the South-East Wakefield housing market area of West Yorkshire.

This is substantial new funding, and, together with increasing investment from the private sector and support from local authorities and others, will help the market renewal areas take forward their ambitious programmes to bring real change to places that only five years ago were facing decline and abandonment.

Since the housing market renewal programme began in 2002, we have invested £1.2 billion, which has helped to refurbish over 40,000 homes, demolish 10,000 properties, and construct 1,100 new homes. As the National Audit Office recognised in its report on the programme published last year, all the pathfinders have succeeded in closing the gaps in prices with their regions, and housing markets in local authorities chosen for intervention have, on the whole, performed better than in other local authorities not chosen for intervention which had the most similar problems of low demand.

The new funding I am announcing today will help take forward this work. Three-year funding will provide greater certainty for the housing market renewal partnerships to address long-term market failure. At the same time, we also want the partnerships to ensure that they are making appropriate connections to wider housing strategies and making links with growth programmes where relevant.

Figures for year 1 (2008-09) are firm commitments, and for years 2 and 3 (2009-10 and 2010-11) are indicative, and may change by up to plus or minus 10 per cent. These numbers will be confirmed at a later point, and will be subject to a number of factors, including progress in working with the new Homes and Communities Agency; progress in making links with growth initiatives where relevant; and future changes in local markets.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Environment Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 3 March.

At this Council, the Slovenian presidency will be seeking to agree three sets of Council conclusions. First, the Council will discuss the Environment Council's contribution to the spring European Council. The conclusions will focus on the following key priorities: climate change and energy, in particular the legislative package recently proposed by the Commission, halting the loss of biodiversity, environmental technologies, and better regulation. The Council will also agree the EU's negotiating position ahead of the fourth COP serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena protocol on biosafety and the conference of parties to the convention of biological diversity both to be held in May 2008.

The Council will also hold two policy debates. First, on the Commission's climate and energy package published on 23 January 2008, Ministers will be asked to consider the level of ambition contained in the package; whether the proposals put forward to ensure emission reductions are cost-effective and equitable; whether the proposed regulatory framework on carbon capture and storage is suitable; and the sustainability of the scheme. There will also be a policy debate on the Commission's proposal for setting emissions performance standards to reduce $CO_2$ emissions from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. Ministers will be asked to consider whether the Commission's proposal respects the criteria put forward by the Council and what can be done to further improve the balance between the different elements of the proposal in order to meet its environmental objectives.

Under "any other business", the presidency will update the Council on the Euro VI regulations. Information on noise from military aircraft, emissions from shipping and the Danube-Black Sea Deep Navigation Canal have been requested by member states.

## HEALTH

### Tooke Inquiry (Government Response)

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** On 16 April 2007, my right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State for Health, the Member for Kingston upon Hall, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) announced an independent review to examine the processes underlying modernising medical careers and make recommendations to ensure that any necessary improvements could be implemented for 2008 and the future.

The review was chaired by Sir John Tooke, dean of the Peninsula medical school, chair of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools and chair of the UK Health Education Advisory Committee.

Today, the Department publishes its response to Sir John's interim and final reports. The response has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The review which he chaired was conducted independently of the four Health Departments and had its own independent secretariat. Its interim report was published on 8 October 2007. Following consultation with the medical profession and others involved, the final report of the review was published on 8 January this year.

Sir John and his colleagues have produced an excellent, wide-ranging review of the serious problems that arose within specialty training in 2007, the causes of those problems, and what needs to change as a result of them.

I would like to thank Sir John, his colleagues on the review, and all organisations and individuals who have given evidence to it and responded to its interim report. The Tooke review marks a significant step forward in ensuring excellence and high achievement remain at the heart of medical education and training in this country.

Progress has already been made. For example, one of the key lessons of 2007 was the need to develop policy and process in consultation with the medical profession, the NHS and others involved. That is why we have established the MMC programme board. Over half of the board's members are drawn from the medical profession. I have accepted all of the programme board's recommendations.

The complexity of this area of policy means that there are 47 separate sets of recommendations to consider within Sir John's interim and final reports.

While not all of them are the direct responsibility of the Department, we accept the overwhelming majority of Sir John's recommendations. For example, we accept Sir John's recommendation that the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) and the General Medical Council (GMC) should merge to establish a single organisation for standards in medical education and training.

A small number of Sir John's recommendations have implications that we need to consider very carefully. As Sir John's report itself makes clear, the reform of postgraduate medical training should proceed in an evidence-based way, in which structures of governance and accountability are made clear, and in which training is carefully dovetailed with the needs of patients and other policy considerations.

My noble Friend the Lord Darzi of Denham is currently leading a next stage review of the national health service. Workforce planning, education and the role of the doctor are crucial parts of my noble Friend's review. One of Sir John's most far-reaching recommendations—the establishment of a new organisation to oversee postgraduate medical education and training in England—will therefore need to be carefully considered alongside this work.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### National DNA Database Ethics Group

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** Further to my written ministerial statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 78WS, I am pleased to announce the following additional appointments to the Ethics Group which provides Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the national DNA database (NDNAD):

Mr. Derek Campbell

Mrs. Julia Selman Ayetey

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Nanotechnologies

**The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson):** I am today placing in the Libraries of the House copies of a statement by the UK Government about nanotechnologies.

Nanotechnologies offer potentially huge benefits to society, industry, health and the environment. They can help us improve our quality of life and respond to some of the key issues of the day such as climate change.

The Government's aim is for the UK to derive maximum benefit from these new technologies and their products. However, this must be done in a way that safeguards health, safety and the environment.

The statement describes what the Government are doing to deliver these objectives, in collaboration with a range of others including academia, industry, civil society groups and international organisations. It explains the steps that are being taken to:

- develop the UK's research community and understand the potential benefits and risks of nanotechnologies;
- encourage UK businesses to "pull-through" the ideas generated by the research base; and
- ensure proportionate control of risks to health, safety or the environment.

From the start the Government have wanted to understand and address public aspirations and concerns about nanotechnologies. They have funded a series of in-depth discussions between members of the public,

scientists and others who are involved in developing and exploiting nanotechnologies.

One of the messages that emerged was a desire for a clear statement about the way in which new and emerging areas of science and technology, such as nanotechnologies, are funded and regulated. This statement provides that information for organisations across the public sector. It also sets out how the Government and others are responding to other aspirations and concerns aired through public dialogue.

I have established a ministerial group on nanotechnologies to review the situation regularly and make sure that the UK continues to play a leading role in the understanding, development and regulation of nanotechnologies.

## JUSTICE

### Cross-border Judgments

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** Today my right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General is publishing a consultation paper on new rules to clarify citizens' rights when faced with judgments reached in another EU member state in their absence.

The UK is sponsoring this initiative of the Slovenian presidency because we believe reform is needed to improve the delivery of justice in these cross-border cases.

The purpose of the proposal is to tighten up the regime applicable in cases of trials in absence in the main EU mutual recognition instruments, enhancing the procedural rights of defendants. Trials in absence will not increase as a result of the proposal.

The Slovenian presidency hopes to reach agreement on the proposal very quickly. We are therefore asking for responses to our consultation within six weeks.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the internet at: http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/downloads/application/pdf/2008-02-28_TIA_consultation_paper.pdf

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### DWP Commissioning Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell):** We have made clear progress over the past decade in tackling poverty and promoting social justice, but we need to do more. We are determined that we will continue to tackle child poverty and to drive for an 80 per cent. employment rate. We have become more ambitious about who we believe can work.

We will be focusing efforts on helping people on employment and support allowance to look at what they can do, not what they cannot. We will also be expecting single parents to look for work when their youngest child is seven rather than 16. Achieving fair life chances for all will mean opening up second chances, through opportunities to learn, develop new skills, enter employment and make progress at work.

The employability market is large and diverse. Every year, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) spends nearly £1 billion on partnerships with the private, public and voluntary sectors. In England, the European Social Fund (ESF) finances further provision commissioned by DWP. We need to spend that money cost-effectively to get the best result for every customer, to increase the number of people going into sustained work. To achieve this, we need to achieve a step change in the performance of employment provision.

That is why I am pleased, therefore, to announce to the House the publication today of a Command Paper entitled "DWP Commissioning Strategy".

The commissioning strategy's new approach to sourcing, procuring and managing employability provision will harness the innovation and expertise of the private, third and public sectors to support people into work. This strategy implements a key part of the radical vision outlined by David Freud in his report, "Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity", published in March 2007.

The commissioning strategy is a major milestone in our welfare reform programme and provides a comprehensive and compelling vision of the way we will work with providers. It aligns clearly with the ambitions of other developments, such as: the Leitch review of skills; the report of the National Employment Panel's Business Commission on Race Equality in the Workplace; and the joint Communities and Local Government/Department for Work and Pensions paper on area-based strategies to reduce worklessness in England.

We are creating a market for the long-term—we are committed to this and want to help develop a critical mass of providers who will work with us in delivering personalised services for each individual that focus on work or work related activity for those clients who will benefit. The strategy takes us away from a mindset of top-down control and devolves initiative and innovation to the front-line. Furthermore, it sets out the high value we place on developing long-term relationships with partners who demonstrate they share our commitment, including those commitments in the public sector statutory duties, to promote equality through all we do.

We have consulted extensively with existing and potential providers, with other parts of Government, with representative groups, employer organisations and other stakeholders, as well as reviewing the responses to the consultation exercise. We have also sought to learn from best practice internationally: from the United States, Australia and the Netherlands. However, our ambition is to make our employability provision even more advanced and effective in its conception and delivery. We want our welfare provision to be a world leader in increasing skills and in tackling worklessness.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 29 February 2008*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing Green Paper

**The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint):** I am publishing today a summary of responses to the Government's Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable". The document is being published on my Department's website as per the Government's commitment in the Green Paper and is at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/responsegreenpaper.

Copies are also being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## DEFENCE

### Atomic Weapons Establishment (Pensions Scheme)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** The MOD's responsibility for maintaining the UK's nuclear warhead capability is fulfilled through Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Limited (AWE ML) as the prime contractor. The Atomic Weapons Establishment, which was previously a directly employed business within the MOD, was contractorised in 1993 and affected MOD staff transferred to AWE plc under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations.

AWE plc operate a final salary pension scheme for their employees. This is a funded scheme administered under a trust and, as such, is exposed to the volatility of financial markets. The latest valuation in 2005 revealed a deficit of £73 million against total liabilities of some £589 million. Since then, AWE ML have been developing and consulting staff and trade unions on a range of proposed amendments which would address this deficit. AWE ML are determined to maintain the existing final salary scheme for both existing and new employees but this will require an increase in pension contributions. The alternative would be the closure of the scheme. The present annual value of the required additional contributions to the scheme is estimated to be some £9 million.

During the Committee stages of the Atomic Weapons Establishment Bill in 1991 (Official Report, 14 February 1991, column 223), the then Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement made an undertaking that any increase in employee contributions would be offset by a compensating adjustment to pay.

This undertaking was made in a very different context to the one in which occupational pension schemes now operate. Pension schemes both in the public and private sectors have undergone major changes in response to improving health and healthcare, longevity and returns on investments. Even if AWE employees had remained as civil servants, they would not have been unaffected by these dynamics; new pension arrangements were introduced for the civil service last year and final salary schemes are now closed.

While AWE ML will continue to fund the bulk of the pension costs through their employer contributions, AWE employees will also need to increase their contributions in today's circumstances. AWE ML will only implement any changes to the pension scheme following proper consultation with the trade unions and scheme members.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### EU Education Council

**The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell):** I represented the UK at the Education Council, on behalf of DIUS and DCSF.

During the formal Council session, Ministers discussed the following two dossiers:

*Joint Report on Progress Under the 'Education and Training 2010' Work Programme*

This two-yearly progress report on implementing the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme was adopted. The report sets out areas where progress has been made against the five agreed benchmarks of the work programme, and highlights priority areas where further effort is needed, notably in the areas of literacy and early school leaving.

*Key Messages to the Spring European Council in the Field of Education and Training*

The Council adopted key messages to the spring European Council. These four messages included the UK proposal for a European skills review and a call for universities to be given the necessary autonomy to develop partnerships with the business community and attract private sector funding. I supported both of these messages.

As part of the discussion around these key messages, a Commission expert presented the initial conclusions arising from peer learning activity on early school leaving. The main points were: the importance of prevention, co-ordination between relevant agencies, quality assurance, teacher training and developing an ethos of respect in schools.

Ministers' responses to this presentation included praise for the open method of co-ordination. I thanked the presidency for linking the Council's discussions to the outcomes of peer learning activities, and spoke of raising the age of participation in education and training in the UK, particularly through the expansion of vocational and workplace learning.

*Lunchtime Discussion: "Looking Beyond 2010—Developing the 'Education and Training 2010' Work Programme"*

Ministers exchanged views on a post-2010 strategy for European co-operation in the field of education and training. I stressed that skills had to form a central part of Europe's response to globalisation, and that value could be added to areas of national competence at European level through peer exchange and identifying best practice.

*AOB*

The Commission presented information on the European universities/businesses forum, taking place on 28-29 February and in which the UK is participating. They also gave information about the proposal for 2009 as the European year of creativity and innovation, and about a Euroskills competition which will be held in Rotterdam in September 2008.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Committee on Standards in Public Life

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Sir Derek Morris and Dame Denise Platt as members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The appointment of Sir Derek is effective from 1 March 2008 and the appointment of Dame Denise is effective from 1 July 2008. Both appointments are for three years in the first instance.

I have also appointed the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Oliver Heald) as the Conservative party nominee on the Committee with effect from 1 March 2008, also for a period of three years in the first instance.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 3 March 2008*

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN (12 February 2008)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 12 February 2008. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury attended for the UK. The items on the agenda were as follows:

*Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact. Stability and Convergence Programmes: First Series of Member States*

Ministers adopted Council opinions on the stability programmes of Germany, Italy, Finland, Luxembourg, France and the Netherlands and on the convergence programmes of the UK, Hungary, Sweden, Romania and Slovakia. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the stability and growth pact (SGP) which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment.

*Preparation of the European Council (13-14 March)*

(i) Contribution to the spring European Council conclusions: key issues paper

Ministers adopted a key issues paper ahead of the spring European Council. This paper is comprised of five sections: an overview of the economic situation; structural reform for growth and jobs; public finances; financial markets; and European monetary union. Annexed to the key issues paper is an opinion on the Community Lisbon programme—the proposed set of Community level actions to support the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth. The UK endorses the paper and looks forward to discussion of these issues at spring Council.

(ii) Efficiency of economic instruments for energy and climate change

Ministers agreed a set of conclusions stressing the importance of the efficiency of economic instruments for energy and climate change, based on a report from the EPC working group on climate change. The UK strongly supports these conclusions and believes that it is crucial for Finance Ministers to engage with this important agenda. Work on the economic dimension of energy and climate change and on the international financing aspects of global action will now continue at working group level with a view to providing an update to ECOFIN in autumn 2008.

*Better regulation*

Ministers exchanged views on better regulation in view of the recent publication of the European Commission's second "strategic review". Ministers agreed that this was an important agenda that all Council formations should engage with. The UK supports the positive efforts of the Commission and welcomes the progress made both at member states and EU level towards reducing administrative burdens in the EU.

*General Budget of the European Union—Discharge Procedure in respect of the Implementation of the Budget for 2006*

Ministers adopted a recommendation for discharge of the 2006 EU budget, on which the European Court of Auditors presented its report to ECOFIN in November 2007. The UK particularly supported the emphasis put on the need for all actors involved in the implementation of EU expenditure to continue to improve the functioning of supervisory and control systems in order to make further progress towards achieving a positive statement of assurance in all areas of the EC budget.

### ECOFIN (4 March 2008)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 4 March 2008. The items on the agenda are as follows:

*Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact. Stability and Convergence Programmes: First Series of Member States*

Ministers will be invited to adopt Council opinions on the stability programmes of Austria, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia, and on the convergence programmes of the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, and Lithuania. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the stability and growth pact (SGP) which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment.

*Preparation of the European Council (13-14 March)*

(i) Broad economic policy guidelines 2008-10/11 and country-specific integrated recommendations

This discussion follows the orientation debate on these documents at the January ECOFIN and further drafting amendments in the Economic Policy Committee and Economic and Financial Committee. Following Ministers' discussions, ECOFIN will send a report to the spring 2008 European Council with its reformulated draft texts for endorsement by heads, as part of the launch of the next three-year cycle of the Lisbon strategy.

(ii) Financial stability

Ministers will prepare the spring European Council's discussion on issues related to financial stability. Ministers will discuss the causes and possible policy responses to recent financial turbulence, and will prepare contribution for heads of state and Government on the matter.

(iii) Sovereign wealth funds

Ministers will prepare the spring European Council's discussion on sovereign wealth funds. This follows the publication of a communication by the European Commission, which discusses the framework for investments made by sovereign wealth funds.

*General Budget of the European Union—Council Priorities for the 2009 budget*

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions agreeing the Council's budget guidelines for the 2009 EC budget. These guidelines are a set of broad principles which are designed to inform the subsequent and more detailed discussions on the level of appropriations required for the different areas of the budget. The subsequent negotiations throughout 2008 will determine the amounts to be spent under each budget heading.

*Taxation*

The fight against tax fraud

Following discussion of the issue at ECOFIN in December 2007, Ministers will be asked to agree conclusions on work to improve arrangements to combat tax fraud, which have been prepared on the basis of a report by the Commission. The UK is strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against missing trader intra-community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

Taxation of savings

Ministers will hear an update from the European Commission on progress made in extending the framework of the EU savings directive to third countries. The savings directive enshrines the principle of exchange of information on taxation of savings and extends beyond the EU through agreements with third countries and territories.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** I am pleased to announce that I have extended the appointment of Dr Anne Wright CBE as a member of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for a period of one year, commencing on 1 March 2008. The extension has been approved by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council (18 February)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** My noble Friend the Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The Council held a policy debate, based on a presidency questionnaire, on the Commission's communication on the CAP health check. The questionnaire asked Ministers to identify their three priorities for the health check and to present their objectives for dairy reform. The UK called for full decoupling, the dismantling of all market instruments, an increase in compulsory modulation to fund environmental challenges and we opposed limits on higher farm payments, due to the distortion and bureaucracy which that would entail. Member states expressed a wide range of views.

The Council failed to reach a qualified majority for or against on the five proposals to authorise the importation, processing and marketing of four types of GM maize for use in food and animal feed and also for the use of one type of GM potato for use in animal feed. The Commission will now take a decision under its own authority.

Under any other business, the Netherlands suggested the use of CITES—Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora—as an additional legislative option to combat the illegal timber trade. The UK intervened to support the principle but called for all possible tools to be used, as CITES was not the most effective instrument to combat illegal logging.

The Netherlands, supported by 13 member states, also drew the Commission's attention to the inadequate levels of co-financing available for funding the bluetongue vaccination programme.

Cyprus, supported by Greece, drew attention to the consequences of recent droughts on the domestic farming sector.

Sweden, supported by a few member states, expressed concerns following the European Court of Justice's ruling concerning the eligibility criteria for the bovine slaughter premium and asked the Commission to bring forward a proposal rectifying the situation. The Agriculture Commissioner said that a proposal was currently being drafted that would prevent the problem from 2008 onwards.

Germany, supported by a few member states, called for further relief measures in the form of private storage aid and export refunds to alleviate the difficulties currently being experienced in the pigmeat sector. The Agriculture Commissioner said that a proposal to extend private storage by a further three months would be submitted to the Pigmeat Management Committee on 21 February.

Belgium, supported by France, drew the Commission's attention to the level of economic damage caused by bluetongue and asked for the use of exceptional market support measures.

The Agriculture Commissioner updated the Council on the state of play on the WTO negotiations.

## HEALTH

### Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust (Foundation Trust Authorisation)

**The Minister for the South West (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** The chairman of Monitor—the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts—announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise Camden and Islington mental health and social care trust as an NHS foundation trust from 1 March 2008.

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 89. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

## TRANSPORT

### Light Dues

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick):** I am pleased to announce that light dues rates and the tonnage threshold will remain the same for 2008-09. As a result of continuing efficiency gains made by the general lighthouse authorities we were able to cut dues by 10 per cent. in 2006, which we

held down at that level in 2007 and now will hold again in 2008. We shall continue to work closely with the general lighthouse authorities to streamline and improve services further to reduce costs where we can, while maintaining prudent funding to meet their liabilities and high standards of safety.

I also welcome the publication of the Irish lights evidence study today. The study sets out evidence on the funding of the provision of aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland. It will provide the basis for negotiations between the UK and Irish Governments to find a long term funding solution for the Commissioners of Irish Lights. I am placing copies of the study in the Libraries of the House.

### Road and Rail Capacity (East of England)

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** I am today announcing plans for my Department to take forward work to consider the long-term capacity of the M11 motorway and the West Anglia main line. This is in recognition of the proposed growth in the draft East of England plan and the need to support this with effective and sustainable transport links. This work would also need to take account of potential expansion of Stansted airport.

Last year my predecessor announced publication of the Highways Agency's consultation on plans to widen the M11 between junction 6 and junction 8, and to improve the junction access from the M11 and the A120 to Stansted airport.

I consider that the form of capacity improvements to the M11 in the period before 2030 requires further assessment and as a result I have asked the Highways Agency to carry out further work to look into this. This work will take account of the forecast growth in the region and ensure that, in seeking to exploit the region's economic opportunities, we do so in a socially and environmentally sustainable way, considering a range of ways to provide the additional capacity that is needed.

If this work determines that widening the M11 is needed, it has been agreed that BAA would contribute to the overall costs, subject to the necessary referral to the economic regulator. My Department will announce shortly the results of the consultation on the schemes required to provide access from the M11 and A120 to an expanded Stansted airport, which BAA has agreed to fund in full.

I also recognise that growth in the region and the associated number of new houses will place additional pressures on the West Anglia main line between Liverpool Street station and Cambridge.

Therefore, to complement the Highways Agency's further work on the M11, I am also asking Network Rail to develop and bring forward proposals for enhancing the West Anglia main line. This work should examine the case for further enhancements, to provide for longer term capacity and service improvements, in the context of Network Rail's recent Greater Anglia route utilisation strategy (RUS).

Following recent feasibility work led by my Department, I confirm that this assessment should incorporate consideration of line and route improvements including a potential four-tracking option from Tottenham Hale to south of Cheshunt, and an assessment of what commitments would be needed to deliver this solution.

The anticipated timescales for this assessment are for necessary development work and powers to be completed within railway control period 4 (2009-14), with a view to targeting delivery in control period 5 (2014-19).

This would be in addition to the more immediate capacity enhancements I announced in my White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", and the High Level Output Specification (HLOS), which were published last year.

As with the M11, this work will draw on forecast demand from wider regional growth, as well as from the potential increase in passengers resulting from any expansion of Stansted airport.

Both the work on the M11 and the West Anglia main line will be led by my Department, engaging industry, developers and other key stakeholders as necessary.

I aim to report progress on both of these projects later this year.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Independent Living Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell):** Today I am publishing the independent living strategy. This is a cross-Government strategy that will give disabled people more choice and control over the services they need.

The independent living review was launched in July 2006 to find imaginative and practical ways of supporting independent living for disabled people. The Office for Disability Issues has led the development of the strategy, bringing together the views and experience of disabled people, organisations of disabled people, service delivery organisations and central and local government officials. The strategy has been developed with and is jointly owned by the Departments of Health, Transport, Work and Pensions, Children, Schools and Families, Communities and Local Government, and Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The strategy marks a unique and radical approach to Government working. It has been developed in partnership with disabled people to ensure that it reflects their real life experiences of the barriers to independent living and has drawn on their expertise to identify how to address these barriers. An expert panel, chaired by Baroness Jane Campbell, has advised on the strategy's development and disabled people—including younger disabled people who are reaching adulthood, and older disabled people—have been involved in meetings and workshops during the development of the strategy.

The strategy draws together recent Government commitments to remove barriers to independent living and to improve access to services, including better support for older people in their current homes, improved support for disabled young people and their families, and additional investment to transform support to older and disabled people. The strategy also makes a series of new commitments including:

Demonstrating how to move resources from professional assessment and care management to user-led support, advocacy and brokerage to ensure people get the right support to make decisions for themselves.

A regional initiative to promote independent living for older disabled people with high support needs.

A national strategy to enable people to remain in employment when they acquire an impairment or their condition worsens.

An awareness campaign aimed at practitioners in social work, the National Health Service and elsewhere, and disabled people themselves to ensure that health, social care and other services are delivered in ways which enable disabled people to have choice and control over how their needs are met.

A new toolkit to assist the development of local independent living strategies for and with older disabled people.

Good practice guidance to enable people to have choice and control over their continuing health care.

The strategy is designed to make a real and measurable impact on the lives of disabled people and contains a commitment to monitor the impact of the strategy, year-on-year, in partnership with disabled people.

The Government are committed to equality for all disabled people by 2025. Today's independent living strategy is a major step towards achieving this aim.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 4 March 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### EU Competitiveness Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** This statement provides a summary of the proceedings of the Competitiveness Council meeting held in Brussels on 25 February 2008.

The Council held an exchange of views on the Lisbon reform package and adopted its key issues paper "Turning Challenges into Opportunities", with a view to forwarding it to the spring European Council (SEC) in March 2008.

Areas of particular focus were the role of the Competitiveness Council in complementing the national reform programmes by meeting the Community level objectives laid down in the Community Lisbon programme, the broad-based innovation strategy and the improvement of the business environment for SMEs through measures like the small business act initiative, better regulation, simplification and the reduction of administrative burdens.

The UK intervened to support the Council's view that the integrated guidelines for 2008-10 were still valid and to support an evidence-based approach to the Community level objectives. We acknowledged the central role of the Competitiveness Council in pushing forward the Lisbon agenda but stressed the importance of empowering it to examine the impact of all major EU policies on competitiveness—for example, the climate change and energy package and the need to continue to open markets within the EU and beyond. On innovation, the UK pressed for the involvement of member states in the "lead markets" initiative. Finally, we welcomed Vice-President Verheugen's statement that the Small Business Act (SBA) initiative should be a combination of measures, not solely legislative, and emphasised the importance of better regulation, common commencement dates, longer consultation periods and exemptions for SMEs.

The Council adopted conclusions on the single market review to be forwarded to the SEC in March 2008. Commissioner McCreevy welcomed the positive endorsement and said the follow-up would focus mainly on improving the policy framework, better regulation, policy tools, market monitoring and partnership working, but also on some policy initiatives like the Small Business Act.

Any other business included a presentation by the Commission of its proposal to reduce the emissions of $CO_2$ from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles which will be discussed at the Environment Council meeting in March 2008. The UK intervened to welcome the proposals but also to highlight its concern about their impact on small and medium sized independent manufacturers and to support calls for further discussion at the Competitiveness Council in May 2008.

Under AOB items, the Council also took note of presentations from the Commission on the defence package, the goods package, the consumer and internal market scoreboards, the European clusters conference and memorandum, a strategic report on better regulation, and the climate energy legislative package.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Tackling Alcohol-Related Problems

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham):** I am today publishing the evidence gathered so far on the operation of the licensing laws introduced in England and Wales in November 2005, and setting out how we intend to monitor the licensing regime over the next few weeks and months, and the immediate action the Government are taking to tackle alcohol-related problems. Copies of the evaluation report are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

This first review of the Licensing Act 2003 reveals a mixed picture.

Its introduction has not led to the widespread problems some feared. Overall, crime and alcohol consumption are down. But alcohol-related violence has increased in the early hours of the morning and some communities have seen a rise in disorder.

Our main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms, but people are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems, and that there is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour.

Some aspects of the Act have worked well.

Bringing together six previous licensing regimes into a single integrated scheme has resulted in a considerable reduction in red tape—estimated at £99 million per annum—with benefits not just for business, but for the third sector and non-profit making clubs too.

The Act has also delivered new powers and flexibilities enabling local authorities and police to work in partnership to significantly reduce crime and disorder in some areas.

At the same time, millions of people have been able to able to enjoy the convenience of shopping at a time that suits them and socialising in restaurants, bars and cafes beyond 11 pm.

Furthermore, contrary to popular expectations:

The average closing time across all on-licensed premises has increased by only 21 minutes since the Act came into effect;

the overall volume of incidents of crime and disorder has remained stable and not risen; and

alcohol consumption, rather than increasing, has instead fallen over this period.

In total, fewer than 4 per cent. of premises—some 5,100—have licences permitting them to open for up to 24 hours a day—many of which are hotels, stores and supermarkets. Only some 470 pubs, bars and nightclubs have 24-hour licences, but there is no evidence that more than a handful operate on that basis. The British Beer and Pub Association informed a Select Committee recently that there are only two traditional pubs in the entire country that operate for 24 hours.

But beneath these headline facts the picture is much more mixed.

Whilst crimes involving violence may have reduced over the evening and night time period, the evidence also points to increases in offences, including violent crimes, reported between 3 am and 6 am This represents 4 per cent. of night-time offences.

Similarly, whilst there is no clear picture of whether alcohol-related demands on A&E services and alcohol-related admissions have risen, some hospitals have seen a fall in demand, others have reported an increase.

It is also clear that the overall reduction in alcohol-related disorder we wanted to see across the country has not materialised consistently in all areas.

The Government remain determined to address these issues, and the report published today has helped us identify a number of ways we can go further to protect the public, both in terms of using all the flexibilities in the Act to crack down on irresponsible behaviour, including more caution and conditions when issuing licences and the withdrawal of licences in certain areas, but also introducing new initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol consumption.

The announcements today contain measures to target those businesses that continue to sell alcohol irresponsibly and cause harm within our communities.

To specifically address the small but unacceptable proportion of violent crimes occurring in the early hours of the morning, we will undertake further comprehensive research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime and order, and will not hesitate to take the necessary action through new legislation and enforcement measures to tackle this.

But we will take immediate action now.

First, we will utilise existing powers to identify problem premises. We will make it easier to review premises where local intelligence suggests there is a problem.

Secondly, we will encourage the imposition of tougher sanctions on those found to be breaching their licensing conditions. This includes the stipulation that there be far more instant closures of pubs and clubs in an area where there has been a disorder and indefinite closure by the courts for any breach of licence conditions. We will develop a toolkit for local authorities and police, building on my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's recently published "Guide for Dealing with Alcohol-Related Problems".

Thirdly, we will change the offence of "persistently selling alcohol to a person under 18" from "three strikes" to "two strikes" in three months. This means that any seller who twice sells to under-age drinkers and is caught doing so will immediately lose their licence.

Fourthly, we will support the police and local authorities to identify problem hotspots by ranking geographical areas and concentrations of premises on the basis of the risks they present to crime and disorder, public nuisance and children. This will allow licensing authorities the ability to exercise more caution and conditions when issuing licences, and wholesale withdrawal of licences in these areas, and permit local authorities and police to target enforcement resources more effectively at problem hotspots.

Finally, the message must be clear to all: breach your licensing conditions and you face severe and costly restrictions on your business—with a new "yellow card and red card" alert system, A yellow card will put the problem premises on immediate probation together with tough and uncompromising sanctions, and when the circumstances are right, it will be a straight red card leading to withdrawal of the licence.

To tackle wider antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol consumption, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will bring forward legislation to:

Increase the maximum fine for anyone not obeying an instruction to stop drinking, or to give up their drink in a designated public place from £500 to £2,500;

Make it easier for the police to disperse antisocial drinkers—both adults and children—from any location. If necessary, we will change the law to make this happen;

Extend the use of acceptable behaviour contracts for young people caught drinking in public, to require them and their parents to attend a session with a trained worker; and

In addition, we will be extending the alcohol arrest referral pilots that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced last month, so that under-18s may also benefit from a brief intervention from a trained worker. This will help deal with young people drinking in public who are already involved in criminal activities.

I, together with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, will convene a summit of police and local authorities to explore how we can take these proposals forward.

The report published today is not the end of the story. The measures announced today are only part of the Government's comprehensive strategy for combating the problems associated with alcohol.

A significant programme of work is underway over the next six months.

We are working with the industry on alcohol advertising, and welcome industry consideration to give much more prominence to clear information about the dangers of alcohol, and to actively support Government campaigns to promote sensible drinking. We will strongly encourage them to press on with trials to test their effectiveness. If we need to, we will consider more restrictions.

Later in the year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families will publish the Government's action plan on young people and alcohol containing further proposals for reducing drinking by young people specifically.

Later in the spring, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport will also set out measures for dealing with the relatively small number of people who continue to think it is acceptable behaviour to drink and drive.

The Department of Health will publish the results of the independent study commissioned from the university of Sheffield to look at the evidence on the relation between alcohol price, promotion and harm and in response will bring forward necessary action. The real cost of alcohol has fallen to historically low levels, and there is already an emerging consensus that more needs to be done to tackle irresponsible promotions and deep discounting that can lead to antisocial behaviour. The Government will begin immediate work with the licensing authorities and retailers, including the development of new codes on responsible sales and promotions which might be considered as a condition of an alcohol licence.

In conclusion, we are prepared to take action wherever the evidence suggests that it is necessary to tackle the problems associated with alcohol.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Heathrow and Gatwick (VIP Facilities)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and BAA have agreed new arrangements for the use of VIP suites at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

With effect from 1 April, BAA will operate the VIP suites in terminals 1-5 at Heathrow airport on a commercial basis and for a trial period of 12 months. Similar commercial arrangements will also apply to the VIP suite at Gatwick airport. The FCO's operational role and significant financial subsidy towards the use of these suites will end on 31 March. This will move the provision of this service onto a commercial basis, which accurately reflects the full economic cost of the VIP suites.

Under the new arrangements, the FCO will continue to pay for state visits and those officially invited as guests of the British Government. All existing users remain eligible to use the VIP suites. Diplomatic missions in London, who account for 90 per cent. of the suites' use, will still be able to use the VIP suites for other high-level overseas visitors, making the arrangements and payment direct with BAA.

The FCO will continue its operational control of the royal suite at Heathrow and meet the costs for state visits and official guests of the British Government. All other users of the royal suite will be subject to full economic recovery charges, made payable direct to the FCO.

As a result of these changes, the majority of current users of the VIP suites will see an increase to existing fees. The charges are necessary in bringing to an end the longstanding and considerable public subsidy. The FCO and BAA are writing to all current users to explain how the changes will affect them.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Independent Monitoring Commission

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** I have today published and laid before Parliament my third annual report on the operation of the agreement between the British and Irish Governments which established the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report covers the period 18 September 2005 to 17 September 2006.

In line with a commitment made by my predecessor, this report also contains the audited accounts of the IMC for the twelve-month period ending 31 March 2006.

I remain grateful to the Commissioners of the IMC for their valuable contributions over this period, and for their contribution to promoting the transition to a peaceful society and a stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland.

## TRANSPORT

### Road Congestion

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** In a statement to the House on 5 July 2005 the then Secretary of State for Transport announced that we were prepared to ensure that up to £200 million a year would be available from the transport innovation fund to support the development of local packages of measures that combine demand management, including road pricing, and better public transport. He also announced that we would make £18 million of pump-priming development funding available to support scheme development.

So far, 10 areas have benefited from this funding. This has enabled them to analyse their current and emerging congestion issues and consider how demand management could form part of the solution. While we never expected every one of these areas to come forward with formal proposals straight away, I have been greatly encouraged by the work to date and thank those areas who have contributed to the debate. Already proposals have been submitted by Greater Manchester and Cambridgeshire, which we are currently assessing, and I understand that further proposals will be coming forward in the coming year or two.

We want to give more areas the opportunity to benefit from such packages. Therefore I am extending the commitment to make available up to £200 million a year out to 2018-19, in line with our long-term funding profile for transport. To support the development of business cases we shall be inviting authorities to bid for further pump-priming development funding for 2008 and 2009. We shall also make available development funding to areas that have submitted business cases to contribute to continued development during the assessment process and, where appropriate, for preparatory costs incurred after programme entry. Guidance on bidding

for this funding is being published today. Copies of the guidance are available from the Department for Transport (DfT) web site and in the Library of the House.

Meanwhile, my officials are working closely with officials from Greater Manchester and Cambridgeshire and we will announce decisions on the proposals as soon as we can. Decisions on congestion TIF business cases will be the responsibility of the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, Central (Rosie Winterton).

I am also publishing today to the Library of the House, and on the DfT website, the results of a feasibility study which explores where advanced signalling and traffic management systems could best be used on congested parts of the motorway network, and the associated environmental, safety and enforcement considerations.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 5 March 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### National Minimum Wage

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** In June 2007 the Government asked the Low Pay Commission to produce their next report on the national minimum wage by the end of February 2008. The Government are today publishing the Commission's 2008 report. I would like to thank all the commissioners for their hard work. I would also like to take this opportunity to publish the terms of reference which Government are setting the Commission for the coming year.

*The Low Pay Commission's 2008 report*

The main recommendations put forward by the Commission concern the rates of the minimum wage. The Commission has recommended the adult hourly rate of the minimum wage should be increased from £5.52 to £5.73 in October 2008. The Commission has recommended increasing the development rate, which covers workers aged 18 to 21 years old, from the present £4.60 to £4.77 in October 2008, and the 16 to 17-year-old rate from £3.40 to £3.53, again from October 2008. The Commission has also recommended the accommodation offset should rise from £4.30 per day to £4.46 from October 2008.

In addition, the Government accept the Commission's recommendation that we should review the existing guidance on sleepovers and update guidance on work experience placements in the detailed guide to the minimum wage; and the Commission's recommendation that Government evaluate whether the fair piece rates arrangement is meeting its objective.

The Government note the Commission's recommendation that Government should take steps to reverse the cuts to the sample of the annual survey of hours and earnings and prevent further erosion of the quality of the key data provided by the Office for National Statistics.

The Government reject the recommendation that we should move 21-year-old workers onto the adult rate.

*Government's Response to Individual Recommendations in the Low Pay Commission's 2008 Report*

*National Minimum Wage Rates*

We recommend that the adult rate of the minimum wage should be increased from £5.52 to £5.73 in October 2008.

We recommend that the youth development rate should increase from £4.45 to £4.77 and the 16 to 17-year-old rate should increase from £3.30 to £3.53 in October 2008.

Accept.

*21-Year-olds*

We recommend again that 21-year-olds should be entitled to the adult rate of the national minimum wage. Should the Government maintain its opposition to this proposal, we would welcome an indication of the exact nature of its opposition and a specification of what would need to change for the Government to adopt a positive approach to this recommendation.

Reject. The Government believe that the "bite" of the minimum wage—the minimum wage as a per cent. of median wages—is a better guide than the employment level in determining the likelihood of any adverse impact from this policy change. While only around 10 per cent. of 21-year-olds are paid below the adult national minimum wage, the "bite" is very high for 21-year-olds and would increase to almost 89 per cent. if 21-year-olds were moved to the adult rate, compared to 77 per cent. and 79 per cent. for 20 and 22-year-olds respectively. This raises the concerns that the higher bite would increase the risk of:

employers substituting 21-year-olds for more experienced or cheaper younger workers and reducing employment rates;

scarring effects from being out of the labour market when young, given the impact will be greatest on the most vulnerable 21-year-olds—these effects can have life-long consequences in terms of higher probability of worklessness and lower earnings power; and

reducing investment in education and training by making work more attractive to those 20 per cent. of 21-year-olds with level 2 qualifications or below who are currently engaged in some sort of education or training.

*The Data*

We recommend that the Government take steps to reverse the cuts to the sample of the annual survey of hours and earnings and prevent further erosion of the quality of the key data provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Note: We recognise the value of good quality data. The ONS will be replaced by the independent UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) from 1 April 2008. We will meet with UKSA and other interested parties to discuss this matter.

*Accommodation Offset*

We recommend that the value of the accommodation offset should rise from £4.30 per day to £4.46 per day from October 2008.

Accept.

*Guidance*

We recommend that the Government reviews the existing official guidance on sleepovers as soon as practicable and updates the material concerning work experience placements in the official guide to the minimum wage.

Accept.

*Fair Piece Rates*

We recommend that the Government takes stock and evaluates whether the fair piece rates arrangement is meeting its objectives.

Accept.

*The Low Pay Commission Terms of Reference for 2008-09*

The Low Pay Commission is asked to:

Monitor, evaluate and review the national minimum wage and its impact, with particular reference to the effect on pay, employment and competitiveness in the low paying sectors and small firms; the effect on different groups of workers, including different age groups, ethnic minorities, women, people with disabilities, migrant workers; and the effect on pay structures.

Review the levels of each of the different minimum wage rates and make recommendations for October 2009. The Commission is also asked to make provisional rate recommendations as appropriate for October 2010.

Review the current apprentice exemptions and advise whether they are still appropriate. The Commission is asked to bear in mind the Government's ambition to increase the number of apprentices to 500,000 and the need to ensure that sufficient employed places are available when the education participation age is raised in 2013.

Report to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by the end of February 2009.

Copies of this statement, the report from the Low Pay Commission and the Government's individual response to the Commission's recommendations have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### EU Energy Council (28 February 2008)

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** Due to conflicting parliamentary business, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness Baroness Vadera represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 28 February in place of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Council was dominated by discussions of the internal market legislative package, in particular of energy unbundling. The Council also had a policy debate on the 2020 climate and energy legislative package and agreed conclusions on the strategic energy technology (SET) plan.

On the SET plan, Ministers agreed conclusions on the Commission communication on the long-term perspective for the development of low carbon energy technologies.

Following a Commission presentation on the climate change and energy 2020 package, Ministers' responses highlighted the following concerns:

*Renewables targets*

All member states supported these targets, although I and others noted their ambition. Several member states noted the need for flexibility to enable cost-effective delivery of the overall GHG target. Many emphasised energy efficiency. Detailed points were made by individual member states against rounding the targets; in favour of a 1990 base year, taking better account of efforts already made; and the need for a better balance between energy and environmental interests in large (hydro) projects.

*Guarantee of Origin (GO) certificates*

Most countries endorsed the need to allow cross-border trading of renewables in the EU, noting that considerable work would be needed to refine the practical arrangements. Smaller member states commented that GOs would be essential to meet their targets. I encouraged wider application of trading to cover non-EU countries. A number of member states expressed concern about the impact on their national renewables support schemes. The Commission said that they had tried to provide flexibility for those member states that wanted it, while allowing national schemes to continue.

*Carbon leakage/energy intensive industries*

Many member states referred to the letter signed by some member states advocating ED action to address the prospect of carbon leakage. They emphasised the global nature of the issue—including the risks of industry relocating outside the EU, EU competitiveness and price inflation. Some argued for a phased approach to tackling the problem.

*Carbon capture and storage*

Commissioner Piebalgs referred to the significance of CCS and mentioned the UK as a front-runner. He noted the Commission's openness to considering the possibility of member states providing finance under the revised environmental state aid guidelines.

The presidency concluded that most delegations welcomed the 2020 package and its ambitious nature and that political agreement of the package was possible by the end of the year. The presidency would take account of member states' comments in the next draft of the spring Council conclusions.

On the internal market legislative package, substantive discussion of unbundling was taken over lunch in closed session after introductions by the presidency and the Commission, during which the Commission noted the five principles that any alternative option would have to meet. The Commission emphasised that ownership unbundling was the most efficient option: any alternative would have to achieve equivalent effect.

In the formal session, the presidency proposed a simple procedural conclusion stating that the Commission's proposal, supplemented by all other contributions, would be the basis for continued discussion, with the aim of agreement in June. All member states accepted this. This was a positive outcome for the UK.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission reported on developments related to security of supply. A report on the energy security correspondents' network would be submitted to the June Council and energy security would feature heavily in the next strategic energy review, to be debated at the December Council. Ways to enhance solidarity, promote market access and infrastructure projects, and improve resilience against energy shocks would be addressed. One member state intervened to stress the importance of this issue in view of its specific circumstances: they would make proposals for the conclusions of the spring European Council.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Unlocking the Talent of our Communities

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** I am publishing a document entitled "Unlocking the Talent of our Communities" which includes our proposal to publish a White Paper. A copy of this document is available in the Library of the House. We will be developing a range of proposals over the coming months, and plan to publish a White Paper on putting communities in control of their local services and environment in England in summer 2008.

This White Paper will follow on from the achievements resulting from the 2006 local government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities", copies of which are available in the Library of the House. It is anchored in the Government's conviction that our success as a

nation in the twenty-first century is contingent on our capacity to unlock the talents of every citizen, community and region, so that the success of each of us contributes to the prosperity of all of us.

The White Paper will develop practical ways for local people to exercise power, influence and control over the services and agencies which have the most impact on their lives and neighbourhoods. People demand a greater say on the decisions which affect their lives, and an ever greater number are willing to serve their communities, given the right structures, support and encouragement. Our White Paper will unlock the talents, energy and innovation latent in local communities by creating new platforms, systems of redress and accountability, and mechanisms for making local change.

It will have four pillars:

encouraging more citizens to become active, renewing civil society, and building stronger local democracy

using the power of citizens and consumers to improve local public services

strengthening local accountability of local services and agencies

sustainable regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods by engaging local people, supporting people into work, encouraging more enterprises and boosting the social enterprise and mutual sector.

We will want a wide range of people to contribute to the thinking that goes into the White Paper, including practitioners and community activists, local government, trade unions, and people in the public services.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Sale of the Tote

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe):** The Government took powers in the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 to enable them to sell the Horserace Totalisator Board ("The Tote") as part of their wider policy aim of removing themselves from detailed involvement in the affairs of the racing industry. Since then they have been in exclusive negotiation to sell the Tote to racing, in line with their manifesto commitments of 2001 and 2005. The Government's initial intention was to sell the Tote to a racing trust in 2005 at a fair price until it became clear that a sale on that basis risked being denied approval under European state aid and competition rules, because it would have been below open market value.

The Government subsequently appointed independent advisers to assess market value and sought unsuccessfully to achieve a sale on that basis to racing in 2006. Finally the Government, responding to representations from racing and the Tote itself, sought during the course of 2007 to achieve a sale to racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote. The Government received an offer for the Tote in January 2007 but the final offer subsequently received in September 2007 did not meet the independent assessment of the Tote's market value undertaken for the Government and which was necessary for a sale to proceed lawfully under EU state aid rules. The Government have therefore today, with great regret, declined the offer and, having exhausted all the practicable sale options, have decided to draw to a close the period of exclusive negotiation with racing.

The Government now intend to prepare for an open market sale, and will appoint advisers shortly to advise them on strategic options. The overriding criterion for the Tote's privatisation will be to maximise value for the taxpayer. Advisers will work closely with the board of the Tote. Meanwhile the Government stand fully behind their commitment during the passage of the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 to make available to racing half the net proceeds of any open market sale in the event that a sale to racing itself did not prove possible. We will now be considering urgently how best to give effect to that undertaking in ways which meet the needs of racing, do not add unnecessary bureaucracy and are consistent with European state aid and competition regulations.

The Government are also taking steps to appoint a chairman to oversee the process of preparing the Tote for sale, to work closely with the Government and their appointed advisers in assessing strategic options and in executing the sale process, and to manage the implications of the sale particularly as they affect the Tote's staff. The Government would like to place on record their gratitude to Ian Good, as the senior non-executive on the Tote's board, for agreeing to act as interim chairman of the Tote until that appointment is made.

Pending the appointment of sale advisers the Government are happy to receive any initial expressions of interest to acquire the Tote's businesses. Any such expressions of interest will then he evaluated by the Government's advisers as part of their wider strategic view of sale options.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Temporary 50:50 Police Recruitment Provisions

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins):** During consideration of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Renewal of Temporary Provisions) Order 2007 the Government undertook to return to the House on an annual basis and report on progress towards our target of 30 per cent. Catholic composition within regular officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Since the introduction of the temporary provisions in 2001 tremendous progress has been made towards a more representative police service. The Catholic composition of police officers has increased from 8.3 per cent. at the time of the Patten report to 23.71 per cent. as of mid-February 2008. The number of Catholic applications to the PSNI has also been encouraging, with 44.4 per cent. of applicants in the last campaign being from the Catholic community.

In the first 13 competitions over 80,000 applications have been received from across the whole community. This figure reflects the fact that there is a new generation who are ready to commit to a career in PSNI and emphasises that confidence in our new policing structures is rising.

Female composition within PSNI has increased from 12 per cent. in 2001 to 22.1 per cent. and there are currently 28 officers from an ethnic minority background including Pakistani, Black Caribbean, Chinese and Indian. The PSNI ethnic minority background workforce composition is currently 0.43 per cent., broadly equating to the overall level (0.48 per cent.) of the working age ethnic minority population in Northern Ireland.

Catholic representation among civilian staff also continues to rise. The percentage of Catholic police support staff has increased from 12 per cent. at the time of the Patten report to 17.32 per cent. on 1 February 2008 with the composition among direct recruits now at 22.36 per cent. There are a number of initiatives ongoing that will continue to improve this over time.

The Government remain committed to addressing the religious imbalance within the police service and the St. Andrews agreement makes it clear that the temporary 50:50 recruitment arrangements to the PSNI will lapse when the Government's target of 30 per cent. Catholic officers has been achieved. We are on course to reach this target by 2010-11.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 6 March 2008*

## TREASURY

### National Audit Office

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** The Government welcome the fifteenth report of the Public Accounts Commission on the corporate governance of the National Audit Office that was published today (HC 402).

As public auditor, NAO must command the respect of both Parliament and the diverse public sector it audits. It must remain independent so that it can report to Parliament impartially.

These sensible reforms will place it at the forefront of good corporate governance in the unique position it plays in British public life. The Government agree that the reforms will bring the governance of the NAO into the twenty-first century, giving it the moral authority it needs for the important work it does.

In line with the Prime Minister's undertaking made in November 2007, the Government will now come forward with draft clauses to give effect to those parts of the Commission's conclusions which require legislation. These will then be put in the constitutional renewal Bill for introduction.

I should like to record the Government's appreciation of the Commission's work, and of John Tiner's valuable advice to them.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Home Information Packs

**The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint):** As was announced on 27 February 2008 (*Official Report*, columns 77-78WS), I have now made a rating against the code for sustainable homes a required element of home information packs for all new homes. Regulations to be laid in the House today will amend the HIP regulations to bring mandatory code ratings into force from 1 May 2008.

The inclusion of information about the sustainability of new build properties adds to the information on environmental performance and energy efficiency already provided and will continue to enhance the value of the pack to all purchasers looking to buy a new home.

I will also be amending the regulations to extend the temporary provision, allowing the use of insurance cover where property searches data are unavailable, from 31 March to 31 December 2008.

This provision has played an important role in smoothing the introduction of HIPs. It has helped to ensure sufficient capacity in the searches market to cope with the surge in demand generated as a result of searches being required within HIPs at the front of the process. It has also helped to safeguard consumers in the event of missing data in their searches.

The Government are committed to open and fair competition in the delivery of property searches so that consumers benefit from good quality searches at competitive prices—we have already seen local authority search prices fall on average by £30. We have also published guidance for local authorities and personal searchers on access to search data, and we are consulting on future charging arrangements. Following this consultation, we will introduce new charging guidance which should fulfil the conditions for open access arrangements and the levelling of the playing field in the provision of searches. It will create the conditions for ending of the use of the insurance cover provision.

In extending the provision I expect private searchers to make every effort to obtain the necessary data, and only resort to insurance cover where access to required data is denied or data are otherwise unavailable. They should also plan ahead for the ending of the provision. From April, we will publish information on local authority access arrangements to help consumers know the areas that provide open access to searches data.

We are also publishing today the final report of the area trials—I shall be placing copies of the report in the Libraries of the House. This shows that most participants were satisfied with their HIP, and that buyers were beginning to act on energy ratings. The report also highlights that more buyers would have liked to have seen their HIP, but packs were not being shown by their agents in many cases. The Government have already taken action to raise awareness of the consumers' right to see their HIP and estate agents' responsibilities to make them readily available.

The implementation of HIPs has gone smoothly and they are making a difference. Our early monitoring and analysis continues to show that HIP delivery systems are working well, delivering the majority of HIPs within 14 days, and the average costs of a HIP has steadied between £300 and £350. Over 370,000 HIPs have now been prepared and over 440,000 energy performance certificates have been lodged.

Consumers are also beginning to benefit. First-time buyers of one and two-bedroom homes now get important information about their new home for free. With EPCs and the new rating against the code for sustainable homes, all home buyers will benefit from information about the costs of running their home and their environmental impact.

I am committed to realising the potential of HIPs in making consumers experience of the home buying and selling process faster, more transparent, less stressful and more sustainable. Over the coming months I will continue to engage widely with stakeholders in consolidating the implementation of HIPs.

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** On 18 December 2007 (*Official Report*, columns 104-105WS), when announcing the Secretary of State's decision to implement proposals for two unitary authorities in Cheshire, I explained that she also remained minded to implement the unitary proposal submitted by Bedford

borough council, subject to there being a satisfactory proposal for the rest of Bedfordshire. I further explained that having previously invited the other councils in Bedfordshire to submit proposals for the remainder of the county area, and having received a joint proposal from Mid and South Bedfordshire district councils, the Secretary of State would be launching a consultation exercise on that proposal.

Having now considered all the information and representations available to her, including the material she received in response to the latest consultation, the Secretary of State considers that there is a reasonable likelihood that either the proposal for a single unitary council for the county or the proposals for two unitary authorities based on Bedford borough and central Bedfordshire (the area of Mid and South Bedfordshire district councils) would, if implemented, meet the outcomes specified by each of the criteria set out in the invitation of 26 October 2006.

In line with the process for selecting from alternative proposals set out in the consultation document "Means of Prioritising Proposals", issued in June 2007, the Secretary of State believes that, overall, the long-term outcomes around strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment and value for money and equity on public services, would be delivered to the greater extent by a two-unitary Bedfordshire. Accordingly, she intends to implement the proposals made by Bedford borough and jointly by Mid and South Bedfordshire district councils. I will today lay an order under section 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 giving effect to that decision.

## HEALTH

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** The Government have today laid before Parliament their response to the Health Select Committee's report on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (Cm 7331).

The Government have responded to the recommendations made by the Committee. The Committee's report makes a number of helpful recommendations relating to the way NICE operates in producing its guidance, how that guidance is implemented and how the Government can support NICE in its role. The Government welcome the Committee's support for and confidence in the work of NICE.

The Government's response has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

### Consultation on the Medical Profession (Miscellaneous Amendment) Order

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** A consultation paper has been issued which asks for comments and views on a draft section 60 order which makes a number of changes to the Medical Act 1983 and to the General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2003. The changes proposed in the draft order would implement two of the reforms set out in the White Paper: "Trust Assurance and Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century". The draft order also provides an additional route to the specialist register for NHS consultants. All amendments relate to the functions of the General Medical Council (GMC).

The changes will take place under an order made under section 60 of the Health Act 1999. That section provides for the amendment of Acts of Parliament and secondary legislation related to the regulation of health care professions, by means of an Order in Council subject to affirmative resolution parliamentary procedures.

Matters relating to these amendments are reserved to the UK Parliament. The draft order will cover three reforms as follows:

*Education Committee*

The transfer of the statutory functions of oversight of medical education from the Education Committee of the GMC to the Council of the GMC with amendments to the Medical Act 1983 to give effect to that transfer.

*Licence to Practise and Revalidation*

The Medical Act 1983 (Amendment) Order 2002 put in part 3A of the Medical Act. However part 3A of the Medical Act has not yet been fully brought into force. Part 3A provides for the GMC to make regulations for the issue and withdrawal of licences to practise and for the revalidation of medical practitioners. This section 60 order would amend provisions relating to revalidation in the 1983 Medical Act to put in place a legislative framework that will support the commencement of revalidation, including the early piloting of the revalidation process. The provisions relating to licences to practise will then be commenced allowing the GMC to begin to issue such licences and enabling revalidation pilots to commence.

*Specialist Register*

Amendments to The General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2003 to allow the GMC to provide a mechanism to enable consultants who did not apply for inclusion in the specialist register at the time it was established to make a late application to the GMC. This will reinstate the powers the GMC previously had prior to September 2005.

This is an open consultation and we welcome all views and comments.

The document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. It can also be seen at:

www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/liveconsultations/fs/en.
Responses can be submitted via the website, or by email to: Professionalregulations2@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Responses may also be sent to:

Consultation on the Medical Profession (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2008

Department of Health

Room 2N12

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds

LS2 7UE

### NHS Prescriptions and Appliances

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** We will be laying regulations before Parliament to increase National Health Service charges in England from 1 April 2008. There will be an increase in the prescription charge of 25 pence from £6.85 to £7.10 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed.

The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will rise to £27.85 for a 3 month certificate and to £102.50 for an annual certificate. PPCs offer savings for those needing more than three items in three months or 14 in one year.

Prescription charges are expected to raise some £435 million for the NHS in 2008-09. This figure excludes prescription charges collected by dispensing doctors, which is not collected centrally, but remains with primary care trusts.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied through the hospitals will be increased similarly.

The increase is below the current level of inflation.

Details of the revised prescription and appliance increases are as follows:

*Proposed Increases in Charges from April 2008*

| *Item* | *Current Charges* | *New Charge* |
|---|---|---|
| Prescription | £6.85 | £7.10 |
| 12-month PPC | £98.70 | £102.50 |
| 3-month PPC | £26.85 | £27.85 |
| Surgical brassiere | £23.10 | £24.00 |
| Abdominal or spinal support | £34.95 | £36.30 |
| Stock modacrylic wig | £57.00 | £59.20 |
| Partial human hair wig | £150.75 | £156.60 |
| Full bespoke human hair wig | £220.50 | £229.05 |

### GlaxoSmithKline (MHRA Investigation)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is today announcing the outcome of its investigation into allegations that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) withheld relevant information gathered in clinical trials on the use of Seroxat in children and adolescents. A report has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

The decision taken by Government prosecutors is that there is no realistic prospect of obtaining a conviction in this case, and that the case will therefore not proceed to prosecution.

The process of investigation has revealed weaknesses in EU legislation as it stood at the time, in terms of what safety information drugs companies were legally obliged to provide to the regulators. I have therefore asked that immediate steps are taken as follows:

to secure a strengthening of the law in this area; through changes to the EU Directive and, in the meantime, amending the law as it applies in the UK;

to make it clear to all pharmaceutical companies that, notwithstanding the limitations that may exist in the law, they should disclose any information they have that would have a bearing on the protection of health. The MHRA is writing today both to GSK and to pharmaceutical industry bodies to stress this point. Copies of those letters have been placed in the Library of the House; and the MHRA will continue to monitor the risks and benefits of Seroxat and other Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) and provide advice to clinicians and patients. The outcome of this investigation does not affect existing advice on the safety of these medicines.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### National Identity Scheme

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** The House will wish to know that the Government is publishing today an updated "National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan 2008" and a document setting out our plans for introducing compulsory identity cards for foreign nationals. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

## JUSTICE

### Cohabitation (Government Response to Law Commission Paper)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** Today we are announcing the Government's response to the Law Commission's paper on Cohabitation: The Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown.

The Law Commission published their very thorough and high quality report on 31 July 2007. It makes recommendations to Government on certain aspects of the law relating to cohabitants. It considers the financial consequences of cohabiting relationships ending either by separation or death. It follows two years of work by the Law Commission.

The report has been carefully considered and the Government have decided it wishes to seek research findings on the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006, which came into effect last year. This Act has provisions which are similar in many respects to those which the Commission recommends.

The Scottish Executive intend to undertake research to discover the cost of such a scheme and its efficacy in resolving the issues faced by cohabitants when their relationships end.

The Government propose to await the outcome of this research and extrapolate from it the likely cost to this jurisdiction of bringing into effect the scheme proposed by the Law Commission and the likely benefits it will bring. For the time being, therefore, the Government will take no further action.

The decision has been reached because of the need for Government to obtain accurate estimates of the financial impact of any new legislation and the likelihood that we can obtain a view of financial impact by drawing on the Scottish experience of similar law reform.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Financial Assistance Scheme

**The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** On 17 December 2007 the Government announced a package of significant improvements to the financial assistance scheme (FAS). This statement is to inform the House of the significant progress being made in implementing those changes.

*Consultation on Draft Regulations*

We are today beginning consultation on a first set of draft regulations. These will increase the percentage covered by the FAS to 90 per cent. of each qualifying member's accrued pension and allow us to pay people from their normal retirement age, subject to a lower limit of age 60. This is the first key stage in aligning the calculation of FAS assistance to the calculation of compensation under the Pension Protection Fund.

The consultation will end on Maundy Thursday, 20 March. We have sought and obtained cross-party and key stakeholder agreement that a limited written consultation period is appropriate for these draft regulations. This will enable us to increase people's payments as soon as possible.

In addition we are consulting on proposed changes to the annuity factors used when we need to calculate the approximate annual rates of pension that could be secured by cash sums taken from their schemes by members, for instance as a lump sum. This is a technical area, but the revised factors we are proposing would result in an increase in FAS payments to individuals whose FAS payments are calculated by reference to these annuity factors.

The consultation documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/FinancialAssitanceScheme(MiscellaneousAmendments)Regulations2008.pdf; and

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/revision-of-annuity-factors-in-FAS.pdf; or alternatively via the FAS website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/fas.

We will be issuing a second set of draft regulations later this month for a longer period of consultation. These will include provisions for early payment for those in ill health, the extension of the FAS to members of schemes wound up underfunded with a solvent employer, requirements on trustees to provide relevant data, and removal of the option to apply for reinstatement into the state additional pension for those eligible for FAS.

*Reinstatement to the State Pension System*

At present members of a qualifying FAS scheme may choose to use their remaining funds in their scheme to pay for reinstatement into the state additional pension (known as "Deemed Buy-Back"). Where this occurs the FAS calculates a notional pension to use as a base for the FAS payments.

The Young review made clear that the take up of "Deemed Buy-Back" has been low and its interaction with the FAS is potentially anomalous, and that removal of the ability to buy back into the state scheme could simplify the wind-up process.

We propose to remove the ability for FAS qualifying members to buy back into the state scheme by "Deemed Buy-Back". We will be seeking to make this change as part of the second set of FAS regulations that will come into force in July, subject to passage through Parliament.

Some trustees will already have received information on the costs of buying back (known as "Technical Amounts") from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC will continue to process any applications subsequently received in respect of members for whom that information has been supplied. However, from today, HMRC will suspend action on requests for "Technical Amounts" pending parliamentary consideration of the proposed regulations.

*Trustee Guidance Note*

Today we are also issuing the first in a series of updates to the trustees of schemes that qualify for FAS which will set out our expectations of them as we move to full implementation of the announced package of improvements to the FAS.

*Compromise Agreement Schemes*

Regulations made last December extended the FAS to schemes which wound up underfunded as a result of a compromise agreement made by the trustees to prevent the sponsoring employer's insolvency. Six schemes in this position have now qualified for the FAS and the FAS operational unit will be working with the trustees of those schemes to obtain the necessary data to ensure that payments can be made to their members as soon as possible. The schemes concerned are:

Dragon Cosmetics Pension Plan

Expamat International PLC Group Retirement & Life Assurance Scheme

Fredk H Burgess Ltd Pension & Life Assurance Scheme

J & D Wilkie Ltd Pension Scheme 1982

Lucas Yuasa Pension Scheme

Norman Butcher and Jones Holdings Ltd Retirement and Death Benefits Plan

The progress outlined above demonstrates the Government's commitment to the speedy implementation of the announced changes to the FAS.

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 29 February 2008 in Brussels. I represented the UK. There were no health and consumer issues.

This was a straightforward Council with the main agenda item being Employment Ministers' input to the spring European Council. Ministers adopted key messages, the joint employment report 2007-08, the Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the member states, the recommendation on the 2008 update of the broad economic guidelines, the 2008 joint report on social protection and social inclusion and the 2008 report on equality between women and men.

The policy debate which followed called for a greater social dimension to Lisbon and a greater focus on labour market reform, highlighting the need to do more on social cohesion, child poverty and skills. In my

intervention I stressed the need to ensure that workers' skills matched the requirements of a changing labour market and supported a European skills review. I pointed out that more needed to be done to increase labour market participation, highlighting that a job remained the best route out of poverty but that further targeted actions were still needed for some groups. I suggested that local partnerships and adapting local services to individual needs could provide some of the answers.

The presidency confirmed that the Tripartite Social Summit would discuss the Lisbon strategy and its new three year cycle, as well as the impact on employment of the energy and climate change package. The presidency also reported that the social partners would inform the Commission of the progress in their negotiations on work-life balance.

The Council also adopted a non-controversial joint Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee opinion on the Commission's communication on the single market review and a resolution on the situation of disabled people in the European Union.

Under other business, the Council noted the annual Work Programmes of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee for 2008, and the Commission gave a presentation on the implementation of the Mission for Flexicurity.

The discussion over lunch covered the future European social agenda, focusing on the Commission's mid-term review of the 2005-10 social agenda and beyond. The review is due to be published in June. The Government position was clear, that the social agenda provides the EU with an opportunity to reconnect with its citizens and that the focus of the review should be on issues that mattered to them. EU activity should add value and act as a catalyst for change providing analysis and evidence to inform reform programmes in member states. Themes for the future should include skills, improving mobility, tackling disadvantage and the social economy.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 7 March 2008*

## TREASURY

### Lloyd's

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** I am today publishing "Proposals for a Legislative Reform Order to amend Lloyd's Act 1982". Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This consultation document sets out proposals to modernise the governance arrangements of the Society of Lloyd's, to remove administrative burdens, and to get rid of outdated restrictions which impede the efficient functioning of the market. The proposals complement the market-related reforms that Lloyd's is already pursuing, which the Government support, and which are geared to maintaining the competitiveness of Lloyd's in the global marketplace.

The Government's reforms are being proposed under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and satisfy the pre-conditions and constraints of that Act. Chapter two of the consultation document provides the legal analysis for this. As required under the Act, the Government are now consulting widely on the reforms.

### Government Banking Contracts (Procurement)

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has awarded contracts to Citibank N.A. and Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC to provide clearing bank services to the Department (including the Office of HM Paymaster General), and National Savings and Investments (NS&I). These services are currently provided by the Bank of England ("the Bank"). The Bank announced in July 2004 that it would withdraw from the provision of retail banking and clearing services to its commercial customers including Government Departments, building societies and other corporate customers.

Award of the contracts follows a procurement exercise as announced in the Official Journal of the European Union in July 2005.

The contracts are for five years with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further two years. Migration to the new banking suppliers will start later this year and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 10-11 March in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

*Preparation of the European Council on 13-14 March 2008*

The European Council will focus on the key issues that concern EU citizens: economic stability, jobs, and growth and climate change. The Government want the EU to build on the ambitious climate change targets set by the spring European Council in 2007, and to agree an outline for further work on the security implications following the report by the High Representative.

The Government would also welcome progress on the 2007 spring European Council's commitment to develop 12 carbon capture and storage demonstration plants by 2015. On jobs and growth the Government expect progress on delivering the next stage of the Lisbon process. This should include improved ambitions on building skills and entrepreneurship, through measures such as a skills review and continued reduction of the regulatory burdens on small business in particular.

The Government will be looking for strong European Council conclusions on opening up network markets, particularly in energy and telecoms. On financial stability and sovereign wealth funds, the Government will support a broad international approach.

The June 2007 European Council invited the High Representative and the Commission to produce a report on the impact of climate change on international security issues. This will be discussed at the spring European Council. The Government very much welcome the report as an important first step in understanding the implications of climate change for European foreign and security policy interests. The Government want the European Council to build on and amplify the conclusions of the report and ensure they lead to more detailed work, including through the development of action plans to mainstream climate change into security planning and policy making.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

*WTO/PDA*

Discussion is likely to focus on the substance of the agriculture and non-agricultural market access texts issued on 8 February and the structure through which the negotiations will be taken forward. The Government support the new texts as a basis for further progress and is encouraging partners to continue to engage in the process led by Pascal Lamy, the WTO Director-General, on the basis of these texts. The Government's objective at the Council will be to encourage continued support for the Doha round, given its importance for both poverty reduction and the global economy

*Middle East Peace Process*

Council discussion is expected to focus on the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel, and highlight the urgent need for progress on the political process.

The Government is committed to supporting the process initiated at Annapolis, which has put the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security. The Government's position is that Israeli security is absolutely fundamental to a just solution, and Palestinian hardship can only be tackled through a political process that creates an economically and socially viable Palestinian state at peace with Israel.

The Council is also likely to discuss Lebanon's ongoing political crisis. The Government remain deeply concerned by the continued lack of a President in Lebanon and Syria's role in obstructing a deal. The Government believe it is important that the EU continues to support the efforts of the Arab League to broker a solution and provide continued political and practical support to the Government of Lebanon. The Government will support conclusions that underline both the EU's continued strong support for the Arab League's mediation efforts and the urgent need to resolve the crisis.

*Zimbabwe*

The Government expect the Council to agree conclusions underlining the EU's concern at the humanitarian, political and economic situation in Zimbabwe and drawing attention to reports on conditions on the ground prior to elections. The Government remain deeply concerned about conditions in Zimbabwe, especially in the run-up to the elections, and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

*Georgia*

The Government expect the focus of the discussion on Georgia to be on providing assistance to the Georgians ahead of their parliamentary elections—expected in May— to ensure that they are an improvement on the standard achieved during Georgia's presidential election in January. We are supportive of this aim, and of good EU support to Georgia across a range of issues, including on conflict resolution.

*Iran*

Following the adoption of a new UN Security Council resolution (1803) on Iran on 3 March, the Government will press for progress at EU level as soon as possible. This includes EU implementation of the resolution by way of a common position and the consideration of further EU measures as signalled in the conclusions of the December European Council. The Government fully support strengthening EU sanctions against Iran in response to its refusal to comply with its international obligations and will press partners to continue to take a firm stand on this issue.

*Western Balkans*

Foreign Ministers will discuss developments in the western Balkans since the 18 February GAERC, particularly those following Kosovo's declaration of independence on 17 February. There are likely to be conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the Regional Co-operation Council. On Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government strongly support the decision by the Peace Implementation Council on 26-27 February to extend the mandate of the High Representative until key objectives and conditions are met, including a positive assessment of the situation in Bosnia based on full compliance with the Dayton peace agreement.

The UK supports the Regional Co-operation Council, which succeeded the international community-led stability pact in February 2008, because it will enable the countries of south-eastern Europe to play a greater role in fostering peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity within the region.

The Government's position on Kosovo's independence was set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' Written Ministerial Statement of 19 February.

## Justice and Home Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Brussels on 28 February 2008. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Solicitor-General for Scotland and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council opened with a discussion on the proposed move from member state to community financing for Europol. Two of the pre-conditions had already been met (bold posts/rotations/instructions and the question of immunities). Only the issue of budget neutrality remained. A number of member states, including the UK, continued to press for further clarification on the financial implications and maintained their parliamentary scrutiny reservations pending such clarification. The presidency reminded member states that it was one of their priorities to reach agreement on this Council decision by April 2008.

There were still differences between member states on the main issues relating to the returns directive such as re-entry bans, access to judicial review and upper limits on detention. The presidency stated that it was still aiming for a first reading deal by June. The UK has not opted in to this directive.

The presidency stressed the need to conclude ratification on the EU-US agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance and asked the member states who have not yet completed their domestic and bilateral procedures to do so as soon as possible. The Commission supported this.

During the discussion on the framework decision for combating terrorism, the presidency introduced its proposals for a recital on proportionality and additional text on freedom of expression. The Commission supported this proposal and stressed the need to complete this instrument as soon as possible. The UK welcomed these changes while maintaining the parliamentary scrutiny reserve. The presidency indicated that it wished to reach a general approach at the April Council.

The Commission confirmed that it would shortly adopt its proposal on ship-source pollution, dealing with criminal sanctions to address ship-source pollution.

Under the Mixed Committee, the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) was discussed. The presidency stated that the central SIS roll-out is likely to be delayed. A revised timetable for the delay would be available in April, but it is expected that the central system go-live date will be pushed back from December 2008 to September 2009. The presidency established a SIS II Friends of the Presidency group to ensure ministerial oversight and political commitment to the programme. The group comprises of some those member states who will be migrating from SIS I and SISone4all to SIS II. These include Germany, Portugal, France, Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Norway and Poland. The Commission will submit a revised timetable to the June Council.

The revised rules of procedure allowing for the participation of Liechtenstein in the Schengen Acquis Mixed Committee were passed unanimously.

At the Interior Ministers' lunch there was a discussion on the US Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) on visa waiver. A moratorium was agreed on further member states signing MoUs until the EU-US troika meeting in March. The High Level Contact Group and SIS II were also mentioned.

At the lunch for Justice Ministers the Commission's proposal to set up a forum for discussion of EU justice policy and practice was considered. The Commission stressed that the forum would not substitute for the role of other institutions. Discussion focused on who would participate and the extent to which the forum would, in practice, influence the development of policy. There were also exchanges on parliamentary scrutiny reserves maintained by some countries; these were blocking formal agreement to various third pillar measures which would have to be renegotiated if they could not be adopted before the coming into force of the Lisbon treaty.

# Petitions

*Monday 18 February 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Misuse of Fireworks (Essex)

*The Petition of residents of Castle Point and others,*

Declares that freely available fireworks present danger and nuisance to people, property and animals and we believe that the suffering fireworks cause and the cost to emergency services and individuals are totally avoidable; whilst we believe this, we do not wish to prevent the enjoyment of traditional festivals and therefore we urge the Government to amend the firework bill.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to restrict fireworks to licensed organised displays only at fixed times of the year, to include garden parties in the restricted category, to reduce the decibel limit to a maximum of 85db for all fireworks and to make it illegal to use or possess fireworks without a licence.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 29 January 2008; Vol. 471, c. 286.] [P000115]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

Although a number of people have called for a ban on the use of fireworks by the public, the Government believes that to do so would be regarded by the population at large as an undue restriction on the freedom to enjoy traditional celebrations and family firework parties (weddings and birthdays etc), the great majority of which are conducted in a safe and sensible manner.

However recognising concerns over the misuse of fireworks and their effects on animals, the Government introduced in 2004 a comprehensive package of measures designed to promote safety and tackle anti-social or inconsiderate use of fireworks.

They include:

banning the possession of fireworks in public places by the under 18 age group;

making retailers responsible for ensuring that they do not sell fireworks to under 18s;

introducing a curfew on the use of fireworks;

placing a maximum limit of 120 decibels on the largest fireworks available to consumers;

and developing a licensing system to encourage seasonal-only sales (thereby reducing the frequency of noise in the approach to the November season).

We believe these measures have substantially reduced the effects of misuse of fireworks, and represent a reasonable compromise between enjoyment and safety.

### Post Office Closures (Brighton and Hove)

*The Petition of the residents of the Southern Cross neighbourhood,*

Declares that Trafalgar Road Post Office in Portslade must be kept open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and the Post Office Ltd. to stop the proposed closure of this Post Office, and other local Post Offices which provide a unique service.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow, Official Report,* 18 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 9P.] [P000098]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Sussex finished on 24 December 2007 and Post Office Ltd announced its final decisions on 31 January. POL have published their decision to close the Trafalgar Street Post Office in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Sussex which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on

individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

**Post Office Closures (Fareham)**

*The Petition of those affected by the closure of Arundel Drive Post Office,*

Declares that the closure of Arundel Drive Post Office will cause considerable difficulty and hardship.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to Post Office Ltd. so that the Arundel Drive Post Office remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mark Hoban, Official Report,* 22 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1424.] [P000066]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October 2007 and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Hampshire and The Isle of Wight finished on 26 November 2007 and POL announced final decisions on 9 January 2008. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that Arundel Drive Post Office is to close. POL have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Hampshire and The Isle of Wight which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

**Post Office Closures (Merseyside)**

*The Petition of those affected by the closure of the Daleacre Post Office in Bootle,*

Declares that the relevant area plan proposal gives no reasons or justification for the closure of this Post Office and merely refers to sets of statistics i.e. population, car ownership etc., which on their own are meaningless. The Post Office Ltd. should extend the consultation period to allow for a proper consultation

to take into account all the social factors of the area including the pensioner population and affects on local businesses compared to other Post Offices in the area, which there is no reference in the area plan proposal.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to the Post Office Ltd. to extend the consultation period and hold a meeting with a delegation of representatives from the community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Joe Benton, Official Report,* 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 431.] [P000080]

*Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The consultation period for Merseyside, Wirral, and Cheshire with Wigan, Leigh and Makerfield finished on 17 December 2007 and Post Office Ltd announced final decisions on 22 January 2008. POL has decided to retain a total of 372 branches across the Merseyside, Wirral and Cheshire with Wigan, Leigh and Makerfield area, and to proceed with 60 of the closures, including Daleacre Post Office, and all six of the replacement Outreach Services in the Area Plan Proposal. POL has decided not to proceed with three proposed closures as a result of feedback received during the local public consultation. These branches Brook Street, Railway Road and The University will now remain open.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

We recognise that there have been calls to extend the period of local consultation beyond the six-week period. The period used is the same as that used during the urban reinvention programme several years ago. We also need to be mindful of calls to minimise further uncertainty for customers and sub-postmasters. The early stages of the local process will involve detailed plan development discussions with Postwatch and input from local authorities in advance of formal public consultation. When combined with the subsequent six weeks of public consultation, we believe that this will enable sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level whilst maintaining the necessary momentum. We do not therefore see any basis for pressing for these arrangements to be changed.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by Post Office Ltd. in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

*The Petition of those affected by the closure of the Aintree Road Post Office in Bootle,*

Declares that the relevant area plan proposal gives no reasons or justification for the closure of this Post Office and merely refers to sets of statistics i.e. population, car ownership etc., which on their own are meaningless. The Post Office Ltd. should extend the consultation period to allow for a proper consultation to take into account all the social factors of the area including the pensioner population and affects on local businesses compared to other Post Offices in the area, which there is no reference in the area plan proposal.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to the Post Office Ltd. to extend the consultation period and hold a meeting with a delegation of representatives from the community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Mr. Joe Benton, Official Report*, 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 431.] [P000081]

*Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The consultation period for Merseyside, Wirral, and Cheshire with Wigan, Leigh and Makerfield finished on 17 December 2007 and POL announced final decisions on 22 January 2008. POL has decided to retain a total of 372 branches across the Merseyside, Wirral and Cheshire with Wigan, Leigh and Makerfield area, and to proceed with 60 of the closures, including Aintree Road Post Office, and all six of the replacement Outreach Services in the Area Plan Proposal. POL has decided not to proceed with three proposed closures as a result of feedback received during the local public consultation. These branches Brook Street, Railway Road and The University will now remain open.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

We recognise that there have been calls to extend the period of local consultation beyond the six-week period. The period used is the same as that used during the urban reinvention programme several years ago. We also need to be mindful of calls to minimise further uncertainty for customers and sub-postmasters. The early stages of the local process will involve detailed plan development discussions with Postwatch and input from local authorities in advance of formal public consultation. When combined with the subsequent six weeks of public consultation, we believe that this will enable sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level whilst maintaining the necessary momentum. We do not therefore see any basis for pressing for these arrangements to be changed.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

## Post Office Closures (North West Glasgow)

*The Petition of constituents from Glasgow North West and the surrounding areas,*

Declares its concern about the number of Post Offices threatened with closure.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government, as the sole shareholder of Post Office Limited, to call upon Post Office Limited to reverse plans to close Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by John Robertson, Official Report*, 5 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 933.] [P000076]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches

since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October 2007 and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Greater Glasgow, Central Scotland and Argyll and Bute finished 3 December 2007 and POL announced final decisions on 9 January 2008. POL has decided to retain a total of 266 branches across the Greater Glasgow, Central Scotland, Argyll and Bute area, which includes the introduction of two new Post Office services in the PA22 and PA35 Postcode districts, and to proceed with 40 of the closures and all three replacement Outreach services in the Area Plan Proposal. Post Office Ltd has decided not to proceed with four proposed closures as a result of feedback received during the local public consultation. These branches Auchenback, Cultenhove, Hyndland and Kelvindale will now remain open. POL have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Greater Glasgow, Central Scotland, Argyll and Bute which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

**Post Office Closures (Northamptonshire)**

*The Humble Petition of residents of Great Doddington and surrounding areas,*

Sheweth

That we oppose the closure of our Post Office in Great Doddington. Such a closure would cause an immense amount of hardship, especially for elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups. It would require the numerous customers of Great Doddington Post Office to travel more than two miles along a major and busy road to the nearest Post Office

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to halt the closure of Great Doddington Post Office.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report*, 21 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1326.] [P000111]

*Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures. primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Northamptonshire ended on 10 January. Post Office Ltd announced final decisions on 1st February. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Great Doddington Post Office is to close. POL have published their decision in the Area Plan Booklet for Northamptonshire, which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

**Post Office Closures (Nottinghamshire)**

*The Petition of the users of Woodland Grove Post Office,*

Declares that the closure of Woodland Grove Post Office would be detrimental to the local community and the viability of other shops in the vicinity.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government as the major shareholder in Post Office Ltd., to review the programme of planned Post Office closures with a view to keeping the Woodland Grove Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Heppell, Official Report,* 22 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1423.] [P000064]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:*

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October 2007 and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for East Midlands finished on 12 November 2007and POL announced final decisions on 11 December 2007. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Post Office at Woodland Grove is to close. POL have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for East Midlands which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Nurseries (Code of Practice)

*The Petition of professionals in the nursery sector, concerned parents and members of the public,*

Declares that nurseries, pre-schools and daycare providers fulfil a vital role in the development of pre-school children and that the voluntary, private and independent nurseries provide the overwhelming majority of nursery care. The Government's new code of practice fundamentally changes the rules regarding the provision of free nursery places for three and four year olds. We are concerned that the new code of practice could cause insecurity and significant financial harm in the nursery sector and force existing, trusted nurseries to change and potentially go out of business, creating uncertainty for parents and children.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to halt the implementation of this code of practice and undertake an urgent assessment of its impact on nurseries.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. [P000124]

*Observations from the Minister for Children, Young People and Families:*

Her Majesty's Government notes the views expressed in the petition and has the following observations.

The key principle underpinning the delivery of the early education entitlement for three and four year olds is that it should be completely free at the point of delivery for every child regardless of their parent's circumstances. Charging parents for access to the free entitlement would present an unacceptable financial barrier for some families, which may restrict their choice of provider and in some cases deny children access to the free early education entitlement.

The requirement not to charge parents any fee for the minimum free early education entitlement is not new. It has been made clear in previous versions of the Code of Practice since 2003 and the 2006 Code of Practice simply sets it out again explicitly. The single substantive change to the delivery of the free early education entitlement, set out in the 2006 Code of Practice, was the extension of the minimum free entitlement from 33 to 38 weeks. Following consultation the Government recognised that not all providers would be able to extend their provision to 38 weeks and that, at the relevant local authority's discretion, they could be funded for the provision they actually delivered. In addition, all local authorities received additional funding to support the extension to the free entitlement. As a result the Government concluded there should not be an impact on early education providers.

The Government invests £3 billion each year to support the delivery of the free entitlement - the highest level ever invested by any Government. This sum is sufficient to deliver high-quality early learning and care for all eligible 3 and 4 year olds in a range of settings in accordance with the Foundation Stage curriculum and daycare standards. Funding is provided to local authorities who are responsible for setting the rate at which they fund providers for delivery of the entitlement.

Some 39,000 providers deliver the free entitlement to nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds of which just over half are in the private, voluntary and independent sector.

The Government's position on the free entitlement has not had an adverse effect on the market so far. There are now 1.28 million childcare places, more than double the number in 1997, and the market remains stable. Closure rates in the PVI sector are low compared to national small business closure rates.

The provisions in section 8 of the Childcare Act which make local authorities the provider of last resort in the childcare market are designed to safeguard the interests of private, voluntary and independent providers. Our intention is not to undermine the flourishing childcare market, but to ensure that all children, irrespective of their parents' income or family circumstances, can reap the very real benefits of high-quality nursery education.

# Petitions

*Friday 22 February 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Post Office Closures (Harrogate)

*The Petition of residents, employees in and visitors to the Borough of Harrogate and Knaresborough and all those seriously concerned about the decision of the Post Office to review the future of Cold Bath Road Sub Post Office at 109 Cold Bath Road, Harrogate HG2 0NU,*

Declares that the importance of this Sub Post Office to thousands of people living, working in and visiting Cold Bath Road and surrounding areas, including the more elderly and disabled; recalls this Office was retained when the Harlow Hill Sub Post Office was closed; and reminds Members of Parliament of the number of closures of Local Sub Post Offices in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area over recent years.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make clear to the Post Office the importance of this Office continuing as a Sub-Post Office and the benefit of withdrawing as soon as possible any proposals which put at risk any of the existing services provided from this Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Phil Willis, Official Report,* 9 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 490.] [P000103]

*Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million social network payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for North Yorkshire ended on 17 January and Post Office Ltd announced final decisions on 8 February. The Cold Bath Road branch will remain open. Post Office Ltd has published their decision in the area plan booklet for North Yorkshire with Yorkshire East and Keighley area, which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange. POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual post offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that the chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues for those cases that remain unresolved after the third stage, and reach a final decision.

## HEALTH

### Smoking Ban (Rossendale)

*The Petition of customers of the Swan Hotel, Bacup, Rossendale,*

Declares that the smoking ban is having an adverse effect on the social structure and enjoyment within their local pub, the Swan Hotel; they consider it a valuable asset within the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce amending legislation to provide for the landlord of the Swan Hotel placing a sign on his door depicting the pub as a 'smoking establishment' giving customers the right to choose whether to enter or not.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Janet Anderson, Official Report,* 31 January 2008; Vol. 471, c. 548.] [P000113]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:*

So far it would appear that the smoke-free legislation has been highly successful and indeed has been welcomed by the vast majority of the population. It is protecting people, particularly bar staff, from the harm done by exposure to tobacco smoke. We know that it will save thousands of lives. It has been heralded by many as the most significant public health intervention for a generation.

A report has been published on the impact of the smoke-free legislation during the first months following implementation on 1 July 2007. This is available on the Smokefree England website at: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

This report summarises details of the public opinion research, business research and compliance data since smoke-free law was introduced on 1 July 2007.

Data indicate there has been a smooth transition to smoke-free public places and workplaces in England, with high levels of support from the general public and businesses. Three quarters of adults expressed their support for the law and 79 per cent. believe the new law will have a positive effect on people's health.

Specific surveys of businesses indicate that 98 per cent. of businesses are complying with the new law, 87 per cent. thought implementation had gone well and 91 per cent. believe the law will be obeyed.

It may be that some pubs are not as profitable as they used to be. This has been the case in this country for some decades as people's idea of a good night out changes with the generations. The hospitality sector has changed to reflect these changing tastes.

We have seen no significant evidence to suggest that smoke-free legislation either in this country, or in others where similar legislation has been in place for some years, will create any long-term economic problems for pubs or for the hospitality trade in general.

Evidence in fact suggests that it is likely to be prevailing economic, structural and cultural issues, rather than the introduction of smoke-free legislation, which will be primary cause of any significant decline in the pub sector.

In preparing the smoke-free legislation, we considered the wider economic and social impact of taking action on second hand smoke. A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was published alongside the Health Bill in 2005. The RIA contains estimates of costs and benefits of legislation to end smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces. A copy is available on the Department of Health website at: www.dh.gov.uk.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the smoke-free legislation, with a full review due to be completed within three years of July 2007.

# Petitions

*Monday 25 February 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

## DEFENCE

### Support for Armed Forces

*The Petition of Residents of Castle Point and others,*

Declares that members of HM Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting and dying, and that they lack basic equipment to do their job and there is insufficient appreciation and support from the Government for them and their families, particularly when they return from active service, and, in welcoming the provision of limited free postage, feel that the Government should go much further to give help and recognition.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to adopt more generous policies for serving and returning members of HM Armed Forces, and to give them priority in housing, in recognition of the contribution made by these brave men and women.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 7 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 128.] [P000102]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:*

I am heartened by the recognition by the residents of Castle Point for the commitment, bravery and professionalism of our armed forces in all their operations. They will further recognise the enormous contribution made by Service families to the effectiveness of those forces and the debt owed by the nation to veterans. I would like to add that we announced on 13 December, that the Government has commissioned an independent study into how the British public can better express its support and gratitude for the nation's armed forces.

On provision of equipment, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes all the measures possible to ensure that the equipment issued to the armed forces is both right for the job and right for them. Its quality and versatility is higher than it has ever been, and we continually work to improve its range and reliability. The Equipment Programme is designed to deliver the long-term core capabilities our forces need, complemented by the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process which provides the speed and flexibility needed to adapt and respond to specific operational environments and emerging threats. Over £1.5 billion of Force Protection UORs have been approved for Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003 in response to the specific conditions and changing threat.

The welfare of personnel and their families is core to MOD business, and there are comprehensive measures in place to ensure that we give the best possible support to all concerned. The highest priority is placed on supporting the families of those who have given their lives or have been injured in the service of their country, and robust procedures ensure that all concerned receive the help they require to come to terms with injury, or life without loved ones. Turning to the wider MOD Deployment Welfare Package, this is an extensive and integrated programme of welfare provision that includes: unlimited free Forces Aerogramme letter post, Electronic Aerogrammes (where available) and a free postal packet service, welfare telephones including satellite telephones in forward locations (30 minutes free calls per person per week to anywhere in the world) are also available, as is free e-mail and Internet access. Back home, concessionary travel allowances are provided for families to enable them to keep in touch with immediate relatives. On return from an operational tour, a leave of 20 working days for a six-month deployment is provided, A tax-free "Operational Allowance" of £2,320 for a six-month deployment is also payable.

On housing, personnel and their families deserve decent accommodation and we are committed to providing this. There is no quick fix and a legacy of decades of under-funding along with the size of the living accommodation estate means that tackling all shortcomings will take time. We plan to spend over £8 billion on accommodation over the next 10 years. Separately, Service personnel are encouraged to prepare for their return to civilian life by purchasing their own homes, and MOD has initiatives to assist. In areas where housing is more costly—such as London, MOD has negotiated Key Worker status. MOD also provides a Joint Service Housing Advice Office which offers advice and information in sourcing accommodation. The Government is amending housing legislation to ensure that Service personnel leaving the Services are placed on an equal footing with civilians when applying for social housing. Currently, under housing legislation, former Service personnel cannot establish a local connection with the area in which they have worked or lived while serving with the Armed Forces for the purposes of establishing priority for social housing. However, the Housing and Regeneration Bill which is currently before Parliament will rectify this and ensure that Servicemen and women looking for social housing are treated fairly.

## JUSTICE

### Prisoner Rights

*The Petition of James Ryan Strudwick,*

Declares that he has exhausted all the systems of complaints available to him to satisfactoraly resolve this complaint.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Ministry of Justice to amend "Prison Service Order 4400" to include nieces and nephews in accordance with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act as per the case won by: Boyle V UK 1994, 19 E.H.R.R 179 Op Comm. and end the deprivation of family building relationships.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—[*Official Report,* 15 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 16P.] [P000106]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:*

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires the Prison Service to ensure that protective measures are in place to safeguard the welfare of children. As part of its commitment to this duty, Prison Service Order 4400 (Chapter 1) was replaced in March 2004 with protocols for staff to follow in assessing whether prisoners should

be permitted to have contact with children, while taking into consideration the individual needs and best interests of the child.

Mr Strudwick has asked for the policy to be widened to include nieces and nephews, in order to reflect the judgment in the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Boyle v UK 1994.

The policy focuses on prisoner contact with children who are close family members. For these purposes "close family" includes sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, stepchildren, adopted children and foster children. However, there is also sufficient flexibility to recognise the importance of relationships with other children which fall outside this definition. This includes relationships between a prisoner and a child for whom they had caring responsibilities prior to imprisonment. Prisoners may apply for contact with any child while in prison, and their case will be assessed on its merits, taking account of any risks the prisoner may pose to the particular child. The determining factor will be a judgment as to whether contact—through visits, by letter or by telephone—would be in the interests of the child. Mr Strudwick's application for contact is currently being assessed.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 26 February 2008*

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

## Queen Mary's Hospital (Sidcup)

*The Petition of residents of the London Borough of Bexley and others, to save our services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup,*

Declares the Petitioners great concern at the proposal of NHS London to close the Accident & Emergency and Maternity departments at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup and that they believe these measures to be financially driven by factors at other hospitals in the region rather than the clinical excellence and cost-effectiveness of the services provided at this much valued local hospital.

The Petitioners further declares that the Maternity department has gained the highest clinical assessment in the region and that neighbouring hospitals refer to Sidcup because of lack of capacity and patient choice.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to use his powers to reverse the proposed reduction in much needed and highly valued hospital services in Bexley.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Derek Conway .]* [P000135]

## OBSERVATIONS

### TREASURY

### HM Valuation Office Agency (Newport)

*The Petition of employees and supporters of Her Majesty's Valuation Office Agency in Newport,*

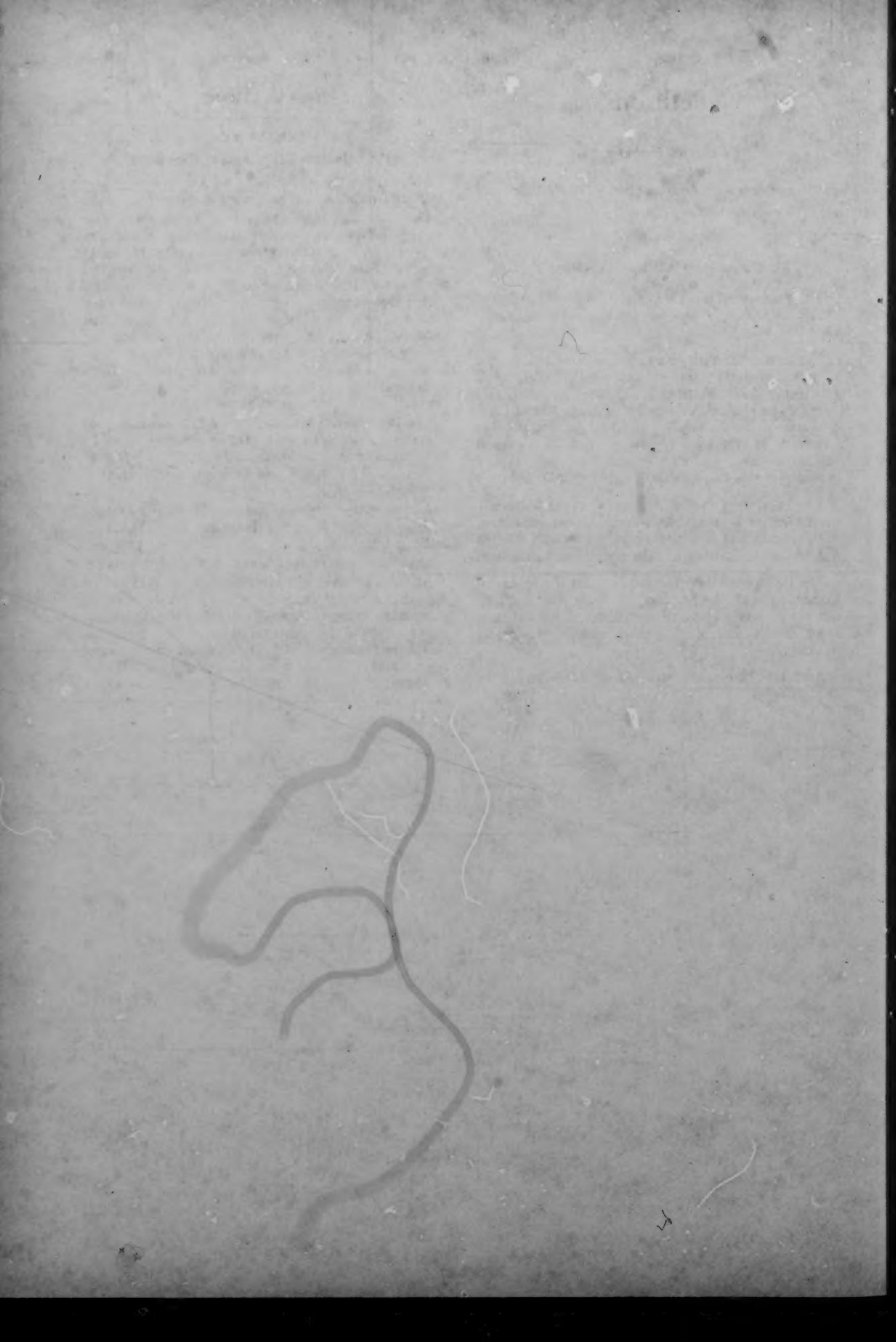
Declares that Her Majesty's Valuation Office Agency in Newport provides vital services in addition to providing important employment opportunities in Newport. Staff who work in this office have provided loyal and dedicated service to VOA over many years with a significant number of staff having served for a considerable period of time. That the threatened relocation of services from VOA Newport and the closure of this office will have a negative impact on the local economy, an environmental impact from additional travel and a devastating effect on the lives of the staff who currently work there.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to fully consider the case for retaining the VOA Newport Office and the possibility of co-locating with HMRC Newport.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jessica Morden, Official Report,* 5 February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 930 .] [P000118]

*Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:*

All presentations will be taken into account before final decisions are made at the end of this financial year on the future of Newport and the other Valuation Office Agency locations announced fo potential closure in November 2007. The feasibility of retaining a presence in Newport by relocating to a HMRC building with spare capacity is being explored as one of the options.



# Petition

*Friday 29 February 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

**European Treaty Referendum**

*The Petition of residents of Kent,*

Declares that the proposed draft European reform treaty is similar in all but insignificant detail to the withdrawn European Constitution; and notes that this fact has been confirmed in the 35th Report of Session 2006-07 of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, and notes that the Committee has found that the timetable for the adoption of the reform treaty now proposed "having regard to the sitting terms of national Parliaments could not have been better designed to marginalise their role".

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom to put the proposals, in coherent form, for consideration by the British electorate in a binding referendum before ratifying any further proposed Reform Treaty or constitution by another name.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Roger Gale, Official Report,* 21 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1324.] [P000107]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:*

There is a great deal of confusion about the Lisbon treaty. First and foremost, it is not a constitution—the 27 EU member states have agreed that the constitutional concept has been abandoned. Instead, the Lisbon treaty follows the precedents of previous amending EU treaties such as Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam. Furthermore, the UK has moved further away from the old constitution than anyone else because of the unique set of arrangements—or red lines—which have been secured by the UK to protect our sovereignty.

No Government, Conservative or Labour, has ever held a referendum on an amending treaty. Both the Single European Act and the Maastricht treaty were more significant than the Lisbon treaty, but no referendum was held then. The UK Parliament is the proper place for debate and decision on the Lisbon treaty. As with all treaties, Parliament must be satisfied that it is in the national interest, before it can be implemented in national law.

Our membership of the EU has brought real benefits in jobs, peace and security. Through it, we belong to the world's biggest trading bloc. Half the UK's trade is now within the EU, with an estimated 3.5 million British jobs linked to our membership. The Union allows member states to co-operate effectively in tackling issues like organised crime and climate change which do not stop at national borders.

But Europe could achieve more if it was not operating under outdated rules drawn up for a different world and an organisation with less than half the members it has now. The Lisbon treaty updates the framework for co-operation and aims to help the European Union work more effectively for the people of this country and other member states.

# Petition

*Monday 3 March 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Planning and Development (Okehampton)**

*The Humble Petition of the people of Okehampton and its surrounding area,*

Sheweth

That Okehampton is a market town that already suffers from significant traffic congestion and associated pollution, notes that there exists a high level of local demand for primary school places and local healthcare, and is concerned that the current infrastructure is overwhelmed.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your honourable House impresses upon the Government and the Department for Communities and Local Government the acute strain on Okehampton's schools, hospital, and roads, and the need for any further development, particularly of housing, to be supported by adequate provision of new infrastructure, so that its problems are resolved, not exacerbated.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Geoffrey Cox, Official Report,* 28 November 2007; Vol. 468, c. 399 .] [P000048]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

There is a long established system of Town & Country Planning in England. The 'planning system' is a statutory system based in legislation. The latest piece of legislation is the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires those who exercise statutory planning functions to do so with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

The legislative framework for the planning system is supplemented by a number of national Planning Policy Statements (PPS) that are produced by the Government. PPSs advise Local Planning Authorities, in the preparation of plans for their areas and other users of the planning system, of the Government's policies on different aspects of land use planning.

It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authorities to implement the planning system in order to achieve the appropriate planning for their area. In doing so Local Planning Authorities are required to work proactively with their communities to establish how development and physical change in an area should be accommodated.

PPS 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and PPS 12 (Local Development Frameworks) in particular expect that housing and other development should be brought forward taking into account infrastructure provision and that the plan-led system should ensure that the links between infrastructure provision and development are properly investigated as proposals are drawn up. The Government expects that the planning system should be operated so as to coordinate new development with the infrastructure it demands.

Provisions in the Housing and Regeneration Bill, currently before the House of Commons, will establish a new Homes and Communities Agency. One of the main objects of this agency will be

"to support in other ways the creation, regeneration or development of communities in England, or their continued well-being, with a view to meeting the needs of people living in England."

The Homes and Communities Agency will work in partnership with local authorities and other local agencies to identify the needs of the local communities and this will include determining the need for infrastructure in order to support any housing or regeneration activity. To ensure that this happens the Housing and Regeneration Bill also contains provisions that will allow the agency to facilitate the provision of infrastructure or to provide infrastructure directly if it needs to.

It is the responsibility of West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council, in the exercise of their planning functions to ensure that new development is co-ordinated with the necessary infrastructure that it requires. The development proposals in the Adopted West Devon Borough Local Plan Review for Okehampton include requirements for various infrastructure items, including a primary school, community facilities and transport. The emerging, but yet to be adopted, Core Strategy for West Devon, which will replace the strategic elements of the Local Plan, includes a planning policy requiring new development to be serviced by adequate infrastructure.

# Petition

*Wednesday 5 March 2008*

## OBSERVATIONS

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Planning (Bedfordshire)**

*The Petition of residents of Aspley Guise village,*

Declares that the South East Region is seeking to take over planning authority for Aspley Guise which is part of Mid Bedfordshire. The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to protect their democratic rights for the future of their village to be planned through the proper process of the East of England Plan and not dictated by a neighbouring Region, the South East; and further urges the Secretary of State to instruct the Government Office for the South East to remove any proposed housing numbers for Aspley Guise in any future revision of the South East Plan and to make arrangements for a future review of the East of England Plan to include consideration of any new housing development in Aspley Guise.

And the Petitioners remain, etc—*[Presented by Mrs. Nadine Dorries, Official Report,* 23 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1591 .] [P000108]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the recommendations of the Panel Report into the South East Plan in relation to the future expansion of Milton Keynes.

As the process of producing the South East Plan is bound by regulation and propriety guidance, which seeks to put all interested parties on an even footing, I am unable to discuss the merits of the Panel's report, or take any representations or comments on board at this stage. I am sure you will understand that these propriety matters apply in particular to any comments related to particular localities or development proposals.

The position in respect of the South East Plan is that Government is currently considering its response to the recommendations in the Panel Report. The next stage in the process is the publication, for public consultation, of the Government's own Proposed Changes to the draft strategy. This will provide an opportunity for interested parties to make further representations—we are aiming at publishing the Proposed Changes in the summer.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 18 February 2008*

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183001]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office provides support services to the Office of the Advocate-General (OAG); prior to 2003-04, separate records were not maintained of the advertising costs for the two offices. The percentage of expenditure spent on advertising is as follows:

| | *Percentage of overall budget spent on advertising* |
|---|---|
| *SO/OAG* | |
| 1999-2000 | 0.73 |
| 2000-01 | 4.49 |
| 2001-02 | 2.83 |
| 2002-03 | 0.15 |
| *SO only* | |
| 2003-04 | 0.00 |
| 2004-05 | 0.00 |
| 2005-06 | 0.00 |
| 2006-07 | 0.47 |

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* first-class and *(b)* other flights he has taken since 28 June 2007; and on each occasion (i) how many staff travelled with him and (ii) what the cost of the travel was. [182883]

**Des Browne:** The Scotland Office does not separately record the class of flight undertaken.

Since 28 June 2007 I have taken the following flights as Secretary of State for Scotland:

| *Date* | *Journey* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 14 August 2007 | London to Edinburgh | 155.13 |
| 21 August 2007 | London to Edinburgh | 155.13 |
| 5 November 2007 | Edinburgh to London | 222.33 |

No officials accompanied me on these flights.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis; the 2006-07 edition was published on 25 July 2007 and is also available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by his Department. [185409]

**David Cairns:** None.

### Departmental ICT

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181365]

**David Cairns:** None.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184339]

**David Cairns:** The following items were reported as being lost since 2001:

| | *Item* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | Nil |
| 2002-03 | 1 x mobile phone |
| 2003-04 | Nil |
| 2004-05 | Nil |
| 2005-06 | 1 x BlackBerry |
| 2006-07 | 1 x mobile phone, 1 x BlackBerry |
| 2007-08 | Nil |

No items have been reported missing or stolen.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184375]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 692W.

### Departmental Training

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the annual expenditure on training and development by his Department was in each of the last two financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2007-08. [185480]

**David Cairns:** The staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; both Departments provide access to training and development opportunities. The office incurred direct expenditure of £13,370 and £13,969 in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively; the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is £23,000.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181529]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office provides support services to the Office of the Advocate-General (OAG); prior to 2003-04, separate records were not maintained of the travel costs for the two offices. Expenditure was as follows:

| | *Total officials travel cost UK (£000)* | *Percentage of total expenditure* | *Total officials travel cost outwith UK (£000)* | *Percentage of total expenditure* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *SO/OAG* | | | | |
| 1999-2000 | 157 | 4.26 | 11 | 0.30 |
| 2000-01 | 267 | 4.44 | 32 | 0.53 |
| 2001-02 | 263 | 3.99 | 31 | 0.47 |
| 2002-03 | 260 | 3.85 | 48 | 0.71 |
| *SO only* | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 175 | 3.62 | 7 | 0.14 |
| 2004-05 | 140 | 3.48 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 2005-06 | 146 | 4.01 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 2006-07 | 145 | 3.76 | 1 | 0.03 |

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181596]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office provides support services to the Office of the Advocate-General (OAG); prior to 2003-04, separate records were not maintained of the travel costs for the two offices. The office does not hold records showing the number of journeys or the countries visited; however, the cost of such visits was as follows:

| | *Total officials travel cost outwith UK (£000)* |
|---|---|
| *SO/OAG* | |
| 1999-2000 | 11 |
| 2000-01 | 32 |
| 2001-02 | 31 |
| 2002-03 | 48 |
| *Scotland Office only* | |
| 2003-04 | 7 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 1 |

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the annual expenditure on vehicles by his Department was in the last 12 months; and what the planned expenditure is for 2007-08. [185479]

**David Cairns:** None.

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were in December 2007. [182880]

**Des Browne:** Throughout the period 1 to 31 December, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On 1 December, I visited the Longannet power station in Alloa and participated in the Scottish Interfaith Week Come and Play the Diversity Game event in Edinburgh. On 3 December, I answered oral Defence questions in the House of Commons. On 4 December, I met with service families about the Board of Inquiry findings into the crash of the RAF Nimrod XV230 before attending the House to make a statement about the same. On 5 December, I gave oral evidence to the AFPRB and in the evening I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association carol service at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington barracks. On 6 December, I met representatives from the services charity 'Forward Edge Battle Area'. Between December 7 and December 10, I was overseas visiting service personnel in Afghanistan. On 11 December and 12 December, I had meetings with several families of troops who died on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. On 12 December I attended the Scotch Whisky Association reception in Dover House. On 14 and 15 December, I hosted a meeting in Edinburgh for the Defence and Foreign Ministers of nations contributing troops to NATO-led operations in southern Afghanistan. On 17 December I discussed the outcome of the Edinburgh meeting with the NATO Secretary-General and also met Ross Kemp to discuss his recent visit to Afghanistan. On 18 December I met representatives from Serco Defence, Science and Technology. On 19 December I held a video conference with representatives of the independent panel

set up by the Canadian government to review their future role in Afghanistan (the Manley Panel). On 20 December, I took the salute at a passing out parade at the Army Training Regiment in Bassingbourn.

### Sunbeds

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on regulation of *(a)* sunbed salons and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons and the use of each by persons under 18 years of age. [185445]

**David Cairns:** No such discussions have taken place.

Regulation of the safety of UV tanning equipment provided in sunbed salons is reserved to the UK Government. The Department of Health has recently launched its Cancer Reform Strategy, which notes that the Department will be reviewing the options for regulation of the industry through consultation with stakeholders.

## WALES

### Legislation

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff at the Wales Office work mainly on the processing of requests for legislative competence orders. [184995]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Dealing with how legislation at Westminster should apply to Wales is and always has been a core activity of the Wales Office.

Many of the office's 55 staff will work on it from time to time. We do not assess staff effort on requests for legislative competence orders separately from other legislation which the Wales Office handles, such as England and Wales legislation, Wales only Bills, and other methods of conferring measure making powers on the Assembly under the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The office has re-structured to deal with new work flowing from the 2006 Act. It is still recruiting, but will have 10 people in branches dedicated to legislative business, with as many again likely to spend a varying but significant proportion of their time on it, alongside other activities.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of the Commission's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182997]

**Nick Harvey:** Disaggregated figures identifying the level of expenditure spent on advertising are not available prior to 2003. The figures for recent years are:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0.2 |
| 2004-05 | 0.1 |
| 2005-06 | 0.1 |
| 2006-07 | 0.2 |

### Department of Finance and Administration

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what organisational changes have occurred in the Department of Finance and Administration in the last 20 years in *(a)* function, *(b)* work load and *(c)* use by hon. Members and required contact with hon. Members. [183013]

**Nick Harvey:** The information required is as follows:

*History*

The Department of Finance and Administration was created in 1991 following a review of the House of Commons Service by Sir Robin Ibbs. The Ibbs report recommended that the department should develop and offer to the Commission, committees and departments a range of financial services, including financial planning, monitoring and review and financial appraisal of new proposals. The department continued to provide personnel services to departments of the House, which had previously been provided by the Administration Department, and the payment of Members' pay and expenses which had been provided by the Fees Office.

*(a) Function*

Since 1991, demand for finance and administration services has grown, e.g. as a result of the need for better financial management, resource accounting and budgeting, and a range of regulatory compliance requirements. Additional services provided by this department include data protection, freedom of information, HR advice to Members, occupational health, safety and welfare, corporate learning and diversity and procurement. In 1997 the department was reorganised on functional lines. An organisational chart can be found on the Department of Resources intranet site. Following the Tebbit report, the department was renamed Department of Resources. On 1 January 2008 the internal audit and risk management function was transferred to the Office of the Chief Executive.

*(b) Work load*

The Department's work load has grown considerably as the demand for services has grown. For example, the number of Members' allowance claims has risen from 27,044 in 1996-97 to 51,132 in 2006-07. The introduction of the communications allowance in April 2007 will increase this further. Other increases in work load are: for the period 1993-94, 11,429 payments (invoices) were processed; this has risen to 25,356 in 2006-07. Recruitment exercises have risen from 107 in 1993-94 to 270 in 2006-07. Data changes to staff payroll have increased from 30,882 in 1996-97 to 39,714 in 2006-07. Further information relating to the work loads of the department can be found in the Members Estimate Annual Reports and the Commission's Annual Reports.

*(c) Use by Members*

As for use of services by hon. Members and contact with hon. Members, the department has developed several services to help Members in carrying out their duties. This includes the setting up the personnel advice service in October 2001 and the enquiry and advice team (EAT) in March 2005. EAT provides a 'one stop shop' for Members and their staff on all allowance and payment matters. In 2006-07 EAT received 25,439 calls and has received 24,048 so far in 2007-08. The department runs a Members' advice surgery, where MPs are able to drop in and discuss any issues related to their allowances and staff. This service is located in Portcullis House and is run on a monthly basis when the House is sitting. The department has improved financial information that MPs receive and this includes the provision of monthly budget statements detailing spend to date for the previous month.

The 2007 survey of Members' services reported that 80 per cent. of all respondents said they were either extremely or very satisfied with the Department's handling of Parliamentary allowances queries.

### Diplomatic Protection Group

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what health and safety assessment has been made of the accommodation available for the Diplomatic Protection Group of the police in those parts of the Palace of Westminster for which the Commission has responsibility. [184443]

**Nick Harvey:** A health and safety assessment of the accommodation available for the Diplomatic Protection Group has been carried out by the House of Commons Estate Safety Adviser. It highlighted a number of safety and environmental issues and the House authorities and the Metropolitan Police Service are working together to find solutions.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much international aid and development funding was given to Ethiopia in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [186389]

**Gillian Merron:** The forum for international aid reporting is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) which publishes Official Development Assistance (ODA) figures on a calendar year basis. The international aid figures for Ethiopia for 2006 are shown in the following table:

*Official development assistance for 2006, Ethiopia*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| UK | 89.45 |
| Other bilateral donors | 480.7 |
| Multilateral donors | 487.76 |
| Total | 1,057.91 |

### Food

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he met *(a)* representatives of the UN World Food Programme and *(b)* President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, at the World Economic Forum, Davos, to discuss global supplies of essential food commodities; and what the outcome of that meeting was. [183795]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** At the World Economic Forum in Davos, I met with Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP). We discussed a range of issues.

I did not meet with Robert Zoellick, as he is due to be visiting London in the coming weeks and I will meet with him then.

### Kosovo: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department allocated to Kosovo in each of the last three years; how much will be granted in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [180830]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details of the UK's bilateral assistance to Kosovo and imputed multilateral assistance to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) in each of the last three years are laid out in the following tables. When figures are available the imputed multilateral assistance to Serbia and Montenegro will be reported separately for 2006; however, Kosovo will continue to be reported as part of Serbia until Kosovo's status is resolved.

*Table 1: Total DFID bilateral expenditure on development assistance to Kosovo 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | [1]2,458 |
| 2005-06 | [1]2,919 |
| 2006-07 | [1]3,188 |
| 2007-08 | [2]2,835 |

[1] Actual spend.
[2] Projected spend.

*Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) (ODA) 2004-05*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 40,616 |
| 2005 | 21,865 |

DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual country and regional allocations will not be finalised until March 2008.

### Middle East: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that aid to the Palestinian territories is not used to fund propaganda against the West and Israel. [185023]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** UK aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories is subject to the highest level of scrutiny. All projects are run by internationally respected organisations and are independently audited. Rigorous checks are performed for each payment and individual recipients are checked against up to five different international terrorist lists.

The UK does not fund Palestinian Authority (PA) education textbooks, nor do we provide funding to the Ministry of Education. The UK supports public services through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) but the TIM does not contribute to the production of educational materials.

**World Economic Forum**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings he *(a)* attended and *(b)* chaired during the World Economic Forum, Davos, from 23 to 28 January 2008. [183796]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** At the World Economic Forum in Davos I participated in a number of bilaterals, as well as attending the following sessions:

Three Crucial Questions for Gordon Brown
Corporate Global Citizenship in the 21st Century
New Drivers of Development
The Future of Global Governance: Time for Government 2.0?
Threats to the Global Trading System.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

**Departmental Databases**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Leader of the House what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by her Office. [185430]

**Helen Goodman:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has one correspondence database which is managed via a service level agreement by the Cabinet Office IT provider and Domain Technologies.

**Departmental Internet**

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Leader of the House how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in her Office since August 2005. [185533]

**Helen Goodman:** None. Officials in this Office are not responsible for the creation of, or amendment to, Wikipedia entries and there are no plans for them to become so.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

**Administration of Justice: Females**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had since 1 December 2007 with the hon. Member for Liverpool, Garston in her role as the Ministry of Justice's Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice. [182738]

**Barbara Follett:** I take a close interest in women and criminal justice matters and have had regular discussions with my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle). I am also a member of the ministerial sub-group on women convened by her as the Ministry of Justice's Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice, and which held its first meeting on 23 January 2008.

**Prostitution: Advertising**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government plan to take on the offering of sexual services through personal advertisements in regional and local newspapers. [185374]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Last week we published Women Not for Sale, which is a snapshot of one day's worth of this type of advertisements, as part of work to halt the growing vice trade of women trafficked into the UK for the purposes of prostitution.

We have also had constructive meetings with representatives from the newspaper and advertising industries on this issue. The Newspaper Society has agreed to examine the guidance it issues to publishers to ensure it fully reflects concerns about human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Aggregates: Construction**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her officials have had with the construction industry on reducing the use of aggregates in the last three years. [185229]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Officials held extensive discussions with stakeholders, including the construction and minerals industries, in developing the current planning policy for minerals, set out in Minerals Policy Statement 1, published in November 2006. This policy promotes a hierarchical approach to minerals supply, aiming first to reduce as far as practicable the quantity of material used.

**Buildings: Energy**

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish *(a)* details of the training and qualifications required to accredit energy assessors and *(b)* the approved method for calculating energy consumption as part of implementing requirements for display energy certificates. [186367]

**Caroline Flint:** Details of routes to accreditation for all types of energy assessors, including accreditation schemes approved to offer such accreditation, are available on the CLG website. Training courses and qualifications

are being developed and delivered by approved awarding bodies. In addition, a route to accredit prior experience and learning have being developed by the approved accreditation schemes and approved by CLG.

A version of the approved method for calculating energy consumption as part of implementing requirements for display energy certificates is available to approved accreditation schemes and other stakeholders on the CLG website.

### Community Relations

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff are employed by her Department on the Prevent aspect of Project contest. [183320]

**Mr. Dhanda:** As of the end of December 2007, 22 civil servants were employed full-time and one civil servant are employed part-time by the Department for Communities and Local Government to work on the PREVENT strand of the CONTEST Strategy.

### Council Housing: Tenants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposal that tenants should be actively seeking work will apply to *(a)* council tenants, *(b)* tenants of registered social landlords, *(c)* existing tenants, *(d)* new tenants and *(e)* registered social landlord tenants on partial purchase schemes; and what account was taken of (i) secure and assured tenancies and (ii) the obligation on local authorities to re-house families with children in deciding on the proposal. [185604]

**Caroline Flint:** At my speech to the Fabian Society's conference on 5 February, which can be read at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/fabiansocietyaddress

I called for a wide ranging debate about how best to tackle the challenge of worklessness in social housing, examining the full range of options. Development of future policy proposals will be informed by this debate.

Professor John Hills' report, 'Ends and Means: the future roles of social housing in England', found that over half of social tenants of working age are without work. This represents a huge waste of potential and a challenge we must address.

Social housing has, and will continue to have, a crucial role as a safety net for the most vulnerable. But it should not only be a safety net. It should also provide a platform for people to get on with their lives, and improve their skills and prospects.

### Council Tax: Debt Collection

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have a policy of using bailiff services in pursuit of council tax arrears. [186234]

**John Healey:** The Department does not hold this information.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on issuing bankruptcy orders in pursuit of council tax arrears; how many local authorities have issued such orders; and how many such orders have been issued in total by local authorities since 1991-92. [186446]

**John Healey:** The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/613) provide local authorities with a range of powers to enforce payment of council tax from those who refuse to pay. The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on the issuing of bankruptcy orders or hold information on the number of orders issued by local authorities.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to reduce her Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181844]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has undertaken various measures to reduce its carbon emissions in 2008-09.

These include fitting variable speed drives, installing a new boiler, and upgrading a building environmental management system. Automated meters are also being installed at our HQ building to facilitate improved energy monitoring.

We are actively rationalising our estate to reduce our total footprint. And to assist this programme, we are piloting a flexible desking initiative which ensures higher utilisation of available workstations therefore reducing the overall office space required.

We are also currently assessing the feasibility of installing voltage power optimisation equipment and we continue to investigate options for on-site micro-renewable technologies.

Numerous smaller projects are scheduled in 2008-09 to further reduce our carbon emissions, and surveys are being conducted to identify opportunities. All of these activities and opportunities will be fed into our energy efficiency action plan to help monitor progress against our reduction targets.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Freedom of Information requests her Department received in each year since 2005; and how many of those requests were refused. [183799]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government have published two annual reports that contain statistical information about how many requests have been received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) and how many have been refused. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

Data are currently being collected across monitored bodies in order to produce the 2007 annual report and monitoring report for the fourth quarter of the year. However, monitoring reports for the first three quarters of 2007 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen since 2001. [184324]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. The information in the table goes back to May 2002, and includes data for CLG's predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (which was formed on 29 May 2002) and its Agencies. The data requested prior to this date are not held centrally and therefore cannot be provided.

| *Status* | *Mobile phones* | *Digital assistants* | *Laptops* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2002-03* | | | |
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| *2003-04* | | | |
| Lost | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| *2004-05* | | | |
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| *2005-06* | | | |
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 2 | 0 | 8 |

[1] This includes 2 x laptops from the Fire Service College and recorded as lost at the time of the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1616W, to the Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) but subsequently reported as stolen.

The official data on each of the laptops were not encrypted, because none of the information was classified. However, each laptop was password protected.

This answer does not include Government Office for the Region who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185280]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There have been no digital assistants reported as lost or stolen.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers her Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182524]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department was established in 2006.

The Department employed 22 press officers in FY 2006-07. There are currently 20 press officers in post.

The Department does not have a "communications officer" grade. The hon. Member may wish to refer to The White Book, published by COI. This is available in the Library of the House and contains a listing for members of the Department's Communications Directorate. The book is updated twice yearly.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has purchased products featuring departmental or Government branding in the last five years. [185341]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1473W.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the special advisers employed in her Department and its predecessors since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184363]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1156W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external contracts her Department held with public relations companies since its inception; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183191]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2008/publicrelationsfirms/

This is the reply to a recent freedom of information request seeking information about the Department's dealings with public relations and public affairs firms, since 2002.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by her Department and its predecessor in each of the last 10 years. [178920]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department was formed in 2002 and information prior to this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not manage a fleet of motor vehicles for use by staff.

However, the Department has procured and owns vehicles in connection with the Fire and Resilience Division and in particular the New Dimensions Programme, for use in a major accident or disaster by emergency services personnel.

The Vehicles are listed as follows:

| *Vehicle* | *Quantity* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| MPVs (Multi Purpose Vehicles) | 20 | Urban Search and Rescue vehicles used to move rubble etc. in the event of a building collapse. |
| IRU Vehicles (Incident Response Units) | 80 | Incident Response Unit (IRUs), vehicles, each carrying two mass decontamination structures including gas tight suits, decontamination showers, equipment to dis-robe and re-robe casualties. |
| DIM Vehicles (Detection, Identification and Monitoring) | 19 | Vans that are kitted out with detection and monitoring equipment such as radiation dosimeters and survey meters. |
| Prime Mover Vehicles | 238 | Lorries that carry either Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) modules, Mass Decontamination modules or High Volume Pumps to incidents. |

Of these vehicles; the department transferred seven Incident Response Units and 11 Prime Mover Vehicles to Wales as part of the Machinery of Government Changes. The Department also sold eight Prime Mover Vehicles to Northern Ireland, one to Stafford Fire and Rescue Service and seven to Scotland.

### Disabled Facilities Grants: Finance

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was provided to each local authority in England as disabled facilities grant in each of the last three years; and what proportion was claimed by registered social landlords and their tenants in each case. [183757]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A table setting out the funding of disabled facilities grant to local authorities over the last three years has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The Department does not hold records on the share of disabled facilities grant claimed by registered social landlords and their tenants.

### Electric Cables: Leukaemia

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will meet representatives of the construction industry to discuss the possible relationship between incidence of childhood leukaemia and the building of houses close to high voltage power lines. [185501]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I am due to meet with the hon. Gentleman for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) today to discuss this matter. I would also be happy to meet representatives of the construction industry to discuss this issue.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184917]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government was established on 5 May 2006. Since that date £723,916 has been spent on external recruitment, which includes the use of the media and recruitment agencies.

### Empty Property

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of an empty home is used in relation to *(a)* council tax, *(b)* Empty Dwelling Management Orders and *(c)* for her Department's statistical purposes. [183224]

**John Healey:** The definition of an empty dwelling for council tax purposes is an unoccupied dwelling which is substantially unfurnished.

The definition for Empty Dwelling Management Orders is as set out in s132-s134 of the Housing Act 2004.

For statistical purposes, vacancy is defined as for council tax purposes, and divided between long and short term (where short term is for up to six months).

### Energy: Inspections

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy inspectors will be required to meet the requirement for Energy Performance Certificates on *(a)* commercial property, *(b)* private rented accommodation and *(c)* social housing. [176452]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of assessors needed will depend on market conditions and on the level of demand for voluntary certificates ahead of time.

## Environment Protection: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £2 million budget under the auspices of eco risk assessment funding has been allocated to *(a)* climate change mitigation, *(b)* flood risk management, *(c)* energy efficiency and *(d)* water efficiency; and if she will make a statement. [184834]

**Caroline Flint:** No funding has yet been allocated from that budget which was announced in the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan published last November covering 2008-09 to 2010-11. We are discussing with stakeholders the arrangements for allocating this funding.

## Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if she will make a statement. [183883]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government promotes sustainability in the procurement of its goods and services. Our contract specifications are drafted to allow our suppliers to provide fair or ethically traded products in *(a)* staff catering facilities and *(b)* official functions and meetings.

## Fire Services

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many calls each fire control room received in the 72 hour period commencing 00:00 on 20 July 2007; [176805]

(2) how many incidents each fire and rescue service attended in the 72 hour period commencing 00:00 on 20 July 2007; [176806]

(3) how many calls went unanswered in each fire and rescue service area in the 72 hour period commencing 00:00 on 20 July 2007; [176807]

(4) what the greatest number of calls to any one fire control room in a 24 hour period was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [176809]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Calls handled and incidents recorded by FRAs where data is available for the 24 hour period commencing 00:00 on 20 July*

| | Calls answered | Incidents recorded | Daily average 999 calls for2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 46 | 41 | 72 |
| Lincolnshire | 149 | 118 | 47 |
| Nottinghamshire | 86 | 41 | 100 |
| Bedfordshire | 533 | 219 | 39 |
| Cambridgeshire | 170 | 40 | 74 |
| Hertfordshire | 286 | 273 | 63 |
| LFEPA | 2,018 | 2,018 | 721 |
| Cheshire | 94 | 33 | 80 |
| Cumbria | 31 | 22 | 29 |
| Greater Manchester | 217 | 107 | 261 |
| Lancashire | 308 | 73 | 127 |
| Merseyside | 69 | 44 | 193 |
| Berkshire | 1,178 | 773 | 54 |
| Buckinghamshire | 267 | 260 | 53 |
| East Sussex | 238 | 75 | 50 |
| Hampshire | 840 | 114 | 154 |
| Isle of Wight | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Surrey | 490 | 490 | 65 |
| West Sussex | 347 | 139 | 54 |
| Avon | 586 | 586 | 87 |
| Cornwall | 227 | 21 | 42 |
| Devon and Somerset | 71 | 54 | 84 |
| Dorset | 296 | 36 | 49 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,352 | 276 | 41 |
| Somerset | 63 | 62 | 33 |
| Wiltshire | 610 | 166 | 40 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 892 | 147 | 63 |
| Shropshire | 450 | 445 | 32 |
| Staffordshire | 190 | 251 | 81 |
| West Midlands | 521 | 154 | 289 |
| Humberside | 46 | 27 | 72 |
| West Yorkshire | 264 | 89 | 181 |

Authorities record incidents differently (for example, where there are multiple calls about the same incident). Given the exceptional levels of demand on the FRS, appliances will not necessarily have been mobilised to all these incidents, for example those which were assessed by authorities as not presenting a risk to life.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to her Department of *(a)* rental, *(b)* VAT, *(c)* business rates and *(d)* other associated costs of the regional control centres in the (i) South West, (ii) East Midlands and (iii) North East was from their establishment until the date of the first fire and rescue service control room cutover in each region. [183462]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table gives the total rental and associated costs from the point that rent becomes payable on the relevant regional control centre until expected cutover of the first FRS in that region. During this period, the buildings will be fitted out by the IT suppliers. They will also be used by the regional project teams.

| | (i) South West | (ii) East Midlands | £ (iii) North East |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total estimated rent from start of rental payments until first FRS Cutover | 1,942,389 | 2,016,980 | 1,649,561 |
| Total estimated associated[1] costs from start of rental payments until first FRS Cutover | 705,413 | 727,300 | 692,716 |

[1] Comprises: Facilities Management (FM), security and utilities.

Subject to final confirmation by HM Revenue and Customs, we expect that any VAT paid will be recoverable. Business rates are not subject to VAT.

The amount of business rates payable is not yet established. Discussions are in progress with the Valuation Office Agency.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to her Department of *(a)* rental, *(b)* VAT, *(c)* business rates and *(d)* other associated costs of the regional control centres in the (i) South West, (ii) East Midlands and (iii) North East was from set up until the date of the last fire and rescue service control room cutover in each region. [183463]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table gives the total rental and associated costs from the point that rent becomes payable on the relevant regional control centre until expected cutover of the last FRS in that region.

£

| | *(i) South West* | *(ii) East Midlands* | *(iii) North East* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total estimated rent from start of rental payments until last FRS Cutover | 2,453,544 | 2,924,621 | 2,134,726 |
| Total estimated associated[1] costs from start of rental payments until last FRS Cutover | 891,048 | 1,054,585 | 896,456 |

[1] Comprises: Facilities Management (FM), security and utilities.

Subject to final confirmation by HM Revenue and Customs, we expect that any VAT paid will be recoverable. Business rates are not subject to VAT.

The amount of business rates payable is not yet established. Discussions are in progress with the Valuation Office Agency.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she expects the *(a)* North East, *(b)* East Midlands and *(c)* South West regional fire control centres to open with a full operational capability. [186133]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The regional control centres (RCCs) in the North East, East Midlands and the South West are expected to begin operations on 5 October 2009 for the first Fire and Rescue Services to 'cut over'.

There will be a phased cut-over to the RCCs, with all Fire and Rescue Services in those regions using RCCs by January 2011.

The entire network of nine regional control centres will be fully operational by September 2011.

### Fire Services: Cost-effectiveness

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what tests will be applied to determine whether the Fire Control project represents value for money for fire and rescue authorities. [183334]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Department published version 1.0 of the business case in June 2007. This set out at a high level why Fire Control is an essential part of the national fire resilience programme and how it will help to improve public safety in England. Once steady—state operating conditions are achieved, the cost of providing control services under the new, regional networked arrangements is estimated to be some 28 per cent. (£23 million) lower per annum than current operating costs. These figures are informed by assumptions which we continue to review with our partners including the fire and rescue authorities. We will publish these in an updated business case in due course.

### Fire Services: Expenditure

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total allocation for the Fire and Resilience Programme was in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by fire and rescue services in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [186433]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table shows total grants paid to Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2007-08 for the FiReControl, Firelink and New Dimension projects in England, which together constitute the Fire and Resilience Programme. A further grant for New Dimension is expected before the end of 2007-08, but this is still being finalised. Communities and Local Government deals only with fire and rescue authorities in England.

*Fire and Resilience programme payments—2007-08*

| *Fire and Rescue Authority* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Avon | 860.3 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton | 111.9 |
| Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes | 940.0 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 118.2 |
| Cheshire | 177.4 |
| Cleveland | 1,193.4 |
| Cornwall | 56.0 |
| Cumbria | 128.3 |
| Derbyshire | 613.2 |
| Devon and Somerset | 3,703.8 |
| Dorset | 56.0 |
| Durham and Darlington | 293.5 |
| East Sussex | 143.6 |
| Essex | 936.4 |
| Gloucestershire | 56.0 |
| Greater London Authority (for London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority) | 3,876.0 |
| Greater Manchester | 283.3 |
| Hampshire | 1,125.1 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 1,123.5 |
| Hertfordshire | 117.0 |
| Humberside | 123.0 |
| Isle of Wight | 123.4 |
| Kent | 1,101.2 |
| Lancashire | 1,029.2 |
| Leicestershire | 2,969.2 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,329.9 |
| Merseyside | 1,269.4 |
| North Yorkshire | 124.1 |

*Fire and Resilience programme payments—2007-08*

| *Fire and Rescue Authority* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Norfolk | 1,135.4 |
| Northamptonshire | 269.8 |
| Northumberland | 248.2 |
| Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham | 525.2 |
| Oxfordshire | 143.8 |
| Royal Berkshire | 157.4 |
| Shropshire and Wrekin | 269.1 |
| South Yorkshire | 170.2 |
| Staffordshire Fire | 331.0 |
| Suffolk | 115.0 |
| Surrey | 143.6 |
| Tyne and Wear | 1,192.6 |
| Warwickshire | 256.1 |
| West Midlands | 1,590.0 |
| West Sussex | 813.5 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,896.0 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 56.0 |
| Total | 33,295.7 |

### Fire Services: ICT

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost of information technology provision in respect of the FiReControl Project has been since 27 October 2005; and if she will make a statement. [186135]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total expenditure on the FiReControl project since October 2005 is £61 million. This figure includes new burdens awards and payments to suppliers.

Since contract award in 2007, accrued expenditure with the IT supplier is £14 million.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate the efficacy of EADS Defence and Security Systems in the provision of networked control systems in respect of the Fire Control Project; and if she will make a statement. [186877]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Fire Control information systems contract was placed with EADS Defence and Security Systems Limited in March 2007. Progress against contractual milestones is monitored formally on a monthly basis and overall progress is reviewed regularly between the Senior Responsible Owner and the Managing Director of EADS.

### Fire Services: Manpower

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of staff in the fire and rescue service were firefighters in each year since 1997. [185856]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Available information, based on returns provided by each Fire and Rescue Service, is shown in the following table:

*Personnel employed in the fire and rescue service in England*

| | *Firefighters*[1] | *Fire control* | *Non-uniformed* | *Total* | *Percentage Firefighters* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 45,049 | 1,384 | n/a | 46,433 | — |
| 1997-98 | 44,702 | 1,379 | n/a | 46,081 | — |
| 1998-99 | 44,940 | 1,355 | n/a | 46,295 | — |
| 1999-2000 | 44,637 | 1,373 | 6,175 | 52,185 | 86 |
| 2000-01 | 44,694 | 1,389 | 6,263 | 52,346 | 85 |
| 2001-02 | 44,605 | 1,417 | 6,743 | 52,765 | 85 |
| 2002-03 | 44,658 | 1,449 | 6,954 | 53,061 | 84 |
| 2003-04 | 44,871 | 1,519 | 7,243 | 53,633 | 84 |
| 2004-05 | 44,596 | 1,520 | 7,837 | 53,953 | 83 |
| 2005-06 | 44,635 | 1,538 | 8,088 | 54,261 | 82 |

n/a = not available
[1] Includes all roles of fire.
*Source:*
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government officers, including chief officers

### Fire Services: Pay

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are used to determine bonus payments to senior fire officers. [184571]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The payment of bonuses to senior fire officers is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities.

### Fire Services: Pensions

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the working party on firefighters' pensions announced on 22 January to *(a)* meet and *(b)* report; and if she will make a statement. [185855]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government's intentions for firefighters' pensions involve the provision of viable, affordable and good quality final salary pensions which, at the same time, must remain fair to taxpayers.

To help achieve that an ill health review group of national stakeholders, including the fire and rescue authority employers and trade unions, professional firelighter bodies and specialist work force advisers, is being established to examine urgently the issues and evidence surrounding the operation of current ill health pension awards, and to inform Ministers' consideration of the best way forward. Arrangements

have already been made to hold a first meeting of the group on 20 February with further meetings planned for 4 March and 2 April.

## Fire: Death

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths attributed to fire were notified to her Department and its predecessors by fire and rescue services in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many such deaths were subsequently not recorded in the fire statistics as a fire death, broken down by (i) brigade and (ii) region. [184788]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Every fire death reported to the Department is regarded as provisional until the cause of death can be verified against death certificates, following a coroner's inquest. This verification exercise generally has the effect of reducing the number of fire deaths for a given year, as deaths originally attributed to fire may have other causes, for example: a road traffic accident where the cause of death was the impact rather than the subsequent fire, or where a person suffers a heart attack whilst cooking leading to a fire, or where fire has been used to cover up a homicide perpetrated by other means. The verification exercise will also detect where a casualty originally recorded by the fire service as injured subsequently died, so can result in additional deaths being recorded.

The following tables show, for 1997 to 2005, provisional and finalised fire death figures for Government region and for each fire and rescue service. Only provisional figures are currently available for 2006.

*Provisional and finalised fire deaths, by fire and rescue service and Government office region, 1997-2006*

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* |
| England | 596 | 563 | 526 | 493 | 532 | 459 | 500 | 487 |
| Bedfordshire | 7 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Cambridgeshire | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Essex | 21 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 17 | 12 | 18 | 18 |
| Hertfordshire | 9 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| Norfolk | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 4 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Eastern total | 55 | 57 | 42 | 35 | 41 | 33 | 57 | 53 |
| Derbyshire | 13 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 12 |
| Leicestershire | 8 | 6 | 21 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 5 |
| Lincolnshire | 5 | 5 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Northamptonshire | 13 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 16 | 18 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| East Midlands total | 55 | 50 | 69 | 52 | 47 | 40 | 40 | 34 |
| Greater London | 112 | 107 | 76 | 79 | 106 | 82 | 51 | 56 |
| Cleveland | 7 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Durham | 9 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| Northumberland | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tyne and Wear | 5 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| North East total | 26 | 30 | 19 | 26 | 27 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| Cheshire | 12 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| Cumbria | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| Greater Manchester | 33 | 34 | 33 | 27 | 41 | 39 | 25 | 26 |
| Lancashire | 27 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 18 | 21 | 21 |
| Merseyside | 16 | 10 | 24 | 24 | 12 | 9 | 27 | 26 |
| North West total | 97 | 91 | 98 | 90 | 93 | 82 | 94 | 91 |
| Berkshire | 7 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Buckinghamshire | 13 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 9 |
| East Sussex | 11 | 11 | 17 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Hampshire | 9 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 23 | 18 |
| Isle of Wight | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent | 11 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 14 |
| Oxfordshire | 5 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Surrey | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 7 |
| West Sussex | 7 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| South East total | 76 | 72 | 76 | 66 | 74 | 63 | 76 | 69 |

*Provisional and finalised fire deaths, by fire and rescue service and Government office region, 1997-2006*

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* |
| Avon | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Cornwall | 9 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Devon | 8 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 14 |
| Dorset | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| Gloucestershire | 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Somerset | 4 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wiltshire | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| South West total | 47 | 46 | 37 | 38 | 42 | 37 | 40 | 40 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 14 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Shropshire | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 9 |
| Staffordshire | 15 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 11 |
| Warwickshire | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| West Midlands | 24 | 22 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 33 | 38 |
| West Midlands total | 62 | 52 | 47 | 47 | 43 | 43 | 63 | 66 |
| Humberside | 18 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 12 |
| North Yorkshire | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| South Yorkshire | 7 | 6 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 16 |
| West Yorkshire | 29 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 30 | 29 | 26 | 25 |
| Yorkshire and Humber total | 66 | 58 | 62 | 60 | 59 | 58 | 59 | 58 |

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* |
| England | 473 | 458 | 434 | 416 | 491 | 462 | 395 | 368 |
| Bedfordshire | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Essex | 10 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 9 | 10 |
| Hertfordshire | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Norfolk | 7 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Suffolk | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern total | 37 | 33 | 36 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 23 | 25 |
| Derbyshire | 6 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 7 |
| Leicestershire | 7 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| Lincolnshire | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Northamptonshire | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| East Midlands total | 28 | 28 | 44 | 41 | 38 | 34 | 38 | 36 |
| Greater London | 71 | 77 | 74 | 73 | 74 | 76 | 52 | 57 |
| Cleveland | 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 3 |
| Durham | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| Northumberland | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Tyne and Wear | 8 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 3 | 5 |
| North East total | 28 | 29 | 12 | 12 | 38 | 35 | 15 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 11 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Cumbria | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Greater Manchester | 35 | 35 | 24 | 23 | 33 | 33 | 24 | 23 |
| Lancashire | 15 | 15 | 23 | 25 | 16 | 14 | 19 | 17 |
| Merseyside | 19 | 17 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 15 |
| North West total | 88 | 85 | 72 | 73 | 80 | 73 | 74 | 68 |
| Berkshire | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| Buckinghamshire | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 |

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* | *Final* |
| East Sussex | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 8 |
| Hampshire | 17 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 14 | 9 | 7 |
| Isle of Wight | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent | 22 | 19 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 7 |
| Oxfordshire | 3 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Surrey | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| West Sussex | 5 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 13 |
| South East total | 70 | 62 | 53 | 56 | 73 | 68 | 59 | 49 |
| Avon | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Cornwall | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Devon | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| Dorset | 9 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Gloucestershire | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Somerset | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Wiltshire | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| South West total | 46 | 43 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 41 | 28 | 23 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Shropshire | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Staffordshire | 8 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Warwickshire | 8 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| West Midlands | 34 | 30 | 29 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 27 | 24 |
| West Midlands total | 58 | 54 | 51 | 39 | 42 | 38 | 51 | 44 |
| Humberside | 8 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| North Yorkshire | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | 21 | 20 | 10 | 7 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| West Yorkshire | 15 | 15 | 24 | 23 | 31 | 28 | 32 | 32 |
| Yorkshire and Humber total | 47 | 47 | 50 | 46 | 66 | 57 | 55 | 53 |

| | 2005 | | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* |
| England | 379 | 388 | 405 |
| Bedfordshire | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Essex | 10 | 16 | 9 |
| Hertfordshire | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Norfolk | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Suffolk | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Eastern total | 41 | 46 | 41 |
| Derbyshire | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Leicestershire | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| Lincolnshire | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| East Midlands total | 25 | 22 | 39 |
| Greater London | 46 | 60 | 47 |
| Cleveland | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Durham | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Northumberland | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Tyne and Wear | 7 | 6 | 8 |

| | 2005 | | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *FRS area* | *Provisional* | *Final* | *Provisional* |
| North East total | 17 | 18 | 20 |
| Cheshire | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| Cumbria | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| Greater Manchester | 37 | 36 | 29 |
| Lancashire | 13 | 10 | 25 |
| Merseyside | 12 | 17 | 5 |
| North West total | 78 | 76 | 70 |
| Berkshire | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Buckinghamshire | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| East Sussex | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Hampshire | 10 | 9 | 17 |
| Isle of Wight | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kent | 15 | 13 | 7 |
| Oxfordshire | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Surrey | 14 | 12 | 9 |
| West Sussex | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| South East total | 59 | 52 | 57 |
| Avon | 9 | 10 | 7 |
| Cornwall | 6 | 7 | 2 |

| FRS area | 2005 Provisional | 2005 Final | 2006 Provisional |
|---|---|---|---|
| Devon | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Dorset | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Gloucestershire | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Somerset | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| South West total | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Shropshire | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Staffordshire | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| Warwickshire | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 24 | 23 | 30 |
| West Midlands total | 39 | 39 | 50 |
| Humberside | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| South Yorkshire | 12 | 14 | 16 |
| West Yorkshire | 17 | 18 | 20 |
| Yorkshire and Humber total | 40 | 41 | 47 |

## First-time Buyers

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on steps to assist first-time buyers to purchase homes. [183944]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** From time to time, including, in the context of the comprehensive spending review, ministerial colleagues discuss Government plans and review progress. This includes policy proposals for increasing the supply of affordable housing and further steps to assist first-time buyers on to the property ladder, including expanding the low cost home ownership programme, as set out in the Government's Housing Green Paper, published in July last year.

## Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have not yet returned to their homes following flooding in summer 2007. [185614]

**John Healey:** Around 48,000 households were affected by the June and July floods. As of 17 January, around 8,750 of these households remained wholly or partially displaced from their homes. This figure is based on the best available data provided by local authorities as part of the data collection for the January Flood Recovery Grant scheme.

On 31 January I announced that nine councils with the largest number of households still displaced would receive a share of a further £1 million in Flood Recovery Grant to support the most vulnerable people in their communities affected by the floods. This brings the total paid out in Flood Recovery Grant to £18.4 million.

## Floods: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to local authorities under the extended Bellwin formula to provide 100 per cent. of the eligible costs arising from the floods in summer 2007; and if she will make a statement. [185113]

**John Healey:** To date, the Department has paid £8.8 million under the Bellwin scheme in respect of the 2007 floods. Under the standard 85 per cent. grant rate which usually applies for Bellwin schemes, £7.5 million would have been paid. More payments are expected shortly.

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding for flood relief and recovery in addition to that delivered through the local government settlement she will make available to Surrey County Council in 2008-09. [185173]

**John Healey:** In the aftermath of last summer's exceptional and widespread floods we have made available up to £71.8 million to date to assist the affected regions and help those in greatest need.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has no plans in place at present to make any further funding available to Surrey county council for flood relief and recovery in 2008-09 in addition to that delivered through the local government settlement. If and when future emergencies occur the Government make available financial assistance to help local authorities deal with the aftermath.

## Floods: Homelessness

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many central homelessness advisers are working with local authorities affected by flooding in 2007; and if she will make a statement; [185483]

(2) how much further funding is planned to be made available to local authorities in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 in respect of assistance for those residents currently in temporary accommodation due to flooding; and if she will make a statement. [185484]

**John Healey:** There are currently nine homelessness specialist advisers working with all local housing authorities. They are available to respond to requests from councils for support with their work to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively, including homelessness that has arisen due to flooding.

To date, £18.4 million of Flood Recovery Grant has been released to local authorities hardest hit by the 2007 summer floods, of which £17.4 million was paid out in the June and July schemes, with funds being allocated to reflect the relative number of households affected. An additional £1 million was allocated in January 2008 to those local authorities with over 200 households still displaced as of 17 January 2008.

Local authorities were able to decide how to best to use the Flood Recovery Grant based on their own local circumstances and needs.

There are no current plans to make any more payments under the Flood Recovery Scheme to the authorities affected by the June and July 2007 floods.

As part of our work on tackling homelessness, local housing authorities will receive homelessness grant of almost £100 million over the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 to support their strategies for tackling and preventing homelessness. This includes support to households who are in temporary accommodation.

## Gravel

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(1)* what proportion of *(a)* gravel and *(b)* mineral demand she estimates will be met from (i) land, (ii) marine and (iii) recycled sources in the next (A) five, (B) 10 and (C) 20 years; [185177]

(2) what proportion of mineral extraction in the UK was from *(a)* land, *(b)* marine and *(c)* recycled sources in each of the last three years; [185215]

(3) how many sites are being used for gravel extraction; how many sites have been used and have not been restored to their former condition in the last five years; and what the Government's policy is in respect of land that has not been restored; [185219]

(4) what forecasts of gravel demand have been made by her Department for the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years; [185221]

(5) what the gravel extraction targets set for each local authority are for the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years. [185223]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department collects mineral extraction data for Great Britain. Of the minerals extracted, only sand and gravel are extracted from both the land and marine environments and these are shown in the following table for 2004-06.

*Land-won and marine dredged aggregates extraction in Great Britain*

*Million tonnes*

| | *Land-won* | *Marine* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 200,737 | 12,996 |
| 2005 | 191,228 | 13,025 |
| 2006 | 193,163 | 13,974 |

*Source:*
Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry (PA 1007), 2004, 2005, 2006, ONS

Land-won and marine-dredged aggregate supply is augmented by supply of aggregates from the recycling of construction, demolition and excavation waste, as well as secondary materials, largely by-products of industrial processes. Total arisings in the last survey year, 2005, were estimated for Great Britain as 67.2 million tonnes.

The current national forecasts for aggregates demand in England were published in 2003 as "National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, 2001-16". Guidelines are published at the national and regional level. They are not targets, nor are they set for individual local authorities. The current national guidelines are given as follows.

*National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001-16*

*Million tonnes*

| | |
|---|---|
| Land-won sand and gravel | 1,068 |
| Land-won crushed rock | 1,618 |
| Marine sand and gravel | 230 |
| Alternative materials | 919 |
| Net imports to England | 169 |
| Total forecast demand | 4,004 |

These guidelines are currently under review; a consultation will be published shortly and I will ensure the hon. Member receives a copy.

There are 699 active sand and gravel extraction sites in the UK (British Geological Survey, 2008). We do not collect data on the number of sites that have been restored to their former condition. However, planning permissions for mineral working should contain conditions and legal agreements to ensure appropriate restoration, which are enforced by the mineral planning authority. Policy for the restoration of mineral working sites in England is set out in Minerals Policy Statement 1 "Planning and Minerals".

## Home Information Packs

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home information packs were subsidised, in whole or in part, under the scheme to provide £0.5 million funding for energy performance certificates in home information packs ordered prior to 1 August; and what was the outturn expenditure of the scheme. [171530]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the replies given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1163W and 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 663W.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations received subsidy for the production of energy performance certificates in home information packs ordered prior to 1 August. [171635]

**Caroline Flint:** The organisations were HIPs Direct, HIPSYNC, Prohip Ltd, Simply HIP and Richards Gray.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* energy performance certification assessors and *(b)* energy performance certificates for non-dwellings that will be required in the first six months after the introduction of the scheme. [175512]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of assessors needed will depend on market conditions and on the level of demand for voluntary certificates ahead of time.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 780-1 on home information packs, if she will

place in the Library copies of case studies of house purchases held by her Department which indicate that the purchase has been materially influenced by the content of a home information pack. [180424]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1526W.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* home owners and *(b)* estate agents have been fined for marketing a property without a home information pack. [182601]

**Caroline Flint:** No.

### Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies were commissioned to undertake *(a)* qualitative and *(b)* quantitative research for the home information pack dry run; and at what cost. [176160]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1526W and 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 117W.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the contractual deadline is for Ipsos-MORI to provide her Department with its research into the home information pack trials; and when she plans to publish this research. [183246]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1526-27W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home sellers took part in each home information pack area trial. [183259]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

IPSOS-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the Library of the House once the project has been finalised.

### Home Information Packs: Surveying

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited surveyors for home information packs there were in each district and unitary council area on 1 January 2008. [178194]

**Caroline Flint:** The most recently published numbers of accredited assessors, broken down by region, are available on the dedicated home information pack website:

http://www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk/industry/163_Assessorinspectornums.html

Regular updates are provided on this site

### Homelessness

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these were under 25 years old. [185502]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

National and regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation over the last 10 years are published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, in tables 3 and 7. Key data (including acceptances and temporary accommodation) are shown at local authority level in Supplementary Tables accompanying the release. These are also published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 December 2007 and contains data for the period up to July to September 2007.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, nationally and by local authority:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/publicationsabouthomelessness/roughsleepingstatistics/

A table summarising homelessness figures for each local authority for the past 10 years, including (a) the total number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, (b) the total number of households in temporary accommodation and (c) the mid-year estimates of the number of rough sleepers, was placed in the Library of the House on 8 October 2007, as part of the answer given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice).

The local authorities comprising the Tees valley District are Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. The constituency of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland falls within two local authorities: Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland.

Data on acceptances by age-band of applicant are available from the April-June 2006 quarter onwards, and are provided in the Statistical Release at the national level (table 10(b)). The first age-band is those applicants who are aged between 16 and 24 years old (all applicants must be 16 or over).

A table showing acceptances by age-band of applicant by local authority and region has been deposited in the Library of the House.

No such age breakdown is collected for households in temporary accommodation, or the rough sleeper estimates.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were assisted with securing private rented accommodation by homelessness units in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each London local authority area in each year since 2003-04. [185974]

**Caroline Flint:** This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Homes and Communities Agency

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed powers of the Homes and Communities Agency to enter and survey land will include powers to enter *(a)* domestic and *(b)* business premises. [171647]

**Caroline Flint:** Yes, the powers of the Homes and Communities Agency will include power for a person authorised by the Agency to enter and survey land, including domestic and business premises. However, this power may only be exercised within the statutory framework: the power arises only in connection with a proposal by the Agency to acquire land or a claim for compensation in respect of an acquisition of land by the Agency. Land may only be entered in order to survey it or to estimate the value of the land.

This proposed power mirrors a power of the current Urban Regeneration Agency (part of English Partnerships) that is set out in the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to require a net return to the public purse from the regulatory work of the Homes and Communities Agency; what discussions she has had with the Treasury on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [184474]

**Caroline Flint:** The Homes and Communities Agency will be an investment body and will have no regulatory role.

Under the Housing and Regeneration Bill, all of the regulator functions of the Housing Corporation will pass to Oftenant—the new social housing regulator. The Bill gives the regulator no powers to make payments to central Government (except as repayment of loans) and the Secretary of State no power to require it to do so. The Bill also requires the regulator, when setting fees to registered providers, to ensure that:

fee income matches expenditure on the performance of functions;

each fee is reasonable and proportionate to the costs to which it relates; and

actual or potential registered providers can see the relationship between the amount of a fee and the costs to which it relates.

### Housing Renewal Areas: Private Sector

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the effect of private investor activity within housing renewal areas in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [185485]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department and individual pathfinders have been responsible for evaluating the impact of the Housing Market Renewal Program (HMR) in designated areas across the UK. The HMR partnerships regularly assess the key drivers of local housing markets and the prevailing market conditions as a fundamental part of establishing strong housing markets across pathfinder areas.

An independent review to improve the private rented sector was also recently commissioned in January by the then Housing and Planning Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford. The review will look at how the increasing number of buy to let accommodation and student tenants has impacted on the private rented sector, the quality of homes and who the users of the sector are. It will also examine the impact of demographic and social change on the future demand and supply in the sector. The Government will consider the review's recommendations to see what else can be done to improve the sector for both landlords and tenants. We expect the review to be presented to Ministers by October 2008.

### Housing: Energy

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* planned expenditure is and *(b)* expenditure to date has been on providing free energy performance certificates; how many have been subsidised to date; and what the target is for the number to be subsidised. [176190]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the replies given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1163W and 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 663 W.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants in social housing were evicted in each of the last 10 years. [185907]

**Caroline Flint:** We do not have the information on how many tenants were evicted over the last 10 years. However, as part of the Housing Strategy and Statistical Appendix returns, Communities and Local Government have asked local authority landlords in England to

submit data on tenants in social housing who were evicted. This was commenced for the period 2005-06. These data were considered not to be of a reliable quality. We are currently assessing the quality of the data returns for 2006-07.

The Housing Corporation collects data on evictions. According to its Regulatory and Statistical Returns for the periods 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the number of evictions from registered social landlord properties are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 13,370 |
| 2005-06 | 12,145 |
| 2006-07 | 11,384 |

**Housing: Overcrowding**

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* local authority households were estimated to be overcrowded in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) each London borough in (A) 1990, (B) 2000 and (C) 2006. [185973]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Estimates of the percentages of households in each regions and in each tenure that were overcrowded in *(a)* 1998-99 to 2000-01 and *(b)* 2004-05 to 2006-07 are set out in the two tables as follows. All estimates in this answer are based on the Bedroom Standard definition of overcrowding.

*Estimated percentage of households that were overcrowded, by tenure and by region, England: 1998-99 to 2000-01*

| *Region* | *Owner occupiers* | *Private renters* | *Social renters* | *All tenures* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 1.2 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| North West | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.5 | 2.2 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1.2 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 1.9 |
| East Midlands | 1.1 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 1.7 |
| West Midlands | 1.8 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 2.5 |
| Eastern | 1.1 | 2.0 | 4.2 | 1.7 |
| London | 2.7 | 6.3 | 11.1 | 5.5 |
| South East | 0.9 | 3.1 | 4.9 | 1.7 |
| South West | 1.1 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 1.9 |
| England | 1.5 | 3.5 | 5.2 | 2.4 |

*Estimated percentage of households that were overcrowded by tenure and by region, England: 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| *Region* | *Owner occupiers* | *Private renters* | *Social renters* | *All tenures* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 1.0 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 1.7 |
| North West | 1.6 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 2.3 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1.3 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 1.8 |
| East Midlands | 0.8 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 1.6 |
| West Midlands | 1.9 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 2.8 |
| Eastern | 1.1 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 1.9 |
| London | 2.7 | 10.5 | 12.1 | 6.6 |
| South East | 0.9 | 2.8 | 6.6 | 2.0 |
| South West | 0.8 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 1.6 |
| England | 1.4 | 5.0 | 5.8 | 2.7 |

*Source:*
Survey of English Housing

The figures shown have been averaged over three successive survey years. This is because the sample of overcrowded households in a single year is too small to provide reliable annual estimates. Separate estimates of overcrowding among households in council housing and RSL housing are not reliable—so a combined estimate covering all social renters is shown.

Comparable figures for 1990 are not available.

Estimates for individual local authorities are not routinely available because of sample size considerations. However, the results of a one-off model are available based on a combination of three years of data from both the Survey of English Housing and DWP's Family Resources Survey for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. Based on this model, estimates of the percentages of households in each London borough that were overcrowded during the three-year period 2000-01 to 2002-03 are set out in the following table. These figures cover all tenures. Reliable estimates by tenure are not available. The publication from which the overcrowding estimates for London boroughs have been taken can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/overcrowding

*Estimated proportion of overcrowded households in each London borough, 2000-01 to 2002-03*

| *London borough* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 3.1 |
| Barnet | 4.0 |
| Bexley | 1.5 |
| Brent | 7.5 |
| Bromley | 1.5 |
| Camden | 4.6 |
| Croydon | 3.3 |
| Ealing | 7.3 |
| Enfield | 4.2 |
| Greenwich | 2.5 |
| Hackney | 8.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3.5 |
| Haringey | 8.3 |
| Harrow | 3.8 |
| Havering | 2.0 |
| Hillingdon | 3.5 |
| Hounslow | 4.4 |
| Islington | 8.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6.0 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1.8 |
| Lambeth | 5.1 |
| Lewisham | 2.6 |
| Merton | 4.2 |
| Newham | 12.5 |
| Redbridge | 5.1 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 2.4 |
| Southwark | 7.8 |
| Sutton | 2.6 |
| Tower Hamlets | 11.7 |
| Waltham Forest | 7.9 |
| Wandsworth | 3.6 |
| City of London and City of Westminster[1] | 5.2 |

[1] The sample of cases for City of London was too small to allow separate results to be produced, so these were combined with a neighbouring larger authority, City of Westminster.

### Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on bringing homes up to the decent homes standard in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [177730]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In total over £23 billion has been invested in improving social housing since 1997. Annual figures are provided in the following table. The figures represent the estimated expenditure maintaining the housing stock condition at a sustainable level (including the Decent Homes standard) over the last nine years.

| | *Total investment (LA + RSL) M (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1.89 |
| 1998-99 | 2.08 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.77 |
| 2000-01 | 2.09 |
| 2001-02 | 2.55 |
| 2002-03 | 2.94 |
| 2003-04 | 3.16 |
| 2004-05 | 3.51 |
| 2005-06 | 3.65 |

We expect 2006-07 data on housing capital expenditure to be available shortly.

### Housing: Thames Gateway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in the Thames Gateway area since 2003. [184724]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of new build completions for local authorities that intersect the Thames Gateway is estimated as 44,700 dwellings between April 2003 until March 2007. It is estimated that 26,400 of these dwellings lie within the Thames Gateway boundary.

*Source:*

New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC).

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes built since 1 January 2003 in the Thames Gateway area have been located on brownfield land; and if she will make a statement. [184835]

**Caroline Flint:** It is estimated that approximately 23,000 dwellings were built on previously-developed ("brownfield") land in the Thames Gateway between 2003 and 2006. This is 87 per cent. of all new dwellings in the Thames Gateway. Data for 2007 and 2008 are not yet available.

This is based on analysis using land use change statistics and housebuilding completions figures.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference are of the housing audit to be undertaken by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in respect of the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [184836]

**Caroline Flint:** Between 2004 and 2007 the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), completed a national audit of the design quality of new and private housing development in England. The criteria applied in the audit were based on those used by Building for Life, a joint initiative of the CABE, the House Builders Federation and the Civic Trust.

CLG will be asking CABE to repeat its audit for the Thames Gateway area in 2010 and 2015 to report on progress towards improving design quality. This work has not been formally commissioned from CABE yet.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182838]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government have had no cases of bullying reported in the last 12 months. The Department's agencies have had four cases of bullying reported in this period.

We cannot further disaggregate that number by month or by Executive agency to protect the identity of the individuals concerned.

### Kent

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which her Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent County Council, (ii) Thanet District Council and (iii) Dover District Council in 2007-08. [183061]

**John Healey:** The following table sets out the amount of *(a)* revenue payments and *(b)* capital grants which this Department plans to make in 2007-08 to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council.

*£ million*

| | *Kent CC* | *Thanet DC* | *Dover DC* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Revenue* | | | | |
| Formula grants | 228.685 | 12.764 | 9.957 | 251.406 |
| Other grants and payments | 35.156 | 4.965 | 0.738 | 40.859 |
| *Capital* | 20.453 | 6.323 | 1.727 | 28.503 |

No supported borrowing has been offered by this Department.

### Land: Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions her Department has had with developers about the use of surplus land at Southlands hospital in Shoreham-by-Sea; [186799]

(2) what plans she has for the disposal of land at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, deemed surplus for requirements. [186798]

**Caroline Flint:** English Partnerships acquired part of the Southlands hospital site (4.4ha) in 2006, one of a portfolio of 96 sites acquired by them from the Department of Health. The remainder of the site did not transfer to English Partnerships and remains in the ownership of the NHS Trust.

Approximately 0.6 ha of the site owned by English Partnerships has been reserved for West Sussex county council to accommodate a new 60-bed care home which is currently under construction. On the remainder of the site English Partnerships has undergone an intensive due diligence and competitive marketing process and is currently negotiating with a developer who will then acquire the site under a building license. A joint planning application will soon be submitted for a minimum of 200 homes with 35 per cent. affordable housing, as required by the local authority, and the subsequent development will achieve both English Partnerships' own quality standards and Level 3 of the code for sustainable homes. Buildings on the site which are deemed of architectural merit and are capable of conversion will be refurbished.

In addition to providing high-quality and affordable homes, English Partnerships is also working with Adur district council to ensure that community facilities are integrated into the overall scheme.

## Landlords: Licensing

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have designated areas where landlords must be licensed; and, in each case, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of such designations. [185688]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following local authorities have been granted approval to administer selective licensing schemes under part 3 of the Housing Act 2004.

| *Local authority* | *Designation* | *Date of commencement* |
|---|---|---|
| Salford city council | Seedley and Langworthy renewal area | 25 May 2007 |
| Middlesbrough borough council | Gresham and part of Middlehaven wards | 5 June 2007 |
| Manchester city council | Harpurhey ward | 3 August 2007 |
| | Bradford ward | 3 August 2007 |
| | Gorton North and South wards | 2 November 2007 |
| Gateshead borough council | Sunderland Road Area | 25 September 2007 |
| Sedgefield borough council | Dean Bank and Chilton West | 7 February 2008 |

Implementation of the schemes is conducted at a local level, and local authorities are required to monitor and review the designations under section 84 of the 2004 Act.

## Licensed Premises

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on licensed premises, what the permitted hours are that the Eland Darts Club may supply alcohol; and how much was spent on the venue in the last year for which figures are available. [182043]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Darts Club in Eland House, which is entirely self-financing, is licensed to sell alcohol between the hours of 12.30 pm to 11.00 pm Monday to Friday except bank holidays, although it only opens for a very small proportion of those hours. The club has run a bar since at least 1972. No money was spent on the venue in the last year.

## Local Authorities: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she is monitoring the expenditure of local authorities on local involvement networks. [185579]

**John Healey:** There are no plans to monitor the expenditure of local authorities on Local Involvement Networks (LIN).

LIN funding is part of the Department of Health's contribution to the Area Based Grant, payment of which is administered by Communities and Local Government.

Area Based Grant is a general (non-ring fenced) grant to local authorities without terms and conditions attached.

## Local Authorities: Small Businesses

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had signed the Small Business Friendly Concordat by 31 January 2008; and what proportion of local authorities in England this represents. [186006]

**John Healey:** Records maintained by Communities and Local Government indicate that currently 163 local authorities in England have signed up to the Small Business Friendly Concordat, approximately 42 per cent. of councils. A list of local authorities that have adopted the Concordat is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/nationalprocurementprogramme/nationalprocurementstrategy/smallbusinessfriendly/authorieswhohave/

## Local Government Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of *(a)* aggregate external finance and *(b)* local authority revenue expenditure will be ring-fenced in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 (A) including and (B) excluding the dedicated schools grant element. [171633]

**John Healey:** Including dedicated schools grant (DSG), the level of ring-fencing of aggregate external finance (AEF) to local authorities is £36.0 billion or 53.9 per cent. in 2007-08 and will be £36.0 billion or 51.8 per cent. in 2008-09. Excluding DSG, the comparable levels are £7.9 billion or 20.4 per cent. and £6.9 billion or 17.1 per cent. respectively.

Information on local authority revenue expenditure for 2007-08 will not be available until towards the end of 2008 when revenue outturn statistics are published. Similarly local authority revenue expenditure outturn for 2008-09 will not be available until towards the end of 2009.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the real terms change in Government grant for local authorities was *(a)* excluding ring fenced schools grants and the same proportion of the education standard spending assessment as the schools formula spending share represented in 2003-04 of the educational formula spending share in each of the years 1997-98 to 2002-03, *(b)* excluding ring fenced school grants and the schools formula spending share in each year from 2003-04 to 2005-06 and *(c)* (i) including and (ii) excluding ring fenced school grants in (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2007-08; and what the real terms change is expected to be (1) including and (2) excluding ring fenced school grants in (x) 2008-09, (y) 2009-10 and (z) 2010-11. [185385]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Standard spending assessments and formula spending shares were grant distribution mechanisms, and were not elements of Government grant. It is not therefore an appropriate basis on which to calculate grant in the manner suggested in relation to *(a)* and *(b)*. It is also not possible to calculate the increase for 2006-07 for *(c)*, because there is no comparable figure for 2005-06.

The real terms increase in Government grant for 2007-08 to 2010-11 including ring-fenced schools grants on a like for like basis is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1.7 |
| 2008-09 | 1.2 |
| 2009-10 | 1.6 |
| 2010-11 | 1.6 |

The real terms increase in Government grant excluding ring-fenced schools grants on a like for like basis is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1.7 |
| 2008-09 | 1.2 |
| 2009-10 | 1.9 |
| 2010-11 | 1.3 |

## Local Government Finance: Cheshire

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated by her Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental bodies to *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Cheshire in each year since 1997; and for what purpose the funds have been allocated in each case. [185587]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The following tables set out the payments made by this Department to *(a)* Warrington borough council and *(b)* Cheshire county council since 2002. Information on funding prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*(a) Warrington borough council*

*£ million*

| *Programme* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regional Housing Pot | — | — | 1.281 | 1.195 | 1.087 | 0.989 | 4.552 |
| Planning Delivery Grant | — | 0.075 | 0.493 | 0.171 | 0.305 | 0.276 | 1.320 |
| Decent Homes—Arms Length Management Organisation Programme | — | — | 4.31 | 13.967 | 5.958 | 5.964 | 30.199 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 0.385 | 0.409 | 0.463 | 0.463 | 0.537 | 0.537 | 2.794 |
| Private Sector Renewal Housing Grant | 0.008 | 0.001 | 0.010 | — | — | — | 0.019 |
| Homelessness Grants | 0.028 | 0.034 | 0.040 | 0.060 | 0.079 | 0.060 | 0.301 |
| Supporting People Administrator Grant | 0.182 | 0.234 | 0.204 | 0.138 | 0.138 | 0.138 | 1.034 |
| Supporting People Programme | — | 8.275 | 8.156 | 7.745 | 7.611 | 7.611 | 39.398 |
| Local Authority Social Housing Grant | — | 0.002 | 0.012 | 0.011 | — | — | 0.025 |
| Clawback Grant | — | — | 0.388 | — | — | — | 0.388 |
| Gypsy Site Needs Assessment Grant | — | — | — | — | 0.008 | — | 0.008 |
| Local Government Capacity Building | — | — | — | 0.002 | — | 0.001 | 0.003 |
| Local Government Online | 0.500 | 0.200 | 0.350 | 0.150 | — | — | 1.200 |
| Local PSA Performance Fund | 0.949 | — | — | 1.725 | 2.669 | 0.472 | 5.815 |
| National Non Domestic Rates | 58.709 | 57.604 | 53.485 | 64.384 | 39.629 | 41.333 | 315.144 |
| Private Finance Initiative Special Grant | — | — | — | 0.352 | 0.333 | 0.249 | 0.934 |
| Revenue Support Grant (a) | 56.919 | 72.607 | 80.405 | 78.418 | 7.650 | 6.937 | 302.936 |
| Safer and Stronger Communities Fund | — | — | — | 0.002 | — | — | 0.002 |
| Total | 117.680 | 139.44 | 149.597 | 168.783 | 66.004 | 64.567 | 706.072 |

[1] Forecast
[2] From 2006-07 Revenue Support Grants were reduced due to the transfer of funding to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for Dedicated School Grant.

*(b) Cheshire county council*

| *Programme* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] | *£ million Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Planning Delivery Grant | — | — | 0.059 | 0.085 | 0.099 | 0.025 | 0.268 |
| Choice Based Lettings | — | — | — | — | 0.106 | — | 0.106 |
| Supporting People Administration Grant | 0.414 | 0.528 | 0.613 | 0.580 | 0.580 | 0.580 | 3.295 |
| Supporting People Programme | — | 22.577 | 22.376 | 21.117 | 20.709 | 20.538 | 107.317 |
| New Dimension—Mass Decontamination Training and Crewing Grant | — | — | 0.034 | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.244 |
| New Dimension—Urban Search and Rescue Training and Crewing Grant | — | — | 0.116 | 0.150 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.416 |
| New Dimension Mass Decontamination—Accommodation Grant | — | — | — | 0.005 | — | — | 0.005 |
| New Dimension—Urban Search and Rescue Accommodation Grant | — | — | — | 0.012 | — | — | 0.012 |
| New Dimension—New Burdens Grant (Misc) | — | — | — | — | 0.003 | 0.177 | 0.180 |
| Fire Control Rooms—New Burdens Grant | — | — | — | 0.015 | 0.094 | — | 0.109 |
| Arson Grants | 0.037 | 0.091 | 0.136 | 0.124 | 0.026 | — | 0.414 |
| SR2002 Challenge Fund | — | 0.064 | 0.064 | 0.064 | — | — | 0.192 |
| Audit of Pay Award | — | — | 0.017 | — | — | — | 0.017 |
| Transitional Funding Grant | — | — | 0.471 | — | — | — | 0.471 |
| Smoke Alarms Grant | — | — | 0.051 | 0.051 | 0.051 | 0.102 | 0.255 |
| Fire Prevention Grant | — | — | — | — | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.130 |
| Invest to Save "Respect" Project | — | — | — | — | — | 0.650 | 0.650 |
| Fire Fighters Pension Top-up | — | — | — | — | 0.385 | 3.201 | 3.586 |
| Electoral Law | — | 0.002 | — | — | — | — | 0.002 |
| Local Authority Business Growth Incentives | — | — | — | 0.771 | 2.368 | 0.189 | 3.328 |
| LG Capacity Building | — | — | 0.006 | 0.005 | — | — | 0.011 |
| Local Government Online | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.350 | 0.150 | — | — | 0.900 |
| Local PSA Performance Fund | 1.422 | 0.050 | 0.834 | 5.215 | 4.928 | — | 12.449 |
| National Non Domestic Rates | 176.658 | 179.739 | 169.962 | 206.565 | 72.848 | 75.997 | 881.769 |
| Private Finance Initiatives Special Grant | — | 1.044 | 1.885 | 1.389 | 1.389 | 1.042 | 6.749 |
| Revenue Support Grant (a) | 144.450 | 184.761 | 210.413 | 199.909 | 14.062 | 12.754 | 766.349 |
| Total | 323.181 | 389.056 | 407.387 | 436.277 | 117.858 | 115.465 | 1,789.224 |

[1] Forecast

[2] From 2006-07 Revenue Support Grants were reduced due to the transfer of funding to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for Dedicated School Grant.

For the Department's associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies, complete information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

## Local Government: Reorganisation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the recent draft statutory instruments on local government restructuring were replaced with new ones in substitution; and what changes were made between the two versions. [183242]

**John Healey:** There are no differences of substance between the original orders laid on 17 December and the substitute versions. The differences are small textual changes for clarification purposes, and some cross references in essence to provide greater consistency between the orders.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons are for the time taken to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed of *(a)* 16 October and *(b)* 4 December 2007 relating to a freedom of information request from Mr. M. Maud of Ancroft, Berwick-upon-Tweed. [185812]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My right hon. Friend has now replied to the right hon. Member.

## Minister for the West Midlands

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at which high level events and with regard to which high level projects the Minister for the west midlands has championed the region as referred to in paragraph 118 of The Governance of Britain. [181651]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The regional Minister has undertaken a tour of the region where he set priorities and challenges for the region. He is now developing a programme of visits within the region over the next three months to take these forward. The high level projects the Minister has championed include:

the launch of the joint Regional Economic Strategy and draft Regional Spatial Strategy—the first UK region to do so;

the development of the regions first Skills strategy due to be launched in March 2008 and work to support proposals for the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street station;

the development of a set of regional transport priorities;

the development of proposals for academic health science centres in response to his challenge to the region's health leaders to join teaching, research and delivery of health services in a single effort;

the promotion of the west midlands as a trading partner including a high level visit to India;

a set of regional challenges to improve the reputation and creative industries of the region.

### Multiple Occupation: Fines

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fines have been levied against landlords for breaches of licence provisions for houses in multiple occupation in the last 12 months; and what the value of all such fines was. [184183]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information. The Ministry of Justice collects data on fines levied against landlords who fail to comply with the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing provisions under the Housing Act 2004. Data for 2007 will be available in autumn 2008.

### Multiple Occupation: Licensing

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what feedback she has received from enforcement authorities on the implementation of the National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation. [182458]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The Department is satisfied, through its discussions with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), who co-ordinate and report on local authority implementation, that local authorities are making progress in implementing the mandatory HMO licensing provisions. For example, a recent survey conducted by LACORs concluded that 86 per cent. of councils were already using a range of tools to identify HMOs being operated illegally without a licence.

### New Local Government Network

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department and its predecessor made to the New Local Government Network since 2002. [182559]

**John Healey:** Our records show 10 payments have been made to the New Local Government Network by this Department or its predecessor since 2002. Total payments amounted to £33,152.70 and were in respect of small items of research, consultation events and attendance of officials at a conference organised by New Local Government Network.

### Non-Profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts her Department has with social enterprises; and what the value of each of those contracts is. [186652]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (John Healey) on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 216W. Since that reply and in September 2007, a mechanism was implemented, enabling new departmental vendors to be identified as social enterprises. To date no new departmental vendors have been identified as social enterprises and consequently no new contracts can be identified.

### Non-Profit Making Organisations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's *(a)* procurement and *(b)* tendering policy is in respect of social enterprises. [186651]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department's procurement policy and therefore guidance encourages the use of social enterprises.

The Department encourages the use of internet based websites (procurement portals) to ensure equality of opportunity to social enterprises and other similar groups.

The Department recognises the costs associated with tendering and how these can impact negatively on the capability of certain groups to participate equally in tendering.

By adopting the use of procurement portals, Government Departments are consolidating where procurement opportunities are advertised, so reducing suppliers costs associated with locating such opportunities, and therefore promoting the potential use of social enterprises and other similar groups.

### Political Impartiality

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what purpose her Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179319]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Civil servants in Communities and Local Government are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Code", and section 4.4 of the "Civil Service Management Code".

Members of the public who apply for public appointments within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are asked to complete a declaration on political activity.

### Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to increase levels of funding for the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund over the next three years. [174758]

**Mr. Dhanda:** On 31 October 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced £45 million in funding for local partnerships' work to prevent violent extremism.

### Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual cost is of her Department's membership of the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard; and for what purpose it is a member. [183213]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The cost to the Department for membership, in 2008, of the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard (PISCES) is £11,750. PISCES is an industry group that sets voluntary standards for exchange of data relating to the property industry. PISCES has been involved in developing the standards relating to the technical data requirements for the Home Condition Report and Energy Performance Certificate Register.

### Property: Databases

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation is the custodian of Valuebill schemes; and whether she has plans to review the arrangement. [183252]

**John Healey:** Lead responsibility for Valuebill now rests with London Connects and the Valuation Office Agency. The Government have no plans to review the scheme.

### Public Bodies: Internet

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1342W, on public bodies: internet, what each XML schema in use by her Department is. [183025]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We do not have a comprehensive, central record of XML schemas within the Department. However, CLG HQ has implemented a number of XML schemas to support direct, system to system interchange of data in connection with the following CLG policy areas:

Fire and Resilience: collection of fire incident records.

Housing: National Register of Social Housing; Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation; Electronic Survey of Empty Housing; and tenancy deposit schemes.

Planning: planning applications; and land use monitoring returns.

### Quarrying: Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public inquiries concerning mineral extraction plans there have been in the last five years. [185234]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Eight Local Plan Minerals Inquiries have taken place under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) since February 2003.

Nine Minerals Development Plan Documents (DPDs) have been submitted for Examination under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Examinations have been completed on two of these DPDs.

### Regional Government: Public Participation

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W, on regional government: public participation, which *(a)* stakeholder events, *(b)* local projects and *(c)* other organisations the Minister for the west midlands has visited in his capacity as regional minister. [181701]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The regional Minister has undertaken the following stakeholder events, local projects and other engagements pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007 on regional government:

a meeting in Ludlow with council officials;

a speech to regional stakeholders on the Ministers priorities;

meetings with DfT officials with Birmingham City Council on the New Street station development project;

a visit to Hams Hall BMW plant to discuss the link with skills and economic development;

a visit to Bromyard in Hereford to meet local businesses and council officials on business support and rural issues;

a visit to the Eastside development in Birmingham with the chief executive of Advantage;

a joint stakeholder event with James Purnell MP, then Secretary of State for Culture media and Sport, on the reputation of the region;

a key note speech to the Advantage West Midlands annual conference;

visit to Telford and Wrekin to discuss their strategic approach to jobs and housing and the potential economic effects of land instability at Ironbridge Gorge;

a visit to Stoke-on-Trent to meet the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership, a business working closely with Keele university and to announce a £4.3 million funding package start to the creation of a £250 million university quarter in Stoke-on-Trent and to discuss progress at Stoke city council on key areas;

a meeting with CBI members;

a meeting with the vice-chancellors of higher education institutes from across the region to discuss the transfer of science into wealth and the development of the region as a top student destination;

the launch of the region's manufacturing support strategy;

the keynote address to the West Midlands Regional Assembly Conference; and

a meeting with leaders and chief executives of shire councils to discuss the progress of the sub-national review.

### Regional Ministers

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list each of the representations made by regional Ministers to other Departments relating to issues within the region for which they have responsibility; and if she will place copies of such representations in the Library. [184336]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed in order to protect its frankness and candour. This is in accord with Section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act exempting communications between Ministers and is aimed at protecting the government policy-making process.

### Regional Ministers: Official Engagements

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what engagements the Minister for *(a)* the north-east, *(b)* the north-west, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the south-east, *(f)* the south-west, *(g)* the east midlands, *(h)* the west midlands and *(i)* the east of England plan to attend in their capacity as regional ministers in 2008. [181654]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Ministerial diaries have not yet been finalised and engagements are subject to parliamentary business. All regional Ministers have meetings and events planned with business leaders, local authorities, ministerial colleagues and other key stakeholders.

### Regional Planning and Development: East Midlands

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1168-69W, on regional planning and development: East Midlands, to the hon. Member for Leicester South, if she will state which hon. and right hon. Members made formal submissions to the consultations on regional spatial strategies other than that relating to the East Midlands. [178621]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The hon. and right hon. Members who have made formal submissions on consultations on regional spatial strategies by region, with the exception of the East Midlands are listed as follows:

*North East*

The hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins), the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr. Beith), the hon. Member for Tyne Bridge (Mr. Clelland), the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman), the hon. Member for Hexham (Mr. Atkinson) and the hon. Member for City of Durham (Dr. Blackman-Woods) made formal submissions.

*North West*

No hon. or right hon. Members have made formal submissions.

*Yorkshire and Humber*

The hon. Member for City of York (Hugh Bayley) made a formal submission.

*West Midlands*

*Phase 1 West Midlands RSS*

The hon. Member for West Bromwich, West (Adrian Bailey), the hon. Member for Stourbridge (Lynda Waltho), the hon. Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) and the hon. Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) made formal submissions.

*Phase 2 West Midlands RSS*

The draft Phase 2 West Midlands RSS is currently out for consultation until the 18 March 2008.

*Phase 3 West Midlands RSS*

Has not yet reached its first consultation stage.

*East of England*

The hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous), the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley), the hon. Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay), the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) and the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) made formal submissions.

*South East*

The right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) made a formal submission.

*South West*

The hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George), the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson), the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke), the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr. Chope), the hon. Member for Bournemouth East (Mr. Ellwood), the hon. Member for Bristol, East (Kerry McCarthy), the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare (John Penrose), the right hon. Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), the hon. Member for North Dorset (Mr. Walter) and the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) made formal submissions.

### Regional Planning and Development: South West

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* local planning authorities in Gloucestershire and *(b)* planning appeals inspectorates determining large-scale housing planning applications before the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West is finalised; and if she will make a statement. [185842]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No guidance has been issued to local planning authorities in Gloucestershire or to the Planning Inspectorate on how they should determine housing applications before the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West is finalised, above that contained in PPS3, paragraph 68 which states

"Local Planning Authorities should take into consideration the policies set out in Regional Spatial Strategies and Development Plan Documents, as the Development Plan, as well as other material considerations. When making planning decisions for housing developments after 1st April 2007, Local Planning Authorities should have regard to the policies in this statement as material considerations which may supersede the policies in existing Development Plans".

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184690]

**Mr. Dhanda:** As the number of formal complaints in either category is less than five, the Department for Communities and Local Government is unable to provide the information on the grounds of confidentiality.

### Street Cleaning: Expenditure

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on street cleaning in each local authority in England in each of the last five years. [185460]

**John Healey:** I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the information on street cleansing (not chargeable to highways) in each local authority in England in each of the last five years. Information for England has been published in Statistical Releases and editions of "Local Government Financial Statistics".

### Sustainable Development: Urban Areas

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many eco-towns are to be built in each of the next 10 years. [184998]

**Caroline Flint:** Through the eco-towns programme we expect that there will be up to five eco-towns by 2016 and 10 by 2020.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she proposes to take to manage the impact of eco-towns on local traffic networks. [184999]

**Caroline Flint:** As part of the current cross-government assessment of eco-town proposals we are assessing proposals against the criteria set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, and this includes transport. As part of the transport criteria consideration must be given to the impact on roads and congestion when siting the eco-town, and planning for the public transport infrastructure requirements. We will want to see design that reduces the need to travel, promotes a high degree of sustainable transport usage and reduces car dependency, so as to minimise the impact on local transport networks.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated for the construction of eco-towns; and from what budgets. [185000]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1397W to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry).

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that funding for the construction of eco-towns will not be taken from existing allocations for local projects. [185001]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1397W. As that answer sets out, funding has been provided to support the Growth Areas, the Thames Gateway, New Growth Points and eco-towns. This ensures that there will be provision of funding for eco-towns and it will not be taken from existing allocations for local projects.

### Temporary Accommodation: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were housed in temporary accommodation by each London local authority in each year since 1997. [186143]

**Caroline Flint:** Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

A table summarising homelessness figures for each local authority for the past 10 years, including the total number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each year, was placed in the Library of the House on 8 October 2007, as part of the answer given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice).

Data are also published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which includes a Supplementary Table showing the breakdown of key data, including temporary accommodation for each local authority. The Supplementary Tables are published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 December 2007 and contains data for the period July to September 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

### Temporary Accommodation: Unemployed

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of households living in temporary accommodation had someone in work in each of the last 10 years. [185897]

**Caroline Flint:** This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Communities and Local Government and Department for Work and Pensions are supporting the working future pilot to test the effect that reduced rents and increased access to employment services have on incentivising housing benefit claimants in expensive temporary accommodation to find work.

The pilot was set up to run for two years starting from 2005. It was running in the East London boroughs of Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest and led by the GLA and the East Thames Group. We are currently in the process of evaluating the outcomes of the pilot.

### Thames Gateway: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which publicly funded organisations are in receipt of monies in respect of the Thames Gateway project; and if she will make a statement. [184831]

**Caroline Flint:** The Thames Gateway Growth Fund has provided funding to the following organisations:

Barts and The London Hospital Trust
Basildon District Council

Castle Point Borough Council
Dartford Borough Council
East England Development Agency (EEDA)
English Partnerships
Environment Agency
Essex County Council
Forestry Commission
Gateway for London
Gravesham Borough Council
Housing Corporation
Kent County Council
Land Restoration Trust
LB Barking and Dagenham
LB Bexley
LB Greenwich
LB Havering
LB Lewisham
LB Newham
LB Tower Hamlets
Learning and Skills Councils
Locate in Kent
London Development Agency (LDA)
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Medway Council (Unitary)
Renaissance Southend
Rochford District Council
South East Development Agency (SEEDA)
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (Unitary)
Swale Borough Council
Thurrock Council
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Tourism South East
Transport for London

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects have been identified for funding under the auspices of the Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan; at what indicative cost and over what period of time; and if she will make a statement. [184833]

**Caroline Flint:** No projects have yet been identified under the auspices of the Thames Gateway Economic Development Plan (EDIP). The three Regional Development Agencies that cover the Thames Gateway area have not yet completed the EDIP. It is expected to be signed off by the end of March.

### Travelling People

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of each of her Department's five annual conferences on developing services for Gypsies and Travellers. [186206]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government does not hold an annual conference on developing services for Gypsies and Travellers. Ministers and officials support an annual conference on this topic arranged by the private sector by attending as speakers. A delegate fee of £390 (plus VAT) was paid by the Housing Corporation to enable attendance in 2005.

### Travelling People: Caravan Sites

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of trends in the demand for authorised traveller sites from migrant travellers from *(a)* Romania and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland. [183241]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Under the Housing Act 2004 local authorities are required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in their areas. All accommodation needs assessments should by now have been completed. Regional Assemblies are responsible for determining need for pitches for Gypsies and Travellers across the region and revising regional spatial strategies to allocate pitch numbers to individual local authorities.

### Waste Management

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what stage each local authority's minerals and waste development proposals has reached. [185654]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Hampshire county council have adopted a minerals and waste core strategy.

The following local authorities have submitted waste and/or minerals development plan documents to the Secretary of State:

Hertfordshire county council
Milton Keynes
Surrey county council
Plymouth
Telford and the Wrekin
Worcestershire county council
North Yorkshire county council
Lancashire county council
Suffolk county council
Kent county council
Shropshire county council

64 other planning authorities preparing waste and minerals development Plan Documents are yet to submit them to the Secretary of State.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policy of *(a)* UK and *(b)* US forces is on spraying drug crops in Afghanistan in order to destroy them. [185350]

**Des Browne:** Troops deployed as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are authorised to support the Government of Afghanistan's counter-narcotics effort as part of the NATO operational plan. The operational plan stipulates that military personnel will not be involved in the eradication of poppy.

## Afghanistan: Medical Services

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what training medical locums serving in Afghanistan received to prepare for operations; [183130]

(2) what proportion of medical locums serving in Afghanistan have prior military experience. [183132]

**Derek Twigg:** The Defence Medical Services deploys small numbers of civilian medical staff on operations in specialties where there are currently shortfalls, such as neurosurgery and ITU and A&E nursing. Individuals are recruited through the specialist agency "Frontier Medical". Before deployment to Afghanistan, medical locums undergo similar Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) training and pre-deployment briefs as their military colleagues. They are fully briefed on security issues and what to do if involved in the vicinity of aggressive military action. They are issued personal protective equipment (PPE) and receive constant advice and supervision before and during an operational tour. Most of them will not have prior military service (other than possible prior deployment with the military in a similar locum role).

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff in his Department *(a)* speak Pashtun and *(b)* are training to speak Pashtun. [176084]

**Des Browne:** Records held by the Ministry of Defence as at 5 February 2008 indicate that there are 130 personnel who can speak Pashtun, with a further 92 people studying the language.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the order of battle of 16 Air Assault Brigade will be on its deployment to Afghanistan. [185642]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 68WS, outlining the force package that we currently plan to deploy in the next roulement of UK forces to Afghanistan.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual expected strength is of each unit deploying to Afghanistan in spring 2008. [186283]

**Des Browne:** All units deploying with 16 Air Assault Brigade will do so with the numbers required to meet the operational requirement. This may require some units to be backfilled with augmentees, in line with established practice. I am withholding information on deployed strengths as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters will be operating in Afghanistan after the next roulement. [186284]

**Des Browne:** I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces deployed in Afghanistan.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many extra helicopters will be sent to Afghanistan as part of the spring roulement. [186285]

**Des Browne:** I am withholding details of the numbers of helicopters that will be sent to Afghanistan as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of NATO forces.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops deployed in Afghanistan will have tours lasting for longer than six months. [186884]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The overwhelming majority of tours in Afghanistan are six months or less. However, individuals may deploy to Afghanistan for longer than six months in two different sets of circumstances.

First, when brigades rotate in and out of theatre, some individuals or units may have their tours slightly extended beyond the standard period of six months in order to ensure continuity of operations. These short extensions can be a matter of days or weeks and are agreed between the incoming and outgoing headquarters. Detailed figures on the number of individuals who may be required to extend in this way are not held centrally and could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Second, it has been decided that for important reasons of campaign continuity, a small number of posts should be filled by individuals undertaking nine or 12 month tours. Some 20 posts are currently established in this way, broken down as follows:

| *Post* | *Number of individuals* |
|---|---|
| HQ ISAF | 9 |
| Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan | 2 |
| HQ Regional Command (South) | 6 |
| HQ Task Force Helmand | 1 |
| Others | 2 |
| Total | 20 |

Circumstances may on occasions dictate, however, that it is not possible for a particular officer to deploy for a full extended tour.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons NATO leaflets advised Afghan civilians to stay in their homes before the bombing of Musa Qala. [181909]

**Des Browne:** There was no bombing of the urban area of Musa Qala during the recent operation to restore Government of Afghanistan control of the area. Indeed, great care was taken to avoid aerial bombardment of the town. A small number of precision attacks were made against Taliban forces identified in the surrounding area.

Leaflet drops warned the civilian population to remain indoors if fighting occurred in their area. This advice was given in order to avoid civilians being caught in crossfire.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much fresh fruit and vegetables was delivered to UK forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Helmand Province in each year since 2001. [184312]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The detailed information is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Purple Foodservice Solutions, which has held the MOD Food Supply contract since October 2006, does maintain data on the total amount of fruit and vegetables shipped to Afghanistan since they took over the contract. From January 2007 to January 2008 this was 1,163,000 kg. This is not a comprehensive picture of fresh fruit and vegetables shipped to UK forces in Afghanistan however, since it excludes UK forces fed under contracts let by other nations and includes civilians or troops from other nations who are embedded in locations supplied by the MOD contract.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with NATO allies on providing Pashtun linguists for non-kinetic operations in Afghanistan. [185203]

**Des Browne:** I meet regularly with my NATO counterparts to discuss issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan.

The majority of Pashtun speakers employed by ISAF forces are hired within Afghanistan.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his German counterpart about the provision of German troop transport support for OP Herrick 7 and OP Herrick 8. [185205]

**Des Browne:** I meet regularly with my NATO and EU counterparts, including the German Defence Minister to discuss Afghanistan and other issues of mutual interest.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the nationalities of Taliban fighters killed in Afghanistan since the conflict began; and if he will make a statement. [185207]

**Des Browne:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 423W.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* age at death was of each British serviceman and woman (i) killed and (ii) severely injured in Afghanistan since 2001; and what the (A) location and (B) date of each death or injury was. [185264]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Information on fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan is published and updated regularly on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishfatalities.htm

The details requested are reproduced as follows:

| *Date of Death* | *Name and Rank* | *Age* | *Location* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20 January 2008 | Corporal Darryl Gardiner | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 8 December 2007 | Sergeant Lee Johnson | 33 | Helmand Province |
| 4 December 2007 | Trooper Jack Sadler | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 14 November 2007 | Captain John McDermid | 43 | Helmand Province |
| 9 November 2007 | Lance Corporal Jake Alderton | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 4 October 2007 | Major Alexis Roberts | 32 | Kandahar Province |
| 20 September 2007 | Colour Sergeant Phillip Newman | 36 | Helmand Province |
| 20 September 2007 | Private Brian Tunnicliffe | 33 | Helmand Province |
| 17 September 2007 | Corporal Ivano Violino | 29 | Helmand Province |
| 8 September 2007 | Sergeant Craig Brelsford | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 8 September 2007 | Private Johan Botha | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 5 September 2007 | Private Damian Wright | 18 | Helmand Province |
| 5 September 2007 | Private Ben Ford | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 30 August 2007 | Senior Aircraftman Christopher Bridge | 20 | Kandahar Province |
| 23 August 2007 | Private Aaron James McClure | 19 | Helmand Province |
| 23 August 2007 | Private Robert Graham Foster | 19 | Helmand Province |
| 23 August 2007 | Private John Thrumble | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 11 August 2007 | Captain David Hicks | 26 | Helmand Province |
| 10 August 2007 | Private Tony Rawson | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 29 July 2007 | Lance Corporal Michael Jones | 26 | Southern Afghanistan |
| 27 July 2007 | Sergeant Barry Keen | 34 | Helmand Province |
| 26 July 2007 | Guardsman David Atherton | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 25 July 2007 | Lance Corporal Alex Hawkins | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 12 July 2007 | Guardsman Daryl Hickey | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 1 July 2007 | Sergeant Dave Wilkinson | 33 | Helmand Province |

| Date of Death | Name and Rank | Age | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30 June 2007 | Captain Sean Dolan | 40 | Helmand Province |
| 24 June 2007 | Drummer Thomas Wright | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 9 June 2007 | Guardsman Neil Downes | 20 | Helmand Province |
| 6 June 2007 | Lance Corporal Paul Sandford | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 30 May 2007 | Corporal Mike Gilyeat | 28 | Helmand Province |
| 28 May 2007 | Corporal Darren Bonner | 31 | Helmand Province |
| 26 May 2007 | Guardsman Daniel Probyn | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 20 May 2007 | Lance Corporal George Russell Davey | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 3 May 2007 | Guardsman Simon Davison | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 13 April 2007 | Private Chris Gray | 19 | Helmand Province |
| 8 March 2007 | Warrant Officer Class 2 Michael Smith | 39 | Helmand Province |
| 6 March 2007 | Marine Benjamin Reddy | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 3 March 2007 | Lance Bombardier Ross Clark | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 3 March 2007 | Lance Bombardier Liam McLaughlin | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 21 February 2007 | Marine Scott Summers | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 21 February 2007 | Marine Jonathan Holland | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 15 January 2007 | Lance Corporal Mathew Ford | 24 | Helmand Province |
| 13 January 2007 | Marine Thomas Curry | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 27 December 2006 | Lance Bombardier James Dwyer | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 12 December 2006 | Marine Richard J Watson | 23 | Helmand Province |
| 5 December 2006 | Marine Jonathan Wigley | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 19 October 2006 | Marine Gary Wright | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 6 September 2006 | Lance Corporal Paul Muirhead | 29 | Helmand Province |
| 6 September 2006 | Lance Corporal Luke McCulloch | 21 | Helmand Province |
| 6 September 2006 | Corporal Mark William Wright | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 4 September 2006 | Private Craig O'Donnell | 24 | Kabul |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant Steven Johnson | 38 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant Leigh Anthony Mitchelmore | 28 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant Gareth Rodney Nicholas | 40 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant Allan James Squires | 39 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant Steven Swarbrick | 28 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant Gary Wayne Andrews | 48 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant Stephen Beattie | 42 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant Gerard Martin Bell | 48 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant Adrian Davies | 49 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant Benjamin James Knight | 25 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant John Joseph Langton | 29 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant Gary Paul Quilliam | 42 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Corporal Oliver Simon Dicketts | 27 | Kandahar Province |
| 2 September 2006 | Marine Joseph David Windall | 22 | Kandahar Province |
| 1 September 2006 | Ranger Anare Draiva | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 27 August 2006 | Lance Corporal Jonathan Peter Hetherington | 22 | Helmand Province |
| 20 August 2006 | Corporal Bryan James Budd | 29 | Helmand Province |
| 12 August 2006 | Lance Corporal Sean Tansey | 26 | Helmand Province |
| 9 August 2006 | Private Leigh Reeves | 25 | Kabul Province |
| 6 August 2006 | Private Andrew Barrie Cutts | 19 | Helmand Province |
| 1 August 2006 | Captain Alex Eida | 29 | Helmand Province |
| 1 August 2006 | Second Lieutenant Ralph Johnson | 24 | Helmand Province |
| 1 August 2006 | Lance Corporal Ross Nicholls | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 5 July 2006 | Private Damien Jackson | 19 | Helmand Province |
| 1 July 2006 | Corporal Peter Thorpe | 27 | Helmand Province |
| 1 July 2006 | Lance Corporal Jabron Hashmi | 24 | Helmand Province |
| 27 June 2006 | Captain David Patten | 38 | Helmand Province |
| 27 June 2006 | Sergeant Paul Bartlett | 35 | Helmand Province |
| 11 June 2006 | Captain Jim Philippson | 29 | Helmand Province |
| 27 March 2006 | Lance Corporal Peter Edward Craddock | | Helmand Province |
| 22 March 2006 | Corporal Mark Cridge | 25 | Helmand Province |
| 29 October 2005 | Lance Corporal Steven Sherwood | 23 | Samagan Province |
| 28 January 2004 | Private Jonathan Kitulagoda | 23 | Kabul |
| 17 August 2002 | Sergeant Robert Busuttil | 30 | Kabul |
| 17 August 2002 | Corporal John Gregory | 30 | Kabul |
| 9 April 2002 | Private Darren John George | 23 | Kabul |

For reasons of confidentiality we are unable to release specific details of casualties without their explicit consent, or that of their family. Aggregated data on casualties is also included on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsInAfghanistan/OpHerrickCasualtyAndFatalityTables.htm

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his French counterpart on France increasing its air assets in Afghanistan. [185346]

**Des Browne:** I meet regularly with my NATO and EU counterparts, including the French Defence Minister, to discuss Afghanistan and other issues of mutual interest.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from his US counterpart on military *(a)* force levels and *(b)* strategy in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [185377]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* I meet regularly with my NATO counterparts, including the US Defence Secretary, to discuss issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan. NATO Defence Ministers last met on 7-8 February to discuss Afghanistan and other issues.

### Afghanistan: Postal Services

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what increase in forces mail to Afghanistan there has been since troops were allowed a free 2kg package. [186885]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Since the introduction of the free mail service for members of HM armed forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan began on 3 September 2007, the volume of mail to Afghanistan has increased by 95 per cent. compared to the same period in 2006-07.

### Afghanistan: Unarmed Air Vehicles

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tactical unarmed air vehicle image analysts are deployed in Afghanistan; and what plans he has to increase that number. [186943]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the number of imagery analysts deployed in theatre as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, the number of analysts required in theatre is kept under regular review by the Permanent Joint Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

### Air Force: Manpower

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's annual Royal Air Force *(a)* manpower strength planning assumptions, *(b)* manning and training margins, *(c)* baseline strength projection and *(d)* aircrew sustainability assessment for financial years 1997-98 to 2006-07. [184858]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The reports requested contain large amounts of unrounded data. The unrounded data would need to be rounded in line with National Statistics protocols, and the forecast assumptions would need to be redacted, prior to the documents being placed in the Library, both of which actions could be done only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's quarterly forecast of Royal Air Force manpower for each quarter since the beginning of 1997-98. [184859]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The reports showing the quarterly forecasts of RAF manpower contain large amounts of unrounded data. This data would need to be rounded prior to the documents being placed in the Library, in line with National Statistics protocols, and could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what airframes will be deployed on the new generation of Royal Navy aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [185453]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The future aircraft carriers have been designed to support a Joint Force Air Group including the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) and a mix of helicopters which we expect will initially include Sea King Mk 7 and Merlin. We will set the in-service date for the JCA capability when the programme reaches sufficient maturity and we make the main investment decision, and we will continue to manage carefully the transition from Harrier to JCA.

### Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises in the north east arising from the ordering of the two aircraft carriers. [185469]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** BAE Systems Submarine Solutions has recently selected two north east companies, McNulty and A&P, to form the Tyne Carrier Association, which will make a significant contribution to the manufacturing phase of the Future Carrier project (CVF). In addition, we would expect there to be extensive opportunities for further sub-contracts arising from CVF, both in the north east and throughout the UK.

### Aircraft Carriers: Shipbuilding

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the placing of the order for two aircraft carriers on the skills base of the UK maritime industry; and if he will make a statement. [185610]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We expect current programmes, including the future aircraft carrier programme, to ensure the retention of key skills and capabilities in the UK maritime industry in the short to medium term. The Defence Industrial Strategy defined the key maritime industrial skills and capabilities we need to retain on shore to support the needs of the Royal Navy in the longer term. We are therefore working with the shipbuilding industry to agree the core work load required to sustain these high-end design, systems engineering and combat systems integration skills across the maritime sector.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the value of the work share on the two new aircraft carriers to the North East economy. [185611]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are no estimates of the value of such work to the North East economy. However, industry in the North East is expected to be involved in the carrier project through the Tyne Carrier Association which BAE Systems Submarine Solutions intends to form with McNulty and A&P. In addition, we would expect there to be opportunities for further subcontracts and involvement of the supply chain, both in the North East and throughout the UK.

## Armed Forces

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department plans to spend on improving *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* training facilities for armed forces personnel in Northern Ireland in 2008-09. [185840]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We plan to spend the following on constructing new and upgrading existing accommodation and training facilities in Northern Ireland in 2008-09. It should be noted that these are estimated figures only at this stage.

| *Development type* | *Amount to be spent* |
|---|---|
| Service accommodation | £19.42 million |
| Training facilities | £100,000 |

## Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former service personnel who served in Northern Ireland have received compensation from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in the last 10 years. [185839]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Armed Forces Compensation Scheme: World War II

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in relation to the compensation scheme for former civilian internees of the Japanese during the second world war, on what grounds applications from British nationals whose births were registered in British consulates abroad or on board British ships may be rejected; where the original birth certificates are lodged in the UK birth registers; and if he will make a statement. [186106]

**Derek Twigg:** The eligibility requirements for former civilian internees under the Government's ex-gratia payment scheme for former far east prisoners of war and civilian internees are that the applicant was British at the time of internment, that they were interned by the Japanese in a specifically designated camp and that they have a close link with the UK. A close-link has, since July 2005, been determined by residence-based criteria. We do not consider that the place at which a birth was registered or at which the birth certificate is held establishes a close link to the UK. The hon. Member will be aware that a criterion based on birthlink to the UK, where there was no residence link to the UK, has already been found unlawful on the basis of indirect racial discrimination.

## Armed Forces: Ammunition

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the supply of munitions from UK produced supplies to UK forces. [185467]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Security of supply and the availability of sufficient high quality ammunition to frontline commands remains a top priority. The majority of the UK general munitions requirement is secured through a Framework Partnering Agreement with BAES Land Systems Munitions. This agreement is due to end in 2010 and we are currently working with industry to develop the future solution that will ensure continuing security of supply and deliver value for money to the taxpayer beyond 2010. We expect to make an investment decision in spring 2008.

As a result of the pace of current operations, we have seen a large increase in the demand for munitions, both for operations and for training in preparation for operations. Despite this significant challenge, we have consistently supplied sufficient volumes of ammunition to meet these commitments. Industry, both in the UK and overseas, has shown great commitment and flexibility in rising successfully to this challenge.

## Armed Forces: Children

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial support and *(b)* child care provision his Department provides for the families of service personnel deployed on operations. [182323]

**Derek Twigg:** Service personnel deployed on operations benefit from a variety of allowances including Longer Separation Allowance, Operational Allowance and Council Tax Relief; which are clearly of benefit to their families too. The Deployment Welfare Package also includes support for the families of those deployed through the Families Welfare Grant. In addition, the immediate family of an accompanied Regular Service person who is deployed on operations is entitled to travel at public expense to allow the family to benefit from support of their close relatives during extended periods of deployment by their Service spouse or civil partner.

The financial package for mobilised Reservists ensures that they will not be financially disadvantaged as a result of their service.

With reference to child care, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1022-23W.

The Government announced on 8 November 2007 work to develop the first-ever cross-Government Strategy for supporting our service personnel, their families and veterans. The Command Paper will outline steps taken so far and future initiatives to enhance the Government's support.

### Armed Forces: Coeliac Disease

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people with coeliac disease were discharged from the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Royal Navy in each of the last five years; [184732]

(2) what policies are in place to assist those who are serving in the *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* Royal Navy who have been diagnosed with coeliac disease. [184733]

**Derek Twigg:** The Defence Analytical Services Agency is currently validating its 2006 and 2007 discharge data and as such no figures are available for this time period. In 2003-05, there was one medical discharge where the principal disability leading to discharge was coeliac disease.

The armed forces as far as possible aim to meet the needs of those personnel who, during their service, develop medical conditions such as coeliac disease which require careful dietary management. Should an individual develop a medical condition which may require special dietary management during service, their condition would be catered for wherever practicable and the necessary foodstuffs and/or medication provided. Specific advice is also provided to personnel with special dietary requirements by dieticians, via their medical officer.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many payments under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme to claimants living in the London region there have been since 2005. [185769]

**Derek Twigg:** Between 6 April 2005 and 31 December 2007, the following payments have been made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to claimants recorded on the Compensation and Pension System Database as living in the London region:

Thirty-five payments have been made as a result of injury claims.

Less than five payments have been made as a result of survivors' claims.

In order to protect the identity of claimants, figures presented have been rounded to the nearest five.

### Armed Forces: Corneal Ulcers

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the incidence of corneal ulcers is among *(a)* contact lens wearing and *(b)* all British service personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce this rate. [186634]

**Derek Twigg:** The Defence Medical Services have treated a total of 30 cases of corneal ulcers in personnel who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of operation, all of whom are contact lens wearers. 28 of these served in Iraq, and two in Afghanistan.

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) are always looking at ways in which cases of corneal ulcers can be reduced in service personnel. There is evidence of improving safety and efficacy of laser eye surgery and DMS specialists are currently engaged in reviewing this evidence in the military context.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the adequacy of the *(a)* free and *(b)* fee paying communication facilities for service personnel on operational tours. [162262]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The ratio of internet access points to personnel was originally set when it was expected that the provision would be used for little more than email. Ratios of internet provision have since been improved to reflect the greater demand on the service in line with increased popularity. The ratio of access points to individuals is currently 1:50 which is assessed to be sufficient for welfare purposes in accordance with current patterns of usage. Options to improve ratios further are under consideration as part of the process of continuous improvement. There is no fee-paying aspect to the MOD provided welfare internet service.

Personnel are provided with an allocation of 30 minutes of free telephone calls per week. The Department is increasing the number of welfare telephones by 20 per cent. which is assessed to be adequate based on current demand.

In total, an additional £4 million will be spent on improvements to welfare communications in Iraq and Afghanistan over Financial Year 2007-08.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Navy and *(d)* Royal Air Force are (i) deployed on operations and (ii) conducting other military tasks. [185772]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The percentage of each service deployed on operations or undertaking other military tasks in the second quarter of 2007-08 (the latest period for which validated data is available) is as follows:

| | Percentage | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Operations* | *Other military tasks* |
| Royal Navy | 4 | 11 |
| Army | 12 | 7 |
| Royal Air Force | 7 | 8 |
| Overall | 9 | 8 |

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the armed forces in Northern Ireland offered assistance in non-military situations other than those involving civil disturbance in 2007. [185841]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is not the policy of the Ministry of Defence to offer assistance in non-military situations. Any assistance is provided in response to a specific request from the civil authorities, and in light of an assessment of the available capabilities and the appropriateness of the task. Examples of such assistance in Northern Ireland in the last twelve months include assistance in sandbagging in response to summer flooding at Comber and Downpatrick and helicopter support for the coastguard in a search for missing persons in Castlewellan Lake.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel were deployed on operations at each location at the most recent date for which figures are available. [186299]

**Des Browne:** The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 4 February 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, apart from Iraq and Afghanistan which have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

*Number of personnel deployed by location*[1]

| *Location* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Of which:* | |
| Afghanistan | 7,000 |
| Iraq | 4,200 |
| At sea | 600 |
| Qatar | 420 |
| Kuwait | 390 |
| Cyprus | 280 |
| Oman | 190 |
| Kosovo | 120 |
| Bahrain | 60 |
| Bosnia | 10 |
| Other | 30 |
| Total | 13,280 |

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

## Armed Forces: Desertion

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are recorded as absent without leave, broken down by *(a)* unit and *(b)* nationality. [182429]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* An individual who goes absent without leave (AWOL) will be recorded as such until they have been arrested, their death certificate is produced, or they have surrendered themself.

For the Army and Royal Air Force, information on the unit of individuals and on their nationality is not held centrally and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Of the incidents of reported AWOL between 1 January 1997 and 29 January 2008, there are 1,201 Army and 17 RAF personnel who remain AWOL. A comprehensive figure, including those who went AWOL prior to 1 January 1997 and who have not been arrested, their death certificate produced, or have surrendered themself, cannot be provided because of the unreliability of some historical data.

The Royal Navy has a continuous run of data on individuals who remain AWOL. As at 25 January 2008 there are 11 Navy personnel AWOL:

| *AWOL* | *Unit* | *Nationality* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | HMS Bulwark | British |
| 1 | HMS Cumberland | British |
| 3 | HMS Illustrious | British |
| 1 | HMS Kent | British |
| 1 | HMS Liverpool | British |
| 2 | HMS Nelson | British |
| 1 | HMS Sovereign | British |
| 1 | HMS York | Fijian |

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were disciplined for going absent without leave in each of the last 10 years, broken down by service. [184314]

**Derek Twigg:** Data relating to those found guilty of being absent without leave (AWOL) are shown in the following tables. Data are recorded differently by each of the three services; therefore the given figures are not directly comparable on a tri-service basis. All numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

*Royal Navy*

| | *Summary dealing* | *Court martial* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | — | 5 |
| 1999 | — | [1]— |
| 2000 | — | [1]— |
| 2001 | 1,095 | 0 |
| 2002 | 1,085 | 5 |
| 2003 | 1,345 | 10 |
| 2004 | 1,105 | 5 |
| 2005 | 985 | 20 |
| 2006 | 1,100 | 5 |
| 2007 | 625 | 10 |

[1] Denotes fewer than five.

*Notes:*

1. Formal absenteeism (AWOL) is recorded by the Royal Navy once an individual has been absent for more than 24 hours. The figures provided for summary dealings include minor offences where an individual is absent for less than 24 hours (e.g. late for a parade). To separate out this data would incur disproportionate cost.
2. Information on summary dealings prior to 1 January 2001 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
3. Figures provided for 2007 are as at 4 February 2008 and may be subject to change.

*Army*

| | *Summary dealing* | *Court martial* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | — | 90 |
| 1999 | — | 110 |
| 2000 | — | 110 |

*Army*

| | *Summary dealing* | *Court martial* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 2,335 | 145 |
| 2002 | 2,490 | 135 |
| 2003 | 2,555 | 130 |
| 2004 | 2,355 | 140 |
| 2005 | 1,975 | 185 |
| 2006 | 1,540 | 295 |
| 2007 | 1,400 | 270 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures provided for summary dealing give the number of charges of AWOL, not the number of individuals. The figures could therefore include repeat offenders.
2. Information on summary dealings prior to 2 October 2000 is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Royal Air Force*

| | *Summary dealing (officers only)* | *Court martial (all ranks)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 | [1] |
| 2001 | 0 | [1] |
| 2002 | [1] | [1] |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |

*Royal Air Force*

| | *Summary dealing (officers only)* | *Court martial (all ranks)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 | [1] |
| 2007 | 0 | [1] |

[1] Denotes fewer than five.

*Notes:*
1. Information prior to 1 January 2000 is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
2. Instances of AWOL by other ranks which were dealt with summarily are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Armed Forces: Foreign Workers

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK nationals served in the armed forces in each of the last 10 years, broken down by nationality. [182430]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The following table shows the number of full-time non-UK nationals serving in the UK armed forces[1,2,3,4] by nationality as at 1 April each year.

| | *Army only* | | | | | | | | *Army and RAF only* | *All services* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nationality* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Afghan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| American | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Ascension Islander | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Antiguan | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Australian | 65 | 65 | 70 | 75 | 75 | 80 | 80 | 75 | 80 | 90 |
| Austrian | 0 | 0 | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bahamian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | [5] | 0 | [5] |
| Bangalee | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Barbadian | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 15 |
| Belizean | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | [5] | 5 |
| Botswana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Bruneian | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameroonian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 |
| Canadian | 60 | 75 | 70 | 70 | 65 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 85 |
| Chinese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Kittian and Nevisian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Cypriot | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Danish | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dominican | [5] | [5] | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | 10 | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Dutch | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Egyptian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Falkland Islander | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 |
| Fijian | [5] | 20 | 335 | 585 | 1,055 | 1,485 | 1,730 | 1,915 | 1,995 | 2,030 |
| French | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] |
| Gambian | 0 | [5] | [5] | 5 | 15 | 35 | 60 | 65 | 80 | 125 |
| German | 5 | 5 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | [5] | [5] |
| Ghanaian | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 100 | 235 | 435 | 555 | 660 | 790 |
| Gibraltarian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Greek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Grenadian | [5] | [5] | [5] | 10 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 60 |
| Guyanese | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 20 |
| Indian | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 70 |
| Iranian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Iraqi | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Irish | 250 | 245 | 240 | 230 | 205 | 200 | 205 | 210 | 240 | 290 |
| Italian | 0 | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jamaican | 25 | 30 | 35 | 75 | 240 | 615 | 910 | 965 | 985 | 930 |

| | Army only | | | | | | | | Army and RAF only | All services |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nationality | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Jordanian | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kenyan | [5] | 5 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 40 | 70 | 85 | 105 | 140 |
| Libyan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Malawian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 25 | 55 | 75 | 95 | 125 |
| Malaysian | [5] | 5 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Maltese | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Mauritanian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] |
| Mauritian | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Monserrat Islander | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Namibian | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Nepalese | 3,645 | 3,630 | 3,680 | 3,790 | 3,805 | 3,775 | 3,735 | 3,720 | 3,690 | 3,725 |
| New Zealander | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 75 | 75 | 70 | 65 | 80 |
| Nigerian | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 90 |
| Norwegian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pacific Islander | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 |
| Pakistani | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Papua New Guinean | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Polish | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Saint Lucian | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | 15 | 205 | 220 | 225 | 225 | 240 |
| Saudi Arabian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Seychellois | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Sierra Leonean | [5] | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 40 | 45 | 50 |
| Singaporean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| South African | 25 | 45 | 80 | 130 | 225 | 360 | 510 | 625 | 725 | 890 |
| Spanish | 0 | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sri Lankan | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| St. Helenian | [5] | 10 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Sudanese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swazi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | 10 | 15 |
| Swedish | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swiss | [5] | [5] | [5] | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Tanzanian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Tongan | 0 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Trinidadian | 5 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 75 | 100 |
| Ugandan | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 10 | 25 | 35 | 40 | 60 |
| Ukrainian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [5] |
| Vincentian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 180 | 170 | 285 | 290 | 285 | 280 | 460 |
| Zambian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| Zimbabwean | 30 | 45 | 55 | 85 | 195 | 395 | 535 | 560 | 570 | 595 |
| Other West Indian | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | 5 | 0 |
| Other[6] | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 5 |
| Non UK—Total | 4,280 | 4,360 | 4,780 | 5,490 | 6,465 | 8,175 | 9,395 | 10,015 | 10,420 | 11,340 |

[1] Full Time Personnel comprises UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas and FTRS personnel. It does not include the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment or mobilised reservists.
[2] Information on FTRS personnel is not included pre 1999 as this scheme was introduced in August 1998 under Section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996.
[3] The information in the table above is for Army personnel only in 1998-2005; for Army and RAF personnel in 2006 and for all services in 2007. This is because information on nationality for Navy personnel is only available post Joint Personal Administration implementation (October 2006 for Navy) and information on nationality for RAF personnel pre Joint Personnel Administration (April 2006 for RAF) can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.
All 2006 and 2007 information is marked as provisional due to the ongoing validation of Joint Personnel Administration data.
[4] Nationality figures are based on those with a known Nationality only.
[5] denotes fewer than 5.
[6] 'Other' denotes a person who is not of British origin but their actual country of origin is not know eg listed on British Commonwealth.
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

## Armed Forces: Foreigners

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what procedures are used in recruiting non-UK citizens to the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [180046]

(2) what printed documents are used to recruit non-UK citizens to the armed forces; and if he will place copies in the Library. [180047]

**Derek Twigg:** All applicants to the UK regular armed forces, regardless of whether they are UK or Commonwealth citizens or Republic of Ireland nationals, are given equal consideration; all have to meet the same basic entry standards and go through an identical recruit selection process.

Apart from our long standing arrangements with the Government of Nepal to recruit Gurkhas, the armed forces do not actively recruit overseas. However, in

recent years, the Army has sent selection teams to a few countries (mainly Fiji) at the specific request of the government concerned, but only when evidence suggests that there is sufficient interest among the local population to merit a visit. The selection teams screen out those who are not thought capable of meeting the full entry standards to save them the cost of an abortive trip to the UK where they undergo the recruitment process.

The recruitment documentation used is identical regardless of the nationality of the applicant. A copy of the armed forces application form, AFCO form 4, and its accompanying information and guidance booklet, AFCO form 5, will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what entitlements non-UK citizens have on discharge from the armed forces *(a)* before they have completed basic training, *(b)* on leaving before the end of their engagement and *(c)* leaving at the end of their engagement. [180048]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Non-UK citizens receive the same pay and allowances as their UK counterparts while they are serving in the armed forces and these cease on discharge. They also receive the same entitlements to pension benefits and resettlement grants as their UK counterparts on discharge.

With regard to travel arrangements, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 700W.

### Armed Forces: Hospitals

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of wounded military personnel are being cared for in military hospitals. [173850]

**Derek Twigg:** In answering this question I have taken wounded to mean UK Service battle casualties from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

There are no longer any military hospitals in the UK, with secondary medical care for service personnel now provided within the NHS. Since 2001, the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM), based at the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT), has been the main receiving unit for military casualties evacuated from an operational theatre. In the Birmingham area, military patients can benefit from the concentration of five specialist hospitals (including Selly Oak hospital) to receive a very high standard of care. Indeed, Selly Oak is at the leading edge in the medical care of the most common types of injuries (e.g. polytrauma) our casualties sustain.

As at 1 February 2008, there were a total of 15 military in-patients being treated at RCDM, of whom eight were battle casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* married and *(b)* single accommodation are provided at each barracks in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) Germany; and what percentage of that accommodation is (A) in use, (B) subject to repair and refurbishment and (C) empty. [168171]

**Derek Twigg:** The requested information is not held centrally and it will take time to determine what can be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. I will therefore write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

*Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to David Drew:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your parliamentary question on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 449W about the number of units of married and single accommodation provided at each barracks in the United Kingdom and Germany; and what percentage of that accommodation is in use, subject to repair and refurbishment and empty.

I regret that as stated the information regarding Single Living Accommodation is not held centrally. To collate the detail necessary would necessitate direct contact with every individual unit of all three Services and would incur disproportionate costs.

Information on Service Families Accommodation (SFA in the UK), together with numbers of voids at each location, is set out in Annex A. Currently some 81 per cent. of UK SFA properties are occupied with 19 per cent void (not in use). Properties are void for various reasons, including:

to allow for modernisation work, disposal or demolition to be carried out,

when the SFA property is under offer to applicants,

to allow for routine movements of personnel,

the property is held pending operational deployments or unit moves,

to allow for release to AHL for sale.

It is not possible to identify the exact number of void properties undergoing repair as in most cases where property is void for a short period of time between occupants some form of repair is undertaken.

For SLA and SFA in Germany, the situation is as follows:

*SLA Unit*

| | *In use* | *Percentage in use* | *Subject to refurbishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rheindahlen | 148 | 100 | 0 |
| Paderborn | 113 | 98 | 2 |
| Gutersloh | 102 | 100 | 0 |
| Hohne | 124 | 91 | 9 |
| Osnabruck | 25 | 100 | 0 |

*SFA Unit*

| | *In use* | *Percentage in use* | *Subject to refurbishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rheindahlen | 2,911 | 74 | n/a |
| Paderborn | 2,593 | 79 | n/a |
| Gutersloh | 2,838 | 86 | n/a |
| Hohne | 2,405 | 83 | n/a |
| Osnabruck | 2,105 | 86 | n/a |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's housing stock is void or uninhabited. [171003]

**Derek Twigg:** 12,240 (17 per cent.) of the some 71,000 service family accommodation held worldwide are void. Void stock includes accommodation being held for planned moves of service units, or awaiting planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

Work is ongoing to further reduce the numbers of voids. Since March 2007, the number of void SFA properties has reduced from 13,336 to 12,240.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total number of void *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation is in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas. [177534]

**Derek Twigg:** Of the 165,000 single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces and the 71,000 service family accommodation (SFA) worldwide, the number of voids in the UK and overseas is broken down as follows:

| *Accommodation type* | *Single living accommodation* | *Service family accommodation* |
|---|---|---|
| UK | 22,022 | 9,390 |
| Overseas | 12,291 | 2,850 |
| Total | 34,293 | 12,240 |

*Note:*
Figures dated 22 January 2008

Void stock includes accommodation being held for planned moves of service units, or awaiting planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

Work is ongoing to further reduce the numbers of voids. Since March 2007, the total number of void SLA bed-spaces has reduced from 46,325 to 34,293 and in the same period, void SFA has reduced from 13,336 to 12,240 properties.

## Armed Forces: Leave

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest percentage of annual leave lost by personnel in the (i) Army, (ii) Navy, (iii) RAF and (iv) all services has been in the last 12 months. [182327]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally. However, the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) undertake an annual Survey of Leave which captures the number of lost leave days for each respondent. Overall estimates for the Army and RAF for the 2006-07 leave year are shown in the following table.

It is not possible to provide reliable 2006-07 estimates for the Navy (including Royal Marines) due to low response rates, caused by their migration to the new joint personnel administration system during the 2006-07 leave year.

*Table of estimated average percentage and average number of annual leave days not taken and not carried forward in 2006-07*

| *Service* | *Average percentage of annual leave lost* | *Average number of annual leave days lost* |
|---|---|---|
| Army | 4 | 1.3 |
| RAF | 6 | 2.6 |

Since the survey of leave is a sample survey it cannot be used to identify the highest value in the population as a whole. The survey excludes personnel of Major General rank and above (or equivalents).

Historical copies of the Survey of Leave report are available in the Library of the House and the 2006-07 report will be available shortly.

## Armed Forces: Manpower

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peace establishment was of the *(a)* Royal Dragoon Guards, *(b)* 1st Battalion Scots Guards, *(c)* Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, *(d)* 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, *(e)* 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment, *(f)* D Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and *(g)* K Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery prior to deployment to Iraq; what the deployable strength of each battalion is; and how many of all ranks are physically unfit to deploy. [184723]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is shown in the following table. The relevant units are currently deployed and as the disclosure of exact numbers would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces, numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 or where less than 100 to the nearest 10, as appropriate.

| *Unit* | *Peace establishment prior to deployment* | *Strength on deployment* | *Personnel physically unfit to deploy* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Royal Dragoon Guards | 500 | 500 | 60 |
| 1 Battalion Scots Guards | 700 | 600 | 70 |
| 1 Royal Scots Borderers | 600 | 500 | 40 |
| 1 Lancaster Regiment | 700 | 600 | 80 |
| 1 Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) | 600 | 500 | 60 |

3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery are providing an enduring commitment to operations in Iraq at sub unit level. K Battery 5th Regiment Royal Artillery is also providing a bespoke force element to meet current operational requirements. The combined deployment figure for both units is less than 100 personnel. The peace establishment for both forces prior to deployment is around 100 personnel each. However, I am withholding the actual figures as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

## Armed Forces: Medical Records

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests have been made for medical records of *(a)* serving and *(b)* veteran service personnel by (i) GPs, (ii) hospital consultants and (iii) individual service personnel and veterans, in each of the last five years; how many of those records were unable to be retrieved; and if he will make a statement. [170212]

**Derek Twigg:** In the Royal Navy and the Army, medical records of serving personnel are mostly held at individual unit level. Details of the number of requests could be obtained only by contacting each of them individually, which could be done only at disproportionate cost. The RAF primary health care directorate holds its

records centrally, although an annual breakdown of requests is not available without a manual analysis of the records.

The medical records for those who have left the armed forces may be held either by the MOD central health records library (CHRL) or by the three single services. The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) also holds some records, but in the majority of cases these will be on loan from the other organisations. When the SPVA receives requests for copies of records, it will in most cases obtain them from CHRL or the single services, thus itself accounting for a significant number of the requests recorded.

Each organisation collates its figures in the way that best meets its own business needs. Only the Army has been able to break down the number of requests by the type of requester; in other organisations, this detail is not recorded centrally. Also, not all of them record the number of requests made where records are not held. Furthermore, these numbers will inevitably include instances of double-counting. For example, when a request for records has been made of more than one organisation, (CHRL, SPVA and the single services) this will usually result in a "record not held" tally in one of them.

The information that can be provided is as follows,

*CHRL*

| | *Number of requests for medical records of veterans* | *Number of requests where records not held* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 1,523 | n/k |
| 2004 | 1,800 | 287 |
| 2005 | 1,721 | 462 |
| 2006 | 1,769 | 381 |
| 2007 (to end September) | 1,551 | 357 |

*Royal Navy*

| | *Number of requests for medical records of veterans* | *Number of requests where records not held* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 973 | 3 |
| 2004 | 776 | 5 |
| 2005 | 780 | 11 |
| 2006 | 681 | 23 |
| 2007 | 714 | 11 |

*Army*

| | *Number of requests for medical records of veterans* | *Number of requests where records not held* |
|---|---|---|
| | *GP/consultant* | *Personnel* |
| 2003 | 790 | 629 n/k |
| 2004 | 684 | 687 n/k |
| 2005 | 700 | 790 n/k |
| 2006 | 653 | 906 n/k |
| 2007 | 646 | 838 n/k |

*RAF (primary health care)*

| | *Number of requests for medical records of serving personnel* | *Number of requests where records not held* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-07 | 5,189 | 56 |

*RAF (veterans)*

| | *Number of requests for medical records of veterans* | *Number of requests where records not held* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Not available | n/k |
| 2004 | Not available | n/k |
| 2005 | Not available | n/k |
| 2006 | 699 | n/k |
| 2007 (to end November) | 754 | n/k |

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to introduce electronic medical records within the armed forces; and when they will be introduced. [185991]

**Derek Twigg:** The health records of members of the armed forces are already held electronically, but until recently records could only be accessed at an individual's local medical centre. As I announced in Colchester on 1 August 2007, the defence medical information capability Programme will improve this capability by providing a single integrated record for each member of the armed forces, which will be accessible at any armed forces medical and dental centre worldwide, and which will also eventually be linked to NHS IT systems. The implementation of this programme is under way, beginning with two pilot sites in February 2007. The system has now been rolled out to 140 medical centres in the Army and the RAF in the UK. Roll-out to all remaining medical and dental centres, including the Royal Navy and Defence sites overseas, is due to be complete by early 2009. Roll-out to deployed operational facilities, both on land and on HM ships, is due to begin in late 2008 and should be complete by the end of 2009.

## Armed Forces: Offices

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how officers OF 1 to 10 and other ranks OR 1 to 9 relate to 2nd lieutenant through to general and private to warrant officer on the rank structure section of the Defence Analytical Services Agency TSP 09. [170020]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is available on page 3 of TSP 9. A copy of this is available at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp9/tsp9tab4.html.

## Armed Forces: Pay

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest edition of his Department's Local Overseas Allowances Survey report. [185713]

**Derek Twigg:** Analysis of the most recent survey is currently in progress so figures are not yet available.

No formal report has previously been produced.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's *(a)* main manning evidence and *(b)* mid-year update manning evidence supplied to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for each financial year from 1997-98. [185716]

**Derek Twigg:** All available information on the manning evidence supplied to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body from 1997-98 is being collated and will be placed in the Library in due course.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the tables containing data on *(a)* medical officers and dentists, *(b)* nursing staff and *(c)* allied health professionals supplied to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body in respect of each financial year from 1997-98. [185717]

**Derek Twigg:** All available information on medical officers and dentists, nursing staff and allied health professionals supplied to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body from 1997-98 is being collated and will be placed in the Library in due course.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which years his Department has staged implementation of the recommendations of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body since 1977. [185950]

**Derek Twigg:** Since 1977, the Government have staged the implementation of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) recommendations on seven occasions, but when this has occurred they have always been effected within the same financial year. Staging occurred in 1984, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

### Armed Forces: Personnel Management

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with those responsible for the operation of the Joint Personnel Administration system on marrying Territorial records with mobilised records. [185452]

**Derek Twigg:** There are no known systemic problems with the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system affecting reservists. However, there are two issues that are currently being addressed.

At present, there is no provision via the JPA system for pension contributions to be paid by the MOD to the private or occupational pension schemes of volunteer reservists while they are mobilised. The facility to do this will be incorporated in the next major release of JPA software scheduled for March 2008. Until the automated solution is delivered in March, a manual process is in place.

The second issue relates to a failure in some instances for action to be taken to inform the JPA system that a reservist has been mobilised. The implications of this are that any deductions that need to be made while reservists are mobilised may be taken in error from their "attendance-based" pay account, rather than their full-time pay account that becomes active while they are mobilised. Instances of this are rare, and I am confident that ongoing education and training of Human Resources administrators will eradicate the problem.

### Armed Forces: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the evaluation of the trauma risk management pilot programme will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [185988]

**Derek Twigg:** The trauma risk management (TRiM) study was conducted by the King's Centre for Military Health Research and the Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health on behalf of (and funded by) the MOD. The study is currently being written up for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals.

### Armed Forces: Protective Clothing

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether weight-dispersion boots are available to British forces in theatres where mines are prevalent; and to which armed forces personnel they are made available. [181789]

**Des Browne:** Generally, UK armed forces only remove unexploded ordnance and mines that are a direct threat to operations, and they are provided with the equipment they need in order to do so safely. Weight-dispersion boots are not made available as these are best suited to use in humanitarian de-mining operations. While there were experiments of a similar capability in 2000, the boots were assessed as unsuitable for high-intensity operations where soldiers require the ability to breach minefields quickly and then revert immediately to normal combat operations.

### Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Royal Marines recruitment targets were in each of the last 10 years; and what the actual recruitment to each service was in each year in that period. [186779]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table shows the actual recruitment to the UK regular forces[1] from civilian life as a percentage of recruitment targets for financial years 1997-98 to 2006-07.

| | [2]1997-98 | [2]1998-99 | [2]1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Naval service*[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 4,840 | 5,040 | 5,060 | 4,160 | 3,750 | 3,930 | 4,030 |
| Actual recruitment | 4,600 | 4,770 | 4,950 | 4,620 | 5,010 | 5,220 | 4,120 | 3,690 | 3,940 | [4]3,770 |
| Percentage recruitment against target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 95 | 99 | 103 | 99 | 98 | 100 | 94 |
| *Army* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 16,670 | 14,160 | 15,270 | 14,490 | 12,250 | 13,400 | 13,950 |

| | [2]1997-98 | [2]1998-99 | [2]1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Actual recruitment | 15,380 | 16,990 | 16,500 | 14,770 | 14,930 | 16,690 | 15,260 | 11,720 | 12,730 | [4]14,300 |
| Percentage recruitment against target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 89 | 105 | 109 | 105 | 96 | 92 | 103 |
| *RAF* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3,980 | 4,140 | 5,000 | 4,610 | 2,210 | 1,500 | 1,890 |
| Actual recruitment | 3,530 | 4,250 | 4,100 | 3,630 | 3,780 | 4,450 | 4,160 | 2,180 | 1,480 | 1,720 |
| Percentage recruitment against target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 91 | 91 | 89 | 90 | 99 | 99 | 91 |
| *All services* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 25,490 | 23,340 | 25,340 | 23,270 | 18,210 | 18,840 | 19,870 |
| Actual recruitment | 23,510 | 26,000 | 25,550 | 23,020 | 23,720 | 26,350 | 23,540 | 17,590 | 18,150 | [4]19,790 |
| Percentage recruitment against target | n/a | n/a | n/a | 90 | 102 | 104 | 101 | 97 | 96 | 100 |

n/a = not available
[1] Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
[2] Recruitment targets are not available pre financial year 2000-01 so only actual recruitment is shown for financial years 1997-98 to 1999-2000.
[3] Targets are only available for Naval service as a whole. This includes Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel.
[4] Provisional and subject to review due to the ongoing validation of Joint Personnel Administration data.
*Note:*
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and are rounded to the nearest.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

## Armed Forces: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of armed forces training exercises were cancelled in 2007; and if he will list each such exercise and the reason for cancellation in each case. [185770]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** During 2007, a total of 727 training events were scheduled on the Defence Exercise Programme, of which 76 (10.5 per cent.) were cancelled or, in the case of some multinational exercises, UK assets were withdrawn. In detail, 18 exercises were cancelled owing to operational commitments, 29 were removed as savings measures and seven were cancelled by other nations. The remaining 22 events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

Further details of the military exercise cancelled in 2007 are set out in the following table.

| | *Exercise name* | *Location* | *Type* | *Reason for cancellation* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Frozen Star 07 | Norway | Air | Operational commitments |
| 2 | Snow Falcon 07-1 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 3 | Lone Fin 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 4 | Spontex 06-1 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 5 | Virtual Flag 07-3 | North America | Air | Host nation cancelled |
| 6 | Trident Fury 07 | North America | Air | Operational commitments |
| 7 | Maple Flag 40-1 | North America | Air | Operational commitments |
| 8 | Maple Flag 40-3 | North America | Air | Host nation cancelled |
| 9 | Dragons Nest 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 10 | Frairex-107 | France | Air | Changed priorities |
| 11 | Fac (A) Trg 07 | USA | Air | Changed priorities |
| 12 | FWIT07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 13 | Coop Archer 07 | Europe | Air | operational commitments |
| 14 | Wycombe Warrior 06-07 Day 1 | UK | Air | rescheduled |
| 15 | Ecadex 07 | Australia | Air | changed priorities |
| 16 | Patriot 07 | North America | Air | savings measure |
| 17 | Templar Forge 07-3 | Europe | Air | operational commitments |
| 18 | Lone Victor 07 | Europe | Air | savings measure |
| 19 | TLP 07-4 | Europe | Air | Host nation cancelled |
| 20 | Batus Run 07-1 | North America | Air | Changed priorities |
| 21 | 1 ACC WTI 07 | North America | Air | Operational commitments |
| 22 | JRTC 07-1 | North America | Air | Operational commitments |
| 23 | NATO Maxeval 07 | UK | Air | Operational commitments |
| 24 | Bold Avenger 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 25 | NATO Opeval 07 | UK | Air | Operational commitments |
| 26 | Lone Frame 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |

| | Exercise name | Location | Type | Reason for cancellation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Dapex 07 | Spain | Air | Savings measure |
| 28 | JTFEX | US | Air | Savings measure |
| 29 | Volcanex 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 30 | Iberian Spear | Europe | Air | Rescheduled |
| 31 | Lone Kestrel 07 | Europe | Air | Savings measure |
| 32 | Harding Flame 1 | Cyprus | Air | Operational commitments |
| 33 | HARDINGFLAME2 | Cyprus | Air | Operational commitments |
| 34 | Uhlan Barbara 07 | Europe | Army | Changed priorities |
| 35 | Grand Prix 3 -06/07 | Kenya | Army | Changed priorities |
| 36 | Grand Prix 2- 07/08 | Kenya | Army | Changed priorities |
| 37 | Readiness Challenge 06/07 | US | Army | Operational commitments |
| 38 | Eagles Resolve 06 | UK | Army | Changed priorities |
| 39 | Global Gold 07/08 | Kenya | Army | Operational commitments |
| 40 | Cossack Steppe | UK | Army | Operational commitments |
| 41 | Britannia Way/Iberian Focus 07/08 | Denmark | Army | Changed priorities |
| 42 | Bald Eagle 07/08 | USA | Army | Operational commitments |
| 43 | Fingals Cave 07/08 | Canada | Army | Host nation cancelled |
| 44 | Bass Rock 07/08 | Canada | Army | Host nation cancelled |
| 45 | Flying Rose 2-07/08 | USA | Army | Operational commitments |
| 46 | Lion Star 1-07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 47 | Lion Star 2- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 48 | Lion Star 3- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 49 | Lion Star 4- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 50 | Lion Sun 1-07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 51 | Lion Sun 2- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 52 | Lion Sun 3- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 53 | Lion Sun 4- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 54 | Lion Sun 5- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 55 | Lion Sun 6- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 56 | Lion Sun 7- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 57 | Lion Sun 8- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 58 | Lion Sun 9- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 59 | Lion Sun 10- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 60 | Lion Sun 11- 07/08 | Cyprus | Army | Savings measure |
| 61 | Cobb Ring 07/08 | USA | Army | Operational commitments |
| 62 | Able Ally 07/08 | Europe | Army | Changed priorities |
| 63 | Global Kukri 07/08 | Brunei | Army | Operational commitments |
| 64 | Cyprus Forum 06 | Cyprus | Joint | Changed priorities[1] |
| 65 | Joint Venture 07/08 | UK | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 66 | Lobnet 1/07 | UK | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 67 | Fast Step 1/07 | UK | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 68 | Desert Thunder | USA | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 69 | Assegai Eyes 07 | Denmark | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 70 | Wild Dog 07 | Kenya | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 71 | Lemon Sole 1/07 | UK | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 72 | Bright Star 07 | Egypt | Joint | Changed priorities |
| 73 | CME/CMX 07 | NATO and EU | MOD | cancelled by EU and NATO |
| 74 | Steadfast Nerve 07 | NATO wide | NATO | cancelled by natal |
| 75 | Jagged Flame 07-1 | Europe | NATO | Savings measure |
| 76 | Coop Mako 07 | Mediterranean | Navy | Changed priorities |

[1] Objectives met by operational commitment (Op highbrow)

## Armed Forces: Working Hours

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of working hours for personnel in the (i) Army, (ii) Navy, (iii) RAF and (iv) all services was in the last 12 months. [182329]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally on administration systems. However, the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) carries out a continuous survey of working patterns which is used to provide estimates of average hours[1] worked by each service. This information is contained in the following table.

*Table of estimated average hours worked[1] per week by service personnel[2] in 2006-07*

| Service | Average number of hours worked per week |
|---|---|
| Naval Service[3] | 52.7 |
| Army | 48.2 |
| RAF | 43. 9 |
| Tri-Service | 48.0 |

[1] Hours worked includes time spent carrying out normal work, secondary duties, compulsory fitness training, organised sports and representational activities, but excludes annual leave, meal and tea breaks and time spent on call.
[2] Survey excludes personnel of Major General rank and above (or equivalents).
[3] Naval Service includes the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

Because the continuous survey of working patterns is a sample survey, it cannot be used to identify the highest value in the population as a whole.

The 2006-07 copy of the continuous survey of working patterns report will be available in the Library of the House shortly.

## Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 55W, on armoured fighting vehicles, what key user requirements the Cheetah vehicle did not meet; and what the key user requirements will be for future *(a)* protected and *(b)* unprotected military vehicles. [175209]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Cheetah vehicle did not meet the minimum internal space requirement. With regard to future protected/unprotected military vehicles, I am withholding information about the key user requirements, as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure his Department has incurred repairing armoured vehicles damaged as a result of operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2001. [186036]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 777W.

## Army: Commonwealth

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Commonwealth citizens were recruited to the British Army in the last 12 months, broken down by nationality. [183149]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the intake from civilian life to the UK Regular Army of officers and soldiers who have a Commonwealth nationality recorded. The intake is for the period 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007 as flows for the last 12 months are currently unavailable.

*Intake of officers, officer designates and soldiers with Commonwealth nationality from 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007*

| *Nationality* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Australian | — |
| Bahamian | — |
| Bangalee | — |
| Barbadian | — |
| Belizean | — |
| Botswana | — |
| Cameroonian | 10 |
| Canadian | 10 |
| Dominican | 10 |
| Fijian | 15 |
| Gambian | 35 |
| Ghanaian | 175 |
| Grenadian | 10 |
| Guyanese | — |
| Indian | 15 |
| Jamaica | 30 |
| Kenyan | 30 |
| Malawian | 20 |
| Mauritian | 10 |
| New Zealander | 5 |
| Nigerian | 25 |
| Pakistani | — |
| Saint Lucian | 25 |
| Seychellois | — |
| Sierra Leonian | 5 |
| South African | 180 |
| Sri Lankan | — |
| Swazi | 5 |
| Tongan | — |
| Trinidadian | 10 |
| Ugandan | 20 |
| Vincentian | 5 |
| Zambian | 5 |
| Zimbabwean | 60 |
| Total | 740 |

*Notes:*
1. Due to the ongoing validation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System DASA are unable at this time to provide any information for intake and nationality since April 2007.
2. Figures show trained and untrained intake from civilian life including rejoined reservists and re-enlistments.
3. UK Regular Army includes Nursing Services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiments and mobilised reservists.
4. The nationality above is that recorded on intake and not necessarily the same as nationality at birth.
5. Although DASA are currently unable to provide the latest figures on intake, the strengths figure as at 1 November 2007 show a net increase of 130 in the number with Commonwealth nationality.
6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. Totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
7. Data less than 5 has been suppressed and replaced with '—'.

## Army: Dogs

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Kennel Club on increasing the supply of working dogs entering into service with the Royal Veterinary Corps of the British Army. [185246]

**Derek Twigg:** Any individuals or breeders, including members of the Kennel Club, are welcome to approach the dog procurement section at the Defence Animal Centre if they feel they have suitable dogs to supply to the Ministry of Defence. However, there is currently no shortage in supply of military working dogs.

## Army: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's *(a)* Army monthly manning report and *(b)* Army cascade returns for each month since 2005-06. [185722]

**Derek Twigg:** Copies of the Defence Analytical Services Agency Army monthly manning report since April 2005 will be placed in the Library in due course. The last monthly manning report was produced in March 2007.

I am withholding the Army cascade returns because their release would disclose personal information, and preparing them for disclosure would incur disproportionate cost.

### Army: Northern Ireland

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from Northern Ireland joined the British Army in 2007. [185673]

**Derek Twigg:** In 2007, 257 people from Northern Ireland, who applied through one of the four Armed Forces Careers or Army Careers Information Offices in Northern Ireland, joined the Army.

### Army: Recruitment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the recruitment *(a)* requirement and *(b)* actual number achieved for the (i) infantry, (ii) Royal Artillery, (iii) Royal Logistic Corps and (iv) Royal Signals was in each month in 2007. [186041]

**Derek Twigg:** Recruiting targets are set against an annual, not monthly, requirement across financial years. Officers are not recruited against arm or corps targets but against a whole army requirement. The annual enlistment targets for soldiers for the arms and corps requested are shown below, together with the figures actually achieved.

| | *Financial year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | |
| *Arm or corps* | *Enlistment achievemgnt* | *Annual target* | *Enlistment achievement to 31 December* | *Annual target* |
| Royal Artillery | 970 | 1,030 | 780 | 1,020 |
| Royal Signals | 750 | 870 | 360 | 880 |
| Royal Logistic Corps | 2,100 | 2,410 | 1,090 | 2,080 |
| Infantry | 4,310 | 4,260 | 2,800 | 4,940 |

Statistics have been rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Ballistic Missile Defence: RAF Menwith Hill

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Government received the formal request from the United States administration for Menwith Hill to be used in the US Missile Defence System. [185849]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

### Chad: EC Defence Policy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad. [186300]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Deployment of the ESDP mission to Chad/Central African Republic had been temporarily suspended owing to the internal security situation in Chad. However, following the operation commander's assessment of the prevailing situation in Chad and discussions in the EU Political and Security Committee on 8 February, deployment has now resumed. Initial operating capability is still expected to be achieved by the end of March as previously planned.

### Chelsea Barracks

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the sale of Chelsea Barracks; what his most recent estimate is of the capital to be realised from the sale; and whether the receipts will be hypothecated as funding additional to current provision for new and improved accommodation for service personnel. [184498]

**Derek Twigg:** On 31 January 2008, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) completed the sale of Chelsea Barracks to Project Blue (Guernsey) Ltd for £959 million. Exchange of contracts took place in April 2007, and the receipts from the sale were anticipated as part of the MOD's plans for investment in service accommodation both in 2007-08 and as part of the comprehensive spending review. More than £200 million will be spent on service accommodation in the current financial year, and £550 million will be spent between 2008-09 and 2010-11 as announced in the comprehensive spending review White Paper. The balance of the proceeds will also be allocated for service accommodation as part of the next spending review. In addition, the Department has made available a further £80 million for investment in single living accommodation over the next three years.

### Christmas Cards

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176919]

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007-08. [179548]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD expenditure on Christmas cards and postage of Christmas cards for 2007 is £500 and £200 respectively.

These figures include printing, purchase and postage, but exclude a small amount spent by Defence Attachés (for permitted representational purposes) which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182443]

**Derek Twigg:** In 2005, £1,100 was spent on Christmas cards and postage and £200 was spent in 2006. No money was spent by the Department's agencies on Christmas cards or postage in 2007. The information

for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Trading funds' expenditure is not included in this response, as they are outside the MOD's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

## Commonwealth: Armed Forces

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the UK armed forces who are citizens of other Commonwealth countries served in *(a)* each of the services and *(b)* operational theatres in each of the last 10 years. [179797]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the number of other (non-UK) Commonwealth citizens (based on nationality) in the UK armed forces[1,2,3], at 1 April in each year.

| | Service | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Navy* | *Army* | *RAF* | *UK armed forces*[3] |
| 1998 | — | 360 | n/a | 360 |
| 1999 | n/a | 450 | n/a | 450 |
| 2000 | n/a | 820 | n/a | 820 |
| 2001 | n/a | 1,430 | n/a | 1,430 |
| 2002 | n/a | 2,410 | n/a | 2,410 |
| 2003 | n/a | 4,150 | n/a | 4,150 |
| 2004 | n/a | 5,420 | n/a | 5,420 |
| 2005 | n/a | 6,040 | n/a | 6,040 |
| 2006 | n/a | 6,410 | [4]40 | [4]6,450 |
| 2007 | [4]530 | [4]6,670 | [4]40 | [4]7,240 |

n/a = Data not available. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[1] Data are for UK Regular forces (trained and untrained), including Nursing Services and excluding Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

[2] Information by country of origin for Navy personnel is only available post Joint Personnel Administration implementation (October 2006 for Navy). Information by country of origin for RAF personnel pre Joint Personnel Administration (April 2006 for RAF) can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Information in the table above is for Army personnel only in 1998-2005; for Army and RAF personnel in 2006 and for all services in 2007. All 2007 information and 2006 RAF information is marked as provisional due to the ongoing validation of Army Joint Personnel Administration data.

[3] Figures include personnel from Fiji and Pakistan which were suspended from the Commonwealth in December 2006 and November 2007 respectively and Zimbabwe which withdrew from the Commonwealth in December 2003.

[4] Provisional

*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

Data on the nationality of UK armed forces who have served in operational theatres in each of the last 10 years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## CPS21 Publication

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the quarterly CPS21 publication for each quarter since the third quarter of 2006-07. [185765]

**Derek Twigg:** Yes.

## Defence Aviation Repair Agency

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the proposed sale of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) to Vector Aerospace, how many members of the DARA workforce will transfer to a new pension scheme; how many will remain in the current Crown Service scheme; and how much he has agreed to transfer to the new scheme. [186308]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are currently 797 MOD employees at DARA's Rotary Wing Business Unit at Fleetlands, Hampshire and 295 at the Components Business Unit in Almondbank, Perthshire who will transfer to the new Vector Aerospace pension scheme on sale completion, unless they choose to opt out. In accordance with the Government's "Fair Deal for Staff Pensions" (2004) guidance, they will not be able to remain members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) after sale completion. However, they will be entitled to three months' notice to decide whether to retain their accrued pension contributions in the PCSPS until retirement age or transfer the benefits to the new Vector Aerospace scheme.

The MOD will not know how many employees will elect to retain their accrued benefits in the PCSPS until the three-month options exercise has been completed. The PCSPS actuaries will then be able to calculate the bulk transfer payment that will be transferred to the new Vector Aerospace scheme.

## Defence: Procurement

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the next phase of the Defence Industrial Policy. [185433]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Defence Industrial Policy was published in 2002 and there is no current intention to update it. It has been taken forward by the White Paper Defence Industrial Strategy (CM 6697), published in 2005. We are currently reviewing the timetable for the publication of the updated Defence Industrial Strategy. I will inform the House of the publication date in due course.

## Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's reports on *(a)* the working patterns survey, *(b)* the leave survey and *(c)* pay analysis—current and future pay for the financial years 2005-06 and 2007-08. [185764]

**Derek Twigg:** Copies of the continuous working patterns survey and leave survey reports for 2005-06 are already available in the Library of the House. The 2006-07 copies will be available in the Library shortly. The 2007-08 reports will not be produced until summer 2008.

The outputs from the pay analyses—current and future pay report are purely unrounded numerical data held in spreadsheet format. As such, no accessible reports are available for publication and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the *(a)* classification and *(b)* electronic storage of sensitive information. [182385]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The Ministry of Defence follows Government policy on the classification and electronic storage of sensitive information.

The value of the information determines its classification. Only the originator of the information can apply a protective marking and this cannot be changed without the originator's consent. Personnel are required to take account of the protective marking of the information and to apply the standard of encryption appropriate to the protective marking.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he has taken on *(a)* informing and *(b)* advising those whose personal data was contained in the missing laptops; and if he will make a statement; [185361]

(2) what advice has been given to those whose data was contained on the missing departmental laptops. [185362]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said in his statement of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225, we have written to the 3,702 personnel on the database whose bank details have been potentially compromised. In that letter, recipients were informed that the MOD had arranged for their bank or building society to be contacted about the theft, and those banks and building societies will monitor their accounts for signs of any unauthorised activity.

The banks and building societies have assured the MOD that they have the appropriate safeguards in place and that there is no need for people to ask for a new account. Under the Banking Code, when accounts are used fraudulently by a third party the account holder is not liable.

We also advised that individuals might wish to take steps to protect themselves. For example, they should contact their bank or building society immediately in the event of any unexpected activity on their accounts. We reminded recipients that they should not give out personal details if anyone contacted them unexpectedly. We advised them to take a note of the caller's name and telephone number and, if they were suspicious, to contact their bank or building society. Lastly, if any of the passwords they used to access their accounts were based on their personal data, we advised that they should consider changing those passwords.

In addition, the Department has written to a further 147,823 people whose personal details have been lost, and similar advice was provided.

Finally, for those who wished to make further inquiries we have established a freephone helpline, an e-mail address and a freepost address for people seeking clarification on what personal data has been lost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of universal serial bus flash memory data storage devices to store *(a)* restricted, *(b)* confidential, *(c)* secret and *(d)* top secret data. [186050]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Only MOD universal serial bus memory data storage devices, which have been approved by the systems accreditor, are to be used.

All such devices, regardless of the protective marking of the data, are to be registered and issued to named individuals, who remain responsible for the device. With the exception of unclassified material, the data on the device must be encrypted, and the device must be securely destroyed when no longer needed.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received from *(a)* parliamentarians, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* academics and *(d)* media sources have been agreed to by his Department since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force. [180191]

**Derek Twigg:** It should be noted that the statistics contained within this answer refer only to requests for information in which applicants have declared their occupation. This is not necessary for the Department to process a request.

| | *Percentage of total FOI requests from these sources and answered in full or part* | *Percentage of FOI requests from these sources answered in full or part* | *Percentage of total FOI requests, which where from these sources and were refused in full* | *Percentage of FOI requests from these sources refused in full* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parliament | 0.5 | 34.2 | 0.1 | 1.9 |
| Business | 5.8 | 57.0 | 0.4 | 4.1 |
| Academia | 2.5 | 56.3 | 0.2 | 4.3 |
| Media | 6.6 | 37.0 | 1.0 | 5.6 |

When requests are refused in full, it is either because the information was considered exempt under the FOI Act or because answering them would incur a cost to the Department which would exceed the 'appropriate limit', set at £600.

The status of the remaining requests known to be from these sectors, is currently defined as 'other', which means that they have been withdrawn by the requester; that they are subject to a permitted extension under the FOI Act; that they are 'open', i.e. their status cannot currently be determined; or that the requested information was not held by the Department.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184322]

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many universal serial bus flash memory data storage devices used to store *(a)* restricted, *(b)* confidential, *(c)* secret and *(d)* top secret data have been lost by or stolen from his Department in each year since 2001. [186051]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As a result of the recent theft of a laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen electronic media since 2003. This investigation involves the collation and examination of reports from across the Department including final disposal action where available. While every effort is being made to gather the information as quickly and accurately as possible, not all the details are currently available. In addition, it should be noted that details of such incidents were not collated centrally before 2003 and therefore will not be available.

I will write to the hon. Members when the information has been collated, and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185276]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As a result of the recent theft of a laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen electronic media, including PDAs, since 2003. This process involves examining and collating reports from across the Ministry of Defence including final disposal action.

While every effort is being made to gather the information expeditiously, not all the details are currently available.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available, and will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Leadership

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcomes have been of steps taken to improve corporate leadership in his Department following the findings of his Department's capability review. [185256]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We are approaching the halfway stage of a two-year plan to strengthen corporate leadership in the Department and the other three areas identified by the capability review. This includes a continued effort by the senior leadership team to provide the Department with strong and visible corporate leadership, supported by changes in board structures which will be fully implemented by 1 April. These include the replacement of a large number of subordinate boards and committees with a single operating board to ensure that the Defence board's strategic direction is carried through into action.

### Departmental Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's authorised civilian work force in the financial years *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2010-11. [185766]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD is currently undertaking a number of programmes that will ultimately result in a smaller civilian work force. Estimates of the number of civilians have not been finalised.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176505]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184365]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 884W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* net pay bill cost and *(b)* net percentage increase to the pay bill was of implementing his Department's civilian pay rises in each financial year from 1996-97 to 2007-08. [180298]

**Derek Twigg:** The civilian staff pay bill costs are as follows:

| | *Total pay costs (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 2.0 |
| 1998-99 | 2.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.1 |
| 2000-01 | 2.1 |
| 2001-02 | 2.1 |
| 2002-03 | 2.1 |
| 2003-04 | 2.1 |
| 2004-05 | 2.2 |
| 2005-06 | 2.4 |
| 2006-07 | 2.4 |

*Note:*
This table shows the total civilian paybill costs for all industrial and non-industrial civil servants employed by MOD, excluding trading funds and locally engaged civilians. The costs include pay, employer's ERNIC and pension contributions. They also include an element of pay allowances such as Recruitment and Retention Allowances (both locational and functional).

The MOD civilian work force consists of myriad groups of staff which are subject to different pay bargaining processes and different annual pay settlements. The information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Pay settlements are implemented in accordance with Government pay policy.

**Departmental Public Relations**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183198]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Reports**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports Ministers in his Department have received from *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* military personnel in the last three months. [186053]

**Derek Twigg:** Ministers routinely receive reports, oral and written, from civil servants and military personnel on a wide range of subjects. Information on the total number of reports and the subjects they have covered is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports have been commissioned by Ministers in his Department in the last three months. [186056]

**Des Browne:** Ministers routinely commission reports, oral and written, on a wide range of subjects. Information on the total number of reports and the subjects they have covered is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Sick Leave**

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to undertake an evaluation of its new sickness absence management programme. [185989]

**Derek Twigg:** A full post-project evaluation of the sickness absence management (SAM) programme was conducted in October 2007. As a consequence, the SAM policy has been rewritten in order to make it more explanatory and to include the interaction with the newly introduced patient care pathway. The policy is kept under constant review to ensure that it remains effective.

**Employment Agencies**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184916]

**Derek Twigg:** Decisions on the appointment of recruitment agencies to assist with external recruitment are delegated to many different parts of the Department, and therefore the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All recruitment of civil servants to the Department complies with the code for recruitment provided by the Civil Service Commissioners. A management area may employ a recruitment agency when it judges that this is necessary to attract the best candidates for the post.

**Estonia: Hacking**

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the distributed denial of service attack on Estonian critical infrastructure in May 2007. [185953]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The disruption that Estonia faced in May 2007 underlines the importance of the work that NATO is carrying out on cyber defence and the protection of critical infrastructure. Cyber defence is discussed by NATO Defence Ministers on a regular basis, most recently at their meeting in Vilnius which the Secretary of State for Defence attended on 7-8 February.

**EU Battlegroups**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether non-NATO European Union member states providing EU battlegroups in support of the EU's battlegroup concept train to NATO common standards. [186054]

**Des Browne:** The EU battlegroup concept directs that whenever it is possible and applicable to do so, battlegroup packages must be trained to and able to meet the same standards and criteria required for similar formations assigned to the NATO Response Force.

**Fort Halstead: Manpower**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the greatest number of people employed at Fort Halstead in Kent has been; and in which year that number of people were employed. [176277]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: Prior to 2001 the site at Fort Halstead was operated by DERA, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. Following the split of DERA in July 2001 the site has been owned and managed by the privatised company QinetiQ, but has retained an enclave of staff from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), via a formal 99 year lease.

Dstl only has accurate figures from 1 July 2001, vesting day. On this date Dstl had 529 employees based at Fort Halstead, over the years this has increased to a maximum of 716 on 1 February 2008.

**France**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the French commission undertaking a review of French defence and national security; and if he will make a statement. [186709]

**Des Browne:** UK and French officials meet regularly to discuss defence and security issues, both bilaterally and in the context of NATO and the EU. In addition, senior officials in the Ministry of Defence, the Cabinet Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office held discussions with Mr. Mallet, the Head of the French commission, during his visit to the UK in October 2007.

### Future Rapid Effect System

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the planned in-service date is of the future rapid effect system; and if he will make a statement; [185470]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Future Rapid Effect System. [185471]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) will deliver a fleet of wheeled and tracked armoured vehicles capable of operating across the spectrum of operations and protecting against the most likely threats. We are making significant progress with FRES, and I announced the successful completion of the utility vehicle design trials at the end of November. We have undertaken further work and will make a definitive announcement on a preferred design to be taken forward in due course.

In service dates are not normally set until the main investment decision.

### Gurkhas

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will put in place measures to *(a)* reduce the number of serving Royal Gurkha Rifles personnel who are leaving the British Army in order to apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the United Kingdom and *(b)* extend ILR status to such personnel; [185249]

(2) if he will extend home student status to the children of serving Royal Gurkha Rifles personnel. [185251]

**Derek Twigg:** Gurkha service in the British Army is enabled through an agreement made between the Governments of the UK, Nepal and India in 1947—the Tripartite Agreement. Gurkhas are recruited in Nepal and remain Nepalese citizens throughout their service in the Brigade of Gurkhas. This is in line with the wishes of the Government of Nepal.

There is no evidence to suggest that significant numbers of Gurkha personnel are applying to leave the British Army early in order to seek indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. Under their new terms and conditions of service, introduced last year, Gurkhas now have the opportunity to transfer to the wider Army after five years, where they would cease to be Gurkhas and serve as Nepalese Service Personnel. They would then be entitled to apply for naturalisation under the normal immigration rules for Her Majesty's forces.

Government policy on eligibility for home student status is the responsibility of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Under current arrangements, dependents of Gurkha soldiers are ineligible for home student status while their parents remain Nepalese citizens. The Ministry of Defence is currently working with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to address this issue.

### Gurkhas: Higher Education

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of helping serving Gurkhas who apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK with the payment of university fees for their children. [186969]

**Derek Twigg:** Serving Gurkhas cannot apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. Gurkha service in the British Army is enabled through an agreement made between the Governments of the UK, Nepal and India in 1947—the Tripartite Agreement. Gurkhas are recruited in Nepal and remain Nepalese citizens throughout their service in the Brigade of Gurkhas. This is in line with the wishes of the Government of Nepal.

Under their new terms and conditions of service, introduced last year, Gurkhas now have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the wider Army after five years, where they would cease to be Gurkhas and serve as Nepalese Service Personnel. They would then be entitled to apply for naturalisation under the normal immigration rules for Her Majesty's Forces.

Under current arrangements, dependants of Gurkha soldiers are ineligible for home student status while their parents remain Nepalese citizens. The Ministry of Defence is currently working on this issue with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, which has responsibility for Government policy in this area.

### Individual Resettlement Training Costs Grant

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget is for the individual resettlement training costs grant in financial years *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [179674]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The three single services operate different budgetary regimes which, in the case of the RAF, means that individual resettlement training costs grant budgetary costs are not separately identified but are subsumed into wider training costs budgets, which are then devolved down to station level.

I am able to provide the following details for the Royal Navy and Army:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4.5 |
| 2009-10 | 4.6 |
| 2010-11 | 4.7 |

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182835]

**Derek Twigg:** For the MOD civil service the number of bullying cases in the Ministry of Defence and its agencies is as follows:

| | *Bullying cases*[1] |
|---|---|
| January 2007 | 2 |
| February 2007 | 2 |
| March 2007 | 0 |
| April 2007 | 5 |
| May 2007 | 2 |
| June 2007 | 7 |
| July 2007 | 8 |
| August 2007 | 2 |
| September 2007 | 2 |
| October 2007 | 2 |
| November 2007 | 2 |
| December 2007 | 6 |

[1] The figures show the number of formal complaints raised through the Department's harassment and bullying complaints procedure where investigation by a harassment investigation officer has been requested. Figures for complaints raised informally or resolved locally are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the armed forces, monthly information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the total number of cases reported over the latest available 12-month period (1 October 2006 to 31 September 2007) is summarised in the following table.

| *Service* | *Investigated*[1] |
|---|---|
| Royal Navy | 16 |
| Army | 31 |
| Royal Air Force | 29 |

[1] This column records the number of formal complaints of bullying reported within each service. This number includes ongoing cases and complaints which were later withdrawn

The Department's unified diversity strategy makes clear that bullying and harassment are not tolerated in the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces. Revised complaints procedures were published in January 2007.

### Iraq: Detainees

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to date to the public purse has been of prosecutions, trial proceedings and internal military investigations and proceedings concerned with the death of Mr. Baha Musa in Iraq in British custody. [186370]

**Des Browne:** It has not been possible to collate all the necessary information within the required timescale. The following figures are for those costings available to date, though they are not final sums.

Army Criminal Legal Aid Authority costs for all defence teams are £8,140,696.91. The Military Court Service costs, including costs for witnesses, transcription, hotel bills, catering, interpreters and miscellaneous items, are £363,800. The Army Prosecuting Authority costs, including those for the judicial review, are £1,231,240.

I will write to the hon. Member once the costings for other areas have been received.

### Iraq: Interpreters

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken on the *(a)* safety of and *(b)* support for Iraqi interpreters working with British forces in Iraq. [183062]

**Des Browne:** We take our responsibilities to the Iraqi interpreters working with UK armed forces in Iraq extremely seriously, and have in place various measures for their protection and support. If a direct threat is made against any of our locally employed civilians we will take action to provide them with extra security, which may include bringing them into the contingency operating base. If an interpreter is required for a particularly sensitive issue, which would place an Iraqi in a difficult situation, then we will use a third-country national to translate instead.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-24, we have introduced a policy to provide additional assistance to recognise more fully the unique contribution made by our Iraqi staff who have completed their work with us. This policy was detailed in written statements to the House by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 27WS, and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 30WS, and is now in the process of being implemented.

### Iraq: Military Equipment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1601-03W, on military equipment: Iraq, what types of body armour were gifted by the UK to the Iraqi government in 2005; and what the origin of the body armour so gifted was. [183554]

**Des Browne:** The UK gifted 25,058 sets of body armour in 2005. These sets are made up of two elements, a bullet/fragmentation vest and a ballistic plate. The body armour was purchased from a commercial contractor specifically for gifting to the Iraqi authorities as part of the UK's efforts to prepare the Iraqi security forces to be self-sufficient in the management of their own security.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of civilian *(a)* women and *(b)* children killed in Iraq since March 2003; and how many of these died as a result of UK armed forces activity. [185810]

**Des Browne:** I have nothing to add to the answer given by the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*,

column 545W, to the hon. Member for Bristol, West (Stephen Williams). The UK Government do not collate these figures.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which of his foreign counterparts he has held discussions on the withdrawal of UK forces from Iraq. [185813]

**Des Browne:** I have regular discussions with my counterparts from coalition countries, including the United States and our partners in Multi-National Division (South-East), on issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Iraq.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. [185814]

**Des Browne:** I have nothing further to add to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-25.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many attacks have been made on British forces stationed at Basra airbase in each of the last 12 months; [183135]

(2) what the average number of daily attacks against Basra airbase was in the last three months, broken down by day of the week; [183136]

(3) what type of munitions are being used against British forces stationed at Basra airbase. [183137]

**Des Browne:** The number of attacks on British forces stationed at Basra airbase in each of the last 12 months for which data is available is shown as follows:

| | *Attack* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mortar* | *Other* | *Rocket* | *Shoot* | *Grand total* |
| January 2007 | — | — | 18 | — | 18 |
| February 2007 | — | 1 | 12 | — | 13 |
| March 2007 | 1 | — | 10 | — | 11 |
| April 2007 | — | — | 64 | 1 | 65 |
| May 2007 | — | — | 77 | 1 | 78 |
| June 2007 | — | — | 76 | — | 76 |
| July 2007 | — | — | 74 | — | 74 |
| August 2007 | — | — | 32 | — | 32 |
| September 2007 | — | — | 5 | — | 5 |
| October 2007 | — | — | 9 | — | 9 |
| November 2007 | — | — | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| December 2007 | — | — | 12 | — | 12 |
| | 1 | 1 | 400 | 4 | 406 |

The average number of daily attacks against Basra airbase in the last three months, broken down by day of the week, is shown in the following table.

| | *Attack—rocket* |
|---|---|
| Monday | 8 |
| Tuesday | 5 |
| Wednesday | 6 |
| Thursday | 4 |
| Friday | 8 |
| Saturday | 6 |
| Sunday | 3 |

The vast majority of munitions employed against British forces stationed at Basra airbase are 107mm, 122mm and 240mm rockets. One 120mm rocket was fired over the last year.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Finance Director of his Department has visited *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick to view existing operations. [185257]

**Des Browne:** Non-essential visits to operational theatres are kept to the absolute minimum. The MOD's finance director visited Operation Telic when working for Commander-in-Chief, Land Command, but has not visited Operation Telic or Operation Herrick in his capacity as finance director.

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the next report on health surveillance research on personnel deployed on Operation Herrick and Operation Telic will be made; and whether the research will continue until the end of all troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. [185987]

**Derek Twigg:** A second three-year phase of research on the physical and psychological health of Operations Telic and Herrick personnel is currently being conducted by King's College London; it is contracted to provide the Ministry of Defence with an interim report by the end of February 2009 and a final report by the end of August 2009. I would expect to make a statement on receipt of the final report, and will do so on receipt of the interim report if any clear issues of significance have emerged at that point.

With regard to findings from the first phase of this research, 12 papers have been published in the scientific literature to date, and more will follow. The timing of such publications, in accordance with academic practice, is a matter for the researchers and the scientific journals concerned. No decision has yet been made about continuing the research beyond 2009.

### Marines: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent tour interval is for each unit in the Royal Marines. [183516]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The most recent tour intervals for each major unit of the Royal Marines were as follows:

| | *Months* |
|---|---|
| 40 Commando Royal Marines | 32 |
| 42 Commando Royal Marines | 41 |
| 45 Commando Royal Marines | 28 |
| HQ 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines | 41 |
| Commando Logistics Regiment Royal Marines | 41 |
| Command Support Group | 41 |

Between these major unit deployments, elements of some of these units have also been deployed in support of other units and operations.

### Military Bases: Helicopters

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the commencement date of Project Belvedere is. [186887]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Project Belvedere, now known as Programme Belvedere, commenced in June 2005.

### Military Equipment

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the application of the harmony guidelines to REME Metalsmiths Class 1. [186886]

**Derek Twigg:** The harmony guidelines are designed to ensure that the armed forces can perform the tasks that the Government require of them, without expecting our people to bear an excessive burden. They are applied to all trades in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) in a similar manner to other specialist trades (for example the Corps of Royal Engineers).

### Military Equipment: Finance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's planned expenditure is on *(a)* new armoured vehicles for the Army and *(b)* new escort ships for the Royal Navy in each of the next five years. [183732]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It has been assumed that 'new armoured vehicles' refers to the future rapid effect system (FRES), and that 'new escorts' refers to the Type 45 destroyer.

FRES has not yet reached the main gate approval point and actual costs for design and manufacture have yet to be set. The forecast cost of Type 45 in the National Audit Office Major Projects Report 2007 is £6,464 million for six ships. Detailed spending plans are kept under review and exposure of more detailed budgeting profiles would prejudice the ongoing commercial negotiations of the projects.

### Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the authorised strength of the Ministry of Defence police force at the Colchester Garrison was in *(a)* May 1997, *(b)* May 2001 and *(c)* May 2005; and what the authorised strength now is. [183466]

**Derek Twigg:** The term 'authorised strength' is interpreted to be the staff complement as agreed between Land Command and the MDP. As such the authorised strength of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) at the Colchester Garrison in May 1997, May 2001, May 2005 and January 2008 was as follows:

| | *Authorised strength* |
|---|---|
| May 1997 | 32 |
| May 2001 | 33 |
| May 2005 | 20 |
| January 2008 | 9 |

The MDP provides a community policing role at the Colchester Garrison and does not provide security for the establishment. Security is provided by the Army unit stationed at the garrison.

These figures do not include Criminal Investigation Department Officers who are not part of the MDP complement at the Colchester Garrison and not funded by Land Command. They are based in Colchester for administrative convenience and are responsible for investigating crime on defence estates in East Anglia.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence police officers were employed at the Colchester Garrison in *(a)* May 1997, *(b)* May 2001, *(c)* May 2005, *(d)* May 2006 and *(e)* May 2007; and how many are now employed there. [183467]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of Ministry of Defence police officers employed at Colchester in *(a)* May 1997, *(b)* May 2001, *(c)* May 2005, *(d)* May 2006, *(e)* May 2007 and January 2008 is as follows:

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| May 1997 | 32 |
| May 2001 | 33 |
| May 2005 | 20 |
| May 2006 | 20 |
| May 2007 | 12 |
| January 2008 | 9 |

The MDP provides a community policing role at the Colchester Garrison and does not provide security for the establishment. Security is provided by the Army unit stationed at the garrison.

These figures do not include Criminal Investigation Department officers who are not part of the MDP complement at the Colchester Garrison and are not

funded by Land Command. They are based in Colchester for administrative convenience, and are responsible for investigating crime on defence estates in East Anglia.

### Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency officers there were in each year since 1997. [182320]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) is the uniformed, unarmed element forming part of the larger Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency. The Ministry of Defence Guard Service was formed into a corporate structure as part of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency in April 2004.

The information requested is provided in the following table.

| | *Number of MGS* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,109 |
| 1998 | 4,141 |
| 1999 | 4,230 |
| 2000 | 4,101 |
| 2001 | 3,743 |
| 2002 | 3,626 |
| 2003 | 3,659 |
| 2004 | 3,621 |
| 2005 | 3,883 |
| 2006 | 3,923 |
| 2007 | 3,990 |

### Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Recruitment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency officers were recruited in each year since 1997. [182315]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is provided in the following table. Full records do not exist for the years prior to April 2004, when the Ministry of Defence Guard Service was formed into a corporate structure as part of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency.

| | *Recruited* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | Unknown |
| 1998 | Unknown |
| 1999 | Unknown |
| 2000 | Unknown |
| 2001 | Unknown |
| 2002 | Unknown |
| 2003 | Unknown |
| 2004 | 302 |
| 2005 | 359 |
| 2006 | 317 |
| 2007 | 143 |

### Navy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* Navy sitrep—main version and *(b)* Navy sitrep—Royal Marine version for each month since 2005-06. [185723]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Naval Monthly Sitreps (Situation Reports) are designed for internal circulation to Navy branch managers, giving a range of statistics about strengths, inflows and outflows of Navy staff by various dimensions such as specialisation and rank.

The numbers in the reports are not fully rounded, with numbers under 10 being unrounded. Because this might allow personally disclosive information to be revealed, only fully rounded versions can be placed in the Library of the House.

A fully rounded version of the main Sitrep for September 2006 is available in the Library of the House. I will place a fully rounded version of the latest editions (December 2007), in the Library of the House. Previous editions could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Navy: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the Royal Navy's *(a)* Manpower Planning Assumptions, *(b)* Rating Planning Model, *(c)* Officers Planning Model, *(d)* Officers Strategic Planning Model and *(e)* Naval Manpower Brief for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. [185724]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will place a copy of the latest editions of the Navy Manpower Planning Assumptions for 2007 in the Library of the House. It has been edited to remove some personal names, and details of future recruiting assumptions and transfer numbers by specialisation, as this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces. Where this has been done it has been indicated in the document. The edition for runs in 2006 is already available in the Library of the House. The next edition, for planning runs to be run in 2008, has not yet been finalised.

I am withholding the models themselves as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces and they contain personal information.

I am also withholding the Naval Manpower Brief, as its release would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

### Nimrod Aircraft

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times a Government Minister has travelled in an RAF Nimrod aircraft in each of the last five years. [172852]

**Des Browne:** Records show that no Government Minister has travelled in a Nimrod during the past five years. The Nimrod is a reconnaissance aircraft and it would not be used as a mode of transport.

However, MOD Ministers have visited RAF Kinloss and RAF Waddington, where Nimrod aircraft are based, on eight separate occasions in the past five years, as well as visiting Nimrod crews deployed on operations.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he gave to inviting *(a)* Israel, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan when planning the technical conference involving the laboratories of nuclear weapon-states in collaborative work on confidence building in nuclear disarmament, as announced in his speech to the conference on disarmament in Geneva on 5 February. [186450]

**Des Browne:** The UK has offered to host a conference between the nuclear laboratories of the five nuclear-weapon states recognised under the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (China, France, Russia, the UK and the United States). The aim of the Conference will be to address some of the difficult technical issues related to the verification of nuclear disarmament as we work toward a world free from nuclear weapons. It will examine ways of furthering the disarmament goals of Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which Israel, India and Pakistan are not state parties.

### Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme: Finance

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected expenditure on the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme is *(a)* in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 and *(b)* in the life of the programme from 2005 to 2015. [181443]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave him on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W.

### Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department has supplied to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston for research on the verification of the dismantlement of nuclear warheads since 1997; and what provision has been made for such research in the next three years. [186374]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD's arms control verification research (ACVR) programme commenced in April 2000, following the Strategic Defence Review. A small amount of work was undertaken prior to this to develop the forward programme, but detailed costs, cannot be extracted from the overall 'nuclear test limitation' programme which existed at the time. Costs incurred directly against the ACVR programme for the period 2000-01 to 2006-07, inclusive, were approximately £2 million. In addition to this, indirect support has been provided from other AWE programme areas.

For the financial year 2007-08, the ACVR budget is £420,000. The MOD is currently reviewing the ACVR programme's future resource allocation to ensure it is commensurate with meeting policy objectives.

### Reserve Forces: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest figure is for the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual total training strength of the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Navy Reserve, (iii) Royal Marines Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force. [185771]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The latest figures for the Volunteer Reserves are as follows:

| | *Required trained strength* | *Actual trained strength* | *As a percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Naval Reserve | 1,784 | 1,652 | 93 |
| Royal Marines Reserve | 582 | 519 | 89 |
| Territorial Army | 30,274 | 21,069 | 70 |
| Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 2,011 | 1,264 | 63 |

Figures for the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marines Reserve are as at 31 January 2008. Figures for the Territorial Army are the latest available, and are as at 1 March 2007, when joint personnel administration went live for the Army. Figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force are as at 31 December 2007. In all cases the numbers are based on those who have successfully completed their required training.

### Royal Engineers: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour intervals were for each unit of the *(a)* Royal Engineers and *(b)* Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the latest period for which figures are available. [186034]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 3W.

### Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: RAF Innsworth

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for moving the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency from RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [177863]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* I am currently considering the business case in support of the recent study of the future accommodation requirements of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. The decision will be announced in due course, and I shall write to the hon. Member.

### Space Technology

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what UK assets in space his Department is responsible; and what the purpose is of each. [186348]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have placed a copy of the current UK Registry of Space Objects in the Library of the House. This document includes details of the owner/operator and general function of all space objects licensed by the UK including those that are, or have been, owned or operated by the Ministry of Defence. The UK Registry of Space Objects is maintained by the British National Space Centre.

### Territorial Army: Pensions

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to making the remuneration of serving members of the Territorial Army pensionable on the same terms as those serving in the armed forces. [186783]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are arrangements in place to ensure that reservists who are mobilised for permanent service with the armed forces are not disadvantaged in pension terms. Individuals may have a number of pension options depending on their personal circumstances. Also, reservists who undertake service under sections 24 and 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 (full-time reserve service and additional duties commitments) receive a pension under the Reserve Forces Pension Scheme.

The terms and conditions of volunteer Territorial Army (TA) reservists serving on man training days, voluntary training or other duties are such that they do not attract entitlement to an armed forces pension. Typically the service is short and intermittent, unlike regular service, and would produce trivial pensions under an occupational pension scheme.

An employment tribunal held in June 2007 accepted that the MOD had justifiable reasons for excluding reservists serving on man training days, voluntary training or other duties from the armed forces pension schemes. It affirmed that the Department's long-standing approach of paying an annual bounty for volunteer reserve service, in recognition of the different terms and conditions, remains valid.

### Terrorism: Ethiopia

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that the British defence attaché in Addis Ababa is given the necessary resources to provide security training advice in support of the Ethiopian Government's action against international terrorism. [186390]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence co-ordinates its overseas training programmes with other Departments, and resources are allocated according to overall Government priorities on counter-terrorism. It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of such assistance to individual countries as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

### Trident

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1605W, on Trident, how much highly enriched uranium the UK had on the latest date for which data are available. [185356]

**Des Browne:** The most recent published figure for the Department's holdings of highly enriched uranium is 21.86 tonnes held as at March 2002. This figure was published in the "Historical Accounting for UK Defence Highly Enriched Uranium" report, published in March 2006, which is available via the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/Uranium/HistoricalAccountingForUkDefenceHighlyEnrichedUranium.htm

### Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency arrangements are in place for the operation by civilian contractors of unmanned aerial vehicles in the event of their unavoidable unavailability. [185431]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The civilian contractors providing support for Hermes 450 Unmanned Air Vehicle operations in theatre maintain a team of five trained individuals for this role, although only one is deployed to theatre at any one time. This provides some contingency should any one individual become unavailable.

Other work is in hand to develop additional contingency support, including for the unlikely eventuality that all civilian contractor support become unavailable. This includes the planned introduction of an automatic global positioning system take-off and landing system.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) will come into service; and when the contracts of the Hermes 450 UAV end. [186728]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has an approved in-service date of February 2011, but it is currently expected to enter into service in 2010. The existing contract for the Hermes 450 UAV runs until July 2009 and allows for extensions as necessary to meet operational requirements.

### Veterans Day

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark Veterans day 2008. [182328]

**Derek Twigg:** The date 27 June 2008 marks the third annual Veterans day event. As in the last two years, the MOD has allocated substantial funding to support community Veterans day events across the UK. Further details of the criteria and how to apply for funding are on the Department's veterans' website at www.veterans-uk.info

All MPs were invited to a Veterans day reception at Portcullis House on 16 January, at which I encouraged all MPs to support Veterans day events in their own constituencies. An important way in which MPs can become involved in Veterans day is through a presentation of the HM armed forces veterans badge. This provides a clear opportunity to celebrate the achievements of veterans by showcasing their individual stories and demonstrating how they personify the qualities we respect in our armed forces.

I announced on 29 January that Blackpool would host the national Veterans day event in 2008. To date we are aware of around 30 other UK towns and cities which will be hosting large Veterans day events on or around 27 June, with many other smaller events around the country. I will be in a better position to advise on the overall level of funding support that we will provide after the closing date for funding applications, which is 31 May. Advice is being promulgated to the armed forces to encourage senior staff and units to support Veterans day events where operational commitments allow it. We are also working closely with ex-service organisations to facilitate their involvement. Consideration is being given to a number of other ways of promoting Veterans day 2008, but I cannot give details at this time.

I will make a statement to the House in due course.

### Warships: Devonport

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects final decisions on the base-porting of ships at Devonport Naval Base to be made. [186103]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A number of maritime change programmes are currently in progress that will impact on all three HM naval bases. These include work resulting from the Naval Base Review decision to retain and optimise all three naval bases, changes to equipment and platform support arrangements, and our evolving strategic partnership with industry. Each is designed to ensure that waterfront activity is delivered in an efficient and sustainable manner.

No decisions on changes to base-porting of ships at Devonport, or the other two naval bases, will be taken until these programmes are sufficiently mature and the full impact is known.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer question 170212 tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 29 November 2007. [185016]

**Derek Twigg:** I replied to the hon. Member today.

## OLYMPICS

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to reply to the letter dated 19 September 2007 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan about his constituent W. J. Wood of Longside. [183939]

**Tessa Jowell:** The letter from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan has been forwarded to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which is the Department with responsibility for this matter.

A response to the right hon. Member from the Minister for Sport was sent on 7 February 2008.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries incurred in the construction of the Olympic precinct for the 2012 Olympic Games have been recorded to date. [186777]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since work started at the Olympic Park site in the autumn of 2005, there have been no fatalities on site. The Olympic Delivery Authority has also just marked its second period of 1,000,000 worker hours without a reportable incident.

Since 2005, there have been 11 personnel accidents reportable to the HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). One of these incidents is classified as major, but the individual who sustained a major injury, as classified under RIDDOR, has now returned to work.

The ODA's current accident frequency rate (reportable accidents measured against working hours) is 0.17, compared with an estimated average construction industry AFR (accident frequency rate) of 1.2.

### Olympic Games 2012: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on Olympic Games 2012: Disabled, what barriers there are to building all Olympic village units to the lifetime homes standard. [185741]

**Tessa Jowell:** In my previous answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, I stated that as many of the Village units as is practicable would be built to Lifetime Homes Standards. This commitment is reflected in the Section 106 agreement (clause 13.10.1) to, the Planning Permission for the Village site.

Lifetime Homes incorporate 16 design features that apply to both the interior and exterior of a home, ranging from socket positions to the structural capacity to install hoists. There are challenges in meeting all these features in the nearly 4,000 residential dwellings that will form the Olympic Village legacy. For example, the Lifetime Homes requirement for parking, proximity to the home and space width, may not be achievable for all residential dwellings in the Village given the nature of the build as multi-level blocks in an urban environment.

Despite these constraints, the ODA's vision for the accessibility of the Village is ambitious. It is working to ensure that the Village project not only meets all legal requirements on accessibility, but places the needs of future residents at its core. The Access and Inclusion Forum and Access Panels (Transport and Built Environment) play a key role in the ODA's consultation

and assurance process. Each stage of the build is subject to rigorous review, and the principal access officer works alongside the Village project team to advise on specific inclusive design features.

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what involvement the London Fire Brigade has in the design and construction of Olympic facilities. [184809]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The London Fire Brigade is fully engaged with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority in planning for the Olympics. A fire engineer seconded to the ODA from the brigade has been in post since September 2006. He provides on-site fire safety and risk assessment advice and ensures that the design and construction of facilities meets regulatory requirements.

The London Fire Brigade also works on Olympic planning with relevant Government Departments, with the Metropolitan police and with other partners, and is a key part of the Olympic Security Directorate which co-ordinates security issues for the games.

### Olympic Games 2012: Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with *(a)* Cabinet members, *(b)* representatives of other Government departments, *(c)* the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 and *(d)* the Olympic Development Agency on (i) ethical and fair trade issues and (ii) the use of child labour in the manufacturing of merchandise for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and on which dates such discussions took place. [185661]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are committed to promoting ethical principles consistent with the Olympic Charter.

Following correspondence with Ministers from the Department for International Development, a meeting of officials from the Government Olympic Executive and DFID will discuss how to encourage fair and ethical practices as an integral part of delivering the Olympic programme. The letter of invitation was copied to Cabinet Office, CLG, DEFRA, FCO and HMT.

As a result, on 23 October, officials from the Government Olympic Executive met officials from the Cabinet Office, DFID, the Foreign Office, the ODA and LOCOG to discuss ODA and LOCOG commitment to the ethical and fair trade agenda.

The ODA seeks to work with suppliers who have a good track record in human rights and use goods and materials produced ethically. This includes seeking suppliers who do not have discriminatory practices and who do not use child or bonded labour. Officials from DFID are also discussing with ODA officials whether it can play a role in the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative's (CoST) development and implementation, which aims to increase transparency and accountability in construction procurement.

On 27 November 2007, I helped to launch the London 2012 Sustainability Plan, 'Towards a One Planet Olympics'. This sets out that LOCOG suppliers, sponsors and licensees are required to comply with the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code, which addresses child labour as well as broader labour conditions, trade union membership, and non-discrimination issues and will be applied to all appropriate contracts.

### Olympic Games 2012: Visits Abroad

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many working days have been spent to date by people employed in connection with hosting the London 2012 Olympics on study visits to *(a)* former Olympic venues and *(b)* China. [178226]

**Tessa Jowell:** The experience of past Olympic host cities and that of the organisers of the forthcoming Games in Beijing is invaluable in informing our preparations for the London 2012 Games.

Since London won the bid on 6 July 2005, in my role as Minister for the Olympics at the DCMS and now at Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn), officials and I have been on six Olympic study visits to Beijing, Turin and Barcelona. Relevant staff accompanied Ministers on these visits, and records indicate that officials (including press officers and a special adviser) have spent a total of around 57 working days in these cities.

According to ODA records, it is estimated that around 40 working days to date have been spent on study visits by employees, focusing in particular on transport, security and legacy.

In addition LOCOG, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, which is a private company, also regularly undertakes visits to former host cities. These are not publicly funded.

### Olympic Games 2012: Warrington

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that the benefits of the London Olympics are shared by the people of *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the north-west. [184333]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are working hard to ensure that the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK, and have established a nation and regions group to oversee this work chaired by Charles Allen.

The north-west steering group is represented on the nations and regions group, and leads the work of the region in delivering benefits in sport, culture, volunteering, business and tourism. The steering group includes representation from organisations such as the Northwest regional development agency, Sport England and Culture Northwest, alongside representatives from the five sub-regions. Cheshire and Warrington has established its own 2012 steering group, which mirrors the regional

structure and reports directly to the north-west group. Warrington borough council is represented on this group.

On 16 January 2008, the Olympic Family launched the London 2012 business network in Manchester, helping businesses across the country to access and compete for 2012-related contracts. The challenge is now for businesses to sign up and get support. To date, 17 contracts have been won by businesses registered in the north-west.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Admiralty House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what dates the *(a)* right hon. Member for Ashfield and *(b)* right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East vacated official Ministerial residences in Admiralty House. [183523]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 860W.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) vacated the official residence in Admiralty House on 31 July 2007.

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year since 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180690]

**Mr. Watson:** This information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Committee on Business Appointments

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what definition of lobbying is used by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments; and if he will make a statement; [181080]

(2) on how many occasions the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has interviewed an ex-Minister on the nature of an appointment that he or she proposes to take up while still serving as an hon. Member in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [183615]

(3) whether the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments requires former Ministers who are still hon. Members to submit a detailed description of their responsibilities and duties in proposed outside employment before considering whether to impose any conditions on them before they take up such employment. [184094]

**Edward Miliband:** These are matters for the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. I have asked the Chairman of the Committee, the right hon. Lord Mayhew of Twysden, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

### Correspondence: Government Departments

**Mr. Horam:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the *(a)* service first guidance and *(b)* other guidance to Government Departments about answering correspondence from the public is in force; and if he will make a statement. [185011]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office guidance for Departments, "Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies", contains guidance to Departments on how to handle correspondence from members of the public. A copy of the guidance is in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Consultants

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181892]

**Mr. Watson:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181522]

(2) how much was spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the Prime Minister's Office's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181537]

(3) how many overseas visits by officials in the Office of the Prime Minister took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year; [181597]

(4) how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181613]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested is not held centrally, and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook "Regularity and Propriety".

The Government publishes on an annual basis information about overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers. This includes details about the number of officials accompanying the Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of the annual publications are available in the Library of the House.

### EU Reform: Treaties

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the European Union on the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon on *(a)* European civil society and *(b)* the European compact. [184133]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have been asked to reply.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers regularly meet their EU counterparts, as well as a broad range of external stakeholders, to discuss a range of issues including the treaty of Lisbon. For example, in January 2008, and I met the National Council for Voluntary Organisations the issue of the proposed "EU Compact" was raised. The issue was also raised at a meeting on 4 February between FCO Ministers and a range of stakeholders.

### Life Chances

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Ministerial Committee on Life Chances differentiates between UK citizens and foreign nationals when considering policies which maximise the life chances of all in the UK. [183179]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The terms of reference of the Life Chances Cabinet Committee are to consider policies which maximise the life chances of all in the United Kingdom. The Government's policies on migration are designed to ensure the right balance between the rights and responsibilities of foreign nationals living in the UK.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments to take up an outside appointment on leaving office since May 2005. [185815]

**Edward Miliband:** The Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers set out the rules and procedures regarding the acceptance of outside appointments.

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments publishes information on its website and in its annual report about its recommendations on applications that have been referred to it under the rules from Crown servants, including special advisers, once an appointment has been taken up or announced.

### Official Residences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the Government house in Pimlico was advertised for sale. [183521]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

Agents are being appointed this month following a tender to advise on disposal.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of cases in each Crown Prosecution Service area were discontinued *(a)* in the interests of justice and *(b)* by reason of evidential insufficiency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [186175]

**The Solicitor-General:** Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records show that, during the year ending December 2007, proceedings in respect of 25,743 defendants were discontinued or withdrawn at court because pursuing the cases was deemed not to be in the public interest. That figure represents 2.4 per cent. of defendant cases referred for prosecution during that period.

During the same period, proceedings against 53,541 defendants were discontinued or withdrawn at court because the evidential test contained in the Code for Crown Prosecutors was not satisfied. That figure represents 5 per cent. of defendant cases referred for prosecution.

All cases are reviewed in accordance with the Code, and a prosecution can only proceed if the two tests set out in the Code are met. First, a Crown prosecutor must be satisfied that there is enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction. This is an objective test which means that a jury or bench of magistrates or judge hearing a case alone, properly directed in accordance with the law, is more likely than not to convict the defendant of the charge alleged.

If the case passes the evidential test, the Crown prosecutor then has to consider whether a prosecution is required in the public interest. A prosecution will usually take place unless there are public interest factors tending against prosecution that clearly outweigh those tending in favour.

The review of a case is a continuing process, and Crown prosecutors must take account of any change in circumstances. This may mean that a case is either discontinued or withdrawn at court if there is no longer a realistic prospect of conviction or if it is not in the public interest to continue.

The tables at annex A outline the volume and proportion of cases discontinued or withdrawn at court in comparison to other outcomes, and provide data in respect of each CPS area for the years ending December 2007 and December 2006. Table 1 shows the volume and proportion of cases recorded as having been dropped as against all outcomes. CPS records disaggregate prosecutions dropped into four broad

categories: evidential; public interest; unable to proceed; and other reasons. Table 2 compares total prosecution dropped outcomes with total unsuccessful outcomes, convictions and all outcomes.

The tables at annex B show the reasons for dropped prosecutions in each of the four broad categories.

All tables have been placed in the Library.

### Crown Prosecution Service: Finance

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Solicitor-General what representations she has received on the level of funding for the Crown Prosecution Service covering north-east London. [186322]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have not received any representations on the level of funding for the Crown Prosecution Service covering north-east London.

### Fraud: VAT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many missing trader intra-community fraud cases have been investigated by HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office since its creation; and how many it is currently investigating. [185190]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. It does not conduct investigations.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many individuals have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted on charges relating to missing trader intra-community fraud brought by HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office since its creation. [185202]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. It does not conduct investigations.

As at the end of December 2007,

*(a)* 417 defendants had been prosecuted for offences relating to missing trader intra-community fraud, this figure including 55 defendants who are currently the subject of live proceedings; and

*(b)* 178 defendants had been convicted of offences relating to missing trader intra-community fraud.

### Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General if she will issue guidance to the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that each person arrested in possession of a knife in public in a crime hot spot is prosecuted. [185184]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service is revising its guidance on the prosecution of those arrested in possession of a knife or an offensive weapon. The revised guidance will be issued shortly.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General what meetings she has had with the director of the HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in each of the last 12 months. [185192]

**The Solicitor-General:** I was appointed Solicitor-General on 28 June 2007. Since my appointment I have met the Director on four occasions:

29 June 2007—An Introduction for new Ministers

11 July and 18 October 2007—Routine business meetings

5 December 2007—One to one meeting.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether Michaela Partridge was employed as a consultant to HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [185193]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Michaela Partridge was employed as a consultant by Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) in financial year 2006-07, and was paid £65,271. Her contract expired in November 2006.

*(b)* Michaela Partridge has not been employed as a consultant in financial year 2007-08.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the reasons are for the fee structure introduced by HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in September 2006; and if she will make a statement. [185194]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The RCPO introduced new arrangements for counsel fees in September 2006 to standardise rates paid to counsel in all its cases, to encourage prompt billing and to bring certainty and clarity to the amounts owing to counsel at any point in time. The system is based on published fixed fee rates and is more transparent than the previous system, which involved a negotiation between both parties after the fee notes had been sent by counsel to the Department.

The new arrangements were commended by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report on RCPO's 2006-07 accounts. He noted that

"The new processes for agreeing counsel fee expenditure and estimating all related accrued liabilities has significantly enhanced the Department's ability to manage this key element of its expenditure".

The RCPO continues to apply the new arrangements and has witnessed a further improvement of control over counsel fees in 2007-08. The great majority of fee notes are now submitted within one month of the date on which the work was performed, and the number of fees relating to cases that pre-date the introduction of the new arrangements has diminished significantly.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much was paid in fees to legal counsel by HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in 2006-07; and what proportion of the Office's expenditure for that year this represented. [185201]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. It does not conduct investigations.

In 2006-07, RCPO paid £14,954,084 in fees to barristers. This represented 41 per cent. of the Office's gross expenditure.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the budget of the HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office *(a)* has been in each year since its creation and *(b)* will be in each year of the spending review period. [185191]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It is a separate Government Department from HM Revenue and Customs.

The budget of RCPO (in £000) in each financial year *(a)* since its creation has been as follows.

| | *Budget of RCPO (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 37,885 |
| 2006-07 | 36,366 |
| 2007-08 | 36,726 |

and *(b)* in each financial year of the spending review period

| | *Budget of RCPO (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 36,397 |
| 2009-10 | 36,072 |
| 2010-11 | 35,749 |

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Operating Costs

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the net operating cost of HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was in 2006-07. [185195]

**The Solicitor-General:** The net operating cost of the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) in 2006-07 was £32,006,772.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Publications

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office produces an internal staff magazine. [185253]

**The Solicitor-General:** Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has produced a bi-monthly internal staff magazine since March 2007.

### Revenue and Customs: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether the rates for legal fees paid for HM Revenue and Customs prosecutions have changed since HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established. [185656]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

RCPO introduced new arrangements for counsel fees in September 2006. Key features of the new arrangements were the introduction of standard rates that eliminated the need for negotiation between the RCPO and chambers, raised transparency and increased the accuracy of the RCPO's accounts.

The standard rates introduced reflected those prevailing at the time, with some small adjustments to ensure consistency. Following their introduction, the rates were reviewed in the final quarter of 2007 and some further small adjustments were made.

### Smuggling: Animal Products

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many successful prosecutions were made by HM Revenue and Customs for illegal importation of products of animal origin into the UK in each year since 2001. [185620]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It prosecutes cases referred to it by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. It does not conduct investigations.

HMRC has been responsible for investigating breaches of the products of animal origin regulations since April 2003.

Since April 2003, there have been 11 successful prosecutions.

Central records of prosecutions undertaken by enforcement agencies prior to April 2003 are not maintained.

## PRIME MINISTER

### 10 Downing Street: Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister on what date Stephen Carter stopped undertaking work for Brunswick. [185968]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northampton, South (Mr. Binley) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2179W.

### British Airports Authority

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what meetings he has attended with the BAA in his capacity as Prime Minister; [184653]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have attended with representatives of the BAA at which (i) the expansion of Heathrow airport and (ii) the Crossrail project were discussed; [184672]

(3) what meetings he has attended with representatives of the aviation industry in his capacity as Prime Minister. [184713]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on Thursday 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 563W.

### Chequers

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the value is of the payments that have been made to Chequers from the public purse in each year since 1997-98; [176346]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chequers Trust Deed. [176347]

**The Prime Minister:** On the Chequers grant, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor, Mr. Blair, on 11 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 54W and 13 February 2003, *Official Report*, column 948W. In addition, I refer the hon. Member to the Freedom of Information release on Chequers, available on the Cabinet Office publication scheme:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/foi/reading_room/topic/chequers.aspx

Figures for addition financial years are set out in the following table:

| | *Grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 980,000 |
| 2005-06 | 900,000 |
| 2006-07 | 950,000 |

The Chequers Trust Deed is scheduled to the Chequers Estate Act 1917, and was amended and scheduled to the Chequers Estate Act 1958. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

### China: Human Rights

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what steps he took on his visit to China in January 2008 to encourage the Chinese authorities to facilitate freedom of movement and expression in China for both domestic and international press in the run-up to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and afterwards; [185699]

(2) how many meetings he had with Chinese officials at which media freedom was discussed during his visit to China in January 2008. [185700]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave the hon. Members for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) and for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2280W.

### Christmas Cards

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176914]

**The Prime Minister:** Approximately 1,500 cards were purchased for official use at a cost of £1,379. All expenditure incurred in the purchase and posting of these cards is in accordance with the departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in "Government Accounting".

### Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

**David Davis:** To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and *(b)* the Metropolitan Policy Deputy Commissioner since June 2007; and what matters were discussed at each meeting. [186919]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Prime Minister how much the rebranding of Government Departments cost the public purse following his taking of office. [185302]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Members for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) and for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1465-6W.

### Energy Policy

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what matters in respect of energy policy were *(a)* discussed and *(b)* decided at the meeting of his business council on 4 February. [186448]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 4 February 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page14488.asp). and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Joint Intelligence Committee: Public Appointments

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Prime Minister what the process is for the appointment of the chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee; and whether applications are invited or solicited. [184200]

**David Davis:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 841, on national security, what progress has been made on the separation of the position of Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee from that of policy adviser to the Government. [185106]

**The Prime Minister:** The positions of Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and policy adviser to the Government have been separated, as I announced on 25 July.

I approved the appointment of Alex Allan as Joint Intelligence Committee Chairman and Head of Intelligence Analysis on the recommendation of the Cabinet Secretary and with the agreement of the First Civil Service Commissioner. As Mr. Allan was a serving Permanent Secretary, this was a managed move.

Robert Hannigan was appointed to the policy adviser and co-ordinator role and is Head of Intelligence, Security and Resilience in the Cabinet Office. His responsibilities include strategy and resourcing of the Security and Intelligence Agencies; security policy, including information assurance; counter-terrorism, resilience, and the effectiveness of continuity of Government; and crisis arrangements.

### Members: Correspondence

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire of 15 December 2007 on police pay. [186462]

**The Prime Minister:** I replied to the hon. Member on 11 February.

### Members: Surveillance

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W, on Members: Surveillance, whether the word interception is used in the answer with the same definition as contained in section 2 (i) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [185728]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

### Ministerial Responsibility

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Prime Minister what ministerial responsibilities he has assigned to Baroness Vadera at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and what responsibilities she has been assigned for liaison with other Departments. [185644]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the List of Ministerial Responsibilities, copies of which are available on the Cabinet Office website.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what sanctions he plans to impose on the Government of Sudan in light of the failure to deploy the UNAMID force in full and on time; and if he will make a statement; [186362]

(2) whether he plans to encourage the imposition of a no-fly zone over Darfur in 2008; [186364]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage the development of a UN arms embargo on Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [186365]

**The Prime Minister:** I welcome UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's 5 February agreement with President Bashir to accelerate the deployment of UNAMID. UNAMID is already behind schedule and the sooner the United Nations and the African Union secure prompt and effective deployment, the sooner the situation on the ground can stabilise. President Bashir must honour these commitments.

In considering additional measures, beyond UNAMID, we would need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and their impact on humanitarian efforts. We have not ruled anything out including the imposition of no-fly zones. UNAMID is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council resolution 1591.

The prospect of further United Nations sanctions, as advocated by the United Kingdom and the United States, combined with persistent persuasion by the UN Secretary-General among others, helped bring the Government of Sudan to agree to UNAMID in 2007. So I will continue to be clear that we will pursue further targeted sanctions against any party that undermines resolution of the crisis in Darfur, including by impeding UNAMID deployment. This was a key element of my discussion with Premier Wen when I visited China in January, and I will continue to make the case with other members of the Security Council that sanctions must be one of a range of measures to bring resolution of the crisis in Darfur.

I continue to believe that the UN arms embargo on Darfur should be extended to the whole of Sudan. The United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations, most recently in the UN Sanctions Committee meeting of 6 November 2007, is pursuing this initiative. We have the support of our United States and European allies, but we do not have the consent of all members of the Security Council. That is why we continue to make the case, especially to permanent members of the Security Council, that extending the arms embargo should be part of a range of measures to bring resolution of the crisis in Darfur.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Community Relations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress has been made on reconciliation in Northern Ireland. [185682]

**Mr. Woodward:** A Consultative Group on the Past, chaired by Lord Eames and Denis Bradley, was set up by the then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain), in June 2007 to seek consensus across the community in Northern Ireland on the best way to deal with the legacy of the past 40 years, and to make recommendations, as appropriate, on any steps that might be taken by Northern Ireland society in building a shared future that is not overshadowed by the events of the past.

The group completed its public consultation on 25 January 2008, and is currently reflecting on the responses received. I look forward to receiving its report this summer.

### Consultative Group on the Past

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many written responses have been received by the independent Consultative Group on the past in Northern Ireland. [186326]

**Mr. Woodward:** I am informed that in response to its public consultation, which ended on 25 January 2008, the Consultative Group on the Past received 245 written submissions. In addition to these, the group received 2,061 similarly worded letters which it believes to have been part of a co-ordinated campaign.

### Crime: Victims

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to ensure that the families of victims of serious crimes are informed that those convicted of these crimes are being transferred between prisons in Northern Ireland and others *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* in the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [186441]

**Paul Goggins:** I have instructed that the prisoner release victim information scheme includes an undertaking that the Northern Ireland Prison Service will inform registered victims if the perpetrator of the crime is transferred to a prison in another jurisdiction. This arrangement will also provide victims with a contact in that jurisdiction for further information.

### Crimes of Violence: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing forward proposals to create specific offences of *(a)* carrying and using a knife in a violent attack and *(b)* carrying a knife in a violent attack in Northern Ireland. [184727]

**Paul Goggins:** These situations would be covered by existing legislation on possession of a bladed or offensive weapon. However, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has recently emphasised the seriousness with which the Government regard knife crime. I shall shortly lay before Parliament proposals to increase the penalties for the carrying, manufacturing and selling of knives in Northern Ireland to a maximum of four years in prison. I have also increased the age at which knives can be purchased from 16 to 18.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by his Department. [185410]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department has approximately 300 databases ranging in size from the most sophisticated (SAP and Oracle) to the simplest (MS Access). The Department is currently in the process of rationalising these databases and it is therefore likely that many will be retired within the next 12 to 18 months. It is not possible to distinguish between those owned and maintained by the Department without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184323]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information is shown in the following tables.

*Mobile telephones*

| Year to 31 December | Lost | Missing | Stolen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2006 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 2008 to date | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Personal digital assistants*

| Year to 31 December | Lost | Missing | Stolen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 to date | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Laptops*

| Year to 31 December | Lost | Missing | Stolen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2008 to date | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185525]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office does not maintain records of this type and is not aware of any entries submitted by Ministers, special advisers or officials.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184373]

**Mr. Woodward:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS. Since publication of that statement, Oonagh Blackman has also been appointed as a special adviser in the Northern Ireland Office.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183296]

**Mr. Woodward:** The available details of vehicles owned and purchased by the Northern Ireland Office are set out in the following table. The numbers are made up of cars, delivery vans and tractors.

| | *Owned* | *Purchased* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 7 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 5 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 5 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 5 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 2 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 2 | 0 |

Information for 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is not available.

### Economic Performance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the economic performance of Northern Ireland. [185655]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Government published their assessment of the UK economy in the pre-Budget report, which will be updated in the Budget. The Government have not published a separate assessment of the Northern Ireland economy, as this is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

Sir David Varney's review of tax policy in Northern Ireland published in December 2007 found that Northern Ireland's recent economic performance has been good and that it has the lowest unemployment rate of any region in the UK. He found, however, that this promising growth masks some significant structural concerns, which he will address in his second review of competitiveness in Northern Ireland, announced in December 2007.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183877]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Government are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Each Department is responsible for making its own decisions on such products, against the background of the Government's value for money policy, the EC procurement rules and the Department's objectives.

My Department does use a range of Fair Trade produce.

### Northern Ireland Government: Irish Language

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government is taking to implement the provisions of the *(a)* Good Friday and *(b)* St Andrews agreement in relation to the Irish language. [185304]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Irish language is primarily a matter for the devolved administration.

Following the Belfast agreement, the Government signed up to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, under which 36 provisions representing measures to promote the use of Irish in public life have been adopted. In addition a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of Irish-medium education was placed on the Northern Ireland Department of Education by the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

The Government have also taken steps to increase access to Irish language broadcasting, with TG4 (formerly known as Teilifis na Gaelige) now available in 90 per cent. of households. Plans are in place to ensure that these levels are maintained following digital switchover in 2012. The Government also established an Irish Language Broadcast Fund to provide financial support for Irish language film and television production.

Following the St Andrews agreement, the Government introduced the Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006, section 15 of which puts the Northern Ireland Executive under a duty to adopt a strategy setting out

how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. The Government also published two consultation papers on Irish language legislation, the first on 13 December 2006 and the second, containing draft clauses for such legislation, on 13 March 2007. The responsibility for this passed to the devolved Administration following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May 2007.

### Northern Ireland Prison Service: Crimes of Violence

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of assault against staff have been reported *(a)* at prisons and *(b)* at the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; of those incidents, how many have resulted in (i) prosecutions and (ii) convictions; and if he will make a statement. [186154]

**Paul Goggins:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* In the majority of cases prisoners who assault prison officers will be charged under prison rules and will be subject to an adjudication before a Governor. Either the matter is concluded at the adjudication or the adjudication is postponed pending referral to the police for investigation with a view to prosecution. This does not preclude a governor from deciding to call in the police in the immediate aftermath of an assault occurring, whether prisoner on prisoner or prisoner on staff.

| *Month* | *Number of staff assaulted* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2007 | 1 at Maghaberry | Still awaiting prosecution decision |
| March 2007 | 2 Maghaberry escort officers at court | Still awaiting prosecution decision |
| April 2007 | 1 Maghaberry escort officer at court | Involved a male juvenile at court. He was transferred to a Juvenile Justice Centre before charges under Prison and Young Offender Rules could be preferred. |
| May 2007 | 2 Maghaberry officers | Still awaiting prosecution decision |
| June 2007 | 3 (1 Maghaberry officer, 2 Magilligan officers) | Still awaiting prosecution decision in the Maghaberry case. The police have forwarded a file on the 2 Magilligan cases to the PPS to determine if prosecution will follow. Result awaited. |
| July 2007 | 0 | — |
| August 2007 | 0 | — |
| September 2007 | 6 (4 Maghaberry escort officers at court, 2 Magilligan officers) | 4 Maghaberry staff were assaulted by a 15-year-old juvenile at Laganside court. Of the 2 Magilligan cases, one prison adjudication charge was withdrawn. Prosecution decision is still awaited in the other case. |
| October 2007 | 4 (3 Maghaberry escort officers at court, and 1 at the prison) | Still awaiting prosecution decision in these cases. |
| November 2007 | 1 Maghaberry escort officer at court | The prisoner who caused the injury was released at court before charges under prison rules could be preferred. |
| December 2007 | 2 Magilligan officers | Still awaiting prosecution decision in these cases. |
| January 2008 | 2 Maghaberry officers | In both cases the adjudication has been adjourned. |
| Total | 24 | |

*(b)* The information provided by Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre is set out as follows. In the majority of cases young people who are involved in assaults on staff will be subject to the consequences of the progressive regime (an incentivised behaviour management programme whereby young people can earn additional privileges through good behaviour) and will suffer loss of privileges earned. When the matter is deemed to be an unprovoked assault or when the intervention of staff during physical control in care procedures develops into a serious incident and staff are injured, these are deemed assaults. Those of a serious nature will be reported to the police for investigation with a view to prosecution. The outcome of the police investigations is not known at this time.

| *Month* | *Number of staff assaulted* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2007 | 0 | — |
| February 2007 | 2 | PSNI contacted relating to 1 incident |
| March 2007 | 2 | PSNI contacted relating to 1 incident |
| April 2007 | 3 | Minor incidents dealt with through progressive regime |
| May 2007 | 5 | PSNI contacted relating to 1 incident |
| June 2007 | 6 | PSNI contacted relating to 1 incident |
| July 2007 | 2 | Minor incidents dealt with through progressive regime |
| August 2007 | 2 | PSNI contacted relating to 1 incident |
| September 2007 | 1 | PSNI contacted |
| October 2007 | 4 | PSNI contacted relating to 2 incidents |
| November 2007 | 0 | — |
| December 2007 | 0 | — |
| Total | 27 | — |

### Police

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers per capita there are in Northern Ireland. [185680]

**Paul Goggins:** There are currently 4.6 full-time police officers per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland.

### Police: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the annual cost per head is of policing in Northern Ireland. [185671]

**Paul Goggins:** The current annual cost of policing in Northern Ireland is approximately £550 per person.

### Prisoners' Transfers

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to prevent the exploitation by prisoners in Northern Ireland of the system of transfer to other prisons in the rest of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [186443]

**Paul Goggins:** The transfer of prisoners between UK jurisdictions is governed by Schedule 1 to the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. Each application is assessed on its individual merits, taking into consideration:

1. the purpose for which the transfer is requested;

2. whether the prisoner was ordinarily resident in the jurisdiction to which transfer is sought prior to the imposition of the current sentence; or whether members of the prisoner's close family are resident in that jurisdiction and there are reasonable grounds for believing that the prisoner will receive regular visits from them; or whether the prisoner has demonstrated through preparations that he has made for his life following release from prison that he intends to reside in the receiving jurisdictions upon release and he is in the later stages of his sentence;

3. whether there are grounds for believing that the prisoner may disrupt or attempt to disrupt any prison establishment, or pose an unacceptable risk to security; and

4. any compelling or compassionate circumstances.

Prisoners are only transferred from Northern Ireland to serve their sentences in England and Wales if they meet these criteria.

I have instructed the Director of the Prison Service to refer any request for a transfer to England and Wales by a prisoner serving a sentence in Northern Ireland, to me.

Prisoners transferred to England and Wales could potentially benefit from the 18-day end of custody licence scheme if they met the criteria for that scheme which includes the provision that the sentence must be less than four years.

If it is clear that the sole purpose of the transfer application is to gain advantage from the ECL, that application would be refused.

### Proscribed Organisations: Arrests

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many suspected members of dissident Republican terrorist organisations have been arrested in Northern Ireland since 1 September 2002; how many of those arrested have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of offences; how many of those arrested were released as a result of charges being withdrawn or otherwise abandoned; and what were the reasons in each case. [183313]

**Paul Goggins:** The PSNI does not maintain statistics that attribute incidents to individual paramilitary groupings. However the following table provides information on those arrested and those subsequently charged with terrorist offences. The other information requested would necessitate a manual trawl which would incur a disproportionate cost.

*Number of persons arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act by attribution[1]: 1 September 2002 to 31 December 2007*

| | *Persons arrested* | | | | *Persons arrested and subsequently charged* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Loyalist* | *Republican* | *Other* | *Total* | *Loyalist* | *Republican* | *Other* | *Total* |
| 1 September 2002 to 31 March 2003 | 126 | 58 | — | 184 | 57 | 22 | — | 79 |
| 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 | 203 | 133 | 3 | 339 | 70 | 30 | 2 | 102 |
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 150 | 81 | — | 231 | 42 | 35 | — | 77 |
| 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 | 198 | 71 | 4 | 273 | 61 | 11 | — | 72 |
| 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 | 84 | 92 | 1 | 177 | 21 | 35 | 1 | 57 |
| 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007 | 44 | 62 | 2 | 108 | 20 | 9 | — | 29 |

[1] Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of arrest and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation. *Note:* Statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

### Thomas Purcell

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what length of time Thomas Purcell had been in Maghaberry prison before being transferred to a young offenders centre in England; what age he had been during his time at Maghaberry; and whether he had been attacked while at Maghaberry prison. [186437]

**Paul Goggins:** Thomas Purcell was in Maghaberry prison for six weeks prior to his transfer on 27 February 2007. He was 19 years of age and there are no reported incidents of him being attacked while at Maghaberry.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons Thomas Purcell was transferred from Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland to the young offenders centre at Aylesbury. [186445]

**Paul Goggins:** Thomas Purcell applied for a transfer to serve the remainder of his sentence in England. The transfer of prisoners between UK jurisdictions is governed by Schedule 1 to the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, as set out in PQ UIN 186443, also answered today.

### Tourism

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many tourists visited Northern Ireland in 2007; and what steps the Government plan to take to increase the number of such tourists. [185670]

**Mr. Woodward:** Following the restoration of devolution on 8 May 2007, Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive became responsible for the running of the Northern Ireland Departments. Tourism policy and promotion is the responsibility of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and its partner agencies.

I am advised that an estimated 2,051,000 tourists visited Northern Ireland in 2007.

**Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre: Crimes of Violence**

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are to be introduced to give better protection to staff working at the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre following the recent attack on three staff members. [186156]

**Paul Goggins:** Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre operates a risk management strategy to protect both staff and young people in its care. Individual risk assessments are carried out on all young people in the centre and these are constantly reviewed and updated as required.

All operational staff must make themselves aware of the individual crisis management plan (ICMP) and any other risk assessment for each young person in their care. They also carry a Blick personal alarm at all times. They are trained in therapeutic crisis intervention (TCI) and physical control in care (PCC) techniques, and suitable protective equipment is available to staff during PCC operations.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what additional funding and training is to be given to staff working at the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre following the recent attack on three members of staff and whether self-defence training will be provided; and if he will make a statement. [186157]

**Paul Goggins:** Mandatory therapeutic crisis intervention (TCI) and physical control in care (PCC) training is provided to all operational staff within the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, and this includes suitable refresher training as appropriate. "Breakaway technique" is a specific element of the PCC training which provides guidance to staff on how to safely remove themselves from dangerous situations.

The existing TCI and PCC training programmes are considered appropriate to meet current requirements. However, further training in relation to mental health is presently being explored.

Local management constantly review and update the risk assessments posed by the young people in the Centre, and should additional training requirements be identified, that will be addressed.

## TRANSPORT

**A38: Plymouth**

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2318W, on A38: Plymouth, what the collision rate was for each month in the last five years for trunk roads similar to the A38 in Devon. [186147]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency assesses the relative safety of sections of trunk road on the basis of the number of collisions per 100 million vehicle-km. The figure enables valid comparisons to be made, allowing the collision figures for any section of road irrespective of length, to be viewed in perspective. For shorter lengths of road it is advisable to assess collisions as an average over a period significantly longer than a month, usually at least three years, to minimise the effects of year-on-year variations.

The following table gives collision rates for dual carriageway sections of trunk road in Devon and Cornwall similar to the A38 near Plymouth. The figures are based on the most recent five-year period for which relevant data are available.

*Devon and Cornwall collision data using latest available five-year data, 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2007*

| *Road section* | *Collisions per 100 million vehicle-kms* |
|---|---|
| A30 Camborne-Chiverton Cross | 16.08 |
| A30 Garland Cross-Indian Queens | 14.74 |
| A30 Innis Downs to Higher Carblake | 11.77 |
| A30 Temple to Dunheved | 14.71 |
| A30 Dunheved to J31 | 7.71 |
| A38 Moorswater to Trerulefoot | 19.21 |
| A38 toll booths to J31 | 12.28 |
| A38 Marsh Mills to Ivybridge | 12.57 |

For comparison purposes, the national injury collision rate for all types of trunk road is 14.9 per 100 million vehicle-km.

**A47**

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Trans-European Network classification of the A47 road between Great Yarmouth and Peterborough has been amended by the European Commission. [182708]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The Trans-European Network classification of the A47 between Great Yarmouth and the A1 near Peterborough has not been amended by the European Commission.

**A628**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the safety of the A628; and what instructions she *(a)* has given and *(b)* plans to give the Highways Agency to implement safety measures on the route before 2012. [180963]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Selected safety improvements schemes have been programmed to be carried out at locations on the A628 where high rates of incidents occur. There are four phases to these schemes, three of

which have been completed. The final phase will start in April 2008 and is programmed to be completed in summer 2008.

Safety studies have also been undertaken for the A628 as part of the A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle bypass project. The results have been published and are part of the information provided at the public inquiry into the bypass proposals.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department's agencies *(a)* in preparation for the A628 Mottram to Tintwistle bypass public inquiry and *(b)* in total to date. [181973]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle bypass public inquiry started in June 2007. It has taken three years of preparation to get to this stage. Cost of approximately £11.8 million have been incurred by the Highways Agency in the preparation for the public inquiry of the scheme.

The total cost to date including the public inquiry related costs is approximately £13.7 million.

### Air Routes: Felixstowe

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what reasons the decision was taken to increase the number of flights flying over Felixstowe; and what factors were taken into consideration before making the decision; [185030]

(2) who took the decision to increase the number of flights over the Felixstowe peninsula and A12 corridor into Essex. [185032]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There has been no recent change to airspace arrangements over Felixstowe. The number of flights results from traffic demand from airports in the area and overflying requirements. This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider, and I suggest the hon. Member direct his inquiries to the Chief Executive of NATS.

### Ashbourne Bypass

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to allocate adequate funding and support for the construction of a bypass route around the town of Ashbourne in the West Derbyshire constituency. [178595]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Responsibility for a bypass of Ashbourne rests with Derbyshire county council, the local highway authority. It is for the county council to determine its priorities for local transport investment and to make bids for funding to the Department through the regional funding allocations process—the regional statement of priorities. The county council has yet to make such a bid for a bypass of Ashbourne.

### Aviation: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration she has given to exemptions from the EU emissions trading scheme in circumstances in which overall emissions from aircraft are lower than those of alternative forms of transport for comparable routes. [178654]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government have a commitment to ensure that aviation reflects the cost of its climate change impacts. The question of emissions from other modes of transport does not directly impact on this. Including aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) forms a crucial part of our climate change strategy, but as part of the negotiations on the inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS, member states agreed in December to exempt all flights operating under a public service obligation with an annual capacity threshold of less than 30,000 seats.

### Aviation: Pollution

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of aircraft (i) air pollution and (ii) noise on populations underneath a flight path. [185020]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport has not, in recent years, commissioned research on air pollution or noise under flight paths that are some distance from airports. Air quality impacts from aviation are believed to be quite localised, with limited ground level effect from emissions above 100 m.

The Secretary of State announced the conclusions of the 'Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources' in England (ANASE) study (commissioned in 2001) on 2 November 2007, including a letter of explanation to all MPs. The full report and related papers are available in the Library of the House, and on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/Anase/

The Secretary of State launched the consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' on 22 November 2007. It runs until 27 February 2008. This reports on the outcome of a three-year programme of assessment of the environmental impacts in the Heathrow area.

### Aviation: Public Participation

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place by which members of the public who are affected by the decisions of the Civil Aviation Authority and National Air Traffic Services concerning overflying and air safety measures may hold those bodies to account. [185450]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has a clear process for deciding upon airspace changes, as set out in the Airspace Charter (CAP724) and Guidance on the Airspace Change Process (CAP725).

Sponsors of airspace changes, mostly NATS, the air navigation services provider, or airports, are responsible for developing and consulting upon proposals. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, how they should be measured and who should be consulted. Informed by the consultation, the sponsor submits the proposal to the CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy for

assessment. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process reflects the Secretary of State's directions and guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives.

There is no direct statutory right of appeal against the Director of Airspace Policy's decision. However, the Airspace change process requires that the CAA review an airspace change 12 months after implementation to determine whether the airspace change, as approved, has been implemented and whether the anticipated safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental benefits have materialised.

**Aviation: Suffolk**

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of expansion of *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Stansted airport on the height at which planes fly over Suffolk. [185031]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not for the Secretary of State for Transport to assess the effect of expansion at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Stansted on the height at which planes fly over Suffolk.

Subject to Government policy support for expansion at Heathrow and Stansted, it is a commercial decision for the airport operator, BAA, to determine whether to pursue expansion plans.

If it did so, BAA would seek the support of NATS, the air navigation services provider, to develop a detailed airspace change proposal in accordance with arrangements under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)'s independent Airspace Change Process. CAA Guidance on the Application of the Airspace Change Process (CAP725) provides detailed advice on the process. It would be for the CAA's Director of Airspace Policy to assess any airspace change proposal against regulatory requirements and determine whether any such change should be approved.

**Aviation: Turkey**

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in contacting the Turkish director general of Civil Aviation on behalf of the hon. Member for Forest of Dean. [178817]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department is still awaiting a substantive response from the Turkish directorate general of Civil Aviation regarding an incident on 7 September involving Onur Air. It is actively pursuing this matter with the Turkish authorities. In the meantime, Onur Air is subject to safety inspections from the Civil Aviation Authority.

**Biofuels: Garages and Petrol Stations**

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK petrol stations sell ethanol fuels. [185062]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* Petrol containing small amounts of ethanol is widely available at a large number of UK filling stations and is suitable for use in any petrol-engined vehicle. This type of petrol is sometimes referred to as "E5 fuel", because it contains less than 5 per cent. ethanol by volume. Petrol pumps dispensing E5 fuel do not need to be labelled any differently from regular petrol pumps, and the Government do not keep data on the number of petrol stations selling E5 fuel at any given time. Information on the total amount of ethanol sold in the UK is, however, available via the HMRC website at http://www.uktradeinfo.com. This shows that in 2007, for example, around 150 million litres of ethanol were blended into UK petrol (some 0.6 per cent. of total UK petrol sales).

Certain types of vehicle, sometimes referred to as "flex-fuel" vehicles, can run on much higher blends of ethanol. There are around 20 filling stations in the UK selling petrol containing up to 85 per cent. ethanol by volume ("E85 fuels"). Details of the location of these filling stations are available via the Energy Saving Trust's website at:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

**Bull Bars: Regulation**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations cover the driving of a vehicle fitted with bull bars that was imported as such; and if she will make a statement. [183631]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Vehicles that are imported into the UK have to meet the requirements of the single vehicle approval scheme, which currently does not cover bull bars. The Department will be consulting shortly on amending the scheme to require all bull bars on imported vehicles to meet the technical requirements contained within Directive 2005/66/EC.

**Concessionary Fares Scheme**

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1352W, on the concessionary fares scheme, if she will break down by main budget heading the £1 billion spent by Government annually on the scheme. [184421]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Between 2000 and 31 March 2006 the statutory minimum bus concession was half fare off-peak local bus travel within an eligible resident's local authority area. During this period funding to local authorities for the statutory minimum concession through formula grant was not separately identified. However, local authority spending on concessionary travel at the end of this period was almost £500 million per year and a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been sourced from formula grant funding.

From 1 April 2006, with the improvement to the statutory minimum concession to free off-peak local bus travel within a resident's local authority area, the Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million in 2007-08. This was accompanied by allocations of £69 million and £72 million in those two years to the devolved administrations under the Barnett formula.

For the further improvement to the statutory minimum concession to England-wide travel from 1 April this year, the Government are providing an additional £212 million special grant funding in 2008-09. This equates to £250 million when allocations to the devolved administrations under the Barnett formula are included. This takes our best estimate of total central Government funding for statutory concessionary travel in 2008-09 to around £1 billion.

### Cycling: Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in each of the next two years to raise awareness of the consequences of cyclists going through a red traffic light; and if she will make a statement. [186290]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Highway Code details the legal responsibilities of all road users and was revised last year. There is no excuse for any road user to ignore red traffic lights. It puts both the perpetrator and other road users in danger. All road users should obey all road traffic laws and treat others with respect. Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police, and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has written to all chief police officers asking them to take action against cyclists going through red lights.

We are supporting Bikeability the new national standard for cycle training. We have made funds available to Cycling England to train 500,000 children by 2012. We believe better training of children will lead to better behaviour by cyclists on the road as well as encouraging children to continue to cycle as adults.

### Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency: Correspondence

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have claimed that letters sent to the DVLA register changes of ownership had been lost in the post in the last two years; what discussions she has had with Royal Mail and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [180597]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is not held in the form requested.

Under the terms of its contract with the Royal Mail, the DVLA monitors its performance in the distribution of mail from Swansea. Mail sent by customers to the DVLA is not covered by this contract. Customers sending letters to the DVLA make their own arrangements with the Royal Mail. Nevertheless, in exceptional circumstances, the DVLA does ask Royal Mail to search for items that have been reported as lost on their way to the agency.

### Driving Tests

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 624, on Department for Transport data storage, what internal rules are used by Pearson Driving Assessments to ensure compliance with UK data protection law. [176274]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The contract between the Department for Transport and Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd requires the latter to comply with obligations equivalent to those imposed on the Department, as a data controller, as stated by the seventh principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. This principle requires that appropriate technical and organisational measures be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd is ISO 27001 accredited. Pearson has appointed an independent internal auditor to annually review the design and operation of the control procedures performed by Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she has issued to the Driving Standards Agency on factors to be taken into account when deciding on the location of driving test centres. [185996]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Ministers have agreed the Driving Standards Agency's published 'Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres'. This was revised in July 2005 and is available on the DSA website at:

http://www.dsa.gov.uk/Consultation.asp?id=SXBAF2A7825C59&cat=418

The DSA needs to provide a safe environment for staff and customers, and to fulfil the demand for services in a cost-efficient manner. With these aims in mind, the DSA considers the following factors when deciding on the location of driving test centres:

a network that enables demand for tests and average waiting time targets to be met;

that most customers should only have to travel a reasonable distance to take their test in relation to where they live;

that theory test centres should be centrally located on public transport routes;

practical test centres must be in an area where a sufficient number of suitable test routes can be provided. Adequate parking for candidates is needed in close proximity to the test centre;

the facilities available in all workplaces must satisfy health and safety and other statutory requirements. Local factors including propensity for assaults, vandalism and break-ins should also be considered;

the cost of the test centre including rent, rates and running costs must be viable and the terms of the lease or other property agreement must be acceptable and sufficiently flexible to satisfy DSA's future requirements; and

ideally full-time, permanent test centres should provide off-road car parking, waiting areas and toilets for the use of candidates and be fully DDA compliant.

### Driving Tests: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that the chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency responds to representations from Warrington residents about the proposed relocation of the Warrington driving test centre. [185997]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All representations to the chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency received from Warrington residents about the proposed relocation of Warrington driving test centre will receive a response from her.

### Driving Under Influence: Accidents

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road accidents involving young people caused by drivers found to be impaired by drugs there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority in each year since 1997; [185820]

(2) how many young people subsequently found to be under the influence of drugs died as a result of road traffic accidents *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [185821]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one young driver/rider (aged 17 to 24) with impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) as a contributory factor for 2005 and 2006 in Great Britain is shown in the following table.

| | *Number of accidents* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 177 |
| 2006 | 189 |

The number of young driver/rider (aged 17 to 24) fatalities resulting from reported road accidents in which the driver/rider had impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) as a contributory factor in 2005 and 2006 in Great Britain is shown in the following table.

| | *Number of fatalities* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 6 |
| 2006 | 9 |

Information on contributory factors is not available for years prior to 2005, and is not available at police authority level.

The contributory factor "impairment by drugs" applies to illicit drugs as well as all medicines, whether prescription or 'over the counter'. It is not possible to separate the factor into illicit and medicinal drugs.

This factor is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that the driver/rider was affected by drugs and behaved in a way which caused, or contributed to, the accident. This may not be the result of a drug screening test.

### Durham Green Developments Limited

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in her Department have had with representatives of Durham Green Developments Ltd in the last 36 months. [176368]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 819W, in respect of Durham Green Business Park. There have been no other meetings with representatives of Durham Green Developments Ltd.

### Electric Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will meet representatives of the electric personal assistive mobility devices industry to discuss the role of their products in transport policy; [185869]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the potential impact of electric personal assistive mobility devices on UK climate change and carbon emissions targets; and if she will make a statement; [185870]

(3) what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the role of electric personal assistive mobility devices in transport policy; and if she will make a statement. [185871]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State for Transport has no current plans to meet representatives of electric personal assistive mobility device manufacturers or promoters, nor has she had discussions on this subject with the Secretary of State for DEFRA or with her European counterparts.

If, as we understand, the use of such devices is likely to be primarily as an alternative to walking or cycling, their potential in terms of greenhouse gas and local pollution reduction is at best negligible.

However, officials will be considering available reports on trials and usage of some of these machines in other countries.

### Fares: Non-payment

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the loss of revenue from fare evasion on the railways in each of the last five years. [183649]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department does not hold such information, although, as we made clear in our Rail White Paper last summer we believe the industry's reported figure of 5 per cent. to be an underestimate. For this reason we have required operators to implement a structured revenue protection strategy as part of all franchise agreements entered into since 2004.

Further steps were outlined to support revenue protection in the White Paper published last summer, including reviewing the role of gating schemes. Among recent franchises, the Department is securing commitments to gating schemes such as those for Birmingham New Street and London Waterloo.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many on-the-spot fines were issued for fare evasion and possession of an incorrect ticket on trains in each of the last five years; and how much revenue this has generated. [183650]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The train operators do not impose "on the spot fines" for either fare evasion or incorrect tickets. When a passenger has no ticket and is travelling in a penalty fare area, he or she will be charged £20 or double the fare for the journey, whichever is greater. This is not a fine—that is, it is not additional to the

fare, but is a penalty rate for the journey. Outside penalty fare areas passengers may be charged for a full standard fare without the right to discounts available before boarding. This does not apply to some local services where "pay on the train" applies.

The railways also issue excess fares. A person who has the wrong ticket is charged the difference between the ticket held and the correct one when, for instance, travelling between two points along a route that is not allowed by the ticket.

The DfT does not hold information on these categories of fares.

**First Great Western: Standards**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve *(a)* seating comfort and *(b)* capacity on services provided by First Great Western. [184070]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The White Paper published in the summer included a commitment to 1,300 extra carriages. They will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

On 30 January the Department for Transport published its rolling stock plan. This shows indicative numbers of rolling stock per train operating company, and 52 additional vehicles are shown for First Great Western. The rolling stock plan explains that these numbers are not intended to be prescriptive or to limit the development process with the industry, and could therefore be subject to change in the final outcome.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* representations on the (i) provision of services and (ii) performance by First Great Western services in Hampshire were received by her Department in each month since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [184071]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the last 12 months, Ministers and officials at the Department for Transport have received many representations regarding various aspects of First Greater Western operations. Ministers remain very concerned about First Great Western's performance, and want to see improvements matching those seen elsewhere in the industry.

**Freight: Foreigners**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action the Government have taken to ensure that foreign-registered haulage vehicles on British roads comply with the requirements of EU legislation. [185630]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has a specific responsibility to help ensure that all commercial vehicles and drivers comply with the law, irrespective of whether their operating base is in the UK or elsewhere. Additionally, VOSA has significantly stepped up the level of enforcement activity in respect of commercial vehicles undertaking international journeys since the beginning of 2006-07.

The Government have also introduced new provisions in the Road Safety Act 2006 so that—in addition to prohibiting vehicles and drivers for various offences—both VOSA and the police will be able to issue fixed penalties to offenders, regardless of nationality. The Department is aiming to make all the necessary secondary legislation to implement these provisions as soon as possible.

**Freight: Roads**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action the Government have taken to assist the British haulage industry since 1997. [185629]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The most significant actions that the Government have taken have been announced in Budget and pre-Budget reports (PBRs), and the highlights of these are the focus of this response.

The Government announced in 1999 their intention to engage more fully with hauliers when they announced the creation of the Road Haulage Forum. This forum offered the industry, through representative organisations such as the Freight Transport Association (FTA), Road Haulage Association (RHA) and the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), the opportunity to meet Ministers regularly to explore any industry problems and discuss possible solutions.

The setting up of the forum was followed by the PBR 2000 announcement of the Road Haulage Modernisation Fund, which offered £100 million to the UK trucking industry. The modernisation fund was part of a package including a £220 million VED rebate and a freeze on fuel duties.

PBR 2005 saw the creation of the Haulage Industry Task Group (HITG). The group's aim was to develop a stronger evidence base to inform the Government's future policy decisions. The RHA and FTA were represented on this group, and the HITG reported its findings at PBR 2006. PBR 2005 also saw the Government announce £2 million for new enforcement equipment for VOSA.

PBR 2006 announced that the Government would undertake a feasibility study of options for better enforcement against foreign hauliers including a time-based charging system for use of UK roads (a vignette). A progress report was published last November.

Following last year's Budget announcement that there had been a significant increase in targeted checks by VOSA of vehicles on international journeys, PBR 2007 announced that an extra £2 million a year would be dedicated to the Government's ongoing drive to enforce road safety law for hauliers, with the focus particularly on those undertaking international journeys.

The Department also operates a Freight Best Practice programme which aims to reduce the environmental impact of the freight industry through improved operational efficiency. The industry benefit over the last two years has shown savings of £83 million. The free advice that the programme offers is available at www.freightbestpractice.org.uk, and further information on other actions the Government have taken to assist hauliers is available at www.dft.gov.uk

### Galileo

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account was taken of the Transport Committee's recommendations (First Report, Session 2007-08, HC 53) on the Galileo project in the Government's subsequent position in European Union decisions on Galileo; whether any changes were made to the Government's position as a result of the Committee's report; how much the UK is committed to contribute to this project; and what discussions she has had with the Chairman of the Select Committee on this matter. [178810]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government welcomed the report of the Transport Committee, which agreed with much of our analysis on both the significant potential benefits of the programme and the questions giving cause for concern.

The Government's negotiating position at ECOFIN and the Transport councils was endorsed by Parliament following a debate in European Standing Committee on 26 November 2007. We worked with other member states to meet our concerns, and successfully reached agreement on the need for robust control of costs, clear and transparent governance, and maximum competition in procurement.

The UK has directly committed funds of €142 million as an ESA member state for the ESA element of the design and development phase of the programme. As EU member states contribute to the EC budget as a whole, rather than to individual spending programmes within it, there is no specific UK contribution to the EC budget-funded element of the development and subsequent deployment costs for Galileo.

There have been no specific discussions between departmental Ministers and the Chairman of the committee on Galileo since publication of the report, but the subject was raised at the Transport Committee hearing on 30 January 2008.

### Heathrow Airport

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the "Adding capacity at Heathrow airport" public consultation document what is *(a)* the current proportion of twin-engined aircraft to four-engined aircraft using Heathrow airport and *(b)* the assumed proportion of twin-engined aircraft to four-engined aircraft used in projecting future noise and environmental modelling contained in the consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [182435]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Four-engined aircraft are estimated to account for some 15 per cent. of the fleet at Heathrow in 2005. The noise and environmental modelling reported in the Heathrow consultation documents assume an increase in the proportion of twin-engined aircraft over time, with the proportion of four-engined aircraft declining to around 12 per cent. in a mixed-mode scenario (2015) and 6 per cent. in a third runway scenario (2020). These forecasts are informed by current, known airline fleet replacement plans and discussions with airlines on likely future trends. More detail on the fleet composition is set out in the two supporting technical reports, ERCD Report 0705 on noise exposure estimates and AEA report on emission summaries, both available on the DFT website:

www.dft.gov.uk

### Heathrow Airport: Safety

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of missed approaches made by planes landing at Heathrow in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [182434]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider at Heathrow airport. I suggest the hon. Member directs her inquiries to the chief executive of NATS.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of bullying were reported in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182845]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A total of 38 formal cases of bullying were reported in the Department for Transport and its agencies between January 2007 and December 2007.

### Lorries

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when the study commissioned by her Department in December 2005 of longer heavier vehicles will report; and whether the full report will be published; [180127]

(2) what consultants have been employed by her Department in relation to the study commissioned in December 2005 of longer heavier vehicles. [180128]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The study was commissioned in October 2006 following a decision in December 2005 by the then Minister of State, Department for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), to refuse applications from two hauliers each wishing to trial a goods vehicle longer and heavier than those currently permitted. This updates information provided in my answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*,

columns 1117-8W.

A freight transport consultant from Faber Maunsell was appointed to manage the study, with the research work being undertaken by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) and Heriot-Watt university. The full report should be published by the end of February.

### Lorries: Environment

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the environmental impact of allowing trucks of over 60 tonnes on the roads; and if she will make a statement. [178650]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The environmental impact of such vehicles is currently being assessed in a study, the report of which should be published in full shortly.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Emergency Calls

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many 999 calls the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has answered in each of the last five years. [183341]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has collected statistics about the total number of reported incidents to coastguard rescue co-ordination centres for many years, but more precise information on the number of 999 calls received has only been collected reliably since April 2006. From April to December 2006 coastguard rescue co-ordination centres received 18,066 calls and in 2007 they received 21,321 calls to the end of November (the latest period for which information is available).

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: False Alarms

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hoax calls the Maritime and Coastguard Agency received in each year since 2000; and how many people were convicted for making such calls in each year. [185704]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has responded in some way to the following number of incidents, by year, which were found to be hoax.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 221 |
| 2001 | 206 |
| 2002 | 260 |
| 2003 | 232 |
| 2004 | 301 |
| 2005 | 406 |
| 2006 | 529 |
| 2007 | [1]691 |

[1] Provisional figure.

Information on hoax calls are passed to the police and the MCA is not always aware of the outcome.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* motor cars and *(b)* motorcycles being used on the road without the payment of vehicle excise duty in each region in each year since 2001. [181622]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Estimates of the number of unlicensed vehicles being used on the road in each region are not available.

However, the estimated rate of unlicensed vehicles seen in traffic is available for each region. These estimates represent evasion among vehicles travelling in each region, which may be different from the region in which each vehicle's keeper lives. Owing to small sample sizes estimates are not available for motorcycles, but they are available for vehicles in the private and light goods tax class, as follows:

*Rate of unlicensed vehicles in traffic*

| *Region* | *2002* | *2004* | *2005* | *Percentage 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 3.1 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| East midlands | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Greater London | 4.5 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| North-east | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| North-west | 2.8 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.5 |
| Scotland | 1.6 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| South-east | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| South-west | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Wales | 2.8 | 1.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| West midlands | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 1.5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2.4 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.2 |

Roadside surveys were not conducted in either 2001 or 2003, and estimates are therefore unavailable for these years.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists failed to pay vehicle excise duty in each of the last 10 years. [184957]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The estimated numbers of unlicensed vehicles in use in Great Britain are as follows.

*Thousand*

| | *Estimated number of unlicensed vehicles in use* | *Of which, number liable for vehicle excise duty* | *Of which, number exempt from vehicle excise duty* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 1,337 | 1,277 | 60 |
| 2002 | 1,905 | 1,770 | 135 |
| 2004 | 1,240 | 1,168 | 72 |
| 2005 | 1,549 | 1,459 | 90 |
| 2006 | 2,170 | 2,089 | 81 |

Roadside surveys were not conducted in 2000, 2001 or 2003, and estimates are therefore unavailable for those years.

### Motor Vehicles: Insurance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* motorcars and *(b)* motorcycles being used on the road without insurance in each region in each year since 2001. [181623]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Our latest estimate (2005) for uninsured driving is based on a comparison of the vehicle register, maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing agency and the Motor Insurance Database. The estimate is that about 2.1 million licensed vehicles (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK fleet) are being driven by uninsured drivers. There is no similar comparison for earlier years and no separate information for motorcars and motorcycles or by region.

### Motor Vehicles: Testing

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to review the future use of the MOT vehicle testing scheme. [186310]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department will be consulting later this year on the frequency of MOT testing.

### Network Rail

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the reports on the west coast route modernisation submitted to the Office of Rail Regulation in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 by its regulatory reporters appointed under Condition 23 of Network Rail's network licence. [180875]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is a matter for the ORR. The ORR informs me that its views on the programme, based directly on the reports, are published in ORR's quarterly 'Network Rail Monitor' and in the 'Annual Assessment of Network Rail 2006-07'. Copies of these publications are available on ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what conditions *(a)* train operators and *(b)* other persons are entitled to have access to the asset register established by Network Rail under Condition 24 of its network licence. [180878]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is a matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals *(a)* she and *(b)* the Office of Rail Regulation have for enhancing the accountability of Network Rail to its train operator customers. [180879]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Network Rail is accountable through its network licence and to its customers through its contracts and industry codes. The ORR keeps these under review.

### Network Rail: Finance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by Network Rail in each region in each year since its establishment; and what its projected spend in each region is in each of the next three years. [183545]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is a matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW12EE

### Network Rail: Pay

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to arrange the method of bonus calculation for Network Rail directors so as to incentivise growth of the network. [182540]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Decisions on bonuses are a matter for Network Rail's independent remuneration committee, not for Government. The level of bonuses is determined by the degree of achievement of key performance indicator regulatory targets under Network Rail's annual management incentive plan, produced in accordance with a licence requirement of the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

### Official Cars: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of carbon dioxide was emitted from ministerial vehicles in each year for which information is available. [181919]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The figure for the ministerial fleet is currently 147.62 grams per kilometre (g/km). However, the average $CO_2$ emission profile for all new cars purchased since April 2006 is currently 130 g/km.

### Official Cars: Excise Duties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Government's ministerial car fleet is in each of the vehicle excise duty bands. [181918]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Of the 85 cars currently in the ministerial fleet provided by the Government Car and Despatch agency, 53 (62.3 per cent.) are vehicle excise duty (VED) band B, one (1.2 per cent.) is in VED band C, 30 (35.3 per cent.) are in VED band F and one (1.2 per cent.) is in VED band G.

### Pollution

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Government to ratify the *(a)* convention on hazardous and noxious substances 1996, *(b)* convention on oil pollution preparedness and co-operation/hazardous and noxious substances 2000, *(c)* anti-fouling convention and *(d)* ballast and water management convention; and if she will make a statement. [185786]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The United Kingdom, together with many other EU and third country states, has not yet ratified the International convention on liability and

compensation for damage in connection with the carriage of hazardous and noxious substances by Sea (HNS), 1996, because of a number of technical and legal difficulties with the current text. To overcome these difficulties the International Maritime Organisation's legal committee will consider the text of a new draft legal instrument at its meeting in October 2008. This legal instrument is likely to be in the form of a protocol. Once new text has been agreed at IMO, the UK will take the necessary steps to ratify the convention, as amended by the protocol.

The UK intends to accede to the oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation (OPRC) Convention Protocol 2000" as soon as possible, following the introduction of secondary legislation later this year.

Legislation to implement the international convention on the control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships 2001 (anti-fouling convention) is currently in draft, and will be issued for public consultation later this year. The Government will ratify the convention once this consultation has been satisfactorily completed and the legislation is in place.

The Government intend to begin work on implementing and ratifying the international convention for the control and management of ships ballast water and sediments 2004 ("Ballast Water Convention"), once outstanding issues relating to the availability of treatment systems and the associated guidance are resolved through the International Maritime Organisation.

### Railway Stations: Bicycles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with Network Rail and train operating companies on the provision of secure bicycle parking at stations; and if she will make a statement. [183654]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The rail White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" announced the setting up of a Cycle and Rail Task Force (CRIT) to look into how bike and rail journeys can be better integrated. The task force includes the Association of Train Operating Companies, Network Rail, Passenger Focus, Cycling England and the Department for Transport. Secure bicycle parking is one of the issues that the task force will be considering.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has considered setting minimum standards for the provision of secure bicycle parking at major railway stations. [183655]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Guidance on the provision of secure bicycle parking is contained in the "DFT Bike and Rail Policy" document published by the former Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) in 2004 and since adopted by the Department for Transport. This can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

This guidance was referenced in the invitations to tender for the recent rail franchise awards when directing bidders to submit proposals for improving facilities at stations for cyclists.

The new Cycle and Rail Task Force was created to help the Government get right the detail of the franchising regime with respect to the integration of bike and rail.

### Railways: Concessions

**Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of the terms of the young persons railcard on the purchase of rail passes and season tickets; and what representations she has received on extending the use of such railcards for peak time travel. [185844]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The young persons railcard is a product targeted at promoting leisure travel. The terms and conditions of use are such that it should not affect the purchase or demand for rail passes and season tickets.

No formal representations have been received in respect of the extension of use of young persons railcards to embrace commuter travel, although it allows peak time travel subject to minimum fare levels.

### Railways: Fares

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to limit the increases in rail fares for rail users without season tickets. [183929]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* In addition to most season tickets, fares regulation encompasses standard day singles and returns in urban commuter areas and saver fares for long-distance travel (or a standard day return for long-distance journeys for which there was no saver). Regulated fares are usually limited to average fares increases of RPI+1, though operators are free to raise individual fares up to RPI+6 per cent. as long as this is matched by decreases in other regulated fares on their network.

Other fares are unregulated: train operators are free to set prices as they wish subject to competition from coach, air travel and car.

The Department continues to listen to the representations of Passenger Focus, and has invited it to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Railways: Fines

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints were made following on-the-spot fines on the railways in each of the last five years; and how many of these were upheld. [183651]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The train operators on the National Rail network do not issue on-the-spot fines and therefore there have been no complaints about them. In areas where a penalty fares scheme is in place, passengers travelling without tickets, or who for other approved reasons are liable to be issued with a penalty fare notice, are subsequently entitled to make an appeal. The approved appeals bodies themselves keep records of all such appeals.

### Railways: Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to bring forward measures to make *(a)* train operating companies and *(b)* Network Rail subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [183643]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** None at this stage. The Government keep the Freedom of Information Act under continuous review and a consultation period on the extension of its scope has recently ended.

### Railways: Portsmouth

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what specifications requested by her Department were written into the franchise documents for mainline express journeys from Portsmouth to London via Basingstoke for *(a)* seating and *(b)* stand alone tables prior to the franchise being won by South West Trains. [184073]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department did not specify the internal specification of the rolling stock on the South Western Franchise.

### Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many timetabled engineering projects Network Rail has carried out in each of the last five years; [180260]

(2) how many timetabled engineering projects run by Network Rail have overrun their timetable in each of the last five years; and what percentage of works this represents. [180261]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

### Office of Rail Regulation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capacity measurement tools are used by the Office of Rail Regulation in relation to *(a)* track, *(b)* stations and *(c)* light maintenance depots. [180884]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). ORR informs me that it makes use of industry standard models as appropriate. It can also require Network Rail and other stakeholders to carry out capacity modelling or commission its own.

ORR also requires Network Rail to report on specific capacity metrics in its annual return. ORR uses this data in its annual assessment of Network Rail. The "Annual Assessment of Network Rail 2006-07" is available on ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk

### Roads

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research *(a)* has been conducted since 1997 and *(b)* is planned by her Department comparing forecast and actual traffic levels for (i) the building of new roads and motorways and (ii) the widening of existing roads and motorways; and if she will place in the Library copies of reports of such research. [181620]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Since 2002 the Highways Agency has retrospectively analysed the accuracy of the traffic flow forecasts for all major trunk road improvement schemes, including the widening of existing roads and motorways. A preliminary analysis is undertaken of some schemes immediately after opening, but all schemes over £5 million are evaluated one year and five years after scheme opening. A table giving carbon dioxide, traffic, and road traffic accident data of major Highways Agency schemes, opened since 1997 and completed before December 2006, is in the House of Commons Library.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will publish on her Department's website lists of road schemes approved and funded by the Department, providing *(a)* the costs at approval, *(b)* the latest ministerially approved cost and *(c)* the estimated carbon dioxide emissions impact; [185867]

(2) if she will publish on her Department's website the appraisal summary tables of the road schemes she has approved. [185868]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 790-91W.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths there were on roads in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) the Peterborough city council area in each of the last 10 years. [186314]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of people *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough city council in 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table.

*Number of casualties*

| | *Peterborough constituency*[1] | | *Peterborough city council* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Injured*[2] | *Killed* | *Injured*[2] | *Killed* |
| 1997 | 618 | 4 | 1,188 | 7 |
| 1998 | 611 | 4 | 1,148 | 10 |
| 1999 | 556 | 4 | 1,030 | 13 |
| 2000 | 603 | 5 | 1,215 | 16 |
| 2001 | 602 | 1 | 1,161 | 10 |
| 2002 | 639 | 3 | 1,184 | 11 |

| | Number of casualties | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Peterborough constituency[1] | | Peterborough city council | |
| | Injured[2] | Killed | Injured[2] | Killed |
| 2003 | 683 | 2 | 1,222 | 12 |
| 2004 | 672 | 4 | 1,253 | 17 |
| 2005 | 679 | 2 | 1,273 | 11 |
| 2006 | 583 | 4 | 1,100 | 8 |

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
[2] Serious or slightly injured.

**Roads: Death**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there were in motor accidents in which a contributory factor was *(a)* consumption of illegal drugs, *(b)* consumption of alcohol and *(c)* tiredness of the driver during December in each year since 1997. [183652]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The number of fatalities resulting from reported road accidents in which a driver/rider had impairment by alcohol, impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) or fatigue as a contributory factor during December for 2005 and 2006 is shown in the table.

| | Number of fatalities | |
|---|---|---|
| Driver contributory factor | 2005 | 2006 |
| Impaired by alcohol | 38 | 35 |
| Impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal) | 5 | 7 |
| Fatigue | 13 | 7 |

Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005.

The contributory factor "impairment by drugs" applies to illicit drugs as well as all medicines, whether prescription or 'over the counter'. It is not possible to separate the factor into illicit and medicinal drugs.

The contributory factor "impaired by alcohol" is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that the driver/rider was affected by alcohol and behaved in a way which caused, or contributed to, the accident—whether or not they were above the legal limit. This may not be the result of a breath or blood test.

**Roads: East Anglia**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with officials in the European Commission on the prioritisation of funding for the Trans European Road Network in East Anglia; and if she will make a statement. [181495]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The Department put forward a bid under the TEN-T multi-annual bidding round. The UK bid package included two East Anglia road schemes on the A14, funding for works on the A14 between Ellington and Fen Ditton, and between Haughley to Stowmarket. The EC awarded a TEN-T grant of €80.7 million (£60.1 million) on 27 November. We are now in talks with the Commission to finalise how this award will be divided between the different schemes within our bid package.

**Rolling Stock**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the rolling stock plan does not include new diesel rolling stock for the SouthCentral franchise; and what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the complement of such stock on the *(a)* Brighton-Ashford and *(b)* Uckfield-London line. [186496]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Bidders for the replacement South Central franchise, for which invitations to tender will be issued later this year, will be required to demonstrate how they plan to match capacity to demand for all the routes in the franchise, including the Uckfield and Ashford lines.

**Rolling Stock: Standards**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will bring forward proposals to meet the criticisms recorded in the Rail Passengers Council report of March 2005 in relation to the standard of stock on the Portsmouth mainline express service; and if she will make a statement; [186663]

(2) if she will remit the report of March 2005 from the Rail Passengers Council back to the council requesting that it bring forward specific recommendations to address the views of passengers expressed in the report. [186664]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The disposition of rolling stock is a matter not for Government, but for Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT).

**Severn Bridge: Tolls**

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 719W, on Severn Bridge: tolls, when the working group is expected to present its findings. [185742]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The working group is expecting to submit a report of its findings and recommendations by early autumn.

**Shipping: Climate Change**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the implications of climate change for the UK marine shipping industry. [185774]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is important to place UK shipping firmly in context as part of an industry which operates worldwide and is best regulated on a global basis. The Government recognise that shipping generates greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change. Consequently, the Government are working actively within the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to limit greenhouse gas emissions and other atmospheric emissions from ships. At the

IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting held in July 2007, the UK argued strongly for the IMO to be both swift and bold in bringing forward measures. The July 2007 Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting considered control measures for greenhouse gas emissions from ships, and set up a correspondence group with a remit to examine possible technical, operational and market-based measures to address greenhouse gas emissions from ships. The correspondence group will report to the next meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, which is from 31 March to 4 April 2008. It is the aim of the IMO to agree on recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships at their assembly in the autumn of 2009.

As regards solutions, market-based measures such as emissions trading are one important area, while in the medium to long term technological improvements may also deliver savings in carbon emissions. For example, the IMO have estimated that technical measures for ship design have significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which could account for up to 30 per cent. in new ships and 20 per cent. in existing ships.

**Shipping: Examinations**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department plans to take to develop the seafaring skills base. [185707]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government provide support for seafarer training through the tonnage tax core training commitment and through the support for maritime training (SMarT) scheme, which funds about half of seafarer training costs. These two initiatives have contributed greatly to the seafaring skills base.

In addition to this we support the excellent work of the Merchant Navy Training Board and SeaVision in promoting maritime careers around the country.

The number of new officer trainees claiming SMarT has increased from 480 in 1999-2000 to 650 in 2006-07. We expect final numbers for 2007-08 to be in excess of 800.

We are also currently looking into the practicalities of the joint proposals for increased support for training and employment received from our social partners.

**Shipping: Freight**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets she has set for the diversion of freight from roads to coastal shipping; and what steps her Department has taken to encourage use of coastal shipping for freight transport. [185737]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department seeks to encourage the modal shift of freight from roads to water in order to secure the environmental benefits that this mode can provide. We operate a Freight Facility Grant to help with the capital cost of providing water freight handling facilities and a Waterborne Freight Grant to assist companies with the operating costs associated with running water freight transport where road is the cheaper option. These schemes are open to inland waterways transport, coastal and short sea shipping.

We also provide support to Sea and Water, an organisation which promotes the shipping of freight on coastal and inland waterways.

**Shipping: Registration**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on acceptance of ships onto the UK register, which do not meet the health and safety standards set by the International Safety of Life at Sea Convention. [186417]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Ships joining the UK register must comply with the health and safety standards set by the International Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.

**Shipping: Working Conditions**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department plans to take to improve health and safety for workers in the shipping industry. [185705]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Primary responsibility for the health and safety of workers in the shipping industry rests with their employers. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has a responsibility for enforcement of the relevant health and safety legislation and also issues guidance on a wide range of health and safety matters. For the future, the UK is committed to implementing the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, including those relating to the health and safety of seafarers.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the safety implications for seafarers of exposure to emissions from ships' fuel. [185773]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Assessment of safety implications of shipboard operations is broadly a matter for the employer under the existing health and safety regime.

In the particular case of emissions from ships fuel, the issue is currently being considered internationally through the International Maritime Organisation review of existing air pollution controls for ships. The UK is taking an active role in the review group.

**Southeastern Railway: Access**

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what applications were received from Southeastern Railway for Access For All *(a)* Small Schemes and *(b)* Main Schemes for 2008-09. [186139]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** We have received no applications for funding from Southeastern Railway for 2008-09.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been given to Southeastern Railway under the Access For All Scheme since its introduction. [186140]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Southeastern Trains has been offered £764,185 of Access for All Small Schemes funding since 2006. Projects worth £174,361 have been completed and the remainder are on-going.

### Traffic Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many traffic accidents involving at least one pedestrian casualty there were in each year since 1997, broken down by the smallest geographical unit by which this information is collected; [186850]

(2) how many traffic accidents involving at least one pedestrian casualty and road freight there were in each year since 1997, broken down by the smallest geographical unit by which this information is collected; [186851]

(3) how many fatal traffic accidents there were in each year since 1997, broken down by the smallest geographical unit by which this information is collected. [186852]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Tables showing information on reported personal injury road accidents involving *(a)* at least one pedestrian casualty, *(b)* at least one pedestrian casualty and HGV and *(c)* the number of fatal road accidents in each local authority in GB for 1997 to 2006 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

### Transport Innovation Fund

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department expects to announce which Transport Innovation Fund bids will be granted programme entry. [183653]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We have received Transport Innovation Fund proposals from Greater Manchester and Cambridgeshire which we are currently considering. We expect to announce the first decisions later this year.

### Transport: Disabled

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures of support are in place to help those with temporary disabilities gain increased mobility and access to essential facilities. [182555]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There has been significant progress in making public transport accessible through regulations made under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. For a number of years all new buses, coaches and trains have had to meet accessibility standards and 58 per cent. of buses and over 40 per cent. of trains now do so. The entire national fleet of buses must meet accessibility standards by 2017, and trains must meet them by 2020. People with temporary disabilities will benefit equally from these improvements.

In addition, transport providers are required by the Disability Discrimination Act to make reasonable adjustments to their services to make them accessible to disabled people. The Department of Transport has published best practice guidance on access to pedestrian and transport infrastructure. Designs that satisfy disabled people's requirements will also meet the needs of many other people, including those with temporary disabilities.

As part of the Government's Railways for All strategy we have made available £370 million to Network Rail to improve station accessibility by 2015, with over 90 stations already identified for improvement by 2011.

Recent European legislation concerning air transport and international rail transport creates new rights for disabled people and people with reduced mobility to improve the accessibility of these modes. The definition of reduced mobility would encompass temporary disabilities. The Commission plans to propose similar legislation in the areas of maritime transport and international bus and coach transport.

We are also currently consulting on proposals to extend the blue badge scheme to people with temporary disabilities.

### Transport: Finance

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* revenue support and *(b)* capital allocations for (i) Hampshire, (ii) Portsmouth and (iii) Southampton for (A) urban bus challenge, (B) kick start, (C) rural safety grant and (D) detrunked roads (1) there were in each year since 2005 and (2) are planned for each of the next three years. [185434]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The following tables sets out the revenue and capital support for these four specific funding lines that the Department has provided from 2005-06 onwards and what is planned for the next three years for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

No funds have been granted, or are currently planned to be awarded to any of the three authorities in the period specified for rural road safety grant, but the tables includes figures for the similarly named specific road safety grant.

From 2008-09 onwards, the revenue support for detrunked roads and specific road safety grant will be incorporated within the general area-based grant, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

*Revenue support*

£000

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hampshire County Council* | | | | | | |
| Urban bus challenge | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kick-start | — | 126.0 | 63.0 | 39.0 | — | — |
| Detrunked Roads | 428.7 | 439.4 | 450.4 | 461.6 | 473.2 | 485.0 |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 2,160 | 2,245 | 2,237 | 2,202 |

*Revenue support*

£000

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Portsmouth* | | | | | | |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 312.7 | 325.1 | 323.8 | 318.8 |
| *Southampton* | | | | | | |
| Urban bus challenge | — | 25 | 217 | 170 | — | — |
| Kick-start | — | 204.7 | 132.8 | 85.0 | — | — |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 288.1 | 300.0 | 310.5 | 305.6 |

*Capital allocations*

£000

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hampshire County Council* | | | | | | |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 480.6 | 499.6 | 497.6 | 489.9 |
| *Portsmouth* | | | | | | |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 69.6 | 72.3 | 72.0 | 70.9 |
| *Southampton* | | | | | | |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | 64.1 | 66.7 | 69.1 | 68.0 |

### Transport: Sustainable Development

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the project on the sustainability of land use and transport in outer neighbourhoods has been completed. [184647]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No. This project is expected to complete in September 2008.

### Transport: Tickets

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 607-8W, on transport: tickets, what progress has been made to ensure smartcard readers in London are ITSO/Oyster dual-operable. [186414]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Transport continues to work closely with Transport for London to deliver the May 2006 agreement to make the Oyster estate interoperable with the ITSO smartcard standard, and to make Oyster Pay As You Go available on national rail in London. The detailed design and scoping study is still on target to deliver a fixed price and delivery schedule in April 2008 for the roll-out of ITSO/Oyster dual-operable smartcard readers.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for British policy in Afghanistan. [185645]

**Dr. Howells:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out in his statement to the House on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-07, there are four key areas of our long-term commitment in Afghanistan, including greater Afghan ownership; localisation and reconciliation; reconstruction; and greater burden sharing. This is a long-term effort: there are no quick wins.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his recent discussions with the US Secretary of State on Afghanistan. [186387]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had, in his own words "excellent" and "intensive" discussions with the US Secretary of State, followed by a joint visit to Afghanistan. As he noted, during his joint press conference with the US Secretary of State, in London on 6 February:

> "Both of our countries are committed to our work in Afghanistan for the long term, we are committed to bring together the economic, social and military aspects of our work. We are committed to active support of the Afghan government as it strives to build a decent society in that very poor country, and we are committed to rallying an international alliance of many countries to effectively support the Afghan government."

### Afghanistan: Asylum

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures there are for processing asylum applications from locally-employed staff in Afghanistan. [185044]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as a person who is, among other things,

> "outside the country of his nationality".

An individual who remains in the country of nationality is not, by definition, a refugee and cannot

seek asylum. A person who is outside the country of nationality should approach the local authorities in the third country or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 759W, on Afghanistan: detainees, if he will place in the Library copies of the exchange of letters between the Afghan and UK governments on access to detainees by UK officials and human rights organisations. [186705]

**David Miliband:** The exchange of letters is publicly available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Afghanistan website (www.fco.gov.uk/ukandafghanistan). I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the UK allocated to *(a)* the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, *(b)* the Afghan Special Narcotics Force and *(c)* the Counter Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force in each of the last three years. [186721]

**Dr. Howells:** The information requested by the hon. Member is as follows:

£

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan | 8.9 million | 12.1 million | 8.4 million |
| Afghan Special Narcotics Force | 6.23 million | 9.4 million | 32.5 million |
| Counter Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force | 572,000 | 1.1 million | 1 million |

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the division of responsibilities is between *(a)* the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, *(b)* the Afghan Special Narcotics Force and *(c)* the Counter Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force. [186723]

**Dr. Howells:** The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan is the leading agency for counter narcotics law enforcement in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Special Narcotics Force's primary purpose is to assist the interdiction effort against trafficking networks throughout Afghanistan.

The primary purpose of the counter-narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force and the Central Narcotics Tribunal is to investigate and try those arrested on drugs-related charges, based on the processes defined in the Counter-Narcotics Law of Afghanistan (2006). Article 34 of the Counter Narcotics law defines the mandate of the Counter Narcotics Tribunal under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan.

### Arms Trade

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has received on alleged breaches of *(a)* arms embargos and *(b)* sanctions regimes by Michael Harridine; and if he will make a statement. [186321]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received the following information in December 2000 in relation to the possible involvement of Michael Harridine in alleged breaches of sanctions.

December 2000 Report of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1306, in relation to Sierra Leone (paragraph 227); and

December 2000 Final report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Angola Sanctions established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1295 (paragraphs 142-143).

This information was passed to the relevant UK authorities.

### Bangladesh: Elections

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress made on voter list assembly and electoral reform in Bangladesh. [186726]

**Dr. Howells:** When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh last week, he heard from the Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh that 36 million voters out of a total of approximately 80 million have now been registered. It is expected that the draft voter list will be ready by late June/July. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stressed to the Chief Adviser of the caretaker Government, and in his public comments, the absolute necessity of holding free and fair elections by December 2008, in accordance with the caretaker Government's roadmap to elections.

### Bangladesh: Human Rights

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* imprisonment of journalists and *(b)* other human rights violations in Bangladesh. [186725]

**Dr. Howells:** There have been reports from Bangladesh of the arrest of journalists, including Jahangir Alam Akash. Our High Commissioner raised his case when EU Heads of Mission in Dhaka met the Foreign Affairs Adviser in December 2007. Mr. Akash is currently on bail. When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh last week, he spoke publicly of the need for adherence to basic standards of human rights. He reiterated the importance that Britain attaches to strong democratic institutions, including a free press.

### Bangladesh: Trade Unions

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Bangladesh on its treatment of trade unionists, with particular reference to Mehodi Hasan; and if he will make a statement. [185017]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations to the caretaker Government of Bangladesh on the specific issue of the treatment of trade unionists. We consistently emphasise to the caretaker Government the need to balance concerns for stability and security with respect for individuals' rights and freedoms, democratic processes and the rule of law.

We are aware that Mr. Hasan was arrested on 24 January in connection with demonstrations by garment workers in the Mirpur area of Dhaka on 14 to 15 January and of reports of 100-150 people injured. Mr. Hasan was released on 3 February and all charges against him have been dropped.

### Chad: Politics and Government

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [185051]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The security situation in Chad remains unstable following rebel incursions into the capital, N'Djamena, on 2 February. As of 15 February, the security situation in Chad is calmer, with Chadian rebel groups having retreated from N'Djamena. However, conditions on the ground have been changing rapidly. The UN estimates that over 30,000 people were forced to flee into neighbouring Cameroon as a result of the fighting, though many are now returning. There have been eye-witness reports of widespread looting in N'Djamena.

The UK has supported the UN in condemning attempts to seize power by force in Chad and in urging all regional states to abide by previous agreements with regard to respect for and securing of their common borders. The UN also supported the African Union in demanding an immediate end to the violence and in appointing Libyan and Congolese mediators to initiate efforts aimed at seeking a lasting solution.

EU Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January urged:

> "the Chadian and the Sudanese governments to abstain from any action that could further destabilise the current situation whilst exercising the utmost restraint and settling differences through dialogue and diplomatic channels".

The UK has taken every opportunity to underline the need for re-establishing political dialogue, for example in my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN's, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, contacts at the African Union Summit with African and other interlocutors including President Bashir of Sudan.

### Chevening Scholarship Programme

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1850-51W, on the Chevening scholarship programme, whether he plans to reduce the number of Chevening scholarships available. [185981]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The allocation of Chevening scholarships for 2008-09 is still under consideration. The House will be informed once a decision is taken.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185524]

**Meg Munn:** No Wikipedia entries have been created or amended by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Special Advisers; FCO Ministers; or FCO communications officials, whether from IP addresses of Special Advisers; Ministers or communications officials in the FCO or its agencies, since August 2005.

If the FCO should in future decide to create or alter Wikipedia entries, any input to such websites would be done in accordance with the civil service code. This states that civil servants should:

> "use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided"

and

> "make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently".

### Developing Countries: Elections

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to support the International Foundation for Election Systems in relation into the standards of electoral practice and democracy in other countries. [185684]

**Meg Munn:** The UK is committed to promoting democratic principles around the world. Our approach is grounded in our upholding universal human rights standards, to which all countries are bound, giving firm support to democratic institutions, good governance and the rule of law.

We welcome and support the work the Hansard electoral society is doing to improve standards of electoral practices abroad. We work closely with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the Electoral Reform International Services who are also active in this field.

The UK participates most actively in international observation activities organised by the EU and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. We also participate in Election Observation Missions organised by the UN, Commonwealth and other groups. We frequently provide technical and administrative expertise to the organisers of these observation missions, as well as sending UK observers.

Deploying election observers supports democratic processes and assists host countries to hold genuinely democratic elections.

Further information on the Government's work on human rights, democracy and governance can be found

in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Annual Report on Human Rights, which is available at

www.fco.gov.uk

Copies of the report are also available in the Library of the House. In addition, the FCO and the Department for International Development (DFID) jointly launched a DFID publication last summer, entitled "Governance, Development and Democratic Politics" which highlighted the value we jointly place on democratic politics as a set of principles and values which ensure that differences can be negotiated peacefully and the views of all heard.

**Entry Clearances: Personation**

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa applications were made with the use of a false identity in the last two years for which data are available, broken down by nationality of applicant. [185200]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not record such data. Information could be obtained only by comparing individual visa application forms with Home Office records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

**EU Internal Relations**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* representations and *(b)* discussions he has had on a solidarity clause on mutual assistance between EU member states in the event of terrorist attacks or natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [184453]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no representations or discussions on the solidarity clause with other EU member states.

**EU Law**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the powers which the European Public Prosecutor would have in respect of UK citizens. [186479]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** A European Public Prosecutor would have no power in the UK unless we opted-in to a proposal to establish one, and we have no plans to do so. If other member states decide there is a case for a European Public Prosecutor, they are free to go ahead by enhanced co-operation, but the Prosecutor would have no role in the UK.

**European Commission: Diplomatic Service**

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of HM Diplomatic Service were seconded to the European Commission in each of the last 10 years. [183960]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* There is currently one Diplomatic Service officer seconded to the European Commission.

There are in addition three Diplomatic Service officers seconded to the General Secretariat of the Council and one to the European Parliament. Other Government Departments also second staff to the European Commission.

Figures for Diplomatic Service staff seconded to the European Commission in each of the previous 10 years could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

**Gaza: Electricity**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of electricity supply into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [185082]

**David Miliband:** The Government remain deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. In the current season the Gaza strip requires at least 230 megawatts (MW) of power daily. The total it currently receives, when fuel supplies to the Gaza power station are not interrupted, is around 192 MW, of which approximately 55 MW is provided by the Gaza Power Generating Company (GPGC), 120 MW by Israel and 17 MW by Egypt.

The electricity and fuel supply in recent weeks has been erratic, primarily because of the decision by the Government of Israel on 17 January to suspend all fuel deliveries into Gaza. On 20 January, the GPGC stopped producing power when its reserves became too low to continue. The UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs has stated that during this time, the majority of the Gaza strip had no electricity for at least eight hours per day. Many areas suffered power cuts of up to 16 hours. Electricity cuts in the Gaza strip remain at an average of eight hours daily.

**Gaza: Frontiers**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the composition and role of the EU border monitoring mission at Rafah is; and whether changes are planned to that role following recent breaches of the border crossing from Gaza. [185084]

**David Miliband:** The EU Border Assistance Mission was established on the basis of 15 November 2005 agreement on movement and access reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). Its role is to provide a third party presence at the Rafah crossing point.

On 13 June 2007, and following Hamas's take over of Gaza, the mission declared a temporary suspension of operations at the Rafah crossing point. It has, however, maintained its full operational capability and remained ready to monitor, verify and evaluate handling of the border crossing as soon as agreement can be reached to re-open it.

The mission is also training PA personnel in all aspects of border control and customs operation.

The mission includes about 41 police officers and personnel, 29 of them internationally seconded from 15 EU member states, three internationally contracted, and eight locally contracted in addition to the Head of Mission.

### Homosexuality

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support the introduction of an international convention which explicitly recognises gay rights as essential human rights; and if he will make a statement. [185507]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have a strong record on promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and will continue to work with both foreign partners and domestic organisations to protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout the world. The Government judge that there is not sufficient consensus globally to justify pursuing an international convention at present; though it is willing to work for the engagement of countries which would produce a worthwhile such instrument.

In the meantime, the Government consider that it can pursue equality and non-discrimination through existing human rights mechanisms, through multilateral action with like-minded partners and bilaterally. The Government consider engaging positively in any mechanism which promote these rights.

### Indian Subcontinent: Official Visits

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last visited *(a)* India and *(b)* Sri Lanka; and when he plans next to visit (i) India, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Sri Lanka. [185776]

**Dr. Howells:** Since his appointment, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not visited India or Sri Lanka. Foreign engagements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not our practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

### Iran: Females

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian Government on the penalty to be imposed on sisters found guilty of adultery for being in the company of men other than their husbands in Iran. [186776]

**Dr. Howells:** We are deeply concerned that Ms Zohreh Kabir and Ms Azar Kabiri from Shahriar in Tehran province and Mr. Abdollah Farivar from Sari in Mazandaran province in Iran have been charged with adultery and sentenced to death by stoning. The EU presidency, on behalf of all EU member states, issued a public declaration on 7 February condemning these sentences. In this statement, the EU reiterated its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and urged the Iranian Government

> "to abolish immediately, in law and in practice, the use of stoning as a method of execution—as called for in the most recent UN General Assembly resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2007".

We will continue to press the Iranian authorities to uphold its international human rights commitments as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to abolish cruel and degrading punishments such as stoning, flogging and amputations once and for all.

### Iran: Human Rights

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on human rights. [186775]

**Dr. Howells:** We generally raise human rights issues with the Government of Iran through the EU, in order to maximise impact and emphasise that the concerns we have are shared across a range of countries. In 2007, the EU raised human rights issues with the Iranian authorities in Tehran on 28 occasions, through meetings and statements. So far this year, the EU has raised human rights issues with the Iranian authorities five times, most recently in two statements on 7 February about death sentences and the deteriorating situation of Baha'is in Iran.

We also discuss human rights issues bilaterally with Iranian officials in London and Tehran. In 2007, the UK raised human rights issues bilaterally on eight occasions, on issues of particular concern including the rise in the use of the death penalty, the execution of juveniles and the use of amputation.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings are planned between EU High Representative Javier Solana and Iranian government representatives on Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [185083]

**David Miliband:** At present there are no meetings scheduled. We have been clear with Iran that our offer of dialogue remains open, and that Javier Solana will continue to make himself available for a meeting at any time when the Iranians wish to discuss both that offer and their willingness to comply with their international obligations.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EU sanctions the UK is proposing should be imposed on *(a)* the Iranian financial sector and *(b)* investment in Iranian oil and gas as set out in the Prime Minister's speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 12 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [185077]

**David Miliband:** We are working with our EU partners on further sanctions to support a new UN Security Council Resolution. Proposals under consideration will

include a range of measures and I will inform the House of the outcome of those negotiations as soon as I am able to do so.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether the EU Common Position on Iran should include new sanctions. [185128]

**David Miliband:** We will be pressing for further EU measures both in the form of a new Common Position and additional listings of entities and individuals that meet the criteria set out in the existing Common Positions, in parallel with work on another UN Security Council Resolution.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi citizens have been *(a)* admitted to the UK and *(b)* awarded financial assistance under the scheme of assistance for locally engaged Iraqi staff announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007. [178911]

**David Miliband:** No former locally-engaged Iraqi staff have yet been resettled in the UK through the Gateway programme. Following the initial assessment of eligibility, individuals need to move to a third country, register with and be recognised by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as refugees in need of resettlement, undergo further screening by the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and have suitable housing identified for them in the UK. This process takes several months, which is why we have promised financial assistance to former staff to allow them to support themselves in a third country during this process. We believe the timeframes for Gateway are comparable to similar timeframes for other countries' resettlement programmes.

No current locally-engaged Iraqi staff have yet been granted Independent Leave to Enter. Many are still in the process of being assessed for eligibility and some already assessed as eligible have yet to express a preference about which option they wish to take. Many of those already assessed as eligible have indicated they want the financial package. Those that choose resettlement in the UK will undergo screening by BIA. Measures are in place to ensure that eligible staff are fully assisted through the scheme without unnecessary delays.

We have already paid 34 staff the financial package in accordance with the scheme. Further awards will be made on an ongoing basis.

### Iraq: Oil

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on Iraq's contribution to global oil pollution; and if he will make a statement. [186346]

**Dr. Howells:** We have not received any recent representations on Iraq's contribution to global oil pollution.

### Kenya: Violence

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the causes of the recent violence in Kenya. [186490]

**Meg Munn:** We have received reports of the violence in Kenya from political parties, the media, civil society groups and non-governmental organisations highlighting the post-election situation, ethnic factors and criminality among other causes. The Government's priority is to end the violence and reduce the tension. Clearly any violence is unacceptable. A solution to the crisis needs to be found that reflects the democratic will of the Kenyan people.

### Nuclear Fuels

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to discuss the proposal for an International Atomic Energy Agency-administered mechanism for reliable access to nuclear fuel with his *(a)* US, *(b)* EU and *(c)* UN Security Council counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [185105]

**David Miliband:** The UK supports efforts to develop a viable regime of nuclear fuel assurances under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) auspices that supports states' rights to safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology. The UK Enrichment Bond is one such proposal. We are pursuing this agenda through a variety of bilateral and multilateral channels, including within the IAEA, with the US and our EU partners, and with a number of members of the United Nations Security Council.

### Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK objectives are for the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. [185078]

**David Miliband:** The UK will use the Non-Proliferation Treaty 2008 Preparatory Committee to take forward work to strengthen the treaty. We will promote consensus around key measures encompassing the treaty's three pillars—zero tolerance of proliferation; safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology; and a reinvigorated commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking in preparation for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Review Conference on the adoption of measures governing withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [185085]

**David Miliband:** The United Kingdom is working with partners to build consensus around measures to raise the cost of withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the 2010 review conference. These measures include automatic referral of the case of any

state party seeking to withdraw from the NPT to the UN Security Council, a requirement that all material, equipment, technology and facilities acquired under NPT membership be restricted to peaceful uses and remain subject to safeguards; and that use of facilities, equipment and material supplied prior to withdrawal by third countries be frozen with a view to dismantlement and return. They are set out in full in the EU Working Paper (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.25* available at http://www.un.org/NPT2010/documents.html) submitted at the 2007 Preparatory Committee.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials will represent the United Kingdom at the Seven Country Initiative seminar on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in Norway, on 26 to 27 February; and if he will post on his Department's website the United Kingdom's contribution to the seminar. [186819]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK will take part in a seminar on nuclear disarmament to be hosted by the Government of Norway in Oslo on 26-27 February 2008, represented by two officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office: the Director of Defence and Strategic Threats and the Head of the Nuclear Missile Defence Policy Team. The UK has not been invited to make a presentation at the seminar.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent progress has been made towards securing agreement of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices; and if he will make a statement. [185076]

**David Miliband:** The UK will continue to push for the start of negotiations without pre-conditions on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and at the Conference on Disarmament (CD). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence spoke to the conference on 5 February and highlighted the urgent need for the conference to redouble their efforts to move forward on an FMCT.

As the holder of one of the six CD presidencies in 2008, we will work with like- minded countries to bring on board those states unable to agree to the start of negotiations in 2007. We will also continue to lobby these states directly.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [186177]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-22, in which he set out the importance that the Government attach to free and fair elections today (18 February). A contested election result could have serious consequences for the stability and long-term democratic trajectory of Pakistan. We have therefore been calling on the Government of Pakistan to ensure full transparency in terms of election processes, media freedom and no state interference. We continue to monitor the situation closely, including through the EU Election Observer Mission, in which we are participating.

### Pipelines: Natural Gas

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the viability of the Nabucco pipeline project; and if he will make a statement. [186282]

**Meg Munn:** At last year's Spring European Council, EU leaders agreed that the Nabucco project was a project of European significance as it would increase the EU's diversity of routes and sources of supply, thus improving Europe's resilience to supply disruptions.

The UK believes that energy infrastructure projects (including pipelines, electricity/gas interconnectors and liquified natural gas terminals) should only be built where there is a sound economic and business case. It is not the job of Governments to build pipelines or other import infrastructure, but of the private sector, on the basis of commercial viability. The main function of a Government in this context is to set the right regulatory framework and to remove any unnecessary regulatory barriers, in order to facilitate energy transit and trade.

### Russia: Prisoners

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Russian Government over access to prison medical care for Vasily Alexanyan. [185607]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We welcome reports that the Russian Federal Penal Service has finally responded positively to the concerns expressed by the European Court of Human Rights, the Russian Human Rights Ombudsman and to demands that Vasily Aleksanyan be moved out of prison to a specialised clinic where he can receive vital treatment for his condition. The UK regularly raises its concerns over ongoing human rights violations, including individual cases, both bilaterally and through the EU. The next EU/Russia human rights consultations will be held on 17 April.

### Serbia: EU External Relations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy to support the signing of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Serbia and the EU. [183382]

**David Miliband:** The Government and the EU are committed to signing a Stabilisation and Association agreement with Serbia. This would depend on Serbia's full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The EU has agreed to establish a task force to examine ways of delivering rapid progress on this.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the signing of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Serbia and the EU prior to the extradition of Ratko Mladic by the Serbian authorities to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. [183383]

**David Miliband:** The Serbian Government have made clear their intention to fully co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), including through the arrest of all four remaining ICTY indictees.

The Government and the EU are committed to signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia. This would depend on Serbia's full co-operation with the ICTY. The EU has agreed to establish a Task Force to examine ways of delivering rapid progress on this.

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184385]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its executive agency, FCO Services, had a very small number of formal complaints of sexual harassment/discrimination made in 2007. No further details can be provided due to the need to protect the confidentiality of those involved.

### Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the apparent abduction to Equatorial Guinea of Simon Mann by the authorities in Zimbabwe; what representations the Government have made to both countries on his behalf; and what action it plans to take to secure his safe return. [185902]

**Meg Munn:** While Simon Mann was in Zimbabwe our embassy in Harare made representations at the highest level to the Zimbabwean authorities that due legal process should be followed, and received assurances that this would be the case. In the event, Simon Mann was removed from Zimbabwe without a further appeal being heard.

Once it was confirmed that Mr. Mann had been extradited to Equatorial Guinea, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office contacted the Equatorial Guinean embassy in London on 5 February to request consular access. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met with the Equatorial Guinean ambassador to the UK, Mr. Agustin Nze Nfumu, on 7 February, and telephoned the ambassador on 11 February to once again request consular access to Mr. Mann.

Consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea is provided by our deputy high commission in Lagos. In addition to my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown's actions, our consul in Lagos travelled to the capital, Malabo, on 5 February to seek immediate access to Simon Mann and made contact with the appropriate authorities. Access was granted on 12 February.

In seeking consular access to Simon Mann, the Government have reminded Equatorial Guinea of his right to a fair trial and of its obligation to ensure that all persons deprived of liberty shall be treated humanely and with respect for their dignity. We have received assurances to this effect.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will summon the ambassadors of Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe to discuss the apparent abduction of Simon Mann from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea. [185903]

**Meg Munn:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met with the Equatorial Guinean ambassador to the UK, Mr. Agustin Nze Nfumu, on 7 February to discuss Mr. Mann's case and request immediate consular access. He then telephoned the ambassador on 11 February to reiterate this request and stress the need for UK officials to be granted access to Mr. Mann. Consular access was granted on 12 February. UK officials will be in touch with the ambassador of Equatorial Guinea as the need arises.

Our concerns were conveyed to the Zimbabwean ambassador prior to Mr. Mann's removal. Our primary concern at this point must be for Mr. Mann's immediate welfare.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions the Government have considered taking against *(a)* Equatorial Guinea and *(b)* Zimbabwe to ensure the safe return of Simon Mann. [185904]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have no plans to apply sanctions on the Governments of Equatorial Guinea or Zimbabwe in response to Simon Mann's removal. Our main concern must be for Mr. Mann's immediate welfare.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the United States Administration requesting it to exert its influence on Equatorial Guinea to secure the safe return of Simon Mann. [185905]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have no plans to make representations to the United States in relation to Simon Mann.

United States officials visited Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison on 6 February 2008, at the invitation of the Equatorial Guinean authorities. While the visit by the United States afforded an opportunity to check on Mr. Mann's welfare and safety, we nevertheless made clear to the government of Equatorial Guinea that such a visit was not a substitute for UK consular access.

UK consular access to Mr. Mann was granted on 12 February. We will continue to visit Mr. Mann in prison in line with our consular policy.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances were given by Zimbabwe to Her Majesty's Ambassador that Simon Mann would not be transferred to Equatorial Guinea before the conclusion of his appeal process. [185906]

**Meg Munn:** Our embassy in Harare received assurances from the Zimbabwean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including from the Acting Permanent Secretary, that due process would be followed regarding Mr. Mann's extradition. We understand from Mr. Mann's lawyer that he had indicated an intention to further appeal his extradition. In the event, Mr. Mann was removed from Zimbabwe without a further appeal being heard.

**Mr. Duncan Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Simon Mann and his treatment in *(a)* Zimbabwe and *(b)* Equatorial Guinea. [186480]

**Meg Munn:** British consular officials were allowed regular access to Simon Mann during his imprisonment in Harare and any concerns about his conditions were raised directly with the Zimbabwean authorities.

British consular officials visited Mr. Mann in prison in Malabo on 12 February. We have no reason to believe he has been mistreated in Equatorial Guinea. We will nevertheless seek to ensure that his treatment is in line with international standards.

In seeking consular access to Mr. Mann, the Government have reminded Equatorial Guinea of his right to a fair trial and of its obligation to ensure that all persons deprived of liberty shall be treated humanely and with respect for their dignity. We have received assurances to this effect.

We will continue to visit Mr. Mann in prison in line with our consular policy.

**Mr. Duncan Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have made representations to Equatorial Guinea on Simon Mann's treatment; and if he will make a statement. [186481]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office contacted the Equatorial Guinean embassy in London on 5 February to request consular access, once it was confirmed that Mr. Mann had been extradited from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met with the Equatorial Guinean ambassador to the UK, Mr. Agustin Nze Nfumu, on 7 February, and telephoned the ambassador on 11 February to once again request consular access to Mr. Mann.

Consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea is provided by our Deputy High Commission in Lagos. Our consul in Lagos travelled to the capital, Malabo, on 5 February to seek immediate access to Mr. Mann and made contact with the Equatorial Guinean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Access was granted on 12 February.

In seeking consular access to Mr. Mann, the Government have reminded Equatorial Guinea of his right to a fair trial and of its obligation to ensure that all persons deprived of liberty shall be treated humanely and with respect for their dignity. We have received assurances to this effect.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the circumstances under which Simon Mann was transferred from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea. [186646]

**Meg Munn:** The exact circumstances of Simon Mann's removal from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea remain unclear.

Mr. Mann was last known to be in Chikurubi prison on Wednesday 30 January. On 5 February, the Government of Equatorial Guinea confirmed that he had been transferred to their custody.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice he has obtained about the *(a)* current status of Simon Mann in captivity in Equatorial Guinea and *(b)* steps which the Government can take in international courts to secure his return. [186647]

**Meg Munn:** It is not the Government's practice to disclose whether they have sought legal advice on a particular issue. Simon Mann is subject to legal proceedings under domestic Equatorial Guinean law. The conduct of those proceedings is a matter for Mr. Mann and his lawyers. We continue to provide Mr. Mann with assistance in line with our consular policy.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reasons he has been given for the refusal by the Government of Equatorial Guinea of access to Simon Mann by *(a)* lawyers and *(b)* UK diplomats. [186648]

**Meg Munn:** British consular officials were granted access and visited Simon Mann in prison on 12 February. We will continue to provide Mr. Mann with consular assistance.

We have been given assurances by the Equatorial Guinean authorities that Mr. Mann will be free to appoint a lawyer.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which members of his Department are in Equatorial Guinea with the task of protecting the interests of Simon Mann; and how long it is planned that they shall stay for that purpose. [186649]

**Meg Munn:** Our deputy high commission in Lagos provides consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea. Once it was confirmed that Simon Mann was in Equatorial Guinea our consul in Lagos travelled to Malabo and sought immediate consular access to him. We were granted access and visited Mr. Mann in prison on 12 February. Our consul has now returned to Lagos. The consul will make further

visits to Malabo in future to visit Mr. Mann in prison and provide consular assistance. We also have an honorary consul in Malabo who can provide consular assistance.

### Somalia: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in north-eastern Somalia following the recent attack on the port of Bossaso. [186864]

**David Miliband:** The security situation in north-eastern Somalia remains unstable. The recent attack on the port of Bossaso demonstrates the indiscriminate nature of attacks that can take place in Somalia, and the limited capacity of the Somali authorities to prevent such attacks.

The Government contribute to international efforts aimed at assisting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to establish the rule of law, and to build functioning institutions that will enable them to tackle insecurity effectively.

### Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has put forward for strengthening the African Union Mission in Somalia. [186215]

**Meg Munn:** The Government support the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia. The International Contact Group on Somalia, of which the UK is a member, called for the full and timely deployment of the AU Mission during their most recent meeting in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2008.

The UK's financial commitment in supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia during the financial year 2007-08 is £8,300,000. This includes support for Ugandan and Burundian deployments and planned support for Nigerian deployment during 2008, which will strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia's capability on the ground.

On 18 January, the African Union Peace and Security Council renewed the mandate of the AU Mission for a further six months. The UK is currently sponsoring a new UN Security Council Resolution to endorse that mandate.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Chairman of the African Union about its members providing support and assistance for the African Mission in Somalia. [186388]

**Meg Munn:** The Government welcome the appointment of Jakaya Kikwete, the President of the Republic of Tanzania, as the new chairperson of the African Union, during the African Union Summit held from 31 January to 2 February 2008.

Ministers discussed the African Union Mission in Somalia with the previous chairperson of the African Union, President Kufuor of Ghana, on several occasions. Support and assistance by African Union members for the African Union Mission in Somalia is a key issue that Ministers will wish to raise with the new chairperson at the earliest opportunity.

### Sri Lanka: Human Rights

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received about allegations of the involvement of Colonel Karuna in the massacre of Sri Lankan police officers. [185389]

**Dr. Howells:** We are aware of reports of the massacre of approximately 600 police officers by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) in eastern Sri Lanka in 1990. Vinayagmoorthy Muralitharan (also known as Colonel Karuna) was reportedly a senior LTTE figure in the east at this time. The UK has continually expressed deep concern about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is for full implementation of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur and what assessment he has made of the reasons for the delay in implementation. [186305]

**Meg Munn:** We are working very closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union to help achieve the goal of the UN-African Union hybrid mission in Darfur's full deployment as soon as practicable. This will be extremely challenging as not all outstanding shortfalls, particularly helicopter capacity, have yet been filled. The UN-African Union hybrid mission in Darfur's deployment to Darfur is one of the most complex and logistically difficult that the UN has ever undertaken.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 225W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, what plans he has to convene a further meeting on provision of the requisite units for the joint UN-AU hybrid force for Darfur. [186366]

**Meg Munn:** The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations meets regularly with UN member states in New York to discuss the joint UN-African Union hybrid force in Darfur. Following two meetings we arranged in January to focus on helicopters, in close conjunction with the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations, we currently have no plans for further meetings on this topic. We continue to support all the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations' efforts to generate and deploy an effective force in Darfur.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received reports of senior members of the Janjaweed Arab Militia being advisers or members of the Sudanese Government; and if he will make a statement. [186345]

**Meg Munn:** The Sudanese Government has announced that it has appointed Arab leader Musa Hilal as an adviser to the Minister of Federal Affairs. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right Lord Malloch-Brown, raised UK concerns over the appointment of Musa Hilal in meetings with representatives of the Government of Sudan that he met during his visit to Sudan on 28-31 January. He made clear that the appointment was inappropriate as Musa Hilal is subject to UN sanctions. We pressed for UN action on Musa Hilal's appointment at the UN Sanctions Committee on 1 February.

### Weapons: Proliferation

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of EU member states in implementing effective export, transit, trans shipment and re-export controls, including appropriate laws and regulations in relation to counter-proliferation, as called for in EU Council Common Position 2005/329/PESC of 25 April 2005. [185080]

**David Miliband:** The EU Council Common Position 2005/329/PESC of 25 April 2005 relates to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The UK and other EU member states take seriously the need to ensure rigorous implementation of effective export, transit, transhipment and re-export controls in order to strengthen the international non-proliferation system, including the NPT. We regularly discuss with EU and other partners ways to enhance national and international efforts to counter proliferation, including, inter alia, by strengthening the NPT and export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, in which all EU member states participate.

### Western Sahara: Human Rights

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the report to the UN Human Rights Council on the Western Sahara and refugee camps at Tindouf, completed in September 2006, to be published. [186732]

**Dr. Howells:** The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) visited Morocco, Western Sahara and Algeria in May to June 2006 to gather information on the human rights situation. The OHCHR shared its report privately with Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario in September 2006. The UN maintains its decision not to make the report public and we do not therefore expect the report to be published more widely.

### Zimbabwe: Sanctions

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the sanctions against President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and other members of the Zimbabwean Government are intended to apply to access to educational opportunities in the UK for Zimbabwean nationals; and if he will make a statement. [185801]

**Meg Munn:** The EU Common Position's targeted measures comprise a travel ban and assets freeze on Robert Mugabe and 130 other Zimbabweans. All members of Mugabe's Cabinet and ZANU-PF's Politburo are included, together with governors, heads of security forces, election officials and others associated with abuses. Other Zimbabwean nationals who are not subject to these targeted measures and who intend to come to the UK in order to study must meet the relevant requirements of the immigration rules.

## JUSTICE

### A v. Hoare

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what implications the House of Lords' ruling in A *v.* Hoare has on the lapse of time after which cases may not be brought for battery and common assault *(a)* under common law and *(b)* under military law; and if he will make a statement. [186873]

**Bridget Prentice:** The recent ruling by the House of Lords in the cases of A *v.* Hoare, C(FC) *v.* Middlesbrough council, X(FC) and another (FC) *v.* London borough of Wandsworth, H(FC) *v.* Suffolk county council and Young (FC) *v.* Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds) considered the limitation periods for bringing an action for damages for personal injury in the civil courts.

These periods, which are set out in the Limitation Act 1980, do not relate to the prosecution of criminal offences under criminal or military law such as battery and common assault.

The Government are carefully considering the implications of the ruling for civil claims.

### ClearSprings

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process was followed by which ClearSprings was given authority to operate on a site in Kemsley; and if he will make a statement. [186833]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Ministry of Justice awarded a contract for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in England and Wales to ClearSprings Management Ltd. in June 2007. The contract is managed in each region by the Regional Offender Manager, who determines the requirement for property based on the distribution of prisoner origins in the region. ClearSprings consult the police and the local authority in the acquisition of all properties. No objections were raised in relation to the house in Kemsley.

### Coroners

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to reform the coroner service in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [185468]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government remain committed to reform of the coroner system and a Bill will be brought before Parliament as soon as time allows. We will introduce measures ahead of legislation which will help to achieve one of the fundamental aims of the Bill in providing a better service for bereaved families. These

include strengthening Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984 to help prevent future deaths, revising the Charter for the Bereaved for a reformed service, and working with the Press Complaints Commission to establish whether their code of practice for editors could be refined for the benefit of bereaved families.

### Cross-Party Committee

**Sir Patrick Cormack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the Cross-Party Committee on the House of Lords has met since November 2007; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [185380]

**Mr. Straw:** The cross-party working group on House of Lords reform has met three times since November 2007. The Government have no plans to publish the minutes of the Group's meetings. It is important that that the members of the cross-party group are able to debate the policy options for reform vigorously in order to expose the advantages and disadvantages of these options and to fully understand their implications. It is in the public interest that these discussions can take place away from public scrutiny.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistan and *(c)* laptop computers issued to his Departmen staff have been reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184487]

**Mr. Wills:** The information requested on laptops reported lost, stolen and missing, is as follows:

| | *Lost* | *Missing* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| 2002 | 1 | 5 | 19 |
| 2003 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| 2004 | 0 | 2 | 25 |
| 2005 | 0 | 2 | 18 |
| 2006 | 2 | 4 | 21 |
| 2007 | 4 | 9 | 27 |

The losses were from a variety of locations across England and Wales.

The Department does not hold a comprehensive central record for mobile telephones and personal digital assistants. Details taken from available records are as follows:

*Mobile phones*

| | *Stolen* | *Lost* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3 | 2 |
| 2002 | 10 | 5 |
| 2003 | 11 | 19 |
| 2004 | 7 | 30 |
| 2005 | 3 | 24 |
| 2006 | 13 | 19 |
| 2007 | 9 | 17 |

*Personal digital assistants*

| | *Stolen* | *Lost* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | 1 |

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how responsibility for property costs was allocated between his Department and the Home Office after the restructuring of the Department's responsibilities. [181942]

**Mr. Hanson:** Responsibility for property costs for the National Offender Management Service and the Prison and Probation Estates rests with the Ministry of Justice and those for the Home Office estate with the Home Office.

### Driving Under Influence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for drink driving offences in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in 2007. [186918]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information held on convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the year 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. Information is available at police force area level only. 2006 data will be available later this year. 2007 data will be available next year.

The data provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within Essex and Greater London[2], 2005*

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| Essex police force area | 2,549 |
| Greater London[2] | 13,071 |

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be distinguished separately).
[2] City of London and Metropolitan police forces combined.
*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Drugs: Driving Under Influence

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for drug-driving took place *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [186023]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information held on convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs from 1997 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions and custodial sentences for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], England and by police force area, 1997 to 2005*

*Number of offences*

| | Findings of guilt | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,812 | 2,566 | 2,728 | 2,462 | 2,197 | 2,401 | 2,666 | 2,692 | 2,595 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,146 | 1,060 | 869 | 797 | 914 | 955 | 1,072 | 1,028 | 1,050 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,092 | 1,060 | 941 | 793 | 813 | 852 | 933 | 1,083 | 1,214 |
| Cheshire | 1,969 | 1,903 | 1,827 | 1,652 | 1,529 | 1,993 | 1,905 | 2,128 | 1,709 |
| Cleveland | 926 | 870 | 811 | 111 | 887 | 921 | 981 | 1,071 | 959 |
| Cumbria | 931 | 856 | 871 | 806 | 761 | 768 | 843 | 907 | 853 |
| Derbyshire | 1,612 | 1,547 | 1,463 | 1,417 | 1,411 | 1,465 | 1,617 | 1,874 | 1,645 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,342 | 2,265 | 2,277 | 2,199 | 2,369 | 2,441 | 2,667 | 2,560 | 2,446 |
| Dorset | 1,214 | 1,186 | 1,120 | 1,115 | 1,150 | 1,199 | 1,264 | 1,239 | 1,207 |
| Durham | 1,044 | 1,035 | 1,137 | 1,124 | 1,097 | 1,136 | 1,170 | 1,277 | 1,168 |
| Essex | 2,736 | 2,438 | 2,528 | 2,462 | 2,456 | 2,522 | 2,622 | 2,853 | 2,549 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,067 | 985 | 889 | 804 | 865 | 926 | 890 | 913 | 834 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,806 | 4,715 | 4,850 | 4,801 | 4,715 | 4,720 | 4,743 | 4,811 | 4,653 |
| Hampshire | 3,774 | 3,597 | 3,725 | 3,472 | 3,464 | 3,846 | 3,663 | 3,743 | 3,372 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,670 | 1,672 | 1,679 | 1,552 | 1,666 | 1,894 | 1,904 | 1,881 | 1,836 |
| Humberside | 1,274 | 1,358 | 1,323 | 1,371 | 1,259 | 1,395 | 1,445 | 1,623 | 1,592 |
| Kent | 2,321 | 2,627 | 2,633 | 2,592 | 2,575 | 2,745 | 2,811 | 3,010 | 2,907 |
| Lancashire | 3,389 | 2,945 | 3,010 | 2,584 | 2,304 | 2,599 | 2,652 | 2,706 | 2,723 |
| Leicestershire | 1,648 | 1,485 | 1,624 | 1,531 | 1,546 | 1,659 | 1,725 | 1,754 | 1,631 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,088 | 979 | 941 | 816 | 877 | 847 | 1,111 | 1,209 | 1,176 |
| London, City of | 436 | 301 | 236 | 162 | 162 | 221 | 230 | 169 | 184 |
| Merseyside | 2,719 | 2,451 | 2,137 | 2,128 | 2,195 | 2,293 | 2,687 | 2,849 | 2,964 |
| Metropolitan Police | 16,165 | 13,889 | 12,414 | 11,801 | 11,260 | 12,905 | 12,621 | 13,227 | 12,887 |
| Norfolk | 1,116 | 1,118 | 1,010 | 935 | 1,143 | 1,220 | 1,274 | 1,240 | 1,265 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,107 | 1,062 | 1,058 | 782 | 399 | 236 | 799 | 922 | 853 |
| Northumbria | 2,625 | 2,457 | 2,463 | 2,621 | 2,529 | 2,588 | 2,747 | 2,675 | 2,561 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,365 | 1,205 | 1,124 | 1,073 | 1,066 | 1,119 | 1,194 | 1,131 | 1,244 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,031 | 1,804 | 1,802 | 1,722 | 1,598 | 1,420 | 1,644 | 1,669 | 1,626 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,296 | 2,002 | 1,927 | 2,122 | 2,020 | 1,945 | 2,089 | 2,224 | 2,220 |
| Staffordshire[2] | 2,036 | 1,955 | 1,711 | n/a | 1,513 | 1,704 | 1,733 | 1,733 | 1,718 |
| Suffolk | 1,050 | 1,042 | 1,089 | 902 | 920 | 1,105 | 1,213 | 1,332 | 1,103 |
| Surrey | 1,380 | 1,328 | 1,417 | 1,539 | 1,592 | 1,614 | 1,464 | 1,425 | 1,503 |
| Sussex | 2,373 | 2,113 | 2,224 | 2,112 | 2,358 | 2,306 | 2,430 | 2,368 | 2,379 |
| Thames Valley | 4,070 | 3,896 | 3,725 | 3,496 | 3,275 | 4,317 | 3,884 | 3,539 | 3,474 |
| Warwickshire | 837 | 784 | 856 | 786 | 880 | 841 | 918 | 845 | 871 |
| West Mercia | 1,947 | 1,794 | 1,747 | 1,631 | 1,740 | 1,719 | 1,797 | 1,689 | 1,917 |
| West Midlands | 6,351 | 5,582 | 4,775 | 4,539 | 4,914 | 5,050 | 5,233 | 5,584 | 5,693 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,953 | 3,669 | 3,597 | 3,375 | 3,220 | 3,564 | 3,720 | 3,897 | 3,863 |
| Wiltshire | 1,043 | 1,108 | 1,009 | 930 | 1,045 | 1,005 | 1,031 | 1,024 | 1,038 |
| England | 93,761 | 86,709 | 83,567 | 79,671 | 78,684 | 84,456 | 87,392 | 89,904 | 87,482 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1,029 | 995 | 944 | 858 | 867 | 927 | 995 | 986 | 932 |
| Gwent | 1,166 | 1,203 | 1,079 | 1,211 | 1,152 | 1,074 | 1,149 | 1,188 | 1,129 |
| North Wales | 1,354 | 1,306 | 1,248 | 1,332 | 1,227 | 1,270 | 1,326 | 1,349 | 1,364 |
| South Wales | 2,892 | 2,903 | 2,526 | 2,757 | 2,812 | 2,761 | 2,840 | 2,811 | 2,811 |
| Wales | 6,441 | 6,407 | 5,797 | 6,158 | 6,058 | 6,032 | 6,310 | 6,334 | 6,236 |
| England and Wales | 100,202 | 93,116 | 89,364 | 85,829 | 84,742 | 90,488 | 93,702 | 96,238 | 93,718 |

n/a = Not available

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

*Notes:*

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

### Electoral Administration Act 2006

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for ending double-reporting of donations by hon. Members; and for what reasons the implementation of sections 59(3) and 59(4) of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has been delayed. [186073]

**Mr. Straw:** This provision cannot be brought into force until the Electoral Commission informs me that it is content that the information it would receive from the House Authorities would be sufficiently complete. That is, the information received must be the same as that which the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 currently requires Members who have received donations to provide to the Electoral Commission.

I understand that discussions between the Electoral Commission and the House Authorities are continuing with a view to enabling the Electoral Commission to confirm that this provision can be commenced.

### Electoral Commission

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contribution his Department plans to make to the Electoral Commission's research on the political levy and political funds. [186075]

**Mr. Straw:** The Ministry of Justice has no plans to contribute to any such research.

### Electoral Role Databases

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which public authorities, other than local authorities, police forces and the Electoral Commission, have access to the full versions of electoral role databases. [184634]

**Mr. Wills:** The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I.2001/341), and the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (S.I.2001/497), as amended, set out the regulatory regime governing access to the full electoral register in Great Britain. Under part 6 of each set of regulations, relevant parts of the full register may be supplied by an electoral registration officer, to certain persons and bodies, for use for specific purposes, including crime prevention and enforcement of criminal law. Part 6 also allows the register to be supplied to persons whose entitlement arises from another enactment.

In addition to local authorities, police forces, the Electoral Commission and Government Departments, the other public bodies specified as being entitled to be supplied with copies of relevant parts of, or the whole of, the full register under the regulations cited above are:

The Boundary Commission

The British Library

The National Library for Scotland

Other Public Libraries

Environment Agency

Financial Service Authority

National Library Services

The Office of National Statistics

Any office designated by the Lord Chancellor under section 3(1) of the Juries Act 1974

The Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service and GCHQ (may be supplied with the full register for the full range of their statutory functions)

National Criminal Intelligence Service

National Crime Squad

Police Information Technology Organisation

Other private persons and organisations that have a right to be supplied with copies of the full electoral register are:

Candidates, Local Constituency Parties and Registered Political Parties

Credit Reference Agencies

Members of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, Members of the National Assembly of Wales, Scottish Parliament, local councillors, London Assembly Members, Mayor of London and other elected Mayors as set out in section 39(1) of Local Government Act 1999.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182837]

**Maria Eagle:** In the period January 2007 to December 2007 the following number of formal complaints on the grounds of bullying were received:

| | *Number of formal complaints* |
|---|---|
| Ex-Department of Constitutional Affairs | 12 |
| National Offender Management Service | 2 |
| Office of Criminal Justice Reform | 0 |
| Total | 14 |

The public sector Prison Service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Ex-DCA:*

The Ministry applies three policies that address the issue of bullying; grievance, conduct, and equality and diversity.

The Grievance Policy contains a specific sub-section on dealing with complaints about bullying that breach equality and diversity requirements. All such complaints are referred to Human Resources for advice, and will almost always result in the appointment of an independent officer to investigate. Grievances will be dealt with promptly and in confidence.

The Conduct Policy sets out the standard of behaviour that is expected of all staff. Discriminatory or unacceptable behaviour such as bullying, harassment, victimisation or unwanted verbal and non-verbal contact is not tolerated. Staff are expected to behave in an acceptable manner and be responsible for their actions. Their responsibilities are to:

respect the dignity of others

ensure their own behaviour does not constitute harassment, bullying or victimisation of others where unacceptable behaviour takes place, take action to stop it and/or inform their managers.

Bullying is characterised in the policy using the ACAS definition:

Bullying may be characterised as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means intended to undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient.

Bullying or harassment may be by an individual against an individual (perhaps by someone in a position of authority such as a manager or supervisor) or involve groups of people. It may be obvious or may be insidious. Whatever form it takes, it is unwarranted and unwelcome to the individual.

The Equality and Diversity Policy is based on the principle of establishing practices to eradicate unacceptable behaviour such as harassment and bullying and stresses the stance taken by the Ministry of zero tolerance.

In recent years all staff were trained in raising awareness of equality and diversity issues, and Workplace Mediation was introduced across the Department. This offered an informal way of resolving disputes between people who work together, with the assistance of trained mediators.

*Prison Service:*

The public sector Prison Service does not tolerate bullying in the workplace. Formal complaints of staff bullying are investigated in accordance with Prison Service Order (PSO) 1300 'Investigations', which contains detailed guidance on the conduct of all types of investigations; and PSO 8460 'Conduct and Discipline', which sets out the procedures for dealing with staff misconduct.

PSO 8460 identifies bullying as behaviour which constitutes gross misconduct (i.e. misconduct which is so serious as to make any further relationship and trust between the Service and the member of staff concerned impossible) and, depending on the circumstances of the case, may result in dismissal from the Service.

Responsibility for commissioning investigations into staff complaints and for deciding whether or not to instigate formal disciplinary proceedings has been devolved to a local level.

Central co-ordination of formal investigations within the public sector Prison Service is managed through the Professional Standards Unit's Investigation Support Section (ISS). Whenever a formal investigation is established, ISS must be informed, as soon as possible, so that the investigation can be registered on the ISS database. This database contains details of the types and locations of formal investigations, their status and outcomes. Records of informal investigations are not held centrally, this information is maintained at a local level by governing governors and heads of group.

Bullying is not separately identified as a type of investigation on the ISS database. Instead, complaints of bullying could be investigated as allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour between staff' or 'harassment'.

ISS records show that at least 56 formal disciplinary investigations into allegations of inappropriate behaviour and harassment were commissioned during the 12 month period to 31 January 2008. A breakdown of these is shown in the following table. However, ISS cannot confirm with any certainty whether or not the original complaint was related to staff bullying. In order to confirm how many cases of bullying were reported, we would need to contact each of our headquarters groups and our 127 public sector Prison Service establishments and ask them to check their local records. This would incur disproportionate cost.

*Formal investigations into alleged inappropriate behaviour and/or harassment*[1]

| | *Number of investigations* |
|---|---|
| February 2007 | 3 |
| March 2007 | 6 |
| April 2007 | 0 |
| May 2007 | 7 |
| June 2007 | 2 |
| July 2007 | 6 |
| August 2007 | 3 |
| September 2007 | 8 |
| October 2007 | 6 |
| November 2007 | 6 |
| December 2007 | 4 |
| January 2008 | 5 |
| Total | 56 |

[1] Data has been sourced from the ISS database and was correct as at 5 February 2008. It does not include simple inquiries or informal investigations.

## Judges: Ethnic Groups

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* female and *(b)* ethnic minority judges were appointed in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [184997]

**Mr. Straw:** The judicial database shows that 159 salaried and fee-paid judges were appointed to the courts in the calendar year 2007. Of these 48 (30.2 per cent.) were women. 107 of the appointees answered the question about their ethnicity and of these nine (8.4 per cent.) described their ethnicity as other than white.

In the same period, 266 people were appointed to salaried or fee-paid office in tribunals, of whom 94 (35.3 per cent.) were women. 174 of the appointees answered the question about their ethnicity and of these 24 (13.8 per cent.) described their ethnicity as other than white.

## Knutsford Crown Court

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard by Knutsford Crown court in each of the last five years. [185757]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of cases either committed or sent for trial, committed for sentence or appealing against a magistrates court's decision which were disposed of at Knutsford Crown court during the last five years are listed in the following table.

| | Trials | Sentences | Appeals |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 352 | 149 | 124 |
| 2006 | 370 | 165 | 100 |
| 2005 | 317 | 156 | 70 |
| 2004 | 349 | 158 | 70 |
| 2003 | 370 | 119 | 83 |

## Limitation Act 1980

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the implications of the recent House of Lords ruling in A *v.* Hoare for the provisions of the Limitation Act 1980. [186109]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government are carefully considering the recent ruling by the House of Lords in the cases of A *v.* Hoare, C(FC) *v.* Middlesbrough council, X(FC) and another (FC) *v.* London borough of Wandsworth, H(FC) *v.* Suffolk county council and Young (FC) *v.* Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds). This is in the context of our proposed consultation on the text of a draft Bill to implement the Law Commission's recommendations for the reform of the Limitation Act 1980 as a whole.

## Macclesfield Magistrates Court

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases are due to be heard by Macclesfield magistrates court; and how long on average the waiting period was before a case was heard by the court in the latest period for which figures are available. [185785]

**Maria Eagle:** As at 7 February 2008, there are 58 adult trials and two youth trials outstanding at Macclesfield magistrates court. As a result of the implementation of the Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary (CJSSS) programme in Macclesfield, there is not a backlog of cases. This information has been supplied directly from the court.

The following table sets out estimates for the average time taken between the recorded date on which a defendant commits an offence to the date on which the defendant's case is first considered by a magistrates court for 2007. Information is not available for Macclesfield magistrates court separately. However, estimates have been provided for the Vale Royal Clerkship which includes combined information for Macclesfield magistrates court and Northwich magistrates court.

The figures are from the Time Intervals Survey (TIS) and are based on defendants (adults and youths) in all criminal cases that were proceeded against in the magistrates courts.

*Average time taken between date of offence to first listing for all defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts, information for Vale Royal Clerkship and England and Wales, 2007*

| | Estimated average number of days from offence to first listing in magistrates court | Margin of error (+/- days) | Sample size (number of defendants) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vale Royal Clerkship | 117 | 11 | 147 |
| England and Wales | 117 | 1 | 59,353 |

*Notes:*
1. Results are based on proceedings in one sample week in March and September. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) is a sample survey that produces estimates of the average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts. More information on TIS is available on the Ministry of Justice website.
2. The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.
3. 'First listing' refers to the first listed hearing of the case in the magistrates court.
4. Information is provided for the Vale Royal Clerkship which covers Macclesfield and Northwich magistrates courts. It is not possible to give estimates for 2007 for Macclesfield magistrates court separately.

*Source:*
Time Intervals Survey (TIS), Ministry of Justice.

## National Offender Management Service

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in the National Offender Management Service were involved in the central commissioning and contestability programme and whether this includes numbers at an area level. [182130]

**Mr. Hanson:** Reporting to the Director of Commissioning and Partnerships, the central Commissioning and Contestability Programme Unit is responsible for the development of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) commissioning and contestability policy and for supporting implementation by NOMS national, regional and local commissioners.

As at 24 January 2008, the total number of staff within the commissioning and contestability programme unit was 19.6 full-time equivalents all based at NOMS headquarters in London.

## North East

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed by his Department in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* the North East region in each year since 2000. [183721]

**Maria Eagle:** The available figures are in the following table. Data for the Former Department for Constitutional Affairs are available for the North East Region, but are not available for Tyne and Wear and Sunderland. Figures are collated by the Office for National Statistics from Departmental Returns.

Information on the number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the public sector Prison Service in the North East region each year since 2000 are also in the following table. The public sector Prison Service does not employ any staff in either Sunderland or Tyne and Wear.

| | Staff in post | | | | | | Full-time equivalents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Department for Constitutional Affairs (excl. Agencies)[1, 4] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| HM Courts Service[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 360 | 350 | 350 | 970 |
| Tribunals[1, 3] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130 |
| Lord Chancellor's Department (excl. Agencies)[1] | 130 | 340 | 360 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Public Sector Prison Service[2] | 3,239.0 | 3,246.5 | 3,303.5 | 3,479.0 | 3,684.2 | 3,578.4 | 3,511.2 |

[1] Figures as at 1 April each year, except for 2006 where figures are as at 30 September.
[2] Figures as at 31 March each year.
[3] From 1 April 2006, Tribunals became an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.
[4] In 2003, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) was created to take over the role of the Lord Chancellor's Department.
*Note:*
The latest period for which the statistics are available is the year to September 2006 and so pre-date the creation of the Ministry of Justice

### Offender Services

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value is of new contracts for offender services let by probation boards to private and third sector providers in each of the last five years, in terms of *(a)* annual value and *(b)* value over the life of the contract. [185543]

**Mr. Straw:** Probation Boards have not been required to provide detailed information with regard to the value of sub-contracts awarded to private and third sector providers as detailed in the question. However, there was an initiative by NOMS in the period 2006-07 to identify, from then to March 2008, what percentage of sub-contracts existed in probation areas in England and Wales. This was also to provide NOMS with a view as to which private and third sector providers Probation Boards were sub-contracted with and the range of offender services provided. Information gathered in 2006-07 indicated that Probation Boards had at that time contracts with a range of providers from the private and third sector. The total amount of these contracts was approximately £25 million, with contracts starting from £89 to the highest value of £874,147 in that year. In 2007-08 total contracts amounted to approximately £28 million. The value of these contracts ranges between £360 and £613,500. The total value over the life of the contract cannot be reliably given due to the fact that many contracts are annual but had been renewed annually for many years.

### Offenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what number and proportion of accused people whose cases were discontinued in the interests of justice were convicted of a further offence within two years of that discontinuation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [186179]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not available. The published statistics on reoffending do not include reoffending after cases have been discontinued.

### Offenders: Ethnic Groups

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are any programmes for which his Department is responsible which are made available only to ethnic minority offenders; and if he will make a statement. [186278]

**Mr. Hanson:** No. Accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody and community are available to offenders regardless of ethnicity.

### Offenders: Foreigners

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals were convicted of indictable offences in each of the last three years for which data is available. [185553]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table gives the number of foreign national prisoners received into all prison establishments in England and Wales under immediate custodial sentence between 2004 and 2006:

| | Foreign nationals |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 8,355 |
| 2005 | 9,612 |
| 2006 | 9,832 |

*Source:*
Taken from table 7.5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006

This published table can be found at the following website: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm under chapter 7 of the supplementary tables. A copy of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006 can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Information on the total number of foreign nationals convicted for indictable offences are not held centrally. The central databases of Crown court criminal cases collect information on defendants' ethnicities, but do not presently contain information on their nationalities. This is because, as a general rule, nationality is not germane to the outcome of criminal court proceedings. Defendants will not be asked their nationality by the court for this reason. Information on nationality may be recorded where it is specifically relevant to the case (e.g. immigration-related offences) but this would be held on local files and would not be systematically recorded on central databases.

However, in preparation of the implementation of the UK Borders Act 2007, the Crown court IT systems are being changed to allow for the collection of nationality data. This Act introduces automatic—rather than discretionary—triggers for the deportation of foreign nationals who meet certain sentencing criteria, and it will require more detailed recording of data on foreign national criminal defendants. Upgraded systems to meet this requirement are expected to be in place in late 2008.

### Police Custody

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were serving prison sentences in short-term police custody cells due to prison overcrowding at the latest date for which figures are available. [186902]

**Mr. Hanson:** Operation Safeguard is the formal agreement between the National Offender Management Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers, used at times of high population pressure, that allows for prisoners to be held in police cells temporarily while a suitable place is identified in a prison. Wherever possible, prisoners will be held in police cells for no more than one night.

### Prison Accommodation: Shipping

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sites have been identified for mooring the prison ship announced on 31 January 2008. [185549]

**Mr. Straw:** A number of sites are currently being assessed but no decisions have yet been taken as to which have the most potential.

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many responses the Government received to their tender for a prison ship in October 2006. [185552]

**Mr. Straw:** Following the Authority's advertisement under the OJEU Procurement Regulations, 11 organisations submitted an expression of interest and of these, eight organisations elected to submit a response to the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Following evaluation of the PQQ responses, five organisations were shortlisted to be issued with tender documents, of which in November 2006, resulted in three organisations finally submitting a tender for consideration.

The identity of the bidding organisations remains commercially confidential information.

### Prisoners Release: Foreigners

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were released from UK prisons in 2007. [186889]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1665W.

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners have been released from HM prison Bronzefield in each month since the prison opened; and how many of these have been subsequently deported. [185174]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between June 2004, when HMP Bronzefield opened, and December 2007 there were on average fewer than 10 foreign nationals discharged each month.

Information relating to immigration status including the numbers who have been subsequently deported is not centrally available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by detailed cross referencing of BIA case files with Prison Service records.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

For the proportion of total prisoners who are foreign nationals, Council of Europe data on foreign national prisoners held in other major western countries reveal much higher proportions, for example in Austria (43 per cent.), Spain (33 per cent.), Germany (28 per cent.) and France (21 per cent.) than the figure for England and Wales (14 per cent.), based on 2006 population data.

### Prisoners Release: Scunthorpe

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proposals there are for new arrangements for the accommodation and supervision of recently released criminals in Scunthorpe; and if he will make a statement. [186434]

**Maria Eagle:** The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provides accommodation for defendants on bail, and for those at the end of a sentence who are eligible for release on Home Detention on a tag after a thorough risk assessment by the prison governor. The service is provided through ClearSprings Management Ltd. One three-bedroomed property is being sought in Scunthorpe for this service.

Apart from this the Government have no plans to open new accommodation for ex-offenders in Scunthorpe.

### Prisoners: Parole

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are unable to have their applications for parole considered on the grounds that the Prison Service has been unable to provide the courses which must be completed successfully before parole can be given. [186487]

**Maria Eagle:** The fact that an offender has not completed an offending behaviour course does not preclude the offender from being considered suitable for parole; neither does the successful completion of an offending behaviour programme guarantee that the Parole Board would find the offender to have sufficiently reduced his risk of reoffending to warrant a positive parole decision.

The Parole Board looks at a range of relevant risk factors when determining whether or not offenders should be released on parole, which might include reports on the offender's response to offending behaviour programmes if such work has been undertaken during the course of the sentence.

Ultimate responsibility for the offender satisfying the Parole Board that the level of risk is reduced to the extent that he may be safely released into the community rests with the offender.

### Prisons: Forensic Psychologists

**Mr. Ronnie Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* full-time and (1) part-time chartered forensic psychologists were employed by the Prison Service in England and Wales between 1997 and 2007; [186327]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time forensic psychologists in training were employed by the Prison Service in England and Wales between 1997 and 2007; [186328]

(3) what proportion of forensic psychologists in training in the Prison Service *(a)* completed and *(b)* did not complete their training between 1997 and 2007. [186329]

**Maria Eagle:** It is not possible to report the number of chartered and in training forensic psychologists employed over the period 1997 to 2007. On average throughout this time period, the Prison Service has employed at any one time in the region of 350 psychologists in training.

*Chartered staff employed at chartered psychology grades in the Prison Service as at 3 August 2007*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Manager E | 130 |
| Manager F | 135 |
| Senior Manager B | 7 |
| Senior Manager C | 6 |
| Senior Manager D | 46 |
| Total | 324 |

From May 2001 all psychologists wishing to become Chartered Forensic Psychologists have been required to complete the British Psychological Society's Diploma in Forensic Psychology. This consists of an academic component (Stage 1) and a supervised practice component (Stage 2).

The diploma has undergone several changes since May 2001 with a high failure rate for first submission of Stage 2 evidence. At present, six individuals (not all HM Prison Service staff) have successfully completed this process although other have chartered under the 'old route' which ends May 2008.

### Reoffenders

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders are believed to have re-offended while on probation in Romford in the last five years. [186897]

**Mr. Hanson:** The National Statistics relating to re-offending do not include a constituency level breakdown. Figures for proven re-offending within two years by adults released from prison or starting a community sentence have been published for 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The most recent data was published in the 2007 report, "Re-offending of adults: Results from the 2004 cohort" which is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

### Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 150W, on secure training centres: restraint techniques, what the population of each institution was from 1 April to 30 November 2007. [186839]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the end-of-month custody figure for each secure training centre from April to November 2007. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

| *Establishment* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hassockfield | 57 | 56 | 58 | 55 | 58 | 56 | 49 | 53 |
| Medway | 64 | 60 | 65 | 67 | 71 | 69 | 76 | 74 |
| Oakfill | 51 | 57 | 57 | 49 | 42 | 51 | 46 | 47 |
| Rainsbrook | 81 | 80 | 82 | 85 | 86 | 81 | 84 | 84 |

### Sentencing: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of the possession of a knife in a public place in a crime hot spot in the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many of those people received a custodial sentence; and if he will make a statement. [185187]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons found guilty at magistrates courts, and the number of those found guilty who were given custodial sentences for the offence "Having an article with blade or point in public place", in England and Wales, for the year 2006 can be found in the following table.

It is difficult to identify a "crime hotspot" as these are determined locally, based on locally held data, therefore the data have been broken down by police force area.

From April 2007 police forces have been collecting data on serious violence offences involving a knife or sharp instrument to improve our understanding of the prevalence of these types of crime. The first full year's data will be available from July 08. The new data collection will provide specific information about the level of knife offences in serious violent offences which, over time, will provide trend data to support the Government and the police in identifying areas for which efforts to tackle knife crime should be targeted.

*Number of persons found guilty at magistrates courts and, of these found guilty the number who were given custodial sentences for the offence "Having an article with blade or point in public place", in England and Wales by police force area, for the year 2006*[1,2,3]

| Force | Found guilty | Found guilty and given a custodial sentence |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 168 | 30 |
| Bedfordshire | 61 | 14 |
| Cambridgeshire | 67 | 10 |
| Cheshire | 83 | 16 |
| City of London | 11 | Nil |
| Cleveland | 75 | 9 |
| Cumbria | 39 | 6 |
| Derbyshire | 77 | 11 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 119 | 17 |
| Dorset | 66 | 10 |
| Durham | 91 | 8 |
| Essex | 173 | 44 |
| Gloucestershire | 38 | 7 |
| Greater Manchester | 389 | 46 |
| Hampshire | 160 | 29 |
| Hertfordshire | 84 | 13 |
| Humberside | 123 | 20 |
| Kent | 6 | 1 |
| Lancashire | 143 | 16 |
| Leicestershire | 111 | 10 |
| Lincolnshire | 68 | 9 |
| Merseyside | 218 | 38 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,680 | 293 |
| Norfolk | 61 | 14 |
| North Yorkshire | 57 | 6 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 1 |
| Northumbria | 215 | 18 |
| Nottinghamshire | 144 | 16 |
| South Yorkshire | 149 | 23 |
| Staffordshire | 91 | 19 |
| Suffolk | 106 | 20 |
| Surrey | 37 | 7 |
| Sussex | 138 | 25 |
| Thames Valley | 177 | 28 |
| Warwickshire | 30 | 2 |
| West Mercia | 96 | 16 |
| West Midlands | 380 | 63 |
| West Yorkshire | 170 | 16 |
| Wiltshire | 67 | 6 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 29 | 2 |
| Gwent | 56 | 5 |
| North Wales | 113 | 20 |
| South Wales | 153 | 31 |
| England and Wales | 995 | 6,320 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.
*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

## Sex Offenders

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered sex offenders in the relevant areas made no contact with *(a)* the Metropolitan Police and *(b)* Sussex Police last year. [186760]

**Maria Eagle:** The particular data requested are not collected centrally. In the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, police forces report the number of offenders annually who are cautioned or charged for failing to comply with the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which make them registered sexual offenders). In addition, police forces regularly monitor how many of the registered sexual offenders are not residing where they should. According to data provided by the two forces in question, the number of offenders cautioned or charged for not complying with the requirements between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 20007 was: London (includes Metropolitan and City of London forces): 405; Sussex: 38.

At 31 December 2007, the number of registered sexual offenders who were found to be not residing at their registered addresses was: London (includes Metropolitan and City of London forces): 91; Sussex: 13.

It should be noted that the latter figures will fluctuate, as police forces locate offenders and others cannot be found at their registered addresses. Police forces will seek to trace registered sexual offenders who cannot be found at their registered addresses; including the checking of known alternative addresses, family and social contacts; consultation with other agencies and their records and liaison with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), which operates a "most wanted" list, published and updated on the internet.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were on the national sex offenders register in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Essex at the most recent date for which figures are available. [186922]

**Maria Eagle:** Data on registered sexual offenders are collated geographically by police force area and broken down to basic command unit (BCU) level area. The data are published in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports which are available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The Romford constituency is not coterminous with any BCU but is covered by the data relating to the Metropolitan police BCU of Havering.

*Registered sexual offenders, as at 31 March 2007*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Havering | 65 |
| *(b)* London (includes Metropolitan and City of London Police) | 3,151 |
| *(c)* Essex | 735 |

## Smuggling

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what fines were imposed on offenders following conviction for offences of illegally importing products of animal origin (POAO) into the UK in each year since 2001; and what the *(a)* weight, *(b)* country of origin and *(c)* type of POAO seized in each case was; [185622]

(2) how many offenders received custodial sentences following convictions for offences of illegally importing products of animal origin into the UK in each year since 2001. [185621]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of offenders sentenced and fines imposed for the offences of illegally importing products of animal origin is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

It is not possible to identify separately the weight and country of origin on the Court Proceedings Database as the circumstances of offences are not collected centrally.

*Number of persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody and given fines for the offence of illegally importing products of animal origin, all courts, England and Wales, 2001-06*

*Number of offenders*

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* |
| Cruelty to animals—offences against other enactments[2] | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 3 | — |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Classified as an offence under Products of Animal Origin Regulations 2003 and 2006.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice
8 February 2008
Ref: PQ(RN)069 and 070-08

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which trade unions his Department has a recognition agreement. [186074]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice has in place formal arrangements that recognise the following trade unions and employee representative bodies:

FDA
General Municipal Boilers (GMB)
National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO)
Prospect
Prison Officers Association (POA)
Prison Governors" Association (PGA)
Public and Commercial Services (PCS)
Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Unite (includes TGWU/Amicus)
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT)
UNISON.

### Wills

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of self-regulation of the will-making sector; and what plans he has to regulate the making of wills. [186194]

**Bridget Prentice:** In 2005, this Department considered the case for the regulation of will-writing. Since then we have worked with consumer bodies, the legal profession, providers of will-writing services and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), and asked for evidence that would suggest that there is a systemic failure in the will-writing market. While we received information about some cases, we reached the conclusion that there was no convincing evidence, either before or during the scrutiny of the Legal Services Bill, to warrant the regulation of will writing services.

The Department recognises that improvements must be made in the control of quality and standards of will-writing and related services in order to protect consumers and in 2006 we held meetings with interested stakeholders to discuss more effective options such as the OFT's voluntary codes scheme. If evidence emerges in the future of any systemic failure which is putting consumers at risk, the Legal Services Act 2007 does provide suitable provision so that will-writing might be brought into the regulatory net.

### Young Offenders: Injuries

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the new system for recording injuries to young offenders in the secure estate identifies *(a)* the type of institution in which the injury occurred and *(b)* (i) the age and (ii) ethnicity of the person injured. [184839]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Youth Justice Board introduced a new system for recording incidents of restrictive physical intervention, assault, self-harm and single separation in April 2007. Information can currently be broken down by institution, ethnicity and sex. The YJB intends to begin collecting details of the age of the young person from April 2008.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Norwich

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will meet representatives of the area which may be served by the Heartsease Academy in Norwich before the Academy's approval date. [177330]

**Jim Knight:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State would be pleased to do so.

### Building Schools for the Future

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1292-4W, on Building Schools for the Future, (1) what progress he has made in reviewing the operation of waves seven to 15 of the programme; [185958]

(2) what progress he has made with developing the programme to accelerate the entry of education authorities into it. [185959]

**Jim Knight:** It is still my aim to consult on how we manage waves seven onwards of Building Schools for the Future, and also to give all authorities with projects in these waves the opportunity we have already offered, to revise their expressions of interest in the programme. Wave seven authorities will be able to access funding from 2011-12. I would like to see all authorities having a project in the programme as soon as possible, but this will depend on their readiness to deliver, and on future public spending decisions.

We have not consulted to the timetable indicated in my response to the question of 18 October last year. As the Select Committee said in its report on Building Schools for the Future last year, the important thing with this major programme is to get it right. This delay reflects our aim to do this, and is a sign of the Government's continued commitment to Building Schools for the Future and to getting it right.

**Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme have provision for *(a)* fewer than 500 pupils, *(b)* between 500 and 1,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils; [185391]

(2) how many new schools have been built under the Building Schools for the Future programme; how many have been refurbished; and what proportion of funding to the programme has been spent on each activity. [185392]

**Jim Knight:** The number of pupils in the schools that have been rebuilt or refurbished as part of Building Schools for the Future is set out in the following table. Funding for these schools from Building Schools for the Future totalled £100.5 million and includes 'early win' projects. The proportion of this funding used for refurbishment was £58.75 million and for new build was £41.75 million.

*Building schools for the future—newly modernised schools*

| | *Number of pupils* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *0-500* | *500-1,000* | *1,000+* | *Total* |
| Rebuilt | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Refurbished | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Total | 2 | 4 | 4 | 10 |

### Children in Care

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in local authority care are waiting for *(a)* placement with a foster parent or parents and *(b)* adoption. [183547]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my predecessor on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 532W.

### Class Sizes

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class sizes were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the south-west and (iii) England in 2006-07. [186502]

**Jim Knight:** The average class sizes for both primary and secondary schools in Cornwall, the south-west and England are all shown in the following table.

| | *Average class size* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Primary schools* | *Secondary schools* |
| Cornwall | 26.2 | 21.3 |
| South-west | 26.1 | 21.4 |
| England | 26.2 | 21.2 |

*Source:*
School Census

These figures are for classes taught by one teacher. The figures were taken from table 21 and table 23 of the Statistical First Release 'Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007', available at:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

### Education: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils *(a)* entitled and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals left school (i) without any recognised qualification and (ii) with five A* to C grade GCSEs in 2007. [185643]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows pupil achievement at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools by eligibility for free school meals (FSM) in 2007:

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage achieving 5 A*-C grades* | *Percentage with no recognised qualifications* |
|---|---|---|---|
| FSM | 76,641 | 35.5 | 5.4 |
| Non- FSM | 522,088 | 62.8 | 1.9 |

These figures are taken from Table 8 in SFR38/2007 which can be found using the following link
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were eligible for free school meals left education without qualifications in each of the last three years. [186188]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer to his question 182171 on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 161-62W.

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice his Department provides to schools on female circumcision. [184579]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department provides advice to schools about female genital mutilation (FGM), which encompasses female circumcision, in 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education', which came into force in January 2007. The guidance makes clear that FGM is a criminal offence, extremely harmful and is a form of physical abuse which is not justified as a cultural or religious practice. It refers to the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and signposts further sources of information available on the Department's teachernet website.

It is important that people who work with children who may be at risk of FGM know the warning signs that could indicate that a child is being prepared for FGM, which may involve being taken abroad, and that they are alert to the signs that FGM may have been carried out.

### Forced Marriage

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer to the hon. Member for Reading, West of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 315, on forced marriage, when the Government plan to report back to the House. [184797]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department is looking into this issue, jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit. We will report back to the House in March.

### GCE A-Level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools did not enter any candidates for chemistry A-Level in 2007; [186224]

(2) how many secondary schools did not enter any candidates for physics A-level in 2007; [186225]

(3) how many secondary schools did not enter any candidates for mathematics A-level in 2007; [186226]

(4) how many secondary schools did not enter any candidates for biology A-level in 2007. [186227]

**Jim Knight:** The information is provided in the following table:

| | *Number of schools who did not enter any candidates* | *Percentage of schools who did not enter any candidates* |
|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | 196 | 10.6 |
| Physics | 351 | 19.0 |
| Biology | 244 | 13.2 |
| Chemistry | 287 | 15.6 |

These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006) in all maintained schools with sixth forms.

### GCE A-Level: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils have re-sat *(a)* AS level and *(b)* A2 level examinations in each London borough since their introduction; [186141]

(2) how many pupils re-sat GCSEs in each London borough in the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by subject. [186142]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### GCSE and A-Level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of maintained secondary schools which did not offer GCSE in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* ICT, *(c)* physics and *(d)* history in (i) 2000, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007; [163762]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of maintained secondary schools offering Mandarin to *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level; [163763]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on numbers of pupils choosing subjects at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level of Government targets to improve the share of pupils achieving higher grades in these qualifications; and if he will make a statement; [163764]

(4) what proportion of pupils studying for A-levels and GCSEs have taken *(a)* A-level and *(b)* GCSE examinations in each subject in (i) 1988, (ii) 1996, (iii) 2000, (iv) 2004 and (v) 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163765]

(5) what proportion of those studying for mathematics A-level were educated in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private schools in each year from 1988 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163766]

(6) what proportion of pupils in maintained schools studied mathematics at A-level or AS-level in each year from 1988 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163767]

(7) what proportion of pupils at the 100 *(a)* top and *(b)* bottom performing maintained secondary schools by GCSE results in 2007 were known to be eligible for free school meals; what the equivalent national percentage average was for all maintained secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [163821]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### GCSE: Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 162W, on GCSE: standards, how many schools in each local education authority area had fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils achieve five A* to C grade passes at GCSE, including mathematics and English, in each year between 1998 and 2004; [184852]

(2) how many of the schools in each local education authority area with fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils achieving five A* to C grade passes at GCSE, including mathematics and English, in 2006-07 *(a)* have since been closed and *(b)* are planned to close. [184853]

**Jim Knight:** The information for 2001/02 onwards is in the Achievement and Attainment Tables in the Library. Information for the other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Holocaust Educational Trust: Finance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding has been allocated to the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust to help combat anti-Semitism and racism. [183830]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given in the House on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 646.

### Holocaust: Education

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to educate school children on the Holocaust since 1997. [185667]

**Jim Knight:** The teaching of the Holocaust has been a statutory requirement since the inception of the National Curriculum in 1991.

Guidance to teachers was published by the QCA in 2000 when the National Curriculum was reviewed, and on 27 January 2001 the first Holocaust Memorial Day was held. Holocaust Memorial Day aims to encourage greater awareness among young people of the relevance of the Holocaust and the need for mutual respect and understanding. It is supported by a Government funded education pack.

Since 2006 the Government have been supporting the Holocaust Educational Trust's lessons from Auschwitz project for 16 to 18-year-olds, and funding of £4.65 million over the next three years was announced on 4 February.

### Home Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a child aged 14 who is home educated and attends a local college on a part-time basis is entitled to support towards transport costs. [185998]

**Jim Knight:** Local authorities must provide transport where they consider it necessary to ensure that a child goes to school. If transport is necessary, then it must be provided free of charge.

In most cases, it is for the local authority to decide if transport is necessary, but a child will be automatically entitled to free transport if they are between five and 16 years old and attend the nearest suitable school, and the school is further away than the 'statutory walking distance'. The statutory walking distance is three miles for those aged eight and over.

From 1 September 2008 secondary pupils (11 to 16 years old) will be entitled to free school transport if they are from a low income family, they attend any one of their three nearest suitable schools, and the schools are between two and six miles away from their home address. The extended rights to free transport are part of wider changes introduced under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Although the regulations and the Act refer to 'schools', it is the age of the child that is significant. This means that a child of compulsory school age, attending a college to study national curriculum subjects, will fall under the regulations set out above.

### Lord Adonis

**Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the purpose was of Lord Adonis's visit to Liverpool on 25 January, with particular reference to his visit to Croxteth comprehensive school; who invited him to visit the school; and whom he met during that visit. [185754]

**Jim Knight:** My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners visited Liverpool at the invitation of the leader of Liverpool city council as part of ongoing discussions about the city's Building Schools for the Future Programme. Lord Adonis visited Croxteth comprehensive school with the leader of Liverpool city council and a number of the leader's senior officials.

### Primary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary schools in each local authority with fewer than 100 pupils have not joined other schools in forming federations; [186222]

(2) how many primary schools in each local authority with at least 25 per cent. surplus places have not joined other schools in forming federations. [186223]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not keep systematic records of the schools that are involved in federation arrangements and schools are under no obligation to inform the Department when they enter such arrangements. It would not be possible for this information to be obtained from LAs or schools without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Primary Education: Academies

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to establish primary school academies; and if he will make a statement. [185334]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently no plans for the academies programme to extend to schools solely catering for pupils of primary age. However, the programme does extend to all-age academies and there are currently eight all-through academies (providing education for all ages from three to 19), with a further seven in the pipeline.

Sponsors may also enter an academy proposal in any of the competitions now required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for most new and replacement primary and secondary schools.

### Primary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained primary schools had *(a)* under 245 pupils, *(b)* between 246 and 345 pupils, *(c)* between 346 and 445 pupils, *(d)* between 446 and 545 pupils, *(e)* between 546 and 645 pupils, *(f)* between 646 and 745 pupils, *(g)* between 746 and 845 pupils, *(h)* between 846 and 945, *(i)* between 946 and 999 pupils and *(j)* over 1,000 pupils in the last period for which figures are available. [185074]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is shown in the following table:

*Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of schools by size[2], January 2007, England*

| | *All schools[3]* | *Maintained primary schools* | *Percentage[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 245 pupils | 14,605 | 11,094 | 76.0 |
| 246 pupils to 345 pupils | 3,462 | 3,120 | 90.1 |
| 346 pupils to 445 pupils | 2,595 | 2,303 | 88.7 |
| 446 pupils to 545 pupils | 805 | 551 | 68.4 |
| 546 pupils to 645 pupils | 466 | 186 | 39.9 |
| 646 pupils to 745 pupils | 439 | 84 | 19.1 |
| 746 pupils to 845 pupils | 400 | 17 | 4.3 |
| 846 pupils to 945 pupils | 434 | 6 | 1.4 |
| 946 pupils to 999 pupils | 189 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 1,000 pupils and over | 1,623 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 25,018 | 17,361 | 69.4 |

[1] Includes middle deemed schools.
[2] Full-time equivalent number of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Includes pupils with other providers in pupil referral units.
[4] Number of schools in each band expressed as a percentage of the total number of schools in each band.
*Source:*
School Census.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities *(a)* had over 10 per cent. surplus primary school places in each year since 1997 and *(b)* are estimated to have over 10 per cent. of surplus places in each year until 2015; and if he will make a statement. [185338]

**Jim Knight:** The Department collects information from each local authority (LA) on the number of surplus school places via an annual survey. The earliest data available is for 1998 and the most recent is for 2007. The number of surplus school places was not collected in 2002 to allow for a change in the method of assessing school capacity. Currently, the number of surplus school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment which was introduced in 2003. Up to 2001 the capacity of a school was calculated using the MOE (More Open Enrolment) method.

*(a)* The table shows the number of LAs that had over 10 per cent. surplus primary school places calculated by the MOE method between 1998 and 2001 and the net capacity method between 2003 and 2007.

*(b)* The Department collects forecast data from local authorities on projected pupil numbers, but not on projected school capacity. We are unable, therefore, to estimate future levels of surplus places.

| | *Number of LAs with 10 per cent. or more primary surplus places[1]* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 107 |
| 2006 | 103 |
| 2005 | 106 |
| 2004 | 108 |
| 2003 | 102 |
| 2001 | 80 |
| 2000 | 69 |
| 1999 | 65 |
| 1998 | 65 |

[1] Number of places relate to position as at January
*Source:*
Surplus Places Survey

### Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support has been given to head teachers in exercising their function of excluding pupils since June 2007. [185185]

**Kevin Brennan:** Head teachers must complete statutory training prior to appointment (the National Professional Qualification for Headship). The training aims to support heads in developing effective strategies to run their schools, which includes those on pupil behaviour and exclusion.

We back heads when they take the difficult decision to permanently exclude a pupil. The intention must be to intervene early to nip misbehaviour in the bud and so reduce the need for permanent exclusion. Provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which came into force on 1 September 2007, allow schools to apply for Parenting Orders earlier. Now they can be used in cases where a pupil's serious misbehaviour would warrant exclusion, before waiting until a pupil had been excluded as had previously been the case. Schools can now apply directly to the magistrates court for Parenting Orders rather than arrange for the local authority to make the application. Also, schools can now offer voluntary parenting contracts at an earlier stage where pupils have misbehaved in school.

We issued revised guidance to local authorities and schools on exclusions, which came into force on 1 September 2007. We have also issued guidance at the

same time on the use of education-related parenting contracts, Parenting Orders and penalty notices.

### Pupils: Zimbabwe

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of Zimbabwean nationals are being educated in English schools. [185802]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

### Schools: Admissions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools had more than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 70 per cent. surplus places in each of the last 10 years. [185400]

**Jim Knight:** We cannot provide the information requested because it would require us to manipulate large volumes of data which could be undertaken only at a disproportionate cost.

### Schools: Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the staffing costs of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* all school staff were in the latest year for which figures are available. [185206]

**Jim Knight:** The available information requested is as follows:

*Staffing expenditure by all local authority maintained schools in England for 2006-07*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Teaching staff | 17,867 |
| *(b)* Non-teaching staff | 6,655 |
| (c) Other employee expenses[1] | 480 |
| Total: | 25,002 |

[1] Including recruitment, development and training costs.

### Schools: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to provide intensive education warnings about guns and knives in secondary schools. [185196]

**Jim Knight:** No specific funding has been allocated by this Department to support education about guns and knives in secondary schools. However, there are opportunities for schools to address this issue throughout the curriculum and in particular through the statutory citizenship curriculum, at key stages 3 and 4 as it relates to legal and human rights and responsibilities and the importance of resolving conflict fairly. Through personal, social and health education, pupils are taught to recognise and manage risk and make safer choices and to recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural schools he has agreed to close since the presumption against such closure was introduced; which such schools have closed; and on what dates, broken down by local authority. [184992]

**Jim Knight:** The Secretary of State has not agreed to close any rural school since the presumption against closure of such schools was introduced in 1998. Local authorities are responsible for taking decisions on proposals to close schools, including rural schools. Where there is an appeal against a proposed closure the schools adjudicator makes the decision. Ministers do not have a role in this process.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on the future of rural schools, and the letter placed in the Library, what estimate he has made of the percentage of rural schools which may need to *(a)* close and *(b)* merge; and if he will make a statement. [185024]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not made an estimate of the number of rural schools which may need to close or merge. Local authorities are responsible for planning school places in their area and they, or the schools adjudicator, make the decisions about school closures. Both must have regard to statutory guidance which contains a presumption against closing rural schools.

We do not expect local authorities to rush to close rural schools. They should consider other options first such as rationalising school space, for example by removing temporary accommodation, or broadening the services their schools offer in line with the likely future pattern of children's services and the needs of local communities. We also encourage authorities to look at promoting shared governance arrangements between small primary schools as a way of addressing financial and educational challenges resulting from falling primary school rolls.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on the future of rural schools, and the letter placed in the Library, how much of the £188 million of funding referred to in the dedicated schools grant 2007-08 for the extra costs of primary schools which arise due to sparsity of population has been allocated to Herefordshire; and if he will make a statement. [185025]

**Jim Knight:** For the financial year 2007-08 we calculate that £2.87 million of Herefordshire's funding for schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant is for the extra costs of primary schools which arise due to sparsity of population.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official*

*Report*, column 24WS, on the future of rural schools, and the letter placed in the Library, under what circumstances his Department's policy is that a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school should remain open in a rural area when there is in excess of 10 per cent. surplus spaces; and if he will make a statement. [185026]

**Jim Knight:** The Department's policy is that it is for local authorities to plan school provision in their area and to develop strategies for removing high levels of surplus places, where they exist, with particular attention to poorly performing schools.

We accept that in order to preserve access for young children there may be more empty places in rural areas than in urban areas. In preparing their plans authorities must take into account the presumption against closing rural schools contained in statutory guidance. Reducing surplus places need not mean school closures. It can also be achieved by removing temporary accommodation, or consolidating, or adapting accommodation for alternative community use, or federating groups of schools together.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which rural schools are *(a)* on and *(b)* not on the list of rural schools for which there is a presumption against closure; and if he will make a statement. [185330]

**Jim Knight:** The presumption against closure applies to all rural schools. Rural primary schools are designated by the Secretary of State under the provisions of Section 70(3) of the Education Act 2005. There is no designation process for rural secondary schools. The rural classification is based on the Office of National Statistics rural indicator.

A copy of the list of rural primary schools has been placed in the Library. The list is also available on http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/otherdocs.shtml.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department drew up the list of rural schools for which there is a presumption against closure, with reference to his letter of 31 January 2008 to Directors of Children's Services in England. [185331]

**Jim Knight:** The order designating the list of rural primary schools to which the presumption against closure applies under Section 70(3) of the Education Act 2005 came into force on 16 March 2007.

### Science: GCE A-Level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools did not enter any candidates for at least two science A-levels in 2007; [186228]

(2) how many secondary schools courses which offer A-levels did not offer at least two science A-level courses in 2007. [186229]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the subjects offered by individual schools.

In 2006/07, the number of maintained schools that did not enter any candidates for at least two science A-levels was 306. This was 16.6 per cent. of all maintained schools published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs).

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006).

### Special Educational Needs: Surrey

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the Administrative County of Surrey area had special educational needs statements in each of the last five years. [185176]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of pupils in all schools living in the local authority of Surrey that had special educational needs with statements in each of the last five years.

| | *Number of pupils* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 5,288 |
| 2004 | 5,375 |
| 2005 | 5,368 |
| 2006 | 5,390 |
| 2007 | 5,298 |

*Source:*
SEN2 Survey

This information can be found for all local authorities in England in Table 16 of the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in each local authority have not joined a consortium with other schools and colleges to provide diplomas. [186221]

**Jim Knight:** There has been a very positive response from secondary schools to the delivery of diplomas. Of 3,053 secondary schools in England, only 552 (18 per cent.) are not currently members of consortia. A breakdown of numbers by local authority is set out in the following table.

By 2013 there will be a national entitlement to all 14 diplomas; we expect every secondary school to be involved so that all young people can access diplomas if they wish.

| *Local authority* | *Number of secondary schools not involved in diploma delivery*[1] |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 15 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 7 |
| Bexley | 8 |
| Birmingham | 24 |
| Blackpool | 1 |
| Bolton | 3 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6 |
| Bradford | 15 |
| Bristol City of | 16 |

| Local authority | Number of secondary schools not involved in diploma delivery[1] |
|---|---|
| Bromley | 4 |
| Buckinghamshire | 13 |
| Bury | 1 |
| Calderdale | 4 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 |
| Camden | 4 |
| Cheshire | 2 |
| Cornwall | 10 |
| Croydon | 11 |
| Cumbria | 11 |
| Derby | 9 |
| Derbyshire | 7 |
| Devon | 10 |
| Dudley | 8 |
| Essex | 22 |
| Gloucestershire | 7 |
| Greenwich | 2 |
| Hackney | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1 |
| Hampshire | 2 |
| Havering | 6 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 |
| Hounslow | 4 |
| Kent | 19 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4 |
| Lancashire | 18 |
| Leeds | 13 |
| Leicestershire | 28 |
| Lincolnshire | 4 |
| Liverpool | 6 |
| Manchester | 11 |
| Milton Keynes | 4 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 4 |
| Norfolk | 4 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4 |
| North Yorkshire | 2 |
| Northamptonshire | 4 |
| Northumberland | 5 |
| Nottingham | 4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7 |
| Oldham | 2 |
| Oxfordshire | 1 |
| Peterborough | 1 |
| Plymouth | 2 |
| Reading | 2 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3 |
| Rutland | 1 |
| Salford | 5 |
| Sheffield | 6 |
| Solihull | 3 |
| Somerset | 2 |
| South Gloucestershire | 4 |
| South Tyneside | 1 |
| Southampton | 14 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 7 |
| St. Helens | 1 |
| Stockport | 7 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 5 |
| Suffolk | 18 |
| Surrey | 13 |
| Swindon | 1 |
| Tameside | 2 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1 |
| Trafford | 7 |
| Wakefield | 12 |
| Walsall | 8 |
| Wandsworth | 8 |
| Warwickshire | 4 |
| West Berkshire | 1 |
| West Sussex | 1 |
| Wiltshire | 12 |
| Wirral | 11 |
| Wokingham | 7 |
| Grand | 552 |

[1] Includes secondary schools that will not be delivering diplomas in 2008 or 2009. Excludes middle deemed secondary schools, independent schools and academies.

## Teachers: Communication

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place to inform teachers of *(a)* new legislation and *(b)* new guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [185310]

**Jim Knight:** The Department only sends information automatically to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the information and guidance they needed, when they needed them.

Instead the Department implemented a new model communications approach that combines e-mail, internet, an online ordering system, Teachers TV, and Teachers Magazine—all help signpost legislation and guidance as well as presenting information in a user friendly way. This has been well received by schools and puts them in control of what they receive, when they receive it and the number of paper-based copies they require.

The Department now issues a fortnightly email to all schools highlighting key information of importance including legislation and guidance. In addition to this, the Department's communications directorate offers information and support to schools via a range of channels including:

*Teachers Magazine and Governors Newsletter*

Issued six times a year and distributed to teachers and governors homes and to schools.

*TeacherNet, Standards Site and GovernorNet*

Online information, resources and help for people who work in schools. Work is currently being taken forward to bring these sites into a single new website for schools—"SchoolsWeb".

*Teachers' TV*

A new innovative digital television channel launched in February 2005—the first of its kind. Teachers' TV is editorially independent of the Department and provides support, good practice from around the

system. It also offers content of interest and value to broader communities including parents and others in the children's work force.

All of our work on communications (online ordering, Teachers Magazine, Governors Newsletter, Teachers TV, e-mail communications, and SchoolsWeb) build on the guiding principles that our communications must be accessible, add value, aim to reduce burdens, drive improved standards, and contribute where possible to greater efficiency.

An annual report is presented to Parliament each year, listing the documents sent from the Department and its agencies to all schools.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Health and Safety

12. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on Government policy on enforcement of health and safety law. [186555]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Government support the Health and Safety Commission and Executive's policy of firm but fair enforcement of health and safety law, as set out in their published Enforcement Policy Statement.

### Worklessness

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the level of worklessness among under 25 year olds since 1997. [186556]

**Mr. Timms:** Claimant unemployment is falling for 18 to 24-year-olds and is down 167,000 since 1997. In 1997, over 80,000 18 to 24-year-olds had been receiving jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months. Today, that figure is fewer than 7,000.

### Poverty

14. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Government has made of levels of poverty among disadvantaged groups. [186559][1]

**Mr. Timms:** The number of children in poverty has fallen by 600,000 in the past decade, the number of pensioners by over a million and the number of disabled people by 900,000. We are determined to make further progress.

### Local Employment Partnerships

16. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local employment partnerships are in operation; and if he will make a statement. [186561]

**Mr. Timms:** Over 500 employers have now signed up, and over half of them are now up and running. In the north-east last week I signed partnership agreements with Sembcorp at the Wilton petrochemicals complex, and with Nissan at Sunderland. Over 2,000 disadvantaged jobless people have found work through local employment partnerships so far.

### Child Support Agency

18. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of the Child Support Agency following the introduction of the operational improvement plan. [186564]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Agency's performance has significantly improved since the Operational Improvement Plan was launched in April 2006.

The Agency clears more applications than it receives per month and uncleared new scheme applications are at their lowest since March 2003. Over half of all new applications are cleared within six weeks.

However, the real test is the difference made for children by collecting or arranging maintenance. Nearly 675,000 children now benefit from maintenance, an increase of around 78,000 since the plan was launched.

### Welfare Services

19. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to personalise welfare services. [186565]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Jobcentre Plus already provides tailored personal advice. Our successful Pathways to Work pilots, combining employment and health support, have already shown significant success in getting people off benefit and into employment.

We are proposing more personalised support for all our customers. As well as the national roll-out of Pathways to Work we are introducing the Flexible New Deal from April 2009 and extending New Deal Plus for Lone Parents pilots until 2011.

### Lone Parents: Work Assistance

20. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to help lone parents into work. [186566]

**Mr. Timms:** In our Command Paper 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation', published in December 2007, we announced increased obligations for lone parents. Lone parents who are claiming income support solely based on being a lone parent will have to move onto a more appropriate benefit when their youngest child is:

12 and over from October 2008;

10 and over from October 2009; and

seven and over from October 2010.

To help more lone parents into work, in April, we are making the in-work credit available nationally. This gives eligible lone parents an extra £40 a week (£60 a week in London) for up to a year when they start work of 16 hours or more a week. In addition, later this year we will pilot a payment which will give an assurance to lone parents, and other eligible groups who have been claiming certain benefits for 26 weeks or more, that

1. *[Official Report, 26 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 16MC.]*

their income from work, including in-work benefits, will be a least £25 per week more than they received from out of work benefits.

### Women Pensioners

21. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the income of women pensioners. [186567]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As a result of pensions reform the proportion of women reaching state pension age entitled to a full basic state pension will rise from around 35 per cent. now to around three quarters in 2010 and over 90 per cent. in 2025.

Proposals in the current Pensions Bill should result in an estimated three and a half to four million women being enrolled into a workplace pension, many for the first time. The combination of state and private pensions reforms will help ensure more women build up their own pension provision.

### NEETs

**Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to reduce the number of young people not in training, employment or education. [186562]

**Mr. Timms:** The proportion of young people not in training, education or employment has fallen over the past decade. To make further progress, we will give early new deal access to 18-year-olds who claim jobseeker's allowance having already spent a period not working or studying.

### Attendance Allowance: Glasgow East

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Glasgow East constituency are in receipt of the *(a)* higher rate and *(b)* lower rate of attendance allowance. [184710]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The latest information is in the following table.

*People in Glasgow East parliamentary constituency who are in receipt of attendance allowance by award type, May 2007*

| | *Higher rate* | *Lower rate* |
|---|---|---|
| Glasgow East | 1,960 | 1,390 |

*Notes:*
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

### Barnardo's

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has received a copy of the report "Like any other child?" issued by Barnardo's charity; and if he will make a statement. [183747]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Secretary of State has receive a copy of the Barnado's "Like any other child?" report.

The Government refute the allegation that there is a policy of enforced destitution of asylum seekers and their families. Those who cannot support themselves while their application is considered are eligible for support from the Border and Immigration Agency. Once their claim has been finally determined, those who have been successful are assisted to integrate into the local community. Those whose claims have failed are expected to return home.

If they are temporarily unable to travel (for instance they need to obtain travel documents) they can be supported. In addition, where there are children under the age of 18 in a family whose claim was unsuccessful, they continue to be supported in the same way and to the same extent as they were before their claim was determined, until they leave the UK.

Our policy ensures that there are support safeguards in place for families and the vulnerable and those who are unable to return home.

### Carbon Monoxide

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to promote the use of carbon monoxide detectors with audible alarms in all homes. [182669]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial statement, 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 27WS, about the Ministerial Group on Gas Safety. The group is supporting cross-Government activity to raise awareness of CO poisoning from space and heating appliances burning fossil fuels and how it can be avoided. Appliances need to be properly installed and maintained in a safe condition by competent persons. An annual safety check is also recommended. CO alarms are advocated as a useful back-up precaution but should not be regarded as a substitute for these measures.

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what services have been provided by *(a)* Veredus and *(b)* other recruitment consultants to his Department in the last five years; and what the cost was of such services. [181257]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is available from April 2005 only and is provided in the following table.

*DWP expenditure from 2005-06 to November 2007 with Veredus and other recruitment consultancy companies*

£ million

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007 (to Nov 2007)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Veredus | 0.028 | 0.670 | 0.310 |
| Other recruitment consultants | 1.008 | 0.368 | 0.050 |
| Total | 1.036 | 1.038 | 0.360 |

Veredus has provided a range of recruitment services to DWP, primarily in relation to high level search and selection of senior civil service posts. These services

have been sourced via the Cabinet Office Framework Agreement. The services provided by other recruitment consultancy companies have covered the full range of end to end recruitment activities including advertising campaigns, sifting and selection across the full range of civil service posts. These services were sourced via the Cabinet Office Framework Agreement and the DWP CIPHER Framework Agreement.

### Child Support Agency: ICT

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the timetable is for migrating all Child Support Agency cases onto the new system; and if he will make a statement. [179663]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The problems encountered by the Agency following the launch of the reforms in 2003 are well documented and were widely publicised at the time. As a result of these problems the decision to bulk migrate and convert the caseload was deferred, although from the launch of the reforms in March 2003 new rules applications to child support have continued to trigger the reactive migration of old rules cases from CSCS and following migration relevant cases have been reactively converted from old to new rules.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, currently under consideration by Parliament, sets out proposals for a new system of child maintenance to be in place by 2010. By the end of 2008, parents will have an option to agree arrangements between themselves and move into voluntary maintenance arrangements, no-one will be compelled to stay in either scheme. For those who choose to remain with the Commission and the new system of child maintenance we expect the case transfer process to start in 2010 and take around three years. During this period, parents will continue to have the opportunity to move to their own arrangements or, for those parents who are satisfied with their existing arrangements to continue with them, supported by a new simple cash transfer service based on the success of the current Maintenance Direct option.

### Children: Maintenance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of parents with care on income support and income-based job seeker's allowance received maintenance in each region in each quarter since January 1997. [174726]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of parents with care on income support and income-based job seeker's allowance received maintenance in each region in each quarter since January 1997. [174726]

The information you requested is provided in the attached table which shows the proportion of those parents with care in receipt of Income Support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance who have been assessed as due to receive maintenance and who do so.

I hope you find this helpful.

*Proportion of parents with care in receipt of regular maintenance who are also in receipt of Income Support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance.*

| | *Government Office Region* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *North East* | *North West* | *Yorkshire* | *East Midlands* | *West Midlands* | *Eastern* |
| February 1997 | 46 | 44 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 50 |
| May 1997 | 49 | 45 | 45 | 49 | 47 | 49 |
| August 1997 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 47 | 48 | 51 |
| November 1997 | 52 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 48 | 52 |
| February 1998 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 48 | 50 |
| May 1998 | 52 | 48 | 47 | 53 | 50 | 51 |
| August 1998 | 54 | 48 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 49 |
| November 1998 | 53 | 50 | 49 | 54 | 51 | 51 |
| February 1999 | 54 | 49 | 48 | 54 | 53 | 49 |
| May 1999 | 53 | 50 | 51 | 53 | 53 | 49 |
| August 1999 | 55 | 51 | 51 | 56 | 52 | 50 |
| November 1999 | 54 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 51 | 51 |
| February 2000 | 54 | 49 | 53 | 57 | 52 | 53 |
| May 2000 | 56 | 50 | 55 | 58 | 52 | 52 |
| August 2000 | 56 | 52 | 54 | 57 | 52 | 51 |
| November 2000 | 56 | 52 | 55 | 58 | 50 | 53 |
| February 2001 | 53 | 52 | 55 | 58 | 51 | 52 |
| May 2001 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 59 | 53 | 55 |
| August 2001 | 55 | 53 | 56 | 58 | 53 | 56 |
| November 2001 | 53 | 54 | 58 | 58 | 54 | 55 |
| February 2002 | 56 | 54 | 56 | 56 | 54 | 53 |
| May 2002 | 60 | 55 | 58 | 58 | 57 | 55 |
| August 2002 | 60 | 60 | 57 | 59 | 57 | 53 |
| November 2002 | 60 | 60 | 57 | 61 | 56 | 53 |

*Proportion of parents with care in receipt of regular maintenance who are also in receipt of Income Support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance*

| | Government Office Region | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | North East | North West | Yorkshire | East Midlands | West Midlands | Eastern |
| February 2003 | 60 | 61 | 59 | 62 | 59 | 53 |
| May 2003 | 62 | 61 | 60 | 64 | 60 | 57 |
| August 2003 | 57 | 58 | 54 | 60 | 59 | 57 |
| November 2003 | 57 | 54 | 53 | 55 | 55 | 56 |
| February 2004 | 55 | 52 | 53 | 55 | 53 | 54 |
| May 2004 | 53 | 51 | 50 | 52 | 51 | 53 |
| August 2004 | 54 | 51 | 49 | 52 | 50 | 52 |
| November 2004 | 52 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 51 |
| February 2005 | 52 | 47 | 46 | 48 | 48 | 50 |
| May 2005 | 53 | 49 | 47 | 50 | 51 | 50 |
| August 2005 | 53 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 52 |
| November 2005 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 51 | 48 | 53 |
| February 2006 | 53 | 52 | 49 | 51 | 49 | 54 |
| May 2006 | 54 | 55 | 51 | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| August 2006 | 54 | 56 | 52 | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| November 2006 | 53 | 55 | 53 | 56 | 55 | 56 |
| February 2007 | 53 | 56 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 56 |

| | London | South East | South West | Wales | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 1997 | 44 | 52 | 53 | 53 | 41 |
| May 1997 | 45 | 53 | 56 | 56 | 44 |
| August 1997 | 46 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 44 |
| November 1997 | 45 | 53 | 55 | 53 | 44 |
| February 1998 | 45 | 55 | 57 | 50 | 45 |
| May 1998 | 44 | 56 | 58 | 53 | 48 |
| August 1998 | 44 | 55 | 60 | 54 | 48 |
| November 1998 | 46 | 56 | 60 | 56 | 50 |
| February 1999 | 45 | 55 | 60 | 52 | 48 |
| May 1999 | 48 | 56 | 61 | 56 | 49 |
| August 1999 | 47 | 57 | 61 | 55 | 50 |
| November 1999 | 47 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 51 |
| February 2000 | 49 | 55 | 58 | 53 | 51 |
| May 2000 | 51 | 55 | 58 | 54 | 53 |
| August 2000 | 51 | 54 | 57 | 55 | 53 |
| November 2000 | 52 | 56 | 60 | 59 | 54 |
| February 2001 | 51 | 57 | 61 | 56 | 53 |
| May 2001 | 52 | 58 | 64 | 61 | 56 |
| August 2001 | 52 | 56 | 63 | 62 | 56 |
| November 2001 | 52 | 56 | 60 | 62 | 56 |
| February 2002 | 53 | 55 | 61 | 62 | 57 |
| May 2002 | 54 | 57 | 65 | 62 | 60 |
| August 2002 | 55 | 59 | 64 | 61 | 60 |
| November 2002 | 53 | 60 | 66 | 62 | 60 |
| February 2003 | 55 | 61 | 67 | 64 | 61 |
| May 2003 | 56 | 63 | 66 | 63 | 64 |
| August 2003 | 54 | 58 | 63 | 63 | 59 |
| November 2003 | 50 | 56 | 60 | 58 | 58 |
| February 2004 | 45 | 57 | 57 | 56 | 56 |
| May 2004 | 44 | 54 | 56 | 55 | 55 |
| August 2004 | 43 | 54 | 56 | 55 | 53 |
| November 2004 | 44 | 52 | 53 | 51 | 51 |
| February 2005 | 45 | 51 | 54 | 51 | 51 |
| May 2005 | 44 | 51 | 55 | 52 | 53 |
| August 2005 | 45 | 51 | 55 | 52 | 52 |
| November 2005 | 47 | 52 | 55 | 51 | 51 |
| February 2006 | 48 | 52 | 55 | 52 | 52 |
| May 2006 | 51 | 54 | 57 | 57 | 55 |
| August 2006 | 53 | 55 | 58 | 59 | 56 |

| | London | South East | South West | Wales | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2006 | 54 | 54 | 57 | 57 | 56 |
| February 2007 | 54 | 54 | 56 | 57 | 33 |

Notes:
1. Information includes the number of cases with a positive maintenance outcome where the parent with care is on Income Support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance as a proportion of all those with a positive assessment or calculation. This includes cases that are not charging.
2. A parent with care is deemed to be in receipt of Income Support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance if they or their partner is in receipt of the benefit.
3. The parent with care has been allocated to a Government office region through matching their residential postcode against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
4. The latest available benefits data is at February 2007.
5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

## Christmas

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2084W, on Christmas, how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards sent by Minister in 2007. [178640]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Department spent a total of £1,589.90 on Christmas cards sent by its six Ministers. We are unable to provide the cost of postage as some of these cards would have been issued by hand. Records of these were not kept.

## Council Tax Benefits

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to increase the uptake of council tax benefits among *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* young families. [184482]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Take-up of council tax benefit (CTB) is lowest among pensioners. Pensioners are, therefore, our priority and we have put in place measures to ensure take-up is improved.

People applying for pension credit by telephone can access CTB (and housing benefit) at the same time, using a shortened three-page claim form which is completed for them during the phone call. Customers only have to provide information once. The income and savings information supplied for the pension credit application is used for the CTB claim.

From October 2008 we will dispense with even the short claim form for claims made in this way. The Pension Service will collect the CTB claim information and pass it direct to the local authority for assessment.

There are also other measures to improve take-up generally which would include young families. Annual awareness campaigns providing data to local authorities to better target entitled non-recipients will improve the administration of CTB by local authorities.

## Council Tax Benefits: Rebates

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to offer council tax benefit as a rebate to improve the take-up rate. [184658]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Council tax benefit is a rebate.

## Departmental Civil Agencies

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many agencies his Department has created in the last *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [185751]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Since its establishment in April 2002 the Department for Work and Pensions has created the following agencies.

*(a)*

| Agency | Established |
|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | April 2002 |
| The Pension Service | April 2002 |
| Disability and Carers Service | November 2004 |

*(b)* In the five years prior to the establishment of the Department for Work and Pensions, the Appeals Service was established by the Department of Social Security in April 2000. The agency transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs in April 2006

## Employment

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the proportion of UK nationals in the UK labour force. [186557]

**Mr. Timms:** Ministers and officials receive regular representations from a variety of sources on many issues.

Thanks to this Government's handling of the economy and active labour market policies, there are today more UK nationals in work than there were in 1997 and a higher proportion of UK nationals of working age have jobs than they did in 1997.

## Health and Safety Executive: Buildings

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* projected and *(b)* actual cost was of the new Health and Safety Executive headquarters in Bootle. [180139]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The new HSE Headquarters in Bootle was procured under the Private Finance Initiative. The projected capital cost of the new headquarters was £58.3 million (2003 prices) comprising £57 million on construction which was met by the contractor and £1.3 million land purchase met by HSE. The actual cost including £1.7 million infrastructure costs was £60 million.

HSE pays an annual charge for fully serviced accommodation in the new building. In the first year of operation (2006-07) the charge was forecast to be £7.8 million. The actual cost was £7.6 million.

## Housing Benefit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the potential savings created by the proposed reduction in backdating of housing benefit and council tax benefit claims will be ring-fenced for redeployment in support for housing. [175245]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** For any administrative savings, it is up to local authorities to decide how best to administer housing benefit and council tax benefit and how they use any savings resulting from more efficient and streamlined services.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish *(a)* the findings from the evaluation of the local housing allowances in the 18 pathfinder areas and *(b)* evidence available to his Department on the likely effects of direct payment of housing allowance in cases where housing benefit would have been paid to the landlord. [183587]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Department commissioned an independent evaluation of the local housing allowance within the nine pathfinder areas. This included qualitative and quantitative evidence gathered from landlords in all the pathfinder areas. The findings of the evaluation have been published as they have become available.

The final reports of the landlord stream of the evaluation, (reports No. 11 and 12) that were published in late 2006 explore the landlords experience of direct payment and copies are in the House Libraries and on the Department's website.

The evaluation did not include the further nine 'second wave group' of local authorities who introduced the local housing allowance a year after the pathfinders, but their experience has informed the Department's strategy for national roll-out the local housing allowance due to commence in April this year.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes are being made to local housing allowance from April 2008; and what guidance has been given to local authorities accordingly. [184633]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Through the comprehensive and independent evaluation of local housing allowance (LHA) in the nine pathfinder areas, we have identified a number of changes to the scheme that will apply for national roll-out.

We will cap the maximum amount of LHA that someone can receive (before non-dependant deductions and means-testing rules are applied) at £15 a week over and above the amount they need to pay their rent to strike a balance between choice and work incentives. In the pathfinder areas, there was no cap on excess benefits.

The criteria used to determine the appropriate size of property for a household will be simplified to be based on the number of bedrooms to ensure they are easier to apply and understand and better reflect the way in which properties are advertised in the private market.

LHA rates will be set at the median market rent in an area, rather than (as now) the midpoint between highest and lowest. This will provide a more accurate system that reflects the distribution of rents in an area and will ensure 50 per cent. of the properties in the local area will be affordable for housing benefit customers.

We will roll out LHA to new and existing customers who move home or have a break in their claim. In the pathfinders, some local authorities converted all of their private rented sector case load in one big bang approach.

The Department for Work and Pensions has an extensive programme of support and advice to help local authorities with the introduction of the local housing allowance on 7 April 2008.

The Department delivered 20 regional seminars for local authorities throughout summer 2007. A range of implementation and guidance products have already been made available to assist local authorities with specific activities, based largely on examples of good practice provided by LHA pathfinder authorities.

We have developed a range of products to support local authorities in communicating with their stakeholders, particularly welfare rights organisations and landlords. A key aim of the LHA is to promote financial inclusion by encouraging tenants to have their benefit paid directly into their own bank accounts, and we have provided advice and information to local authorities to enable them to support their customers in opening bank accounts.

The Department will continue to provide communications, advice and support to local authorities in the run-up to the roll out of the local housing allowance in April 2008.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed housing benefit in each year since 1997. [185662]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following table.

*Number of recipients receiving housing benefit in Great Britain 1997-2007*

| | Caseloads |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,639,350 |
| 1998 | 4,474,700 |
| 1999 | 4,313,100 |
| 2000 | 4,033,300 |
| 2001 | 3,874,400 |
| 2002 | 3,812,630 |
| 2003 | 3,796,420 |
| 2004 | 3,879,420 |
| 2005 | 3,956,820 |
| 2006 | 3,990,030 |

*Number of recipients receiving housing benefit in Great Britain 1997-2007*

| | Caseloads |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 4,018,370 |

*Notes:*
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
5. Figures taken from May data of each year. 6. Housing benefit goes to both working age and pension households.
*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in May 1997-2007.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit recipients aged *(a)* under 24 years, *(b)* between 25 and 35 years, *(c)* between 40 and 59 years and *(d)* over 60 years have been resident in (i) local authority, (ii) housing association and (iii) private housing in each year since 1997. [185752]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following table.

Information on housing benefit recipients split by age is only available from the annual 1 per cent. sample, the latest being at May 2004. The age ranges in the table differ slightly to the information requested.

*Housing benefit recipients by age and tenure in Great Britain for 1997 to 2004*

Thousand

| As at May each year | All Ages | 24 and under | 25-35 | 36-39 | 40-59 | 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1997* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 4,639 | 382 | 1,062 | 303 | 1,052 | 1,840 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,792 | 157 | 514 | 169 | 638 | 1,315 |
| Private Tenant | 1,066 | 156 | 358 | 79 | 246 | 228 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 780 | 70 | 191 | 54 | 168 | 297 |
| *1998* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 4,475 | 323 | 1,006 | 303 | 1,030 | 1,813 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,664 | 149 | 472 | 162 | 608 | 1,272 |
| Private Tenant | 971 | 106 | 328 | 79 | 240 | 218 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 840 | 68 | 206 | 61 | 182 | 323 |
| *1999* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 4,313 | 309 | 926 | 318 | 1,004 | 1,757 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,519 | 141 | 426 | 170 | 583 | 1,198 |
| Private Tenant | 897 | 94 | 288 | 79 | 229 | 207 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 897 | 74 | 212 | 69 | 191 | 352 |

*Housing benefit recipients by age and tenure in Great Britain for 1997 to 2004*

Thousand

| As at May each year | All Ages | 24 and under | 25-35 | 36-39 | 40-59 | 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2000* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 4,033 | 270 | 804 | 310 | 969 | 1,680 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,288 | 125 | 363 | 153 | 548 | 1,100 |
| Private Tenant | 815 | 81 | 237 | 84 | 207 | 207 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 931 | 65 | 205 | 74 | 215 | 373 |
| *2001* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 3,874 | 249 | 732 | 293 | 947 | 1,652 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,133 | 108 | 323 | 144 | 517 | 1,041 |
| Private Tenant | 743 | 71 | 204 | 73 | 199 | 196 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 998 | 71 | 205 | 76 | 231 | 415 |
| *2002* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 3,813 | 247 | 690 | 294 | 966 | 1,615 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 2,038 | 112 | 299 | 135 | 504 | 987 |
| Private Tenant | 719 | 65 | 190 | 75 | 202 | 187 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 1,056 | 70 | 200 | 84 | 261 | 441 |
| *2003* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 3,796 | 250 | 682 | 305 | 972 | 1,587 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 1,838 | 107 | 267 | 128 | 455 | 821 |
| Private Tenant | 715 | 64 | 188 | 73 | 201 | 188 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 1,244 | 79 | 227 | 104 | 315 | 519 |
| *2004* | | | | | | |
| All Housing Benefit | 3,879 | 272 | 672 | 291 | 1,026 | 1,618 |
| Local Authority Tenant | 1,808 | 108 | 256 | 115 | 463 | 867 |
| Private Tenant | 744 | 72 | 184 | 74 | 222 | 191 |
| Housing Association Tenant | 1,328 | 93 | 233 | 102 | 340 | 560 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude extended payment cases.
*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997 to May 2004.

### Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many families in each local authority have had their housing benefit withdrawn because of their anti social behavioural practices under the Government's Respect Agenda housing benefit trials; [186148]

(2) what level of proof is required for housing benefit to be removed under the Government's Respect Agenda housing benefit trials; and if he will make a statement. [186149]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Eight local authorities are taking part in the pilot for the sanction of housing benefit (HB) related to antisocial behaviour. The pilot began on the 1 November 2007. To date no sanctions have been applied.

A local authority can sanction HB as a result of anti-social behaviour where a person or partner ("a household") is the subject of an order for possession on grounds of antisocial behaviour and subsequently leaves the property; and, if in receipt of HB following re-housing, the household unreasonably refuses to engage with the help and support offered as specified in a written warning notice.

In most cases, HB would be reduced, not removed.

The local authority must be satisfied that the necessary conditions have been met for a sanction to be imposed and that the household did not comply with the requirements of the warning notice without "good cause". In making any decisions in this respect, the local authority must act reasonably.

### Housing Benefit: Applications

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit application by each local authority was in 2006-07. [174802]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information has been placed in the Library.

### Incapacity Benefit: Wales

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by main disabling condition. [180768]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information is in the following table:

*Number of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Wales by main disabling condition*

| *Main disabling condition* | *May* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| All | 217,660 | 213,250 | 208,630 | 203,450 | 197,060 |
| Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system | 0 | 60 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Certain infectious and parasitic diseases | 1,210 | 1,170 | 1,140 | 1,080 | 1,020 |
| Neoplasms | 2,410 | 2,470 | 2,500 | 2,610 | 2,580 |
| Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism | 320 | 310 | 310 | 330 | 310 |
| Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases | 3,320 | 3,190 | 3,080 | 2,940 | 2,820 |
| Mental and behavioural disorders | 72,790 | 74,220 | 74,760 | 75,500 | 75,420 |
| Diseases of the nervous system | 9,920 | 9,850 | 10,010 | 10,010 | 9,910 |
| Diseases of the eye and adnexa | 1,170 | 1,160 | 1,130 | 1,100 | 1,090 |
| Diseases of the ear and mastoid process | 1,150 | 1,110 | 1,080 | 1,030 | 960 |
| Diseases of the circulatory system | 16,380 | 15,240 | 14,100 | 13,040 | 11,830 |
| Diseases of the respiratory system | 6,580 | 6,070 | 5,630 | 5,270 | 4,850 |
| Diseases of the digestive system | 3,620 | 3,520 | 3,380 | 3,210 | 3,090 |
| Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system | 1,650 | 1,600 | 1,540 | 1,500 | 1,440 |
| Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | 49,380 | 47,260 | 45,180 | 42,920 | 40,340 |
| Diseases of the genitourinary system | 1,690 | 1,600 | 1,540 | 1,530 | 1,470 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 410 | 390 | 360 | 330 | 320 |
| Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities | 1,590 | 1,590 | 1,590 | 1,580 | 1,570 |
| Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified | 28,050 | 26,710 | 25,820 | 24,650 | 23,610 |
| Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes | 14,070 | 13,750 | 13,400 | 12,820 | 12,450 |
| Factors influencing health status and contact with health services | 1,970 | 1,980 | 2,040 | 2,000 | 1,970 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Incapacity Benefits: Industrial Diseases

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims have been received and how many disablement benefit awards have been made for sensorinueral loss to claimants with vibration white finger PD A11 in the same period since the prescription of the disease was amended, broken down by region. [178605]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Information about the number of awards is not yet available. Information is not available at regional level. The available information is in the following table.

*PD A11 claims, examinations and diagnoses: GB*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| PD A11 claims received | 2,148 |
| PD A11 medical examinations completed | 491 |
| PD A11 cases diagnosed on vascular symptoms | 64 |
| PD A11 cases diagnosed on sensorinueral symptoms | 74 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures in the table are very early indicative figures.
2. Figures are not validated and may be subject to revision at a later date.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims have been received from coal miners or former coal miners and how many disablement benefit awards have been made in relation to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease since 1999, broken down by region. [178606]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The available information on industrial injuries disablement benefit claims has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disablement benefit awards have been made to coal miners or former coal miners with pneumoconiosis since 2004; and how many of those have been paid compensation under the *(a)* 1974 Coal Industry Scheme and *(b)* Pneumoconiosis etc. (Working Compensation) Act 1979, broken down by region. [178607]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Information about the number of awards of industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) made to coal miners or former coal miners with pneumoconiosis is in the table.

It is not possible to say how many of these were also paid compensation under the 1974 Coal Industry Scheme and Pneumoconiosis etc. (Working Compensation) Act 1979.

*IIDB first diagnosed PD D1 pneumoconiosis assessments made to people who worked in the mining/quarrying industry: cases in payment*

| | *March 2004* | *March 2005* | *March 2006* | *March 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 30 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 40 | 40 | 30 | 20 |
| East Midlands | 130 | 80 | 50 | 40 |
| London | — | — | — | — |
| South East | — | — | — | — |
| South West | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | 10 |
| North West | — | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Wales | 40 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Scotland | 10 | — | — | — |
| Overseas | — | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. '—'denotes nil or negligible.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
IIDB Clerical Record System, 100 per cent. data.

## Income Support: Polygamy

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in polygamous marriages received income support in each year since 2000. [185347]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Industrial Accidents: Construction

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries have been recorded in the construction industry in 2007-08 to date. [185590]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In the first six months (1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007) of 2007-08, there were 32 fatalities to workers in construction reported to HSE and local authorities, two fatalities to non-workers, and 1,903 defined major injuries to employees.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions there have been in connection with fatal injuries in the construction industry in each region in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what level of fines were imposed by the court in each case. [185591]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There were 33 prosecution cases brought in 2005-06 and 40 brought in 2006-07, in connection with fatal injuries in the construction industry. The courts imposed total fines of £2,092,371. A full regional breakdown of these figures is given as follows.

| Government office region | Number of fatalities resulting in prosecution | Number of prosecution cases | Number of convictions | Total fines (£) | Average fine per conviction (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2005-06* | | | | | |
| South West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East | 1 | 4 | 4 | 90,000 | 22,500 |
| London | 3 | 4 | 4 | 46,000 | 11,500 |
| East of England | 2 | 2 | 2 | 45,000 | 22,500 |
| East Midlands | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| West Midlands | 3 | 3 | 2 | 50,000 | 25,000 |
| Yorkshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| North West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | 5 | 4 | 2 | 16,250 | 8,125 |
| Wales | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8,000 | 4,000 |
| Scotland | 4 | 8 | 3 | 130,000 | 43,333 |
| *2006-07*[1] | | | | | |
| South West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East | 3 | 3 | 2 | 126,000 | 63,000 |
| London | 6[2] | 7 | 5 | 461,621 | 92,324 |
| East of England | 3 | 6 | 5 | 240,000 | 48,000 |
| East Midlands | 1 | 3 | 1 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| West Midlands | 2 | 2 | 2 | 170,000 | 85,000 |
| Yorkshire | 2 | 4 | 4 | 64,000 | 16,000 |
| North West | 5 | 10 | 9 | 471,000 | 52,333 |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wales | 2 | 2 | 2 | 45,000 | 22,500 |
| Scotland | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8,500 | 2,833 |

[1] Provisional.
[2] This figure includes a fatality which was also prosecuted in 2005-06.

## Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of bullying were reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182844]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department and its agencies does not record information in a way that makes it possible to identify the total number of reported bullying cases. Information is available on the number of complaints of bullying referred for internal investigation. The information available at present is shown for each month from January 2007 to December 2007 in the following table.

*Total number of complaints of bullying referred for investigation to the Department's central investigations team January to December 2007*

| Month | Total number of complaints | Breakdown by business |
|---|---|---|
| January | 7 | 7 JCP |
| February | 13 | 11 JCP |
| | | 1 C and CS |
| | | 1 TPS |
| March | 15 | 14 JCP |
| | | 1 CSA |
| April | 12 | 8 JCP |
| | | 2 CSA |
| | | 1 TPS |
| | | 1 C and CS |
| May | 19 | 13 JCP |
| | | 1 TPS |
| | | 2 DCS |
| | | 3 C and CS |
| June | 18 | 17 JCP |
| | | 1 C and CS |
| July | 12 | 8 JCP |
| | | 3 DCS |
| | | 1 TPS |
| August | 10 | 8 JCP |
| | | 1 CSA |
| | | 1 TPS |
| September | 4 | 3 JCP |
| | | 1 TPS |
| October | 12 | 11 JCP |
| | | 1 TPS |
| November | 10 | 9 JCP |
| | | 1 C and CS |

*Total number of complaints of bullying referred for investigation to the Department's central investigations team January to December 2007*

| Month | Total number of complaints | Breakdown by business |
|---|---|---|
| December | 15 | 8 JCP |
| | | 7 CSA |

*Key:*
JCP = Jobcentre Plus
CSA = Child Support Agency
TPS = The Pension Service
DCS = Disability and Carers Service
C and CS = Central and Corporate Services

## Jobcentre Plus

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what opportunities are available through the Jobcentre Plus network to jobseekers who have been out of work for less than six months; and if he will make a statement. [185303]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 18 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what opportunities are available through the Jobcentre Plus network to jobseekers who have been out of work for less than six months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Everyone claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is seen by a personal adviser. The purpose of this interview is primarily to discuss and agree the type of work being sought and those steps that, if taken, will offer the best chance of finding work. Once agreed, this information is recorded in the Jobseeker's Agreement, which is signed jointly by the adviser and the customer, and is reviewed at regular intervals.

As part of the above process, customers are given information, advice and guidance about the range of Jobcentre Plus services, including our telephony based job-matching service (Jobseeker Direct) and our Internet job bank, and how to make best use of these and other vacancy sources. We also encourage customers who have obvious basic skills or language needs to address this through the Employment Skills Programme provided by the Learning and Skills Council or by making use of locally available provision.

Following the initial interview, people are usually required to attend their nearest Jobcentre Plus office on a fortnightly basis to discuss what the customer has been doing to find work; make sure they remain entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance by being available for and actively seeking work; and to see what help, if any, is required.

About two thirds of all those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance leave benefit during the first 13 weeks of a claim and around four fifths within the first six months, but for those who do not, additional help is provided through another, more in-depth, interview with a personal adviser. The purpose of this interview is to review the Jobseeker's Agreement, making sure that it is still helpful. As part of this process the adviser will, where appropriate, discuss and agree ways in which the customer might broaden their jobsearch to increase the prospects of finding work. Following this interview, people are asked to attend the Jobcentre Plus office on a weekly (rather than fortnightly) basis, thereby increasing the support that is available.

Over and above the support outlined above, those people who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market, e.g. those with a health problem or disability, a literacy or numeracy problem, a criminal record or a history of drink/drug misuse, can access additional help through early entry to the New Deal. Early access to New Deal is considered and agreed by advisers where it is clear that the customer has significant difficulties, making the prospect of finding work much less likely without additional help. The New Deal provides more intensive help through the support of a personal adviser and a range of opportunities to help overcome significant barriers to employment. New Deal also provides access to the Adviser Discretion Fund, which can be used to overcome more immediate barriers to employment, for example, clothing to attend interviews, or tools not provided by the employer. Similarly, advisers may, during the first six months, also grant early access to Programme Centre provision, which can provide additional help for those people who need to improve motivation and confidence, and their basic jobsearch skills.

But we have recognised that there is still more we can do. In 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation' we set out our plans to provide even more support to customers. A stepped programme of support will be available for all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) customers from day one. Harder-to-help people will be fast-tracked to more intensive support and all people will have an initial skill screening followed by a more in-depth skills health check at the six-month stage if they have not already found work.

I hope this information is helpful and assures you of our intent to provide people with the best possible service, aimed at helping them into work as soon as possible.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of men aged between 18 and 24 years of age have claimed jobseeker's allowance since it was established. [184906]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following table.

*Number and percentage of male claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24 in Great Britain*

| Month ending | Number | Percentage[1] |
|---|---|---|
| October 1996 | 333,600 | 13.8 |
| May 1997 | 272,045 | 11.5 |
| May 1998 | 226,725 | 9.7 |
| May 1999 | 195,505 | 8.3 |
| May 2000 | 170,850 | 7.2 |
| May 2001 | 158,205 | 6.6 |
| May 2002 | 156,265 | 6.3 |
| May 2003 | 164,330 | 6.4 |
| May 2004 | 153,105 | 5.8 |
| May 2005 | 164,950 | 6.1 |
| May 2006 | 191,340 | 6.9 |
| May 2007 | 173,465 | 6.2 |
| December 2007 | 155,275 | 5.6 |

[1] Percentage of the population of men aged 18 to 24.
*Notes:*
1. Number of claimants are rounded to the nearest five. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Jobseeker's allowance was introduced in October 1996 and replaced unemployment benefit and income support as the benefit for unemployed people seeking work.
3. Some people may appear more than once in this table.
*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only). ONS population estimates.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many weeks sanctions were applied to those recipients of jobseeker's allowance who did not apply for a job opportunity on first offence, broken down by Jobcentre Plus or Careers Service in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [176851]

(2) how many recipients of jobseeker's allowance who have failed to apply for a job opportunity were sanctioned on the first offence, broken down by individual Jobcentre Plus or Careers Service in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [176852]

(3) how many recipients of jobseeker's allowance were found not to have applied for a job opportunity, broken down by individual Jobcentre Plus or Careers Service in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [176853]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves, dated 18 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your questions about the number of people who, in each of the last 10 years, have had their benefits reduced as a consequence of not applying for, or taking a reasonable job opportunity. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

Information on how many weeks sanctions were applied to recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance who failed to apply for a job opportunity on first offence is only available from October 2005, the other information supplied is available from April 2000. The available information is in the attached tables broken down by Jobcentre Plus District. This information will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed non-disabled persons had their jobseeker's allowance suspended for *(a)* two weeks and *(b)* more than two weeks in each of the last 10 years. [181002]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following table:

*Number of non-disabled people with jobseeker's allowance sanctions by length of sanction*[1]

| | *April 2000 to March 2001* | *April 2001 to March 2002* | *April 2002 to March 2003* | *April 2003 to March 2004* | *April 2004 to March 2005* | *April 2005 to March 2006* | *April 2006 to March 2007* | *March 2007 to July 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All sanctions | 157,650 | 148,850 | 160,010 | 143,890 | 134,800 | 148,510 | 181,240 | 81,750 |
| Varied length sanctions[2] | 73,500 | 72,960 | 79,660 | 68,040 | 60,500 | 56,460 | 50,320 | 17,080 |
| 2 weeks | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2,140 | 650 |
| Less than 2 weeks | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10,760 | 3,370 |
| More than 2 weeks | — | — | — | — | — | — | 37,420 | 13,060 |
| Fixed length sanctions | 13,960 | 13,030 | 13,730 | 13,380 | 12,830 | 14,320 | 20,860 | 10,840 |
| 2 weeks | 11,350 | 11,000 | 11,380 | 11,030 | 10,590 | 12,080 | 17,330 | 8,510 |
| Less than 2 weeks | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| More than 2 weeks | 2,610 | 2,020 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,230 | 2,240 | 3,530 | 2,330 |
| Entitlement sanctions[3] | 70,190 | 62,860 | 66,620 | 62,470 | 61,470 | 77,730 | 110,060 | 53,830 |

[1] Individuals and decisions based figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
[2] Length of variable sanction is available only from October 2005.
[3] "Entitlement Sanctions" refer to cases where benefit is suspended because there is doubt about the claimant's availability, or whether they are actively seeking employment. Benefit can be suspended indefinitely until the doubts are resolved. They should be counted as a suspension rather than a sanction.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

## Low Incomes: Council Tax

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of people in relative poverty in each region paid full council tax in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [179441]

(2) how many households in relative poverty in each region paid full council tax in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [179442]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 436W, on low incomes: council tax, how many people constitute the *(a)* 2.7 million households in relative poverty before housing costs and *(b)* the 3 million households in relative poverty after housing costs, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [179443]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The available information is in the following tables.

Fewer poor households would pay full council tax, if households took up their entitlement to council tax benefit.

*Proportion of individuals in relative poverty paying full council tax, by region (three-year average)*

| Region | Before Housing Costs | After Housing Costs |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 51 | 48 |
| North West | 54 | 52 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 56 | 53 |
| East Midlands | 63 | 62 |
| West Midlands | 56 | 54 |
| East of England | 67 | 65 |
| London | 57 | 51 |
| South East | 70 | 67 |
| South West | 66 | 64 |
| Wales | 59 | 55 |
| Scotland | 52 | 51 |
| Great Britain | 60 | 58 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

*Number of households (million) in relative poverty paying full council tax, by region (three-year average)*

| Region | Before Housing Costs | After Housing Costs |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| North West | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East Midlands | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| East of England | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| London | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| South East | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| South West | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Wales | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Scotland | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Great Britain | 2.7 | 3.0 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

*Number of individuals (millions) in relative poverty paying full council tax, by region (three-year average)*

| Region | Before Housing Costs | After Housing Costs |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| North West | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| East Midlands | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| West Midlands | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| East of England | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| London | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| South East | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| South West | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Wales | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Scotland | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Great Britain | 6.1 | 7.3 |

*Notes:*
1. The information shown is for Great Britain.
2. Three year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates can not be produced at this disaggregated level.
3. The totals shown for Great Britain are for 2005-06 only and are not three year averages.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. The preferred measure of low income is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.
7. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are. This means that After Housing Cost incomes will generally be lower than Before Housing Cost.
8. Tables show numbers in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

## Natural Gas: Safety

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions there were of domestic landlords for breach of gas safety regulations in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [182670]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is in the following table:

*Proceedings instituted by HSE under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 and 1998*

| | Total offences prosecuted | Offences prosecuted against s36[1] (landlords duties) |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 111 | 21 |
| 2003-04 | 97 | 28 |
| 2004-05 | 74 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | 89 | 31 |
| 2006-07 | 104 | 9 |

[1] Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998.

*Note:*
Offences prosecuted refer to an individual breach of health and safety legislation; a prosecution case may include more than one offence.

## New Deal for Young People

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have completed a New Deal for young people programme *(a)* in total, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times, *(d)* four times, *(e)* five times and *(f)* more than five times. [183737]

**Mrs. McGuire:** New deal for young people (NDYP) is a mandatory programme for people aged 18-24 who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for six months. Although there are different stages to the programme, people are not necessarily expected to complete all elements as the aim is to get them into work as soon as possible. There is not, thus, a strict definition of 'completing' NDYP. Those who return to claim JSA again with 13 weeks of leaving NDYP return at the point at which they left the programme.

Information on the number of people who have started on the programme, and the number of times they have started is in the following table. Data for

those starting more than once will include those who have completed all the elements of NDYP, as well as those who have left NDYP at an earlier stage and returned to the programme.

*New deal for young people*

| *Number of people who have started* | *Number* | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| In total | 1,237,560 | 100 |
| Once only | 887,030 | 71.7 |
| Twice only | 245,320 | 19.8 |
| Three times only | 78,840 | 6.37 |
| Four times only | 21,720 | 1.76 |
| Five times only | 4,120 | 0.33 |
| More than five times | 530 | 0.04 |

*Notes:*
1. Latest data are to August 2007.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

## New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have completed a New Deal for the over 55s programme *(a)* in total, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times, *(d)* four times, *(e)* five times and *(f)* more than five times. [183736]

**Mrs. McGuire:** New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for people who have been claiming an eligible benefit for six months. People can leave the programme at any point and there is thus no definition of 'completing' the programme.

The available information on the number of people who have started on the programme, and the number of times they have started is in the following table.

*New deal 50 plus*

| *Number of people who have started* | *Number* | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| In total | 90,220 | 100 |
| Twice only | 2,190 | 2.42 |
| Three times only | 70 | 0.07 |
| Four times only | — | — |
| Five times only | — | — |
| More than five times | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Data on starts to new deal 50 plus are only available from January 2004.
2. Latest data are to August 2007.
3. '—' indicates a nil or negligible figure.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

## New Deal Schemes: Essex

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the people who participated in a new deal scheme in 2007 were unemployed in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London at the most recent date for which figures are available. [181689]

**Mr. Timms:** Of those who participated on a new deal programme between January and May 2007, the numbers classified as unemployed on the claimant count on 31 May 2007 were: 160 in Romford; 3,090 in Essex, and 26,610 in Greater London, a considerable proportion of whom were still on the new deal.

*Notes:*

1. Latest available data for new deal participants is to May 2007.

2. Data includes all those on any of the six new deal programmes who were classified on the claimant unemployment count as unemployed as a result of their claim for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and/or national insurance credits (NICs).

3. Data is for those who had participated on new deal during the period January to May 2007 who were recorded as unemployed on 31 May 2007.

4. The county of Essex comprises the local authorities of: Harlow; Epping Forest; Brentwood; Basildon; Castle Point; Rochford; Maldon; Chelmsford; Uttlesford; Braintree; Colchester; Tendring; Thurrock, and Southend-on-Sea.

5. Data for Greater London is for the London Jobcentre Plus district.

6. Data excludes those on a mandatory new deal for young people or new deal 25 plus option who were in receipt of a new deal allowance on the 31 May 2007

7. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

## Pensioners

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people who will reach state pension age in each year until 2050. [185091]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding estimates of the number of people who will reach state pension age in each year until 2050. (185091)

The attached table gives the numbers projected to reach state pension age in the United Kingdom in each calendar year from 2008 to 2050. These estimates are derived from the 2006-based national population projections for the United Kingdom published in October 2007. They allow for the raising of state pension age for women from age 60 to age 65 over the period 2010 to 2020 and also the subsequent increases in state pension age for men and women during 2024-26, 2034-36 and 2044-46.

*Numbers projected to reach state pension age in the United Kingdom in each calendar year from 2008 to 2050*

*Thousand*

| *Calendar year* | *Males* | *Females* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 308 | 397 | 704 |
| 2009 | 314 | 376 | 691 |
| 2010 | 318 | 215 | 533 |
| 2011 | 358 | 179 | 537 |
| 2012 | 383 | 177 | 561 |
| 2013 | 359 | 176 | 535 |
| 2014 | 340 | 175 | 515 |
| 2015 | 329 | 176 | 504 |
| 2016 | 323 | 175 | 498 |
| 2017 | 322 | 177 | 499 |
| 2018 | 325 | 175 | 501 |
| 2019 | 326 | 174 | 500 |
| 2020 | 329 | 322 | 652 |

*Numbers projected to reach state pension age in the United Kingdom in each calendar year from 2008 to 2050*

| Calendar year | Males | Females | Thousand Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 339 | 362 | 701 |
| 2022 | 352 | 374 | 727 |
| 2023 | 361 | 383 | 744 |
| 2024 | 212 | 225 | 437 |
| 2025 | 183 | 196 | 380 |
| 2026 | 341 | 366 | 707 |
| 2027 | 382 | 412 | 794 |
| 2028 | 390 | 423 | 813 |
| 2029 | 399 | 433 | 832 |
| 2030 | 407 | 439 | 846 |
| 2031 | 410 | 440 | 850 |
| 2032 | 411 | 438 | 849 |
| 2033 | 408 | 434 | 842 |
| 2034 | 234 | 250 | 484 |
| 2035 | 198 | 213 | 412 |
| 2036 | 357 | 383 | 740 |
| 2037 | 386 | 416 | 802 |
| 2038 | 382 | 414 | 796 |
| 2039 | 371 | 399 | 769 |
| 2040 | 356 | 379 | 735 |
| 2041 | 343 | 366 | 710 |
| 2042 | 336 | 358 | 695 |
| 2043 | 329 | 351 | 680 |
| 2044 | 189 | 203 | 392 |
| 2045 | 163 | 176 | 339 |
| 2046 | 308 | 332 | 639 |
| 2047 | 358 | 381 | 739 |
| 2048 | 375 | 395 | 770 |
| 2049 | 377 | 399 | 776 |
| 2050 | 383 | 402 | 784 |

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will be living *(a)* alone and *(b)* with a partner in each year until 2050. [185093]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding estimates of the number and proportion of pensioners who will be living *(a)* alone and *(b)* with a partner in each year until 2050. (185093)

The following table shows the projected population of state pensionable age in England and Wales who are (i) single, widowed, divorced or separated, but not cohabiting and (ii) married or cohabiting. The figures come from the latest (2003-based) official marital status projections published in March 2005. These are only available for England and Wales and up to the year 2031. ONS plan to publish new marital status projections later in 2008. These will be consistent with the latest (2006-based) national projections by age and sex published in October 2007.

The projections in the tables allow for the raising of state pension age for women from age 60 to age 65 over the period 2010 to 2020 and also the subsequent increase in state pension age to 66 for both men and women during 2024-26.

*Projected male population of state pensionable age, England and Wales, 2008 to 2031*

| Males | Total | Single, widowed, divorced or separated (not cohabiting) | | Married or cohabiting | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | million | million | percentage | million | percentage |
| 2008 | 3.9 | 1.1 | 28 | 2.8 | 72 |
| 2009 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 28 | 2.8 | 72 |
| 2010 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 28 | 2.9 | 72 |
| 2011 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 29 | 3.0 | 71 |
| 2012 | 4.3 | 1.2 | 29 | 3.1 | 71 |
| 2013 | 4.5 | 1.3 | 29 | 3.2 | 71 |
| 2014 | 4.6 | 1.3 | 29 | 3.3 | 71 |
| 2015 | 4.7 | 1.4 | 29 | 3.3 | 71 |
| 2016 | 4.8 | 1.4 | 29 | 3.4 | 71 |
| 2017 | 4.8 | 1.4 | 29 | 3.4 | 71 |
| 2018 | 4.9 | 1.5 | 30 | 3.5 | 70 |
| 2019 | 5.0 | 1.5 | 30 | 3.5 | 70 |
| 2020 | 5.1 | 1.5 | 30 | 3.5 | 70 |
| 2021 | 5.2 | 1.6 | 31 | 3.6 | 69 |
| 2022 | 5.2 | 1.6 | 31 | 3.6 | 69 |
| 2023 | 5.3 | 1.7 | 31 | 3.7 | 69 |
| 2024 | 5.4 | 1.7 | 32 | 3.7 | 68 |
| 2025 | 5.3 | 1.7 | 32 | 3.6 | 68 |
| 2026 | 5.3 | 1.7 | 33 | 3.6 | 67 |
| 2027 | 5.4 | 1.8 | 33 | 3.6 | 67 |
| 2028 | 5.5 | 1.8 | 33 | 3.7 | 67 |
| 2029 | 5.6 | 1.9 | 33 | 3.7 | 67 |
| 2030 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 34 | 3.8 | 66 |

*Projected male population of state pensionable age, England and Wales, 2008 to 2031*

| Males | Total | Single, widowed, divorced or separated (not cohabiting) | | Married or cohabiting | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | million | million | percentage | million | percentage |
| 2031 | 5.9 | 2.0 | 34 | 3.9 | 66 |

*Note:*
Totals may not add due to rounding.
*Source:*
2003-based marital status projections, Government Actuary's Department

*Projected female population of state pensionable age, England and Wales, 2008 to 2031*

| Females | Total | Single, widowed, divorced or separated (not cohabiting) | | Married or cohabiting | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | million | million | percentage | million | percentage |
| 2008 | 6.6 | 3.2 | 48 | 3.4 | 52 |
| 2009 | 6.7 | 3.2 | 48 | 3.5 | 52 |
| 2010 | 6.8 | 3.2 | 48 | 3.5 | 52 |
| 2011 | 6.7 | 3.2 | 48 | 3.5 | 52 |
| 2012 | 6.6 | 3.2 | 48 | 3.4 | 52 |
| 2013 | 6.5 | 3.2 | 49 | 3.4 | 51 |
| 2014 | 6.5 | 3.2 | 49 | 3.3 | 51 |
| 2015 | 6.4 | 3.1 | 49 | 3.2 | 51 |
| 2016 | 6.3 | 3.1 | 50 | 3.2 | 50 |
| 2017 | 6.2 | 3.1 | 50 | 3.1 | 50 |
| 2018 | 6.2 | 3.1 | 50 | 3.1 | 50 |
| 2019 | 6.1 | 3.1 | 51 | 3.0 | 49 |
| 2020 | 6.1 | 3.1 | 51 | 3.0 | 49 |
| 2021 | 6.1 | 3.1 | 51 | 3.0 | 49 |
| 2022 | 6.2 | 3.2 | 51 | 3.1 | 49 |
| 2023 | 6.3 | 3.2 | 51 | 3.1 | 49 |
| 2024 | 6.4 | 3.3 | 51 | 3.1 | 49 |
| 2025 | 6.3 | 3.3 | 52 | 3.1 | 48 |
| 2026 | 6.3 | 3.3 | 52 | 3.0 | 48 |
| 2027 | 6.4 | 3.4 | 52 | 3.1 | 48 |
| 2028 | 6.6 | 3.4 | 52 | 3.1 | 48 |
| 2029 | 6.7 | 3.5 | 52 | 3.2 | 48 |
| 2030 | 6.8 | 3.6 | 52 | 3.3 | 48 |
| 2031 | 7.0 | 3.6 | 52 | 3.3 | 48 |

*Note:*
Totals may not add due to rounding.
*Source:*
2003-based marital status projections, Government Actuary's Department

*Projected total population of state pensionable age, England and Wales, 2008 to 2031*

| Persons | Total | Single, widowed, divorced or separated (not cohabiting) | | Married or cohabiting | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | million | million | percentage | million | percentage |
| 2008 | 10.5 | 4.3 | 41 | 6.2 | 59 |
| 2009 | 10.7 | 4.4 | 41 | 6.3 | 59 |
| 2010 | 10.8 | 4.4 | 41 | 6.4 | 59 |
| 2011 | 10.8 | 4.4 | 41 | 6.4 | 59 |
| 2012 | 10.9 | 4.4 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2013 | 11.0 | 4.5 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2014 | 11.0 | 4.5 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2015 | 11.0 | 4.5 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2016 | 11.1 | 4.5 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2017 | 11.1 | 4.5 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2018 | 11.1 | 4.6 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2019 | 11.1 | 4.6 | 41 | 6.5 | 59 |
| 2020 | 11.1 | 4.6 | 42 | 6.5 | 58 |
| 2021 | 11.3 | 4.7 | 42 | 6.6 | 58 |
| 2022 | 11.5 | 4.8 | 42 | 6.7 | 58 |
| 2023 | 11.7 | 4.9 | 42 | 6.8 | 58 |
| 2024 | 11.8 | 5.0 | 42 | 6.8 | 58 |
| 2025 | 11.7 | 5.0 | 43 | 6.7 | 57 |
| 2026 | 11.6 | 5.0 | 43 | 6.6 | 57 |
| 2027 | 11.8 | 5.1 | 43 | 6.7 | 57 |
| 2028 | 12.1 | 5.3 | 44 | 6.8 | 56 |
| 2029 | 12.3 | 5.4 | 44 | 6.9 | 56 |

*Projected total population of state pensionable age, England and Wales, 2008 to 2031*

| Persons | Total | Single, widowed, divorced or separated (not cohabiting) | | Married or cohabiting | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | million | million | percentage | million | percentage |
| 2030 | 12.6 | 5.5 | 44 | 7.1 | 56 |
| 2031 | 12.8 | 5.6 | 44 | 7.2 | 56 |

*Note:*
Totals may not add due to founding.
*Source:*
2003-based marital status projections, Government Actuary's Department.

### Pensioners: Hendon

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Hendon and *(b)* the UK received (i) pension credit and (ii) pension guarantee credit in the latest period for which figures are available; and in each case, what the average amount received each week was. [177497]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In Hendon 4,360 households receive pension credit with an average award of £73.63, of which 2,410 households receive guarantee credit only with an average award of £102.65 and 1,450 households receive both guarantee credit and savings credit with an average award of £46.67, as at August 2007.

In Great Britain 2,734,530 households receive pension credit with an average award of £50.29, of which 811,260 households receive guarantee credit only with an average award of £83.69 and 1,326,130 households receive both guarantee credit and savings credit with an average award of £46.50, as at August 2007.

In Northern Ireland Pension Credit administration is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

*Notes:*

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures, which are taken from the GMS scan at 31 August 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

4. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

*Source:*

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 31 August 2007.

### Pensions Service and the Disability and Carers Directorate

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* families of disabled children and *(b)* disabled people of working age realise benefits from the proposed merger of the Pensions Service and the Disability and Carers Directorate of his Department. [184135]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Matters in respect of the Disability and Carers Service fall within the responsibility of the Acting Chief Executive of the Agency, Mrs. Vivien Hopkins. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 18 February 2008:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* families of disabled children and *(b)* disabled people of working age realise benefits from the proposed merger of the Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service of his Department.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The creation of the new Agency will not of itself change the way in which DWP delivers services to its working age customers and children. Both the Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service currently hold joint Board meetings with Jobcentre Plus and will continue this in the future, while pursuing even closer working to ensure a joined-up service to working age customers. The Disability and Carers Service has set in train work to look at improving services for disabled children and their families, and this will continue to be a priority.

I hope this reply is helpful.

### Pensions: Anniversaries

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to mark the centenary of the introduction of the old age pension in the UK. [185448]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The introduction of the first state pension as an alternative to the Poor Law is something to be celebrated.

We plan to mark the centenary of the introduction of the state pension as a key element of the celebrations around the second UK Older People's Day in October 2008.

### Reinstatement of Deficiency Notices Programme

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a specimen copy of the letter sent by his Department in 2004-05 to women over pension age as part of the Reinstatement of Deficiency Notices Programme. [170570]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

### Shaw Trust

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of the Provider Led Pathways to Work contract awarded to the Shaw Trust in Hampshire. [182930]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The Shaw Trust were awarded a phase 2 Provider Led Pathways to Work contract for the Hampshire and Isle of Wright Jobcentre Plus district, which is worth a total indicative contract value of £18,260,000.

The Provider Led Pathways to Work contracts were let with the expectation of a certain contract value. However, actual contract expenditure may be greater or less than that expected value, dependent on customer volumes and the provider performance levels achieved.

### Social Fund

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Secretary of State will respond to the social fund review; and if he will make a statement. [183139]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The discretionary social fund plays an important role in helping vulnerable people meet the costs of large items of expenditure; in 2006-07 over 2.6 million awards were made.

Operational aspects of the scheme are kept under review to meet our aims of improving delivery and effectiveness. We are also considering longer term reform of the budgeting loans scheme in the context of the Government's wider financial inclusion strategy.

The Government's financial inclusion action plan for 2008 to 2011 announced plans to conduct a feasibility study to look into whether the private and third sectors could be brought into partnership with the Government in delivering a reformed social fund budgeting loans scheme.

### Social Security Benefits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what pilots his Department and Jobcentre Plus have carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of online access to better off calculations; [181259]

(2) when better off calculations will be made available online; [181260]

(3) what training Jobcentre Plus staff will be given of the use of the online better off calculations software. [181261]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The "My DWP" project is delivering the first stage of a secure customer account on the internet, it will be accessible via the Directgov website. The initial release in spring 2008 will focus on customer inquiries and establishing the IT platform to enable further releases to follow as the DWP Change programme progresses. The next release planned for June will include online access to better off calculations.

To aid the design of the better off calculator, a cross section of citizens, ranging from jobseekers to pensioners were involved in the early customer engagement workshops during July 2007. Their feedback has been invaluable in informing the overall design. We continue our dialogue with our customers and front line staff to ensure that the new service will meet their needs.

The second release of the "My DWP" project, scheduled for June, will introduce the benefit adviser service. The website will then provide a self service channel for citizens to find the benefits they may be entitled to; help themselves find work and plan for retirement. Better off calculations will form part of this suite of services.

We are currently working with departmental agencies to determine the implementation approach for the release of the better off calculator, including training needs. Because of this we are not yet in a position to state definitively what training will be given to Jobcentre Plus staff. However, the expectation is that the training will be low key.

### Social Security Benefits: Arrears

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps are being taken by his Department to pay benefit claimants benefits not paid in 2006-07 due to *(a)* official and *(b)* customer error; [178599]

(2) what estimate he has made of the time it will take to pay benefit claimants the benefits underpaid in 2006-07 due to *(a)* official and *(b)* customer error; [178600]

(3) what proportion of benefit claimants who were underpaid benefits in 2006-07 due to *(a)* official and *(b)* customer error have now received their full benefit entitlement for that year. [178601]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Reducing underpayments or overpayments of benefit is a priority for the Department. To address this, we are implementing our comprehensive and ambitious error reduction strategy, published on 24 January 2007. Copies of our error strategy—Getting Welfare Right: Tackling Error in the benefits system—are available in the Library and can also be viewed online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/error_strategy.asp

In all cases where underpayments are identified, monies due are paid as soon as possible.

It is not possible to say what proportion of the total number of claimants who were underpaid in 2006-07 have had their benefits corrected.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a winter fuel payment in *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* the City of Sunderland in the most recent period for which figures are available. [184900]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07 we made 16,670 winter fuel payments to people in the Houghton and Washington, East constituency, and 54,090 winter fuel payments to people in the Sunderland local authority. We expect the numbers to be similar for this winter.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent data.

## Illegal Immigrants: Security Guards

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the illegal workers employed in the security industry and the subject of the Home Secretary's oral statement of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 531-3, on security industry authority, were issued with *(a)* temporary national insurance numbers or *(b)* national insurance numbers after 31 July 2006. [181143]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information on national insurance numbers is not currently available.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is currently conducting an exercise to determine the right to work status of SIA licence holders. If, following completion of the legal appeals process, an SIA licence is revoked because the holder has failed to demonstrate the right to work in the UK, the SIA will provide DWP with the information they require. This will enable a check to be made upon whether the individuals concerned were issued with a valid national insurance number by DWP and under what circumstances.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not issue temporary national insurance numbers.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 18 February 2008*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals received £200,000 or more from the single farm payments scheme in each year for which figures are available; and how much was paid to those recipients in each such year. [185263]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The Single Payment Scheme (SPS) 2005 and 2006 payments to individuals who received £200,000 or more are reflected in the following table:

| | *Individuals* | *Total amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| SPS 2005 | 320 | 108,845,461 |
| SPS 2006 | 305 | 101,913,033 |

SPS 2007 payments are still being made and RPA cannot provide equivalent figures at this stage.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in Ribble Valley constituency have not been paid their entitlement under the Single Payment Scheme; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [186281]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Detailed analysis of the number of claimants that have not been paid their entitlements under the single payment scheme in Ribble Valley constituency is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

### Aluminium: Recycling

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of the contribution made by UK recycling of aluminium to *(a)* waste reduction and *(b)* reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and if he will make a statement. [185578]

**Joan Ruddock:** The recycling of all metals yields significant greenhouse gas benefits since large amounts of energy are needed to extract and process the raw material. Each tonne of aluminium recycled saves 11 tonnes of $CO_2$. For 2008, we are expecting the recycling of aluminium packaging alone to save over 500,000 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent.

Metals already achieve a high rate of recycling and the greatest further potential lies with non-ferrous metals, and particularly aluminium. High recycling of aluminium already occurs in some industries and for some products, but there are areas where more can be achieved. Small increases in recycling tonnages would yield extensive greenhouse gas benefits. This is why the Government have identified aluminium as one of seven priority materials for action in the Waste Strategy 2007.

### Animals: Nature Conservation

**Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species he is considering removing from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and what mechanisms he plans to put in place to monitor the effects of removal from the Schedule on wild populations of such species. [185858]

**Joan Ruddock:** The list of species to be removed from schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 has not been finalised and will be subject to further discussions with the Devolved Administrations. I hope the revised schedule will take effect from 1 October 2008.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies support a range of bird surveillance and monitoring schemes in the United Kingdom, usually in partnership with specialist non-Government organisations. Surveillance schemes may include annual or periodic assessment of population size and distribution and allow trends in both to be derived; they are tailored to provide comprehensive coverage of common and rare species in both breeding and non-breeding seasons.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit will continue to monitor incidents of illegal persecution, including theft of birds from the wild.

Some species that may be removed from schedule 4 are also subject to sales controls under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Animal Health Agency and the JNCC would be able to monitor levels of trade for these species.

For non-CITES species, Natural England will consider whether stringent sales controls are required. Natural England would consider whether individual licences would be appropriate for species based on threats to their conservation status.

My Department will work with the Devolved Administrations, the JNCC and the Animal Health Agency to investigate the potential of DNA testing for a sample of birds currently registered to check they are of legitimate stock and provide baseline data on any future parenting claims made for the species.

**Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of the conservation status of species at *(a)* UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* regional level in deciding whether to retain species on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [185859]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) considered the conservation status of species which formed a key part of the consultation

on the "Review of registration under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England, Scotland and Wales".

No decision has yet been taken on which species should remain on Schedule 4. The revised criterion for deciding which species should be listed on Schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are:

1. Those species which occur in the wild state in the UK and whose wild population is so small that the taking of a few individuals would have a detrimental impact on the conservation status of the wild population in the UK.

2. Whether the listing on Schedule 4 of the species meeting the criterion above was a proportionate burden for the keepers of these particular species. This takes account of issues such as value of the species, their longevity and any demand for keeping.

### Biofuels

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of biofuel production on *(a)* rainforest deforestation, *(b)* UK food prices and *(c)* UK greenhouse gas emissions. [184891]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) gave in response to questions *(a)* and *(b)* from the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 447W.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation will require fuel suppliers to ensure that a specified percentage of their fuel sales are from a renewable source from April this year. The Department for Transport has estimated that biofuels used to meet the obligation will result in net lifecycle savings of around 2.6 to 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum in 2010, when the obligation reaches 5 per cent.

### Birds: Conservation

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* criteria and *(b)* evidential basis are for decisions on species to be removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [184715]

**Joan Ruddock:** The criteria for deciding which species should be listed on schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are:

1. Those species which occur in the wild state in the UK and whose wild population is so small that the taking of a few individuals would have a detrimental impact on the conservation status of the wild population in the UK.

2. Whether the listing on schedule 4 of the species meeting the aforementioned criterion was a proportionate burden for the keepers of these particular species. This takes account of issues such as value of the species, their longevity and any demand for keeping.

My Department has received a wide range of views and evidence on the species to be listed on schedule 4. Conservation evidence was primarily provided by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, while evidence of the impact on keepers has been provided by the Animal Health Agency, keepers' organisations and other trade bodies.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with colleagues in the devolved administrations on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; what contingency plans he has made for circumstances in which no agreement is reached; and how much funding he has allocated for action in such circumstances. [184716]

**Joan Ruddock:** The species to be listed on schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for Scotland and Wales is a matter for the Scottish and Welsh administrations respectively. I have written to my colleagues in the devolved Administrations on a number of occasions to update them on developments in relation to schedule 4 in England.

I am awaiting their responses to my most recent letters advising them that I have decided to retain the bird registration scheme in England.

### British Waterways Board: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will conduct a further review of the funding and financing of British Waterways. [186489]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Following the announcement of the Government's comprehensive spending review, DEFRA is now going through a business planning process, during which the budget for British Waterways (BW) will be determined for the next three years. As part of this process, we are working with BW to understand the implications of different levels of spending. While we do not anticipate a further review of BW funding at present, BW, with our support, is currently undertaking a review of its status as a public corporation to identify whether or not a different structure might be more beneficial, for example through enabling greater investment in the waterways.

### Carbon Emissions: Finance

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations received funding from his Department to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in each of the last five years; how much each received; and what volume of emissions each saved in each year. [182571]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested can be found in the departmental report 2007, which is available on the DEFRA website.

### Climate Change

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he plans, under clauses 48 and 49 of the Climate Change Bill, to involve the devolved administrations in the preparation of reports on the impact of climate change and programmes for adaptation to climate change. [186447]

**Mr. Woolas:** We are currently in discussion with the devolved Administrations about how we will work together on these, and other clauses of the Bill. The Bill is still under discussion and subject to change.

## Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182988]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The core departmental expenditure on advertising for the past four available financial years is set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Departmental expenditure (£000)* | *Advertising spend (£000)* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 2,790,609 | 70 | 0.002 |
| 2004-05 | 3,034,175 | 739 | 0.02 |
| 2005-06 | 3,433,100 | 890 | 0.03 |
| 2006-07 | 3,913,036 | 569 | 0.015 |

This includes communications on a wide range of matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which DEFRA has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

Individual records of spend for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental E-mail

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179475]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA is continually looking at ways to improve its operational performance to meet its commitments as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets. The SOGE targets include a requirement for Departments to reduce their waste arisings by 5 per cent. by 2010 and by 25 per cent. by 2020—relative to 2004-05 levels; and to increase their recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and to 75 per cent. of their waste by 2020.

DEFRA makes full use of technology to enable staff to avoid using paper unnecessarily. The weekly electronic office notices have provided guidance for staff in the following areas:

reduce paper waste by using print preview, printing only when necessary and printing double sided if possible;

e-mail whenever possible and include short messages in the e-mail rather than in a separate document; and

warn recipients if e-mail attachments are very long, so that they can select and print only the parts that are relevant to them.

The Department continues to move towards the use of accredited shared drives and electronic filing systems, greatly reducing the need for hard copy documents. As part of the moves towards a 'smart working' environment, the principles of operating a clear desk policy further encourage staff to reduce any unnecessary printing.

## Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and how many requests were refused. [183753]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government have published two annual reports that contain statistical information about how many requests have been received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) and how many have been refused.

These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

Data is currently being collected across monitored bodies in order to produce the 2007 annual report and Q4 monitoring report, however, Q1-Q3 monitoring reports of 2007 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

## Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174402]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA had a recycling rate of 47 per cent. in 2005-06, so have met the 2010 target. There has been continuing work on improving these rates since then with a focus on improving recycling facilities across the whole of the DEFRA network estate (including agencies). These measures have ensured that we will have increased our rate in the 2006-07 SDIG report due for publication by the SDC in March 2008.

However, DEFRA is not complacent about this achievement and will now be exploring ways to continue to improve the rate. For example, over the next couple of months, we will be implementing a scheme in the core-DEFRA buildings in London to remove general waste bins from desks, requiring people to sort their waste into central recycling points around the buildings.

## Environment Agency: Manpower

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were employed by the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many of these were occupied with flood protection, flood prevention and flood defence in each year. [184029]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the total number of Environment Agency staff and the number of flood risk management within the Environment Agency in each of the last five years.

| | *Total number of Environment Agency staff* | *Number of Environment Agency flood risk management staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 10,745 | 4,129 |
| 2003-04 | 11,296 | 4,341 |
| 2004-05 | 11,800 | 4,534 |

| | Total number of Environment Agency staff | Number of Environment Agency flood risk management staff |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 12,000 | 4,596 |
| 2006-07 | 12,398 | 4,748 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed by the Environment Agency; and how many are expected to be employed in each of the next three years. [186380]

**Mr. Woolas:** At the end of January 2008, the Environment Agency employed 11,772 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.

The Environment Agency's corporate plan is due to be approved by the board in March 2008 and this will indicate staffing levels for the next three years.

### Fisheries: Nature Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to agree a contract to provide aerial surveillance for fisheries protection over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [186009]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The present contract for aerial surveillance will cease in March 2009. The future requirements and arrangements for aerial surveillance are currently being considered by the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

### Fishing Industry: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* number of 10 metre and under vessels were actively fishing against quota in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [186010]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The latest information available on activity by UK vessels during 2007 indicates that 3,353 vessels of 10 metre and under length reported landings of fish during 2007. Of these, 1,968 vessels reported landings of stocks subject to quota, which is 38 per cent. of the total number of these vessels on the UK fishing vessel register, as at 1 January 2008.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of fish discarded by 10 metre and under vessels because of being over-quota in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [186011]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Estimates of the level of fish discards are made by scientists involved in the assessment of the state of fish stocks. However, these are made at the level of the overall fish stock rather than for individual segments of the fleet. In addition, such estimates are not made for the full range of fish stocks caught by the 10 metre and under fleet. As such, the information requested is not available.

### Fishing Industry: Waste Disposal

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the European Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries has assessed any UK fishery in relation to its viability for a discard ban; and if he will make a statement; [186077]

(2) what discussions he has had with representatives of the fishing industry about the implications of the proposals outlined in the Commission Communication COM (2007) 136; and if he will make a statement; [186078]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other EU member states on the proposals in Commission Communication COM (2007) 136; and if he will make a statement; [186079]

(4) when he expects the European Commission to publish the timetable for introducing a discard ban; and if he will make a statement. [186083]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA conducted a public consultation on the Commission's discards proposals in 2007, and shared our views, and the salient points from the consultation with the Commission at various community fora. DEFRA officials also met with representatives of the industry. The views of a number of UK organisations are reflected in the subsequent North Sea Regional Advisory Council's (RAC) response. This is available on the North sea RAC website at:

http://www.nsrac.org/

With regard to discussions I have had with the European Commission and EU member states on the Commission Communication Com (2007) 136, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 706-07W. The Council's conclusions were agreed and circulated in May 2007 (9891/07 PECHE 163).

DEFRA is not aware that the European Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF) has assessed any UK fishery in relation to its viability for a discard ban. The issue of discards is a known priority for the European Commission, and proposals that will make a contribution to addressing the problem are expected to be made in 2008. However, we are not aware that the Commission will make a single proposal for an EU-wide ban on discards.

Instead, the Commission is likely to propose measures tailored to regional and biological circumstances, sometimes as part of broader initiatives. The UK Government expect draft provisions regarding discards to be included in a range of forthcoming proposals, including cod recovery and technical conservation.

While awaiting the Commission's proposals, DEFRA continues to engage with the industry in progressing work on a number of initiatives aimed at reducing discards. These include: the Irish Sea Data Enhancement Project; Gear Selectivity Trials conducted by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) scientists; and, as part of the 2008 Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quota regime, the introduction of real time closures and other technical measures to help reduce discards of cod and whiting.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of fish discards of each species there was as a result of the North Sea Nephrops Discard Pilot Project; and if he will make a statement. [186080]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The aim of the North Sea Nephrops Pilot Discard Reduction Project was to develop modifications to the fishing gears used which might allow fishermen to continue to catch their target fish while simultaneously reducing discard levels. Fishermen played an active role in constructing and testing a variety of modified trawls. Discards in this fishery are primarily juvenile cod, haddock and whiting, which are caught alongside the Nephrops.

A series of five peer-reviewed scientific papers detailing this work have since been published, and can be found on the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) website at:

http://www.cefas.co.uk/publications.aspx

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what level of fish discards of each species there was as a result of the Irish Sea Discard Pilot Project; and if he will make a statement; [186081]

(2) how much by catch of each species was discarded for being *(a)* over quota, *(b)* juvenile and *(c)* of low market value in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [186082]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Although quantities of fish discarded are recorded by scientific observers on randomly selected fishing vessels operating from UK ports, fishermen are not required to declare the reasons for discarding and hence, the figures and information requested are not available.

The initial phase of the Irish Sea Data Enhancement Pilot has recently been completed and the European Commission's Scientific, Economic and Technical Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has approved the methodology used in the pilot. To ensure that the data collected from the pilot are consistent with existing national programmes, data are being cross-checked against discard observer data collected from vessels in the same fishery. This validation process is essential to ensure that the estimates of discards that result from the project are both realistic and representative. An interim report from the project, which will include a detailed analysis of discarding in the Irish sea, is scheduled for submission to STECF in June.

## Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what additional flood defences have started to be constructed since the floods in summer 2007; [185616]

(2) how much has been spent on new flood defences since the floods in the summer of 2007. [185617]

**Mr. Woolas:** Following the summer 2007 floods the Environment Agency continued to carry out feasibility studies to consider the viability of proposed new flood defence schemes, which look to reduce flood risk where it is cost-effective, practical and environmentally appropriate. The schemes shown in the table are Environment Agency approved Fluvial and Tidal Projects, with estimated expenditure over £1 million in 2007-08.

| *EA region* | *Project* | *Estimate of expenditure in 2007-08 (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Anglian | Cut Off Channel Bridges | 1.6 |
| Anglian | Broadland PPP Contract | 10.2 |
| Midlands | West Bridgford | 2.8 |
| Midlands | Keadby Pumping Station | 1.0 |
| Midlands | Hereford (Belmont) | 4.0 |
| Midlands | River Derwent (Derby) | 1.0 |
| Midlands | Gainsborough | 4.0 |
| North East | Cockshaw Burn (Hexham) | 2.4 |
| North East | Selby Tidal Defences | 3.4 |
| North West | Lower Lancaster Phase 2 | 1.5 |
| North West | River Eden/Petteril Flood Defences, Carlisle | 3.8 |
| North West | Carlisle City and Caldew | 1.2 |
| North West | Altmouth Pumping Station | 2.0 |
| Southern | Lymington River Flood Alleviation Scheme | 3.5 |
| South West | St. Ives | 5.3 |
| South West | Boscastle—Valency Phase 3 | 4.8 |
| Thames | Thames Barrier, programmed replacements | 1.7 |
| Thames | Dartford Creek Frontage | 1.5 |
| Thames | Isle of Dogs Embayment | 2.0 |
| Thames | Queenhithe Wharf Frontage | 1.2 |
| Total | | 58.9 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood defences were built in 2005-06; and if he will break down the budget for flood defence funding in 2005-06 by main budget heading. [186379]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency's capital programme delivered 65 completed flood risk management projects to reduce flood risk in 2005-06.

This was in addition to continued investment across a wide range of flood risk management activities such as flood warning, emergency response and planning, development control and maintaining flood defence assets.

The following figures reflect Environment Agency spend on flood risk management in 2005-06, funded by DEFRA. They exclude spend funded from other sources (eg levies on local authorities, beneficiary contributions, and charges).

*2005-06*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Capital | 202 |
| Maintenance | 163 |
| Other FRM spend | 153 |

### Flood Control: Finance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding in addition to that delivered through the local government settlement his Department will make available to Gloucestershire County Council to reduce the risk of flooding in Gloucestershire in 2008-09. [178736]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* Total central and local government spend on management of flood and coastal erosion risk will be approximately £600 million this year, rising incrementally to £800 million in 2010-11. This largely consists of grant in aid to the Environment Agency to manage flood risk. The Environment Agency also funds capital improvement projects, undertaken by local authorities (usually district and unitary authorities) and internal drainage boards. County councils rarely undertake capital improvement projects to reduce flood risk but Gloucestershire is free to apply to the Environment Agency subject to eligibility criteria.

The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management and provisionally estimates spend of £3 million in Gloucestershire in 2008-09, including £750,000 each on river maintenance and improving flood forecasting and warning, projects looking at possible future improvements for Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Prestbury, Stroud and Lydney and development of long-term, sustainable options for managing flood risk from the fluvial Severn.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Gloucestershire county council, *(b)* Tewkesbury borough council, *(c)* Cheltenham borough council, *(d)* the Environment Agency and *(e)* other agencies for flood (i) recovery and (ii) prevention in the last 12 months; what restrictions there are upon the ways in which such funds can be spent; what plans he has for further similar expenditure over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [183647]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA has not provided funding specifically for flood recovery but substantial funding has been provided by other Government Departments, co-ordinated by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood risk management and grant aids, the Environment Agency's flood risk activities and capital improvement projects (undertaken by local authorities) and, in areas of special drainage need, internal drainage boards. This funding must be spent in accordance with Government policy to achieve a set of agreed outcome measures for the programme.

We have not provided capital grants to Gloucestershire county council, Tewkesbury borough council or Cheltenham borough council during 2007-08. We plan rather to give the Environment Agency approximately £439 million in 2007-08.

The statement by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on 4 February, *Official Report*, column 49WS, sets out spending plans for management of flood and coastal erosion risk over the next three years. The Environment Agency will manage this money, including capital grant to local authorities and internal drainage boards, to deliver the targets we have set for them over the comprehensive spending review period.

### Fly Tipping: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to reduce fly tipping in the West Midlands since 1997. [177320]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 66W.

### Forestry Commission

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that the Forestry Commission's success strategy should *(a)* encourage opportunities for recreation and leisure and *(b)* increase forestation on Commission land. [186483]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Forestry Commission is responsible for the delivery of the Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests that was published last year. With Natural England it is preparing a Delivery Plan for the Strategy which is expected to be published in the autumn.

The Forestry Commission is the largest single provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in England. The freehold estate had been dedicated for public access on foot in perpetuity through the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. The Commission is making substantial investments in improving its recreational facilities for all sections of society. Examples include Haldon Forest Park in Devon, Bedgbury in Kent, Grizedale and Whinlatter in the Lake District and Kielder in Northumberland. The commission has also been contributing to urban regeneration through the provision of green spaces, including Newlands in the North West of England, Jeskyns in North Kent and Ingrebourne Hill in Essex.

The Public Forest Estate managed by the Forestry Commission extends to over 250,000 hectares which is independently certified as sustainably managed. It is expected to deliver relevant priorities in the Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests and to contribute to other government policies.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the UK's net emissions of *(a)* hydrofluorocarbons, *(b)* perfluorocarbons and *(c)* sulfurhexafluoride in each of the last 10 years; for what reasons such emissions were not included in the UK climate change sustainable development indicator: 2006 greenhouse gas emissions final figures; and if he will make a statement. [185393]

**Mr. Woolas:** Estimates of the UK's emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfurhexafluoride from 1990 to 2006 can be found on the e-digest statistics section of DEFRA's website.

These estimates were published as National Statistics on 31 January 2008, and form part of the UK Climate Change Sustainable Development indicator. Full details can be found in the statistical release on the DEFRA website. The figures in question can be found in annex A.

DEFRA does not publish sectoral breakdowns of emissions for these three gases.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total Government grant to the Warm Front scheme was over the last three years. [186375]

**Mr. Woolas:** Total Government spend on Warm Front over the last three years is detailed as follows.

| *1 April to 31 March each year* | *Measures spend (WF) (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 192 |
| 2006-07 | 320 |
| 2007-08 | 352 |
| Total | 864 |

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Hyndburn

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Warm Front grants were approved in Hyndburn constituency in each of the last three years. [186196]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of Warm Front grants approved in the Hyndburn constituency in each of the last three years is detailed as follows.

| *1 January to 31 December each year* | *Assisted households* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 705 |
| 2006 | 1,125 |
| 2007 | 1,164 |
| Total | 2,994 |

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost was of each Warm Front grant approved in Hyndburn constituency in the last three years. [186197]

**Mr. Woolas:** The average cost of each Warm Front grant approved in Hyndburn constituency in the last three years is detailed in the table.

| *1 January to 31 December each year* | *Average grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-05 | 1,237.76 |
| 2006-06 | 1,357.95 |
| 2007-07 | 1,741.98 |
| Total | 1,478.95 |

### Housing: Energy

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor residential energy efficiency. [185967]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA has a robust system in place for monitoring residential energy efficiency. Through rigorous evaluation of our household energy efficiency programmes, including the Energy Efficiency Commitment and Building Regulations, we have a good understanding of the number of low carbon measures, such as cavity and loft insulation, high-efficiency boilers and appliances, installed in United Kingdom housing since 2002, and the remaining capacity.

Underpinning these delivery programmes, is a rolling programme of field research providing detailed understanding of the in-situ energy and carbon performance of buildings and measures. Building on this, we have set in place formal indicators for assessing United Kingdom household energy efficiency over time, through which we will report statutory energy efficiency targets for 2010. Going forward, other instruments, including Energy Performance Certificates and the Green Homes Service will provide further house specific energy efficiency information.

### Inland Waterways: Cotswold Hills

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the cessation of funding of the Cotswold Canals restoration by British Waterways on the existing funding for the project; and if he will make a statement; [186061]

(2) what discussions he has had with British Waterways on their decision to cease funding for the Cotswold Canals restoration; [186065]

(3) what discussions British Waterways had with *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* other funding partners before announcing the cessation of funding to the Cotswold Canals restoration. [186066]

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the decision of British Waterways to withdraw from the Cotswold Canals Partnership was first communicated to him; [186062]

(2) what impact assessments he has undertaken of the decision by British Waterways to withdraw from the Cotswolds Council Partnership. [186488]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On Monday 28 January, DEFRA officials advised me that British Waterways (BW) had informed them that the board had decided to withdraw from the Cotswold Canal Partnership. BW asked that we allow them time to inform their staff and the most affected stakeholders in advance of the Press Notice which was issued on Monday 4 February.

We have always made it clear that, whilst we welcomed the project, this was a matter for the BW board. I was aware that BW had many new pressures on their budget, particularly in relation to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal breach, and that they were concerned at their overall level of exposure. It is for the BW board to

decide how best to manage risk, taking into account both the interests of all stakeholders and BW's public policy objectives.

### Inland Waterways: Dredging

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mains water courses for which *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* internal drainage boards are responsible have been dredged since July 2007; and what length of water courses has been dredged. [185613]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### International Whaling Commission

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports he has received of countries being lobbied for recruitment to the International Whaling Commission by the pro-whaling group of nations; and if he will make a statement. [186076]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts are aware of the need to watch for indications that countries may join the International Whaling Commission and adopt a pro-whaling stance. Posts in the relevant capitals are briefed and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. Such countries are left in no doubt as to the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation.

### Livestock: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost to the livestock industry of complying with regulations preventing the on-farm burial of fallen livestock has been in each of the last four years. [184861]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not possible to estimate the amount spent by the livestock industry. Although information is available about the amount spent on the National Fallen Stock Scheme, not all farmers are members of the scheme and many will have made their own arrangements to dispose of carcases in compliance with the rules. In addition, many farmers would have disposed of carcases as required by the EU animal by-products regulation even had it not been agreed, given the strict controls on carcase disposal under previous domestic legislation.

### Local Government: Rural Areas

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with other Ministers on raising awareness of the infrastructure provided by rural communities councils; and if he will make a statement. [185242]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government recently recognised the importance of the rural community councils (RCCs) by announcing new funding worth over £10 million to the network over the next three years. We are keen to ensure that rural interests are taken fully into account in policy making and delivery across all Departments and at all levels of government. Where appropriate, DEFRA will continue to raise the potential contribution of the RCCs, as it has done together with the Department for Communities and Local Government in relation to local area agreements and the delivery of public service agreement 21, on building more cohesive, empowered and active communities.

### Meat Products: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of imported meat that was processed in the UK and subsequently labelled as British in the last 12 months. [185979]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It would not be practical to collect such statistics. Under the Food Safety Act 1990, the Food Labelling Regulations (1996), and the Trades Descriptions Act 1968 any labelling that provides information on the origin of meat must not mislead consumers. Where meat has been processed, provided it is a substantial change, it is permissible to describe as its origin the country where that change took place. If the absence of information might mislead consumers, then guidance produced by the Food Standards Agency confirms that both the origin of the meat and the country where the processing takes place should be declared in order to facilitate informed consumer choice. More restrictive rules apply to beef and poultry meat that has not been processed.

At the end of January, the European Commission published its proposals, for a food information regulation which brings together a number of general food labelling directives and includes provisions governing the labelling of the origin of a product and its ingredients. Within this draft regulation there is a proposal for amending the rules on country of origin labelling. This proposal will be the subject of widespread consultation by the Food Standards Agency, which leads on food labelling issues.

### Nature Conservation: Lyme Bay

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect the marine biodiversity of Lyme Bay. [186008]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have recently consulted on proposals to protect the biodiversity of Lyme bay. The consultation sought the views of all interested parties on three proposed options to deliver protection for marine biodiversity in the bay. It also invited respondents to suggest further options to provide protection for the bay's marine biodiversity and raised a number of specific questions concerning related conservation and economic matters.

Consultation closed on 21 December 2007 and we are now urgently considering people's responses. Once this process has concluded, and a summary of consultation responses has been published, an announcement will be made concerning any further measures to protect marine biodiversity at Lyme bay.

### Nitrates: Water

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the EU *(a)* Nitrates and *(b)* Water Framework Directives on water management. [184867]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Nitrates Directive aims to improve water quality by reducing pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. It focuses upon improving agricultural land management practices, in particular the use of manure and fertiliser, through implementation of an action programme. The recent consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, included an assessment of the effectiveness of the current and proposed action programme at reducing nitrate losses.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires us to achieve good status in all water bodies by 2015, subject to a range of exceptions related to technical feasibility and disproportionate cost. The WFD accommodates essential uses of the water environment such as for flood defence, power generation and abstraction.

Achievement of the environmental objectives of the WFD is likely to require action by a range of operations that put pressure on the environmental quality of water including water and sewerage services and land management. The requirements of individual operators will depend on the Environment Agency's assessment, using WFD criteria, of the current condition of water bodies and the measures identified as necessary to achieve the relevant environmental objectives.

Draft river basin management plans, outlining the current status of the water environment in each river basin district and proposals for measures to achieve the environmental objectives, will be published for a six month consultation in December 2008.

DEFRA has carried out impact assessments of the costs and benefits of the WFD. Each river basin management plan will, in turn, be subject to an impact assessment, which will take account of specific measures in the way that the higher level assessments carried out to date have been unable to do.

### Noise: Health Hazards

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1940W, on noise: health hazards, whether the Noise Strategy for England will have regard to the results of the Salford University study into Research into Aerodynamic Modulation of Wind Turbine Noise commissioned by his Department. [186045]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Noise Strategy for England will be a high level document that sets out the Government's policy on neighbourhood and environmental noise. It would be premature to state whether the strategy will single out the aerodynamic modulation of noise from wind turbines. The Government have stated that they will keep the issue of aerodynamic modulation of noise from wind turbines under review.

### Packaging: Waste Disposal

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of recovering non-reusable bags *(a)* in household refuse and *(b)* from streets. [186734]

**Joan Ruddock:** No such estimates have been made.

### Recycling

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure that recycled materials which are exported for reprocessing are not diverted to *(a)* landfill and *(b)* other disposal facilities. [186260]

**Joan Ruddock:** It is the responsibility of producers of waste, including local authorities and their waste management contractors, to ensure that waste is dealt with in an environmentally sound manner throughout the recycling chain, including at its final destination.

Waste that is being exported should be recovered or recycled under environmentally sound conditions, and exporters should reassure themselves that this is taking place.

In England and Wales, the Environment Agency helps to detect and prevent the illegal export of waste through intelligence-led, targeted inspections at ports and other facilities. Enforcement action is taken as appropriate where evidence of illegal activity is found. The Environment Agency cooperates with regulators overseas to help ensure that controls are met.

### Renewable Energy: Wood

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he has allocated to his Department's wood fuel strategy in each of the next three years. [186057]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Forestry Commission is currently carrying out its business planning for the next three years. Decisions on funding for their England Woodfuel Strategy will be made within that process.

### Retail Trade: Packaging

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to reduce the use of non-reusable bags in the retail trade. [186730]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government pledged in the 'Waste Strategy for England 2007' to phase out free single-use carrier bags. We are actively working to establish the best ways of achieving this objective.

### Seas and Oceans: Legislation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons a draft Marine Bill was not presented to Parliament in *(a)* the 2005-06 Session and *(b)* the 2006-07 Session; and if he will make a statement. [186007]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are firmly focused on meeting its commitment to introduce a comprehensive Marine Bill in this Parliament. Proposals have been developed for a Bill that covers a broad and complex set of marine issues spanning many different interests and which, in some cases, break completely new ground.

Extensive consultation has been essential with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that this legislation is right. To this end, we undertook a broad public consultation exercise in 2006. We further developed our proposals in a White Paper which was published for consultation in 2007.

The Government's draft legislative programme states that we are considering publishing a draft Marine Bill in this session of Parliament. We are working to do this in early 2008. Publishing the Marine Bill in draft will allow us to get the legislation right and lead to a better Bill.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Standards

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made towards its public service agreement target to bring 95 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest into favourable condition by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [181505]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* At 30 January 2008, 80.1 per cent. of sites of special interest (SSSI) by area was in favourable or recovering condition (target condition). We anticipate that the figure by the end of March 2008 will be around 81.5 per cent.. This falls slightly short of the milestone of 83 per cent. but compares with a baseline of 56.9 per cent. in 2003 and represents good progress towards delivering the target of 95 per cent. by December 2010.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Carbon Trust has provided funding to trades unions in the last 36 months. [186182]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA has provided £16,000 to support Trade Union activities on sustainable development in the last 36 months.

The Carbon Trust has supported the Trades Union Congress (TUC) with funding through the Networks Initiative in 2006 and 2007. The Initiative provides financial support to projects that help members reduce their carbon emissions. The specific projects supported were Green Workplaces in 2006 and the Carbon Partnership Project in 2007. Each received £140,000 from the Carbon Trust.

As well as engaging the TUC's affiliated members through these projects, the Carbon Trust has supported a number of individual trade unions with free carbon surveys, customer advice and information. The Carbon Trust are also reviewing the findings of the Green Workplaces project to allow a wider roll out in the future.

### Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the factual briefing note on pilot waste reduction schemes referred to by the Minister of State for Sustainable Farming, Food and Animal Welfare on 30 January 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 664. [185787]

**Joan Ruddock:** I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* paper and cardboard, *(b)* metal, *(c)* glass, *(d)* plastic and *(e)* other material was (i) collected for recycling and (ii) exported for reprocessing in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [186258]

**Joan Ruddock:** The tonnages of materials collected from household sources sent for recycling and composting by local authorities in England in the last three years for which figures are available, are shown in the following table[1]. This information is available on the DEFRA website. Tonnages of recyclable materials from non-household sources are not available.

*Thousand tonnes*

| *Household waste* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Paper and card | 1,406 | 1,475 | 1,535 |
| Glass | 670 | 760 | 840 |
| Compost | 1,960 | 2,439 | 2,895 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 577 | 532 | 601 |
| Textiles | 71 | 86 | 103 |
| Cans | 52 | 74 | 80 |
| Plastics | 21 | 38 | 49 |
| Co-mingled | 656 | 860 | 1,121 |
| Other | 372 | 532 | 751 |
| Total | 5,785 | 6,796 | 7,976 |

Where non-hazardous wastes (such as separated recyclables) are exported, they are generally subject only to commercial controls and not to the prior notification and consent procedures which apply to exports of hazardous wastes. Precise data on the amounts and destinations of exported recyclables are not, therefore, available.

However, based on HM Revenue and Customs figures, it is estimated that in 2006 (the last year for which figures are available), the UK exported some eight million tonnes of metal scrap, four million tonnes of paper, 441,000 tonnes of plastic and 136,000 tonnes of glass cullet. These figures will include recyclable materials collected from all sources including households, commerce and industry.

[1] "Household waste sent for recycling" includes all materials sent for recycling, composting or reuse by local authorities as well as those collected from household sources by 'private/voluntary' organisations. Material which was collected for recycling but actually rejected at collection, by the material recycling facility or at the gate of a recycling reprocessor is excluded. Material diverted from the residual waste stream and accepted for recycling is included.

### Waste Disposal: Compost

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to encourage homeowners to compost their kitchen and garden waste since 1997. [177321]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Increasing the rate of composting of kitchen and garden waste is an important way to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste being sent to landfill and should help cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working with local authorities and other partners to improve the uptake of home composting and has distributed over one million home composting bins to households across the country through local authorities. Practical advice on home composting is available on the Recycle Now website.

WRAP is also working to encourage composting more generally and is providing support and advice to local authorities on collecting dry recyclable and organic wastes through its Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE).

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs over what period he plans to allocate central funding for the pilot schemes for charges for the collection of household waste. [183280]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W.

### Whales: Japan

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to establish the legal status under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Japan's killing of CITES Appendix I listed whales in the Southern Ocean and North Pacific; and if he will make a statement. [182157]

**Joan Ruddock:** Following the recent announcement that Japan intended to take 50 humpback whales in the Southern Ocean as part of its JARPA II whaling programme, the UK Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority wrote to the CITES Secretariat asking for clarification on the legal position. In their response, the CITES Secretariat stated that they were not in a position to issue a statement to the effect that the introduction from the sea of humpback specimens violates article III of the convention. We have drawn the contents of their reply to the attention of the EU CITES Management Committee that will consider it at its next meeting in April.

### Whales: Nature Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will host a meeting of anti-whaling nations before the next meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [186012]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK will host a meeting of like-minded anti-whaling countries prior to the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) due to be held on 6-8 March 2008 in Heathrow, London.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed whaling with his foreign counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [186013]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have raised the issue of whaling at every appropriate opportunity with members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The UK will continue to make clear our objections to those countries that support whaling, both before and during the forthcoming inter-sessional meeting of the IWC in March, and the next annual meeting in Chile in June.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written to 18 countries, encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

### Wild Boar

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) why the publication of the Government's strategy on the management of wild boar has been delayed; and if he will make a statement; [184678]

(2) when he will publish the Government's strategy on the management of wild boar. [184679]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* It is unfortunate that the strategy has taken longer to produce than we had initially hoped. My Department has had other unexpected priorities to resolve such as outbreaks of avian influenza, bluetongue and foot and mouth disease. We also had to resolve some issues with regard to the delivery of the action plan. However, I am now able to announce that DEFRA's wild boar strategy will be published on 19 February.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government took to prepare the National Health Service for the effects of the level of binge drinking in the Christmas season. [176078]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The national health service routinely plan for changes in demand. It is a local service matter as to what arrangements they decide to put in place to deal with any potential fluctuations in activity of services.

## Breast Cancer: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of breast cancer there were in Essex in each of the last five years. [185314]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of breast cancer there were in Essex in each of the last five years. (185314)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer registered in Essex are for the year 2005. Figures for the years 2001 to 2005 are in the table below.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], females, Essex, 2001-05*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 909 |
| 2002 | 915 |
| 2003 | 966 |
| 2004 | 881 |
| 2005 | 1,137 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which medical procedures the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre offers to patients; [186046]

(2) which medical procedures the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre offered to patients when it opened; [186047]

(3) when the cost effectiveness of the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre was last assessed; and what the outcome of that assessment was; [186063]

(4) for what reasons the management arrangements at the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre have been changed in the last 12 months; and who is responsible for implementing the new management arrangements. [186064]

(5) what powers the relevant primary care trusts have to renegotiate the contract with the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre; [186067]

(6) when the contract between the North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre ends. [186068]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) commenced service delivery in July 2006 offering national health service patients a range of procedures including general surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, ear nose and throat, thoracic procedures, nervous system, digestive system, urology and gynaecology. The Department works with sponsors and providers to ensure optimum utilisation of the contracts. This includes changing the case mix where necessary to respond to local need and working with providers and primary care trusts (PCTs) to recover previous under-utilised activity where possible. Since December 2007 pain management outpatient appointments have been available at Burton ISTC in addition to the above services and a review of the case mix is ongoing.

A formal assessment of cost effectiveness of the Burton ISTC took place as part of the procurement of wave 1 of the ISTC programme in 2004, the subsequent outcome of which was the appointment of Nations Healthcare as the independent sector provider. The procurement of wave 1 was conducted in compliance with European Union procurement law.

In June 2007, in terms of management changes at the ISTC, Circle Health acquired Nations Health. The internal management arrangements for the Burton ISTC are the responsibility of Nations Health, in line with contractual obligations.

The North Staffordshire PCT contract for services at the Burton ISTC is due to cease in the financial year 2011-12. There is an option for the contract to be extended or re-negotiated at the end of the contract term, in line with the local needs of NHS patients.

## Cancer

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the projected costs of the *(a)* national cancer survivorship initiative, *(b)* national survey awareness of cancer, *(c)* national cancer equality initiative and *(d)* national cancer intelligence network in each of the next three years. [185050]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The projected costs for the next three years for the national cancer survivorship initiative, national survey awareness of cancer and national cancer intelligence network are set out as follows. Projected costs for the national cancer equality initiative have not been separated from the overall projected costs for awareness and early detection, and it is these costs that are given instead.

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | £ million 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| National cancer survivorship initiative | 18.2 | 36.4 | 54.5 |
| National survey awareness of cancer | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Awareness and early detection | 3.0 | 7.0 | 11.0 |
| National cancer intelligence network | 1.4 | 2.8 | 4.2 |

## Cancer: Cheshire

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve outcomes in cancer *(a)* screening and *(b)* treatment in (i) Warrington and (ii) Cheshire in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [185586]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Major progress has been made on cancer over the past 10 years and especially since the publication of the "National Health Service Cancer Plan", which set out the first ever comprehensive strategy to tackle cancer and was the first time any Government had drawn up a major programme of action linking prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and research. Significant achievements include:

extending breast screening to women aged 50-70 years. The number of new cancers diagnosed through breast screening has increased by over 60 per cent.;

roll-out of the bowel cancer screening programme, the first programme to target both men and women;

major reductions in waiting times for patients with suspected cancer referred urgently by their general practitioners (99 per cent. seen within 14 days, up from 63 per cent. in 1997);

over 99 per cent. of patients receiving their first cancer treatment within one month of diagnosis (the 31-day target);

over 97 per cent. of urgently referred patients being treated within two months of referral (the 62-day target);

expansion of the cancer work force; and

provision of unprecedented numbers of new equipment.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was from diagnosis of cancer to treatment for each type of cancer in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [186002]

**Ann Keen:** Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for specific cancer conditions are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment was introduced for breast cancer patients from December 2001 and all patients from December 2005. Statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits.

Performance against the standard for all cancers for the last quarter (January, February and March) for each of the years was:

2004-05: 91.1 per cent. of cancer patients treated within 31 days of diagnosis;

2005-06: 98.9 per cent; and

2006-07: 99.6 per cent.

### Cancer: Medical Treatments

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of treatment for *(a)* bone metastases caused by prostate cancer in men and *(b)* bone metastases caused by breast cancer in women; what biophosphonate drugs are available in the Leicester cancer care area for the treatment of bone metastases caused by (i) prostate cancer and (ii) breast cancer; and if he will make a statement. [185497]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* From the information collected on bone metastases, it is not possible to identify which have been caused by either prostate or breast cancer, therefore no assessment has been carried out on bone metastases caused by either prostate or breast cancer.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust does not routinely use bisphosphonate drugs to treat prostate cancer as there is inconclusive evidence as to the drugs efficacy and cost-effectiveness. However, pamidronate and ibndronate are routinely used for breast cancer as there is National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance and evidence of effectiveness.

In 2002, NICE published guidance on "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancer". The guidance makes recommendations on the management of bone metastases in patients with metastatic prostate cancer.

In the same year, NICE also published "Improving Outcomes in Breast Cancer". The guidance makes recommendations on the management of bone metastases in patients with metastatic breast cancer.

NICE is also preparing clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer and of breast cancer. Both sets of guidance will address bone metastases. The guideline on prostate cancer is due to be published later this month. Publication of the guideline on breast cancer is expected in early 2009.

### Cancer: Waiting Lists

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 58W, on cancer: waiting lists, whether his Department's press release of 9 October 2007 was approved by a Minister before it was issued. [177897]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Yes. The Department's press release of 9 October 2007 on the comprehensive spending review was approved by a Minister before it was issued.

### Christmas

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182444]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information about what Department's agencies spend on Christmas cards and the amount they spend on the postage of Christmas cards, is not held centrally.

### Consent to Medical Treatment: Mentally Ill

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the circumstances under which *(a)* the Commission on Social Care Inspection and *(b)* healthcare workers may conduct intimate medical examinations on those with mental incapacities without the consent of guardians ad litem; under what authority such examinations are performed; and if he will make a statement. [186498]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Mental Capacity Act 2005 , which came fully into force on 1 October 2007, sets out a statutory framework for making treatment decisions

for people who lack the capacity to make such decisions themselves. The Act establishes overarching statutory principles governing these decisions, setting out who can make them and when. It sets out the legal requirements for assessing whether or not a person lacks capacity to make a decision.

Where a person lacks the capacity to make a decision for themselves, any decision must be made in that person's best interests. The Act introduced a duty on the national health service to instruct an independent mental capacity advocate in serious medical treatment decisions when a person who lacks capacity to make a decision has no one who can speak for them, other than paid staff. The Mental Capacity Act allows people to plan ahead for a time when they may not have capacity to make their own decisions by appointing an attorney to make treatment decisions on their behalf or by making an advance decision to refuse medical treatment. Further guidance is available in the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice.

The Commission on Social Care Inspection (CSCI) does not perform medical examinations. CSCI inspects care providers and does not examine or inspect actual users of services.

### Dentistry: Databases

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department uses the General Dental Council dental list to send its communications to dentists. [185789]

**Ann Keen:** Generally, we make arrangements with the NHS Business Services Authority which has contact details of all dentists with contracts to provide national health service primary care dental services. If however a communication was of interest to all dentists, for example advice on the control of cross-infection in dental practice, we would use the General Dental Council's register.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176020]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A limited amount of personal data for which the Department of Health is responsible is stored overseas, and some is processed overseas. This includes national health service payroll and financial systems where the NHS Business Services Authority, an arms length body of the Department, operates a service on behalf of NHS trusts, storing data in the UK but processing pay and finance forms in India under strict data protection controls. The Business Services Authority also uses overseas resources as part of a system for inputting details of NHS dental treatments.

The Department is also responsible for NHS patient data managed by NHS Connecting for Health, but none of this data is stored or processed overseas. The Department is not responsible for patient or other personal data managed by NHS trusts and health authorities.

Departmental guidance requires measures to be taken to ensure such processing is compliant with our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. Reviews are currently in hand, related to the wider government review of data handling arrangements, to confirm that those measures are adequate.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and how many requests were refused. [183752]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government have published two annual reports that contain statistical information about how many requests have been received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) and how many have been refused.

These reports can be found at:

www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

Data is currently being collected across monitored bodies in order to produce the 2007 annual report and Q4 Monitoring report, however, Q1-Q3 Monitoring reports of 2007 can be found at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179790]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department advises against the use of departmental branding on products, other than on occasional low value promotional items to support specific internal initiatives or conferences. Any such items are procured by individual teams within the Department and the Department does not hold central records on which items were procured and at what cost. To provide this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

The two agencies that receive funding from the Department are the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA).

The MHRA has produced low cost branded items in the last five years, these were: mugs, pens, coasters, carrier bags, back massagers, tins with jelly beans, mouse mats and stress balls. All these items have been produced specifically for special events such as conferences, including the United Kingdom Presidency events in 2005, and events to promote the General Practice Research Database and the reporting of adverse incidents and faulty devices. This is part of MHRA's role in protecting public health.

We are informed by NHS PASA that they have not produced or issued any products featuring departmental or government branding in the last five years.

## Departmental Pay

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department and its agencies received bonuses in each year since 2002. [178959]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The figures provided in the following table include bonuses paid to senior civil servants under pay arrangements common across the civil service and special bonuses paid under schemes operated by the Department and its agencies.

Senior civil service bonuses reward excellent performance during the year, based on a judgment of how well people perform relative to their peers. This covers the extent to which objectives are met and how they are achieved, and has regard to how leadership behaviours and professional skills are demonstrated and how stretching objectives are.

Special bonuses are awarded for a number of different reasons, the most common of which are an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding situation, job loading becoming temporarily very heavy, a high level of commitment and resolution to get a job done, special efforts to produce results, cover for a high level of absence, and a contribution over and above what would normally be expected for the job and of the person or team concerned. Special bonuses can be paid either to individuals or to a group or team of staff at any point in the year, and only for additional duties undertaken which will not be recognised through annual pay awards.

The figures presented for 2007-08 are up to December 2007.

The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04. Information on performance bonus payments prior to 2004-05 is only available from individual payslips. To retrieve this information would therefore involve disproportionate cost.

*Numbers of staff receiving bonuses*

| *Year in which bonuses were paid* | *Department DH* | *Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency* | *NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 434 | 215 | 15 |
| 2006-07 | 420 | 377 | 78 |
| 2005-06 | 581 | 226 | 55 |
| 2004-05 | 679 | [1] | 6 |
| 2003-04 | [1] | [1] | 2 |

[1] Not available.

## Departmental Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for *(a)* its whole estate and *(b)* some of its buildings. [181319]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not have a certified system for its core administrative estate.

The Department's NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency has an environmental management system certified to ISO14001.

## Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183294]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Number of vehicles owned and purchased by the Department during each of the last 10 years are shown in the following table.

| *Year ending 31 March* | *Number of vehicles owned* | *Number of vehicles purchased* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 17 | 0 |
| 2000 | 17 | 0 |
| 2001 | 12 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 | 0 |
| 2003 | 37 | 37 |
| 2004 | 63 | 26 |
| 2005 | 9 | 0 |
| 2006 | 6 | 0 |
| 2007 | 3 | 0 |
| February 2008 | 2 | 0 |

These vehicles were owned by the Department through outright purchase. During 2005, ownership and management responsibility for 47 vehicles transferred to NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency, and seven transferred to the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

## Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184912]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Because of the way in which financial data is coded in the Department's accounting system, it is not possible to extract the specific information required from the overall costs of appointments. This could be established only from a manual examination of invoices, which would incur disproportionate costs.

## Family Practitioner Services: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries are open out of hours in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* Enfield Borough. [178677]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to approach the chief executive of Enfield PCT for information on number of surgeries which are open out of hours.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) now have a legal responsibility to ensure that they provide, or secure provision of out of hours services for their local population. NHS London has advised officials that Enfield PCT is in the process of trying to agree extended opening hours with all its practices.

### Food: Labelling

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to industry of implementing the Food Standards Agency's guidelines on the provision of allergen information on non-prepacked foods. [185961]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Given the voluntary nature of the guidance, the exact cost to businesses is difficult to quantify. Businesses may adopt the changes over time and in a way that is appropriate to the size and type of the particular business. They may chose different ways of providing the information to the customer from written means such as point of sale notices, product labelling or menu descriptions to verbal information, which will have differing costs.

The regulatory impact assessment was compiled during the development of the Food Standards Agency guidance package and is published on the Agency's website at

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/labelregsguidance/nonprepacked.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has made to monitor the effectiveness of recent Food Standards Agency voluntary best practice guidance on the provision of allergen information for non-prepacked foods; and over what timescale such arrangements will operate. [185962]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Food Standards Agency is monitoring the take up of the guidance package by food business operators. It will follow this up in a year's time to evaluate awareness of food allergy issues in the non-prepacked foods sector, a key objective of the guidance among food businesses.

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which general practice surgeries *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Exeter, have visited in an official capacity since June 2007; and on what dates. [185992]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Since June 2007 the Secretary of State has visited Churchill Medical Centre, Kingston in London. Since June 2007, I have visited: St Bridge Practice, Gloucestershire (twice); Fishponds Health Centre, Bristol; Wood Lane Surgery, Hornchurch, Essex; Chadwell Heath Health Centre, Romford, Essex; Bromley by Bow Centre, London; Great Oaks GP Practice, Weymouth and Calne Health Centre in Wiltshire.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on family practitioner services: working hours, what proportion of patients were able to make appointments at their general practitioner practice outside 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday in each quarter for which figures are available since 2000. [182603]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Since June 2006, we have estimated the proportion of patients able to make such appointments based on samples of around 1,500 members of the public. These figures are given in the following table:

*Percentage*

| | 2006 | | | | 2007 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *June* | *August* | *October* | *December* | *March* | *May* | *August* |
| Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm | 85 | 88 | 86 | 90 | 89 | 88 | 90 |
| Monday to Friday evenings (after 6 pm) | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Monday to Friday early mornings (before 8 am) | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Weekend | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Other | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | * |
| Do not know | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

### "Health For All, Have Your Say"

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of development and publication of the document "Health for all, Have Your Say" was. [185365]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* This information is not held centrally and can instead be obtained directly from Wirral primary care trust.

### Health Services

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compliance levels of health care providers with section H of the Code of Practice for Promotion of NHS Services; and if he will make a statement. [186673]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 'Code of Practice for the Promotion of NHS services' was a document published for consultation in November 2006. The consultation finished on the 28 February 2007, and we are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will publish a final code shortly. The provisions of this draft promotion code are therefore not currently enforceable, therefore no assessment has been done of the compliance with section H of this code.

### Health Services: Age

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the likely changes to the age profile of the population in the next 10 years on the service requirements of the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [179730]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has used population predictions supplied by the Office for National Statistics to inform its policy development. This will support the delivery of high quality health care in areas such as prevention, and better management of long-term conditions to a growing and ageing population.

## Health Services: Prisoners

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* general medical services, *(b)* mental health treatment, *(c)* drug and alcohol treatment and *(d)* other health-related expenditure for prisoners in each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07; and how much funding is allocated in each category for 2007-08. [186910]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Expenditure on prison healthcare in England 2002-03 to 2007-08, including general medical services, mental health services, and other health-related expenditure, is shown in table 1.

*Table 1: Expenditure on prison healthcare in England 2002-03 to 2007-08*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 117,615,000 |
| 2003-04 | 139,705,000 |
| 2004-05 | 158,002,000 |
| 2005-06 | 177,511,000 |
| 2006-07 | 190,939,000 |
| 2007-08 | [2]196,094,000 |

[1] The figures quoted include amount spend on mental health in-reach services in both publicly and privately managed prisons.
[2] The figure for 2006-07 also includes an amount to cover the cost of implementing Agenda for Change, backdated to October 2004, for prison healthcare staff who have transferred to the NHS.
*Source:*
Department of Health.

Prison funding used specifically for alcohol treatment is not separated out from overall drug treatment funding. Drug treatment funding allocated to prisons globally over the past six years is shown in table 2. This includes investment from both the Department and the Ministry of Justice, and is in addition to the investment in table 1.

*Table 2: Drug treatment funding allocated to prisons 2002-03 to 2007-08*

| *Intervention* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *£ million 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance-prescribing) | 7.30 | 11.30 | 11.30 | 11.30 | 23.30 | 24.00 |
| Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through-care services | 14.30 | 17.40 | 22.30 | 25.70 | 30.70 | 31.70 |
| Drug rehabilitation programmes | 7.10 | 9.00 | 13.80 | 19.40 | 19.40 | 19.40 |
| Young People's Substance-Misuse Service | — | — | 3.70 | 4.30 | 4.70 | 4.70 |
| Total | 28.70 | 37.70 | 51.10 | 61.10 | 78.10 | 79.80 |

*Source:*
Ministry of Justice/Department of Health

## Health Services: Private Sector

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts NHS bodies have with private sector providers of health care. [185565]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The national health service is free to enter into local agreements with independent sector providers and the Department does not collect this information centrally. In terms of contracts centrally procured by the Department's Commercial Directorate, the following contracts between the independent sector and the NHS exist.

*Wave 1*

| *Scheme* | *Provider* | *Lead primary care trust (PCT)/local NHS region* |
|---|---|---|
| Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre | Nations/ Circle | Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT |
| Midlands NHS Treatment Centre | Nations/ Circle | South Staffordshire PCT |
| Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre | PHG | Barnsley PCT |
| Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre | UKSH | Somerset PCT |
| Greater Manchester Surgical Centre | Netcare | Oldham PCT |
| Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre | PHG | Plymouth PCT |
| Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT |
| Boston NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Lincolnshire Teaching PCT |
| Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | North Yorkshire and York PCT |
| Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Newcastle PCT |
| New Hall NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Southampton City PCT |
| Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Milton Keynes PCT |
| Reading NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Milton Keynes PCT |
| Horton NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Oxfordshire PCT |
| Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre | Ramsay | Lincolnshire Teaching PCT |
| Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre | Interhealth | Worcestershire PCT |
| Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre | Interhealth | Western Cheshire PCT |
| Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre | PHG | West Kent PCT |
| North East London NHS Treatment Centre | PHG | Barking and Dagenham PCT |

| Scheme | Provider | Lead primary care trust (PCT)/local NHS region |
|---|---|---|
| Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Treatment Centre | Mercury/ Care UK | Buckinghamshire PCT |
| Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre | Mercury/ Care UK | Medway Teaching PCT |
| St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre | Mercury/ Care UK | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT |
| Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre | Mercury/ Care UK | Brighton and Hove City PCT |
| Havant NHS Diagnostic Service | Mercury/ Care UK | Hampshire PCT |

*Phase 2*

| Scheme | Provider | Lead PCT/Local NHS region |
|---|---|---|
| London NHS Diagnostic Service | InHealth Netcare | Strategic health authority (SHA) regions involved—London |
| West Midlands Diagnostic Service (contract terminating 14 February 2008) | Care UK | SHA regions involved—West Midlands |
| Cheshire and Merseyside Electives | Spire Healthcare | SHA regions involved—North West |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Multi Specialty Treatment Centre | Spire Healthcare | SHA regions involved—North East |
| Cumbria and Lancashire Electives | Ramsay | SHA regions involved—North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humber |

The Secretary of State is signatory to contracts centrally procured by the Department's Commercial Directorate.

Through Wave 1 of the centrally-led procurements, operational contracts also include:

| Scheme/programme | Provider | Area covered/PCTs |
|---|---|---|
| Chlamydia (contract ending 31 March 2008) | Boots Chemists London | London SHA |
| Mobile MRI Fast Track | Alliance Medical | Nationwide |
| Ophthalmic chain | Netcare | Nationwide |

*Commuter walk-in centres*

| Scheme/programme | Provider | Area covered/PCTs |
|---|---|---|
| London Canary Wharf | Atos Healthcare | London SHA |
| London Liverpool Street | Walk in Health | London SHA |
| London Victoria | Care UK | London SHA |
| Manchester Piccadilly | Atos Healthcare | North West SHA |
| Newcastle | Care UK | North East SHA |
| Leeds | Netcare | Yorkshire and Humber |

## Health Services: Publicity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on health services: publicity, what the total cost of the campaign is in each relevant financial year; and how many staff of each pay band are running it. [182589]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The total cost of the campaign in the financial year 2006-07 was £217,861.13. Between December 2006 and March 2007, there was one grade seven (G7) communications manager working on this project full-time.

The total anticipated spend to the end of this financial year (end March 2008) is £950,000. Between April 2007 and March 2008, there has been one G7 communications manager and one senior information officer and one information officer working part-time on the different aspects of the campaign.

The campaign budget for April to December 2008 will be determined as part of the development of the Department's 2008-09 business plan , which is now under way. The resource necessary for the year 2008-09 will be determined as part of this plan.

## Health Services: Standards

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the decision to propose a change to the number of quality and outcomes framework points allocated for access. [182139]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The quality and outcomes framework provides financial incentives to reward practices that demonstrate high standards of care, not just in clinical care but also in terms of the patient experience. Parties to the framework have agreed to recycle a number of out-dated indicators that are either redundant or of very limited added value, and to revise the patient experience domain. Our proposals are to use the freed resource to incentivise improvements in patients' access experiences so as to better meet patients expectations as demonstrated through last year's national general practitioner patient survey.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on health services: standards, what information his Department collects on the reasons for decisions taken by clinicians that it is not clinically appropriate for a patient's treatment to start within 18 weeks. [182588]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on the reasons for decisions taken by clinicians that it is not clinically appropriate for a patient's treatment to start within 18 weeks. Decisions on whether it is clinically appropriate to start treatment within 18 weeks of referral rests with individual clinicians in consultation with patients.

## Hospitals: Admissions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes of care for emergency admissions there were in each year since 1997-98, broken down by age of patient. [184508]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is set out in the following table.

*Finished admission episodes (FAE)*

| *Age at start of episode* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0-4[1] | 366,147 | 377,638 | 365,820 | 355,364 | 369,829 | 359,423 | 376,158 | 383,894 | 404,159 | 416,441 |
| 5-14 | 231,482 | 222,265 | 225,544 | 229,589 | 232,615 | 227,757 | 230,073 | 236,477 | 248,205 | 236,443 |
| 15-44 | 1,007,962 | 1,015,030 | 1,025,278 | 1,035,337 | 1,029,106 | 1,041,928 | 1,121,150 | 1,207,931 | 1,294,948 | 1,304,535 |
| 45-64 | 650,658 | 679,490 | 701,717 | 714,928 | 720,158 | 735,846 | 791,200 | 846,081 | 893,425 | 919,762 |
| 65-74 | 510,566 | 525,139 | 530,178 | 523,820 | 520,683 | 524,597 | 555,973 | 575,577 | 589,278 | 586,468 |
| 75-84 | 580,449 | 613,495 | 621,070 | 619,872 | 628,879 | 655,941 | 710,517 | 746,906 | 754,426 | 748,911 |
| 85-120 | 315,304 | 343,222 | 355,589 | 361,060 | 369,630 | 384,777 | 407,593 | 426,853 | 466,827 | 482,632 |
| Age unknown | 41,564 | 8,675 | 8,471 | 16,866 | 14,880 | 7,757 | 6,605 | 5,402 | 3,786 | 4,825 |

[1] This age category includes babies under the age of one.

*Notes:*

1. FAE

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Admission methods: Emergency

Via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including casualty department of provider

Via General Practitioner (GP)

Via Bed Bureau, including Central Bureau

Via Consultant Out-patient Clinic

Other means—including patients who arrive via A and E department of another healthcare provider.

3. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the national health service there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to prevent children from picking up viruses when visiting hospitals. [176079]

**Ann Keen:** Infections are generally controlled by good infection control practice but national health service trusts may introduce additional measures such as restricting visiting if appropriate. Most visitors, including children, only spend time with one patient and providing they follow hospital advice e.g. on hand washing there is little risk of them acquiring the organism or infecting others.

### Hospitals: Waiting lists

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what written representations his Department has received from NHS trusts on the 18 week waiting time target in the last six months; and if he will place copies of all such representations in the Library. [182646]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department receives a wide range of written representations on issues relating to 18 weeks from national health service trusts. Information on the number of representations received over the last six months and obtaining copies could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Incontinence

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* young people in the UK were identified as having incontinence problems in the latest period for which figures are available. [185558]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. Continence services for children and young people are the responsibility of local primary care trusts, with a view to compliance with standard six of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence.

### Information Centre for Health and Social Care: Data Protection

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates in the last 12 months the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has physically transported data which contain personally-identifiable information; and what guidance the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has issued to its staff on how personally-identifiable information should be transported. [174836]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre for health and social care frequently transports data containing personally-identifiable information, where approval has been given by the Patient Information Advisory Group.

The Information Centre for health and social care has an information security policy, which ensures that all staff are made aware of their roles and responsibilities of the correct transportation of personally-identifiable information.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister and the written statement made on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A further report is expected in spring 2008.

### Information Services Division

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remit is of the Information Services Division in his Department. [185596]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Services Division has a remit to provide the following services within the Department:

security: definition and enforcement of all information technology (IT) security policies, including those relating to protection of data, business continuity, project assurance, the appropriate use of IT facilities, computer viruses, security vetting and the reporting of losses and thefts of equipment;

IT strategy: determination and implementation of the Department's IT strategy;

business and systems analysis: the capture and analysis of requirements and the provision of advice and guidance on where technology can assist with business change and business improvement;

IT application development: the planning, project management, implementation;

testing and delivery of new IT systems where the users are Departmental employees, not NHS staff;

user support: provision of advice, support and equipment to business users on IT services and desktop products;

IT application support: the performance of daily operational activities to ensure that the Department's systems are available for use and the resolution of technical incidents and problems experienced;

supplier management: the management of external suppliers of IT goods and services to ensure best value for money and the delivery of contractually agreed service levels;

knowledge management and IT skills development: delivering training, advice and consultancy service on all aspects of knowledge management;

freedom of information unit: provision of advice and guidance on all aspects of the regulations relating to freedom of information and data protection;

library services: delivery of up-to-date information on health and social care through the provision of an inquiry service, the purchase of publications, the development and advice on the departmental thesaurus and taxonomy;

web services: production, publishing, hosting and maintenance of the Department's websites;

records management: implementation of information management policies relating to paper and electronic records created by the Department, and managing the departmental records office file store contract for the Department and selected agencies;

directory services: management and publication of central databases containing information about staff, business groups and building addresses for the Department and related external organisations;

delivery and operation of NHS Choices website; and

professional oversight and guidance to the IT organisations within departmental arms length bodies.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182832]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of complaints are given in the following table for the calendar year 2007. Where there has been at least one complaint but less than five the exact figure is not provided on grounds of confidentiality. Any such situation is marked <5 in the table. Nil returns are marked zero.

| *Department/agency* | *Complaint—bullying* |
|---|---|
| Departmental | 6 |
| NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency | 0 |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency | <5 |

### Malnutrition: Standards

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to include malnutrition in the quality and outcomes framework for general practitioners. [182140]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As part of the ongoing development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), indicators and clinical areas are continuously reviewed in the light of the clinical evidence base. The expert panel advises the QOF negotiations on the evidence for new areas for clinical intervention in terms of the benefits to patients. The scope for new areas depends on the strength of the evidence base, priorities for health, and the resource available to deliver them.

However, the identification of patients suffering from malnutrition who attend their general practitioner would be considered part of normal essential services delivered in general practice.

### MRSA

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the decision was taken to release under embargo statistics on *(a)* MRSA and *(b) Clostridium difficile* published by the Health Protection Agency on 30 January 2008; for what reason the decision was taken to release statistics under embargo; on what dates (i) he, (ii) his special advisers and (iii) other officials of his Department held discussions with the Health Protection Agency on the release of statistics under an embargo, and what the content of the discussions was; to which (A) organisations and (B) individuals the statistics were issued under embargo; and if he will make a statement. [185994]

**Ann Keen:** On 16 January 2008 Departmental and Health Protection Agency officials agreed to release the information at 10:00 am on 29 January. It was distributed under embargo until 00:01 hours on 30 January to national and regional journalists with an interest in health to give them more time to look at the statistics in detail before reporting on them. It was also copied to the Health Care Commission.

This was in addition to the routine distribution of the pre-publication data to the national health service.

### NHS Business Services Authority: Data Protection

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates in the last 12 months the NHS Business Services Authority has physically transported data which contain personally-identifiable information; and what guidance the NHS Business Services Authority has issued to its staff on how personally-identifiable information should be transported. [174837]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) transports a considerable volume of personally-identifiable data on virtually every working day.

The NHSBSA has a data protection policy and an information security policy, which ensure that all staff are made aware of their roles and responsibilities for the correct transportation of personally-identifiable information. Staff also receive computer based training in data protection and information security which covers how information should be sent outside of the organisation. Reminders are also issued through a variety of internal communications mechanisms. The NHSBSA constantly reviews the security arrangements for data it is transporting.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister and the written statement made on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A further report is expected in spring 2008.

### NHS Employers: Freedom of Information

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Employers is defined as a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [184559]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No. NHS Employers is a company limited by guarantee, and works as part of the NHS Confederation. As such, it is not considered a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. NHS Employers provides services under contract to the Department, and also acts independently to represent the interests of individual national health service employers.

### NHS Foundation Trusts: Public Appointments

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to place senior appointments in NHS foundation trusts within the terms of reference of the Commissioner of Public Appointments; and if he will make a statement. [182465]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In line with their independent status, schedule 7 of the National Health Service Act 2006 sets out how appointments to NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs) are to be made. Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) has issued guidance on the procedure and principles for appointments in NHSFTs which is consistent with their public service values. The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance is available at Monitor's website:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/documents/Monitor_Code_Gov_find.pdf

### NHS Treatment Centres: Christchurch

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the former NHS Health Centre in Saxon Square, Christchurch was vacated; and when he expects it will be brought back into use. [186117]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The former health centre at Saxon Square was vacated in 1989. Since then a number of unsuccessful attempts have been made to dispose of the Secretary of State's long leasehold interest in the property.

Discussions are currently taking place with Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust for them to take responsibility for the leasehold interest and to bring the property back into national health service use. If these are concluded, it is expected the property will be brought back into use in 12 to 18 months.

### NHS: Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in NHS premises were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166744]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following percentages represent the number of products imported for each category:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Beef | 10 |
| Lamb | 85 |
| Pork | 15 |
| Dairy | 20 |

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 525W, on NHS finance, what his Department's latest estimate is of the outturn for NHS resource spending in 2007-08. [184478]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department will release its latest forecast of outturn national health service resource spending for 2007-08 in the "Department of Health Department Report 2008", due to be published in May 2008.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 657W, on NHS: finance, which new indicators are under consideration for inclusion in the Better Care Better Value indicators. [185577]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** While further testing will be necessary it is likely that future publications by the National Health Service Institute will include indicators covering did not attend rates, ratios of new to follow-up appointments in outpatients and emergency readmission rates. The indicator set will be further expanded in subsequent quarters.

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means his Department monitors primary care trusts' commissioning of services to ensure funding is according to patient need. [186934]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts (PCTs), working with their partners, are responsible for ensuring that their local communities have the opportunity to be fully engaged in the commissioning decisions that they take. By listening, understanding and responding to peoples' expressed needs and preferences commissioners can be sure that the services that are made available are right for their populations.

This is why Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09 requires PCTs to adopt a systematic and rigorous approach to seeking, collecting and acting on the views of individuals and partners in the local community, including carrying out joint strategic needs assessments.

PCTs are expected to respond by setting local commissioning priorities accordingly. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for ensuring that these priorities reflect local health needs, informed by local indicators for PCTs. Performance against these indicators will be published to allow members of the public, as well as the Department and the SHAs, to assess how well or poorly their PCT is performing in relation to the local priorities it has set.

## NHS: ICT

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 333W, on NHS: ICT, which stakeholders his Department *(a)* has consulted and *(b)* plans to consult in its informatics review; and whether he expects to publish interim findings emerging during the course of the review. [185576]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** To date, the informatics review has involved over 400 stakeholders during the analysis phase. These consultations have involved a broad range of stakeholders from front-line national health service organisations, including clinicians, senior managers and senior information management and technology staff; policy makers and other senior staff from within the Department; the Department's arms-length bodies; the medical professional representative and health regulatory bodies; and commercial organisations and suppliers.

During February 2008 another phase of consultative engagement will take place in each of the strategic health authorities in the form of locally-run events with input from of a large number of NHS staff to validate and further inform the review. In addition, a smaller number of members of the public and patients will be invited to offer their own perspective.

There are no current plans to publish interim findings. The recommendations from the informatics review will be finalised within the context and timeframes set for the NHS Next Stage review being led by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi), and expected to publish its final report during summer 2008.

## NHS: KPMG

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1029W, on NHS: KPMG, when he expects to be in a position to publish the report by KPMG on the financial viability of the four acute hospital trusts in outer South East London. [185023]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The KPMG report into the financial position of the four financially challenged trusts in South East London was commissioned in order to inform Ministers and officials as to the possible solutions for the repayment of the historic debt in the trust.

This report was produced in order to, and is still being used to, inform Ministers and officials as part of this financially challenged trust's review process and, as such, we feel the release of the report may prejudice their ability to rely on free and frank advice that is contained within.

It should also be noted that any decisions regarding these four organisations will be heavily influenced by the outcome of NHS London's "A Picture of Health" public consultation which is due to run until 7 April 2008.

In addition the report contains a detailed breakdown of the trust's financial position including valuations on the organisations assets and liabilities, which if made public may harm the organisation in future negotiations with commercial partners.

Some of these issues remain relevant for the foreseeable future and therefore we are unable to put a timescale on when the report will be published.

## NHS: PFI

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2288W, on the NHS: private finance initiative, if he will state, for each of the schemes *(a)* given the go-ahead and *(b)* opened, the nature of the

rebuild project, including any estimate of the number of beds within the rebuilt area. [184300]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

Information on the number of beds in each new build scheme could be collected only by going through each business case which would incur disproportionate cost.

| *NHS Trust or PCT* | *Capital value (£ million)* | *Financial Close/Tender award date* | *Operational date* | *Scheme description* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hospital build schemes approved to proceed (and under construction)* | | | | |
| Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 19 | 23 December 2004 | 15 February 2008 | Elderly and Mental Health Units |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 36 | 27 March 2006 | 15 February 2008 | Garrett Anderson Treatment Centre |
| South London and Maudsley | 25 | 12 September 2005 | 29 February 2008 | Bethlem Royal Hospital Development (Forensic services) |
| The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals | 299 | 27 April 2005 | 1 March 2008 | Relocation of Northern Centre for Cancer to Freeman Hospital and reconfiguration of Renal and Elderly Services Redevelopment of Royal Victoria Infirmary |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 67 | 21 February 2006 | 1 April 2008 | Reconfiguration of Cancer facilities |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals | 129 | 13 December 2005 | 1 April 2008 | Integrated Cancer Centre |
| Derby Hospitals | 312 | 12 September 2003 | 1 June 2008 | Consolidation of Acute Services on Derby City General |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 30 | 29 June 2006 | 1 August 2008 | Reprovision of Brentwood Community Hospital |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals | 51 | 1 August 2006 | 1 September 2008 | Cardiac Centre |
| St. Helens Hospitals | 338 | 1 June 2006 | 1 November 2008 | Acute Hospital development |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals | 512 | 14 December 2004 | 1 January 2009 | Major work to provide three hospitals for Women, Children, Adults and a specialist Eye hospital |
| Taunton and Somerset | 21 | 28 February 2007 | 31 January 2009 | Cancer Centre |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals | 29 | 1 May 2007 | 31 January 2009 | Cardiac Centre |
| University Hospital of North Staffordshire | 55 | 1 December 2006 | 1 March 2009 | Maternity and Oncology Unit |
| United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol | 64 | 16 October 2006 | 1 March 2009 | Cardiothoracic Centre |
| Sherwood Forest Hospitals | 326 | 29 October 2005 | 1 April 2009 | Rebuild and refurbishment of the King's Mill site and Mansfield community hospital |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 29 | 3 May 2007 | 1 April 2009 | Part of Midlands Mental Health batch |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals | 40 | 14 October 2007 | 1 April 2009 | Acute Accident Unit |
| Portsmouth Hospitals | 236 | 12 December 2005 | 1 June 2009 | Relocation of Acute services currently spread across three sites onto a single site (which will include a Ministry of Defence unit) |
| Derbyshire Mental Health Services | 36 | 9 October 2007 | 10 June 2009 | Part of Midlands Mental Health batch |
| South Essex Partnership | 32 | 5 October 2007 | 1 September 2009 | Medium and Low security Mental Health unit on Runwell hospital site |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys | 75 | 12 December 2007 | Q1 2010 | Replacement of St. Lukes hospital offering general and forensic mental health service |
| Walsall Hospitals | 169 | 3 November 2007 | 1 March 2010 | Improving Children's services and provision of primary care centres |
| University Hospital Birmingham / Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health | 627 | 8 June 2006 | 1 March 2010 | Single site hospital to replace Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals and provide a new Mental Health Unit (Joint scheme with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health) |
| Northamptonshire Healthcare | 36 | 31 October 2007 | 1 March 2010 | Reprovision of institutional Mental Health services. Includes in-patient and Adult continuing care at Pendreds hospital. |
| North Middlesex University Hospital | 144 | 27 July 2007 | Q2 2010 | Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals | 353 | 22 June 2007 | 1 May 2010 | Rationalisation from two main sites to one at Pinderfields Hospital. Small Unit at Pontefract |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services | 148 | 6 December 2007 | Q3 2010 | Relocation of Maternity Unit and modernisation of Acute Services including DTC in Chelmsford |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services | 109 | 13 September 2007 | Q4 2010 | Integration of services onto one site |
| Salford Royal Hospitals | 190 | 5 September 2007 | Q1 2011 | New build and refurbishment at Hope Hospital Salford |
| Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children | 75 | 9 October 2006 | 1 August 2011 | Reprovision of hospital buildings |
| Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals | 336 | 29 June 2007 | 1 March 2012 | Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services |

| NHS Trust or PCT | Capital value (£ million) | Financial Close/Tender award date | Operational date | Scheme description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| University Hospital of North Staffordshire/Stoke PCT | 375 | 13 June 2007 | 1 November 2012 | Major new build and reconfiguration at University Hospital site |
| Barts and the London | 1,000 | 27 April 2006 | 1 November 2013 | Acute site rationalisation including path lab |
| *Operational hospital build schemes* | | | | |
| Queen Mary's Sidcup/Oxleas | 21 | 11 December 1998 | 30 March 2000 | Joint procurement to reprovide mental health services |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals | 67 | 3 November 1997 | 10 April 2000 | Centralisation to new Cumberland Infirmary site in Carlisle |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals | 24 | 14 August 1998 | 1 August 2000 | Redevelopment at Rochdale |
| Dartford and Gravesham | 94 | 30 July 1997 | 11 September 2000 | New acute hospital on the Darenth Valley site consolidating services from three hospitals into one modern, flexible accommodation |
| Nottingham University Hospitals | 17 | 24 May 1999 | 1 October 2000 | ENT/Ophthalmology at Queen's Medical Centre |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals | 45 | 14 December 1997 | 17 October 2000 | DGH. Rationalisation of Acute services onto two sites at Wycombe and Amersham. |
| Sussex Partnership | 22 | 24 June 1999 | 31 January 2001 | Reprovision of Graylingwell Hospital |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals | 24 | 19 September 1998 | 1 February 2001 | Jessops Wing for women's services |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital | 96 | 1 July 1998 | 28 February 2001 | Part new build and part refurbishment of hospital in Greenwich |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals | 61 | 31 March 1998 | 2 April 2001 | New district hospital for North Durham at Dryburn |
| Calderdale and Huddersfield | 65 | 31 July 1998 | 8 April 2001 | DGH. New Acute Facility (now called Calderdale Royal Hospital) on the former Halifax General Hospital site |
| University Hospitals of South Manchester | 67 | 8 June 1998 | 25 July 2001 | Site rationalisation at Wythenshawe Hospital |
| North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare | 28 | 8 December 1999 | 1 September 2001 | Reprovision of mental health facilities |
| Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals | 158 | 9 January 1998 | 21 September 2001 | New District General Hospital |
| Hereford Hospitals | 64 | 31 March 1999 | 1 March 2002 | New District General Hospital |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals | 54 | 1 February 1999 | 2 March 2002 | Modernising Barnet General Hospital |
| North East London Mental Health | 11 | 4 July 2000 | 4 March 2002 | Acute mental health services development at Goodmayes Hospital |
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals | 87 | 18 March 1999 | 18 March 2002 | New District General Hospital |
| Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health | 18 | 15 August 2000 | 18 March 2002 | Reprovision of mental health facilities on Erdington and Winson Green sites |
| Cornwall Partnership—Bodmin | 10 | 31 October 2000 | 1 June 2002 | Bodmin Hospital development |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals | 48 | 28 May 1999 | 8 June 2002 | Redevelopment of Bishop Auckland General Hospital |
| East London | 15 | 5 September 2000 | 11 June 2002 | Mental Health reprovision at Newham |
| Royal Berkshire | 84 | 1 July 1997 | 27 July 2002 | Service consolidation on Royal Berkshire site |
| Luton and Dunstable | 15 | 21 November 2000 | 9 September 2002 | St. Marys Wing Development in Luton |
| King's College Hospital | 76 | 6 December 1999 | 7 October 2002 | New block |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT | 14 | 1 December 2000 | 7 October 2002 | Sheppey Hospital development |
| Swindon and Marlborough | 100 | 5 October 1999 | 3 December 2002 | New District General Hospital |
| Leeds Partnerships | 47 | 1 March 2000 | 16 December 2002 | Reprovision of mental health services throughout Leeds |
| Northumbria Healthcare | 18 | 16 November 2000 | 25 March 2003 | Phase 2 development of Wansbeck General Hospital |
| Bromley Hospitals | 118 | 19 November 1998 | 29 March 2003 | New Farnborough hospital |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals | 22 | 8 December 2000 | 29 March 2003 | Maternity and acute development—Hull Royal Infirmary |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 15 | 4 May 2001 | 28 April 2003 | Community hospital redevelopment |
| Berkshire Healthcare | 30 | 2 May 2001 | 29 April 2003 | Construction of new mental health facility at Fairmile |
| West Middlesex University Hospital | 60 | 30 January 2001 | 16 May 2003 | New District General Hospital |
| The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals | 13 | 20 March 2002 | 23 June 2003 | Radiology unit |
| Northumbria Healthcare | 55 | 27 April 2001 | 12 July 2003 | Redevelopment of Hexham General Hospital |
| South Tees Acute Hospitals | 122 | 16 August 1999 | 1 August 2003 | Site redevelopment and centralisation of acute hospital services at James Cook University Hospital |
| St. George's Healthcare | 46 | 20 March 2000 | 11 September 2003 | Major replacement of Neurological and cardiac units |

| NHS Trust or PCT | Capital value (£ million) | Financial Close/Tender award date | Operational date | Scheme description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camden and Islington | 26 | 1 October 2001 | 1 October 2003 | Adult Mental Health Unit. |
| Surrey PCT | 29 | 29 October 2001 | 1 November 2003 | The provision of a local care centre at Farnham Hospital |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals | 10 | 30 May 2002 | 18 November 2003 | New community Hospital at Chester-le-Street |
| Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals | 12 | 1 May 2001 | 16 February 2004 | New women's and children's unit at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital |
| West London Mental Health | 14 | 1 December 2000 | 2 February 2004 | Security upgrade of Broadmoor Hospital |
| Berkshire West PCT | 19 | 4 July 2002 | 1 March 2004 | New Community facilities centralised onto one site from Newbury and Sandleford Hospitals |
| Devon PCT | 10 | 1 July 2002 | 25 May 2004 | New Tiverton Community Hospital |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals | 40 | 9 September 2002 | 1 June 2004 | Maternity and gynaecology unit at Royal Preston Hospital |
| Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh | 25 | 1 November 2000 | 19 June 2004 | Royal Albert Edward infirmary |
| Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals | 57 | 1 October 2003 | 1 September 2004 | Heart and Lung Centre |
| Central and North West London | 35 | 1 September 2002 | 1 September 2004 | Mental health facilities at Woofield Road and St. Charles. |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals—Wharfedale | 14 | 20 September 2002 | 4 November 2004 | Replacement of Wharfedale General Hospital |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals | 32 | 1 May 2002 | 13 November 2004 | Total site redevelopment |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys | 16 | 4 July 2003 | 13 December 2004 | New Mental Health Unit at West Park |
| Barnet PCT | 40 | 1 April 2001 | 15 March 2005 | Edgware Community hospital development. |
| Brighton and Sussex University | 12 | 12 December 2003 | 31 March 2005 | New theatre and refurbishment of existing theatres |
| Dudley Group of Hospitals | 137 | 1 May 2001 | 1 April 2005 | Major replacement of Russells Hall Acute Hospital |
| Brent PCT | 22 | 5 December 2002 | 21 April 2005 | New build mental health facility in Willesden |
| Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health | 15 | 11 August 2003 | 6 June 2005 | Elderly Mental Health Services arid Mental Health rehabilitation services |
| University College London Hospitals | 422 | 12 July 2000 | 12 June 2005 | Major rationalisation of sites and wholescale replacement of University College Hospital |
| West London Mental Health | 36 | 1 October 2002 | 11 October 2005 | Dangerous and severe personalities Unit at Broadmoor |
| Guys and St. Thomas | 50 | 19 September 1998 | 31 October 2005 | New Evelina Children's Hospital |
| Imperial College Healthcare | 25 | 1 October 2003 | 7 November 2005 | Renal Centre |
| Kirklees PCT | 27 | 21 April 2004 | 14 November 2005 | Provision of 6 new Primary Care Centres |
| Sandwell and W Birmingham Hospitals | 26 | 9 December 2002 | 28 November 2005 | Ambulatory Care Centre at City Hospital |
| East London | 34 | 10 October 2002 | 1 December 2005 | Mental Health unit in Tower Hamlets |
| Plymouth Hospitals | 31 | 1 April 2004 | 1 February 2006 | South West Cardiothoracic Centre |
| The Cardiothoracic Centre | 49 | 1 November 2004 | 1 March 2006 | New cardiac Centre in Liverpool |
| Wandsworth PCT | 75 | 6 May 2004 | 10 March 2006 | Redevelopment of Queen Mary's Roehampton. Including specialist rehabilitation and amputee services |
| North West London Hospitals | 69 | 6 November 2003 | 19 March 2006 | Modernisation of Central Middlesex Hospital |
| Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre | 45 | 1 October 2003 | 1 April 2006 | Cardiac Centre |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals | 47 | 21 May 2004 | 15 April 2006 | Partial redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville Hospital |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 32 | 10 May 2004 | 15 May 2006 | Reprovision of Mental Health services at St. George's Hospital Morpeth |
| Salisbury Health Care | 24 | 4 March 2004 | 19 May 2006 | DGH Redevelopment |
| East Lancashire Hospitals | 30 | 13 October 2003 | 23 May 2006 | Burnley Phase V Hospital development |
| Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership | 83 | 1 March 2004 | 13 June 2006 | Redevelopment of Mental Health facilities, community care services and crisis homes |
| East Lancashire Hospitals | 110 | 9 July 2003 | 8 July 2006 | Closure of Blackburn Royal Infirmary and expansion of Queens Park hospital |
| Newham University Hospital | 55 | 27 January 2004 | 8 July 2006 | Reprovision of Acute Services from St. Andrews to Newham General Hospital |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire | 379 | 27 November 2002 | 10 July 2006 | New District General Hospital at Walsgrave |
| Southampton University Hospitals | 53 | 1 February 2004 | 31 July 2006 | Cardiac Centre |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 28 | 3 March 2005 | 19 September 2006 | New Danetre Community Hospital in Daventry |
| The Whittington Hospital | 32 | 9 October 2002 | 20 November 2006 | Redevelopment of Acute Hospital services |
| The Lewisham Hospital | 72 | 8 July 2004 | 27 November 2006 | Redevelopment of University Hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures |

| NHS Trust or PCT | Capital value (£ million) | Financial Close/Tender award date | Operational date | Scheme description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals | 238 | 15 January 2004 | 6 December 2006 | Rationalisation of 2 sites onto 1 adjacent to the existing Oldchurch hospital in Romford |
| Hampshire PCT | 36 | 18 November 2004 | 2 January 2007 | Redevelopment of Lymington Hospital |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals | 134 | 19 December 2003 | 13 January 2007 | Reprovision of specialist services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to a new build on the John Radcliffe Hospital site |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre | 37 | 20 April 2002 | 2 March 2007 | Orthopaedics/medicine redevelopment |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals | 35 | 19 December 2004 | 21 April 2007 | New Hadfield Wing to replace Victorian Vickers wards |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 24 | 21 July 2005 | 23 April 2007 | Neuro Disability Centre |
| Cambridge University Hospital | 76 | 27 October 2004 | 18 May 2007 | Elective Care Centre, Genetics and Diabetes at Addenbrookes |
| Brighton and Sussex University | 36 | 10 June 2004 | 25 June 2007 | Relocation of Royal Alexandra Hospital for sick Children |
| West London Mental Health | 27 | 1 June 2005 | 30 June 2007 | Women's enhanced medium secure services |
| Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals | 59 | 1 November 2003 | 1 July 2007 | Essex Heart and Lung Centre |
| Kingston Hospital | 33 | 23 November 2004 | 3 July 2007 | Redevelopment of Kingston Hospital |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals | 265 | 15 October 2004 | 15 December 2007 | Regional Oncology and Cancer centre at St. James University Hospital |

## NHS: Questionnaires

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Ipsos MORI NHS questionnaires his Department sent out. [181958]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the financial year 2007-08, Ipsos MORI worked with the Department on the following questionnaires. The Department does not send out questionnaires.

| Survey/questionnaire | Number of questionnaires |
|---|---|
| General practitioner patient survey—annual | Approximately 5 million postal questionnaires sent to patients by Ipsos MORI. Approx 2 million questionnaires issued directly to patients at practices. |
| Departmental survey: what matters to staff | The Department's 'What Matters to Staff' research project included the issuing of a survey questionnaire in the summer of 2007 to a random sample of around 32,000 staff in the national health service including practice staff. |
| National patient choice survey—bimonthly | Started in May 2006. Approximately 2,353,187 questionnaires sent to patients to date by NHS trusts. |
| 18 weeks patient experience pilot | Two pilot phases: first pilot (five trusts), approximately 4,500 questionnaires sent to patients by trusts. The second pilot (20 trusts and four primary care trusts) is still underway. |

## Political Impartiality

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what purpose his Department records the political opinions of members of his Department's staff; [177308]

(2) for what purpose his Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179323]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The Department does not keep records of the political opinions of its staff. Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code, and section 4.4 of the Civil Service Management Code.

The Department does not keep records of the political opinions of the public. Members of the public who apply for public appointments within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are asked to complete a declaration on political activity.

## Primary Care Trusts: Procurement

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* considering purchasing commissioning support from the 14 organisations appointed to the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioners. [172904]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are currently five organisations that are considering purchase of commissioning support under the FESC process. These are Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT, North East Lincolnshire PCT, Cambridgeshire PCT, Hampshire PCT and NHS East of England.

Discussions and negotiations between Hillingdon PCT and BUPA have now been completed and a service contract was signed on 30 January 2008.

## Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184684]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of complaints are given in the following table for the calendar year 2007. Where there has been at least one complaint but less than five the exact figure is not provided on grounds of confidentiality. Any such situation is marked <5 in the table. Nil returns are marked zero.

| Type of complaint | Departmental | NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sexual harassment | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual discrimination | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Urology: Nurses

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of specialist urology nurses in infection control. [185556]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* No assessment has been carried out centrally. National health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and must have the freedom to deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

The Department of Health published updated national evidence based guidelines for preventing health care associated infections in NHS hospitals in England as a supplement of the Journal of Hospital Infection in February 2006. The publication includes guidelines for preventing infections associated with short-term indwelling urethral catheters.

### Wheelchairs: Finance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the funding element in primary care trust baseline allocations for the improvement of wheelchair provision for children and young people for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be calculated; and whether such funding will be ring-fenced; [185740]

(2) when he will publish the new model for the delivery of community wheelchair services; [185743]

(3) how much each primary care trust spent on *(a)* equipment, *(b)* overheads and *(c)* staffing costs in relation to the provision of wheelchairs for children and young people in the last year for which figures are available. [185744]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine allocations for the improvement of wheelchair provision for children and young people taking into account local needs, the priorities set out in the national health service operating framework for 2008-09 and other national strategies. The Government recently announced, through the comprehensive spending review, that local authority funding will increase by £2.6 billion by 2010-11 and NHS funding will increase from £35 billion in 1997-98 to £110 billion in 2010-11.

Information on PCT expenditure in relation to wheelchairs for children and young people is not held centrally.

Consideration is being given to the findings and recommendations of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair services project in relation to wheelchair services with a view to confirming the next steps in due course.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Archaeology

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations have been received by his Department since October 2007 from *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords, *(c)* members of the public and *(d)* organisations on the future of the portable antiquities scheme. [184502]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum (BM) and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

Since 1 October 2007, this Department has received *(a)* 131 representations from hon. and right hon. Members, *(b)* two representations from members of the House of Lords and *(c)* 109 from members of the public and other organisations on the subject of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

For the purposes of the Department's correspondence statistics we do not differentiate between letters from the public and letters from organisations.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will transfer the administration of the portable antiquities scheme from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Commission to the British Museum; and if he will make a statement. [184503]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

The PAS is already administered by the British Museum on behalf of the MLA. Any transfer of responsibility for funding of the PAS could only follow after receipt of a joint request from both organisations concerned. My Department would then need to give full and due consideration to such a request, including the impact on the operation of both organisations and the risks involved in such a transfer. No such request has been submitted to my Department.

### Archaeology: Finance

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of operating the portable antiquities scheme without finds advisers. [184567]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum (BM) and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

The PAS is administered by the BM on behalf of the MLA. Any decisions about the delivery of the scheme are, therefore, a matter for these organisations. It is not the intention of either the MLA or the BM to operate the PAS without finds advisers.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many finds liaison officers (FLOs) under the Portable Antiquities Scheme there are for local authorities in the North East; and where each FLO is based. [184964]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

There is one finds liaison officer for the north-east region, based at the Museum of Antiquities at the university of Newcastle.

## Arts

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups and *(d)* from the total population did not (i) participate in arts activity and (ii) attend an arts event in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what estimate his Department has made of the most recent level of arts participation in each such group. [186377]

**Margaret Hodge:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey provides national data on participation in arts activities and attendance at arts events by adults aged 16 and over. The survey has been running since 2005-06 and the latest available data are from 2006-07. Robust and consistent data relating to the priority groups are not available for years prior to the start of Taking Part.

The following tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who did not attend or participate in the arts during the 12 months prior to interview.

*Arts non-participation*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06 (Percentage)* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 54 | 54 |
| Limiting disability | 53 | 53 |
| Lower socio-economic | 58 | 59 |
| All adults | 47 | 48 |

*Arts non-attendance*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06 (Percentage)* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 41 | 43 |
| Limiting disability | 46 | 46 |
| Lower socio-economic | 48 | 48 |
| All adults | 34 | 34 |

Using the latest data available, the following tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who currently did attend and participate in the arts in the 12 months prior to interview.

*Arts participation*

| *Priority group* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 46 |
| Limiting disability | 47 |
| Lower socio-economic | 41 |
| All adults | 52 |

*Arts attendance*

| *Priority group* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 57 |
| Limiting disability | 54 |
| Lower socio-economic | 52 |
| All adults | 66 |

Note that these figures are survey estimates. For further information about the methodology and full definitions of attendance and participation, see the Taking Part annual report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference.library/rands/taking_part_survey/

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged 16 and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups and *(d)* from the total population (i) participated in arts activity and (ii) attended arts events at least twice a year in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [186378]

**Margaret Hodge:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey provides national data on participation in arts activities and attendance at arts events by adults aged 16 and over. The survey has been running since 2005-06 and the latest available data are from 2006-07. Robust and consistent data relating to the priority groups are not available for years prior to the start of Taking Part.

The following tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who attended and participated in the arts at least twice during the 12 months prior to interview. This relates to the frequency of engagement rather than the number of activities attended/participated in.

*Arts participation*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06 (Percentage)* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 42 | 39 |
| Limiting disability | 40 | 40 |
| Lower socio-economic | 36 | 35 |
| All adults | 46 | 45 |

*Arts attendance*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06 (Percentage)* | *2006-07 (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 41 | 39 |
| Limiting disability | 39 | 38 |
| Lower socio-economic | 34 | 33 |
| All adults | 50 | 49 |

Note that these figures are survey estimates. For further information about the methodology and full definitions of attendance and participation, see the Taking Part annual report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference.library/rands/taking_part_survey/

### Arts Council England South East

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport why the appropriate papers and minutes were not available in advance of the Arts Council South East meeting in December 2007. [186812]

**Margaret Hodge:** The appropriate papers and minutes for the 7 December 2007 meeting of the Arts Council South East Council were distributed to council members on 28 November 2007.

The Arts Council's publication scheme gives details on what information it is committed to make publicly available. The minutes of meetings of regional arts councils are published on Arts Council England's website after they have been approved by the regional council, usually at its subsequent meeting. The Arts Council publication scheme says that information will not be published where it is not in the public interest to do so. This may include papers for regional council meetings, which may contain funding recommendations or other commercially sensitive information.

The Arts Council's publication scheme is available on their website at:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?sid= 1&id=413

Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Arts Council England South East: Komedia

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what papers will be made public relating to Komedia's appeal to the Arts Council South East regarding reductions in funding. [186813]

**Margaret Hodge:** Arts Council England operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them. The Arts Council has a publication scheme which is available on their website at:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?sid=1&id=413

This gives details of their general policy on the information they make publicly available. Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Under this scheme, the Arts Council does not publish papers where it is not in the public interest to do so, which may include commercially sensitive information relating to funding decisions about individual organisations. Arts Council England, South East will not in this case be making any papers public relating to the proposals regarding reductions in funding.

### Arts Council of England: Grants

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations in the North West have been notified by Arts Council England of withdrawal of funding; what amounts are involved in each case; and what transitional arrangements are to be put in place in each case. [185588]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

Organisations which have been notified of the Arts Council decision to withdraw funding are as follows:

| *Organisation* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| Centre for Arts Development Training (CADT) | 14,000 |
| Southport Arts Centre | 23,900 |
| New Works (Liverpool Lunchtime Theatre) | 28,700 |
| Cartwheel Arts Ltd. | 50,500 |
| Business In The Arts:North West | 62,700 |
| The Entertainment and arts marketers (Mersey) | 68,600 |
| Citadel | 78,900 |
| Rejects Revenge Theatre Company | 90,500 |
| Chester Gateway Theatre | 135,000 |
| Doo Cot Theatre | 173,100 |
| Lip Service Theatre Company | 39,200 |
| South Lakeland DC | 8,900 |
| Copeland BC | 23,100 |
| Allerdale BC | 25,400 |
| Barrow In Furness BC | 41,700 |
| Cumbria CC | 41,900 |
| Carlisle CC | 71,700 |

I understand that no formal arrangements for transitional funding have yet been put in place and that discussions are ongoing with the organisations concerned.

### Bingo

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* bingo halls and *(b)* high street bookmakers there are; and how many there were in February 2007. [185951]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** No figures are available for the number of high street bookmakers in operation in February 2007. Prior to the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), high street bookmakers were authorised by permits issued by magistrates courts and no information was collated centrally. The most recent estimate, made in 2003, was that there were 8,800 high street bookmakers.

Under the 2005 Act, the Gambling Commission is responsible for issuing general betting standard operating licences for high street bookmakers, and licensing authorities are responsible for bookmakers' premises licences. The Gambling Commission has so far issued 691 such operating licences.

In March 2007, the number of bingo halls holding licences was 647, of which 634 were actually operating. Under the 2005 Act, the Gambling Commission is responsible for issuing bingo operating licences for

bingo halls, and licensing authorities are responsible for bingo premises licences. The Gambling Commission has so far issued 218 such operating licences.

The Gambling Commission will be responsible for collecting information on the number of bookmakers' and bingo premises licences issued by licensing authorities, but complete information is not yet available.

### British Amusement Catering Trade Association

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations his Department has received from the British Amusement Catering Trade Association; and if he will make a statement. [186200]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was published in April 2005 to accompany the Gambling Act. The RIA included an assessment of the impact of the Act on the gaming machine sector. Copies of the RIA are available in the House Library.

In addition, impact assessments were prepared for each piece of secondary legislation required to implement the Act. These are published with the related explanatory memorandum on the Office for Public Sector Information website (www.opsi.gov.uk <http://www.opsi.gov.uk>), and separately on the Department's website (www.culture.gov.uk <http://www.culture.gov.uk>)

The Department is engaged in active and continuing dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA). Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with BACTA officials and members in recent months to discuss issues of concern to the arcades and gaming machine sectors.

### Casinos

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many adult gaming centres are in operation; and how many were in operation in February 2007. [185952]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** No figures are available for the number of adult gaming centres (AGCs) in operation in February 2007. Prior to the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), adult gaming centres were authorised by permits issued by individual local authorities and no information was collated centrally.

Under the 2005 Act, the Gambling Commission is responsible for issuing gaming machine general operating licences for an AGC, and licensing authorities are responsible for AGC premises licences. The Gambling Commission has so far issued 634 such operating licences.

The Gambling Commission will be responsible for collecting information on the number of AGC premises licences issued by licensing authorities, but complete information is not yet available.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the financial impact the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 has had on adult gaming centres in England and Wales. [186202]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was published in April 2005 to accompany the Gambling Act. The RIA included an assessment of the impact of the Act on the gaming machine sector. Copies of the RIA are available in the House Library.

In addition, impact assessments were prepared for each piece of secondary legislation required to implement the Act. These are published with the related explanatory memorandum on the Office for Public Sector Information website (www.opsi.gov.uk <http://www.opsi.gov.uk>), and separately on the Department's website (www.culture.gov.uk <http://www.culture.gov.uk>)

The Department is engaged in active and continuing dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA). Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with BACTA officials and members in recent months to discuss issues of concern to the arcades and gaming machine sectors.

### Casinos: Licensing

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether problem gambling may be taken into account by a local authority considering whether to grant a casino premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005. [184638]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Act for the first time provides licensing authorities with the power to resolve not to issue further casino premises licences in their area. The licensing authority may take into account any principle or matter in making its decision, and may pass a resolution at any time.

Licensing authorities also have the discretion to grant or reject premises licence applications, including any premises licences issued in respect of casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005.

In reaching a decision, licensing authorities must take account of their own three year licensing policy statement and the codes of practice and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. Licensing authorities must also take into account the three licensing objectives of the Act, which include protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

### Convergence Think Tank

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the members are of his Convergence Think Tank; on which dates the Convergence Think Tank plans to hold its seminars; what the title is of each seminar; what the *(a)* names and *(b)* job titles are of those invited to attend each seminar; and what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing and running the Convergence Think Tank. [183448]

**Andy Burnham:** The Convergence Think Tank consists of a steering group of senior officials from my Department, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and four industry experts; Robin Foster, Chris Earnshaw, John Willis and Tess Read. There is also a strategy team of officials

from my Department and BERR. Ofcom will also provide input to the think tank's work.

On 21 December we announced details of the industry experts and of the first three seminars:

1. 'Why does convergence matter?'—7 February 2008.

2. 'Competition and Innovation: content and services'—18 March 2008.

3. 'Competition and Innovation: networks'—22 April 2008.

Further seminars are planned and will be announced in due course.

Costs are currently estimated at £300,000, in addition to internal staff costs.

Around 250 invitations have been sent out to date and I will send a copy of the list of invitees to the hon. Member and arrange for copies of the list to be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

### Cultural Heritage

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role of the Chair of the World Collections Programme will be in decisions relating to requests from foreign governments and cultural institutions for the restitution of artefacts held by British museums. [184405]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The aim of the six museums involved in the World Collections Programme and consequently that of the Chair is to develop their connections with other collections around the world. The role does not carry any decision-making responsibilities in relation to restitution requests for items in national collections.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many external *(a)* consultants and *(b)* consultancies were given access to (i) commercially confidential and (ii) personal data by his Department in the last 12 months. [184779]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Six external consultancies were given access to commercially confidential data in the last 12 months as part of the delivery of departmental projects. No external consultants or consultancies were given access to personal data by my Department in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185419]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains the following databases:

| *Database* | |
|---|---|
| Freedom of Information Act Case Management System | Used to record and progress FoI cases and general correspondence through the DCMS |
| Asset Tracking | Records location of DCMS hardware assets, e.g. PCs, servers, etc. and software |
| Cabinet Committee Correspondence | Records details of correspondence for the Cabinet |
| Central Information and Briefing Unit Wiki | Holds information on the current work programmes in the Department |
| Lottery Grants | Records details of lottery grants made by distributing bodies on behalf of good causes |
| Records Centre | Records details of all DCMS records |
| Records Centre (Online) | Used to request DCMS records |
| Parliamentary Questions | Used to record and progress all parliamentary questions assigned to the DCMS |
| Sponsored Bodies | Records details of DCMS sponsored bodies and appointments of member to these bodies |
| Calendar of Events | Records details of DCMS events |
| User Accounts Report Form/Password Reset Database | Used to unlock accounts and request access to various applications |
| Calendar of IT Works Database | Records details of IT events, e.g. downtime |
| Consultation (Internal) | Used by the DCMS to record results of consultations e.g. BBC Charter Review |
| Consultation (External) | Used by the members of the public to record their views of consultations e.g. BBC Charter Review |
| Dome Documents | Records details of records associated with the Millennium Dome |
| Information Centre Enquiry | Used by the Information Centre and Central Information and Briefing Unit to record details of enquiries to the DCMS both from members of the public and from within the DCMS |
| Skills | Used to record details of DCMS staff skills, knowledge and experience |
| Memorial Services | Used to support memorial services organised by the Department |
| Government Art Collection Management System | Used to manage the artworks in the Government Art Collection |
| Staff Directory | Maintains details of users' contact details and roles |
| Honours Database | Used to store details of honours and potential candidates for honours |

### Departmental E-mail

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on staff using their departmental email accounts for commercial purposes unrelated to their work. [184636]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The departmental e-mail system is primarily for work use. Occasional and reasonable personal use is permitted provided it does not interfere with the performance of duties. Any activity that would bring the Department into disrepute is prohibited.

## Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1809W, on departmental marketing, what the size was of each of the two displays produced for the London Open House. [184796]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The two displays produced for the London Open House had identical dimensions, as follows:

| | *cm* |
|---|---|
| Width | 67.5 |
| Depth | 99 |

## Departmental Statistics

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish updated versions of statistics included in the *(a)* Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport, *(b)* Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistics, *(c)* Creative Industries Economic Estimates and *(d)* Television Export Statistics publications. [186354]

**Margaret Hodge:** The most recent versions of statistics are currently available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/rands/.

The table shows when the following statistics are currently scheduled to be updated and released:

| *Statistic* | *Type of release* | *Release date* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Taking Part Survey: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport | Year three provisional estimates, and Public Service Agreement 3 progress report | June 2008 |
| *(b)* Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistics Bulletin | 2007-08 Annual Bulletin | Autumn 2008 |
| *(c)* Creative Industries Economic Estimates | Annual update | Autumn 2008 |
| *(d)* Television Export Statistics publication | 2007 Annual Report | April 2008[1] |

[1] Television Export Statistics publication release to be confirmed

For all national statistics, and where possible for other products, we publish the month of release six months before and a release date up to four weeks before.

Publication dates of all future statistical releases are available on the research and statistics section on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/rands/.

The website should be checked for the most up to date release information.

## Digital Broadcasting: Television

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what performance indicators the BBC have established for evaluating the value for money of its funding of Digital UK. [184272]

**Andy Burnham:** This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Director of Finance to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the results were of Digital UK's monthly external mystery shopping of its call centres in each month since August 2007. [184273]

**Andy Burnham:** Digital UK (DUK) does not conduct monthly external mystery shopping assessments of its UK call centre in Scotland. Instead, to date, DUK has commissioned GfK Mystery Shopping to carry out two waves of 50 assessments of their customer call centre in September and in October 2007, which were designed to test the call centre both in advance of the first Whitehaven/Copeland digital switchover and up to and including the switchover date itself on 17 October, when a higher volume of calls had been expected. The results of the first wave of assessments carried out in September are summarised as follows:

92 per cent. of agents appeared knowledgeable in relation to the inquiries overall.

Switchover dates when provided were given accurately. A number of callers (17) were not provided with switchover dates in their areas. These occasions were generally during call scenarios where the provision of a switchover date was not imperative.

86 per cent. of callers had a more positive view of Digital UK after the call and 30 per cent. of callers rated the service they received as excellent.

The results of the assessment carried out between 15 and 17 October in the final week leading up to and including the first Whitehaven/Copeland switchover date itself are summarised as follows:

88 per cent. of agents appeared knowledgeable in relation to the inquiries.

90 per cent. of callers had a more positive view of Digital UK after the call and 40 per cent. of callers rated the service they received as excellent.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the receiver equipment provided as part of the digital switchover help scheme includes a talking electronic programme guide to enable access to channels and programmes by blind and partially sighted people; and if he will make a statement. [184776]

**Andy Burnham:** The equipment provided by the Digital Switchover Help Scheme so far has not included a talking Electronic Programme Guide (EPG). However, we have had discussions on this issue with the RNIB and it is now under consideration by the Emerging Technologies Group, which has been set up to consider and recommend technological updates to equipment provided by the scheme.

## Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Copeland

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of those in the Copeland area who have received assistance from the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme have opted for *(a)* satellite, *(b)* cable, *(c) television* via a telephone line and *(d)* freeview. [184275]

**Andy Burnham:** The figures are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| (a) | 573 |
| (b) | [1]— |
| (c) | 0 |
| (d) | 2,043 |

[1] Not available in Copeland.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1809W, on digital switchover help scheme: Copeland, what targets were set for the expected response rate from households in Copeland eligible for assistance from the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme. [184471]

**Andy Burnham:** No response rate target was set for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme during the Copeland switchover.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1809W, on digital switchover help scheme: Copeland, what estimate was made of the number of people in Copeland who qualify for the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme who are registered blind or partially sighted and qualify on grounds of registration rather than on grounds of age or entitlement to disability benefits; and what efforts were made to contact them. [184473]

**Andy Burnham:** A total 202 individuals were identified as registered blind or partially sighted people living in the Copeland area. Of these, seven individuals only qualified solely on grounds of being either registered blind or registered partially sighted. All seven individuals were contacted by the Help Scheme operator and invited to make claims.

In addition to the communications issued by Digital UK to all residents, the West Cumbria Society of the Blind contacted approximately 300 of their members in and around the Copeland area to draw attention to the assistance available from the Help Scheme.

### Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost of upgrading a home to receive digital television as part of the targeted assistance programme; and if he will make a statement; [184257]

(2) what the *(a)* best case and *(b)* worst case modelling was for the cost of the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme; [184270]

(3) if he will provide a full budgetary breakdown of the £603 million ring-fenced within the BBC licence fee settlement to pay for the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme; [184274]

(4) how much of the £603 million funding for the targeted assistance scheme has been allocated for contingencies. [184468]

**Andy Burnham:** This information is commercially sensitive while the BBC conducts a procurement process to identify a contractor to deliver the digital switchover help scheme. Once this process is complete, I will place a report in the Libraries of both Houses which sets out the methodology and assumptions used to develop a model to estimate the costs of the help scheme.

### Digital UK: Advertising

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on advertising by digital UK, broken down by region; and how much will be spent on advertising in each region in each year until 2012. [183846]

**Andy Burnham:** I have asked Digital UK to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. I will arrange for copies of the letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Digital UK: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there are plans to set up an email helpline for Digital UK to enable those with hearing difficulties to make enquiries on digital switchover. [183847]

**Andy Burnham:** Digital UK intends to introduce a public e-mail contact channel in autumn 2008. The RNID has advised that e-mail is an accessible communications channel for deaf and hard of hearing people and a specific address for them would not be required. Digital UK's customer contact centre staff have undergone disability awareness training and are able to answer questions relating to all aspects of digital switchover.

Digital UK promotes its text service number 0845 234 0380 on all information leaflets, including door-drops sent to every household in a TV region in the build up to switchover. In addition their leaflets are available on request in large print, Braille and other accessible formats on 0845 234 0388 or through their general call centre number on 08456 50 50 50.

As digital switchover approaches in a region, Digital UK will work through organisations which represent deaf people at a local or regional level to reach those who may need extra help to switch. This was the approach taken in the Copeland area.

RNID and TAG, a consortium of national organisations working on behalf of deaf people to promote equality of access to broadcasting and other electronic communications, are members of the Consumer Expert Group which advises Government and Digital UK on consumer issues relating to digital switchover.

### Dwain Chambers

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions on the decision to allow Dwain Chambers to compete following his drugs ban; and if he will make a statement. [185750]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Secretary of State has not had any discussions on the decision to allow Dwain Chambers to compete following his ban for failing a drug-test.

Selection of athletes is a matter for the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport, in this case UK Athletics, in line with the rules set out in the World Anti-Doping Code.

### European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to mark 2008 as the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. [185373]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, for which my Department is in the lead, provides an opportunity to highlight the UK's achievements in encouraging dialogue and to make further progress. The launch event, hosted by the Slovenian EU presidency in Ljubljana on 6-7 January, was attended by an official from my Department and also by the British Council and other UK organisations.

We have appointed EUCLID, the UK's Cultural Contact Point for the EU Culture Programme, as the UK's National Co-ordinating Body for the Year. We have asked EUCLID to draw up a programme of events. The major events planned so far are the UK launch event for the year in Manchester in early March and a conference in Liverpool on 1-3 May on "Intercultural Cities".

I am also very pleased that Liverpool's project, "Intercultural City", which forms part of Liverpool's Capital of Culture programme, has been chosen by the European Commission as the representative UK national project for the year, and will receive funding from the Commission. This project will last throughout 2008.

We want to encourage all organisations which are planning projects involving intercultural dialogue to apply to register them on the EUCLID website

http://inter.culture.info

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183880]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Staff have the opportunity to purchase fair trade tea, coffee and confectionery in the Department's staff restaurant.

Fair Trade tea and coffee is supplied at official functions and meetings.

### Film

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on his film policy. [183539]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Government aim to help create a sustainable, stable and successful film industry that brings both cultural and economic benefits to the UK.

To achieve this, the UK Government will continue to direct financial support for the production of culturally British films.

The main forms of funding support are the new film tax relief, and grant in aid/lottery funding distributed through a number of organisations including the UK Film Council.

Since the establishment of the UK Film Council in 2000, over 100 feature films have been supported, as have around 300 short films and about 400 script development projects. An estimated 34 million people have seen these films in UK cinemas.

The New Cinema Fund was established to support creative innovation and new talent, and has been involved with such award winning films as Ken Loach's The Wind that Shakes the Barley (Palme d'Or, Cannes) and Kevin MacDonald's Touching the Void (BAFTA, Best British Film).

### Gambling

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the basis was for the decision to introduce B3A machines under the auspices of the Gambling Act 2005; and what evidential factors were considered when deciding to introduce the machines. [185544]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The introduction of the category B3A gaming machine under the Gambling Act 2005 was intended to assist non-commercial clubs, such as the Royal British Legion and Miners' Welfare Institutes, with their fundraising efforts.

The background to the introduction of the B3A category was included in the regulatory impact assessment and explanatory memorandum which accompanied the Categories of Gaming Machine Regulations 2007. The regulations can be accessed at:

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/em/uksiem_20072158_en.pdf

Non-commercial clubs can make the B3A gaming machine available as part of their entitlement to category B machines. The B3A gaming machine has a maximum prize of £500 and must not allow the user to engage in any form of gambling apart from a lottery. At least 20 per cent. of the proceeds from the machine must be used in support of the club's activities, which must be conducted for charitable, sporting, cultural or not-for-profit purposes.

### Historic Buildings: Conservation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to promote the preservation of historic buildings in the West Midlands since 1997. [181578]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* English Heritage has a statutory role in the planning process and provides expert advice and guidance on the maintenance, care and enhancement of historic buildings, monuments and places in the West

Midlands. It works with owners, trusts and local authorities as well as regional and sub-regional strategic partners to find solutions for historic buildings at risk in the region.

Government funding for the historic environment is mostly provided through English Heritage. Since 1997[1], English Heritage has provided £15.2 million in grants for the historic environment in the West Midlands. In addition, it has contributed towards the £20 million provided, with the Heritage Lottery Fund, to listed places of worship in the West Midlands through the Joint Places of Worship Grant Fund.

In addition to English Heritage, between April 2002 and March 2007, £4.8 million has been provided to listed places of worship in the West Midlands through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Between 1997 and 2007, the Heritage Lottery Fund has provided awards worth £185.5 million to the built environment in the West Midlands (including awards to activities such as access, learning, participation and enjoyment of historic buildings).

[1] Figures for period 1998-08. Figures are not available for the period 1997-98.

### Historic Buildings: Plymouth

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made by English Heritage in reaching agreement with Plymouth City Council on the listing of the Civic Centre and its future development. [186102]

**Margaret Hodge:** English Heritage met Plymouth city council in summer 2007 and offered its expertise to help resolve the future of the civic centre. English Heritage remains keen to help negotiate proposals which balance the qualities of the building with the wider regeneration aspirations for the city.

### Jacqueline Asafu-Adjaye

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Ms Jacqueline Asafu-Adjaye is employed by his Department. [184843]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Jacqueline Asafu-Adjaye is employed by DCMS.

### Licensing Act 2003

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timetable is of each element of the assorted evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003. [184639]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government's evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 consists of a number of different projects. A report drawing together the main conclusions from these strands will be published shortly.

The main elements of the evaluation are:

Scrutiny Councils Initiative: a final report was issued in July 2006. The Scrutiny Councils have been asked recently whether there are any updates on the position reported in 2006.

Independent Fees Panel Report: published 25 January 2007.

Review of Statutory Guidance: completed and revised guidance was issued on 28 June 2007.

Live Music Forum Report: published 3 July 2007.

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin: published on 8 November 2007.

DCMS Simplification Plan: the Department's second Simplification Plan was published on 4 December 2007.

Closing times data: commissioned by DCMS from CGA Strategy Ltd. to analyse actual Saturday closing times—data collected and to be published shortly.

The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: the Home Office expects to publish its report shortly.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* police authorities, *(b)* police forces, *(c)* magistrates and the judiciary, *(d)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(e)* local authorities, have been formally consulted as part of the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003. [184640]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The evaluation brings together the various projects which were established to monitor the impact of the Licensing Act 2003. Those projects would have involved a variety of stakeholders. For example, the Scrutiny Council initiative involved 10 local authorities, but also drew on their wider licensing forums and in some cases the experiences of authorities in their surrounding areas. Similarly, the Justices Clerks Society, Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services and the Association of Chief Police Officers were members of the stakeholder group which helped review the statutory guidance to licensing authorities and several police forces and local authorities responded to the consultation on that review.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to reply substantively to the letter of 4 December 2007 from the hon. Member for West Derbyshire concerning his constituent, Mr. B. Mallalieu. [185762]

**Andy Burnham:** The original case referred to in the letter of 4 December 2007 from the right hon. member for West Derbyshire was transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) on the 26 November 2007. Our records show that a letter informing the right hon. member of this transfer was dispatched at the time. I apologise for the delay in responding to the right hon. Member's follow-up letter of 4 December. A reply has now been sent.

### National Lottery: Grants

**Mr. Milburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will estimate the amount of funding from the national lottery *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* in total for each local authority area in each of the last five years. [186453]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The total value of lottery grants awarded since the national lottery began to operate in November 1994 is £19,733,936,681. This figure is derived from the DCMS lottery grants database. This

represents £325.71 per head of population using a population figure of 60,587,300. The population figures used are the mid-2006 estimates of the Office of National Statistics.

The totals awarded in each local authority area in each of the last five years are set out in the following tables. These will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

**National Lottery: Southend on Sea**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in grants from lottery funds to organisations in Southend-on-Sea *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the Essex total in each of the last three years. [186406]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since the national lottery began to operate in November 1994, Southend-on-Sea has received 283 grants with a total award value of £14,712,191. In the same time period Essex has received 4,679 grants with a total value of £258,522,025.

The figures for each of the last three completed financial years are given in the following table.

| | *Financial year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Essex total award value (£) | 19,804,859 | 19,950,420 | 14,018,349 |
| Southend-on-Sea total award value (£) | 579,121 | 729,384 | 1,426,020 |
| Southend-on-Sea percentage of Essex total award value | 2.92 | 3.66 | 10.17 |

The search is location specific. That is the figure includes only grants that are specific to location in the region and exclude grants that might have gone to addresses in the region, but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much was paid in each prize awarded by the national lottery to individuals who purchased lottery tickets in Southend-on-Sea in each of the last three years for which information is available; [186407]

(2) how much was paid in each prize awarded by the national lottery to individuals who reside in Southend-on-Sea in each of the last three years for which information is available. [186408]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not available. The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect prize payout information on a constituency or postcode basis, nor does it collect the addresses of winners who win prizes of less than £500.

Furthermore, Camelot does not collect ticket purchase information on individual retail customers, nor does it collect sales information on a constituency, district, county or postcode basis. However, an analysis of sales data by postcode area is available in the Libraries of both Houses and provides information up to 2004.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of unclaimed national lottery winnings is *(a)* in total and *(b)* arising from tickets sold in Southend-on-Sea since the national lottery began; and how such unclaimed money is managed. [186413]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** From the national lottery's launch in 1994 to 11 February 2008, there has been a total of £978.8 million in unclaimed prizes. The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect a total value of unclaimed prizes in relation to any constituency, district, county or postcode.

Amounts in respect of unclaimed prizes are paid to the Good Causes via the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) or Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) as appropriate, 180 days after the relevant draw, 180 days after the end of the relevant scratchcard game or 180 days after the date on which the Interactive Instant Win Game was played. The unclaimed prize money is held in Player Trust Accounts for the 180-day period. Camelot is required to publicise larger unclaimed prizes in the area where the ticket was purchased during this time in order to encourage winners to come forward. This has included raising public awareness through television, radio and other creative publicity initiatives.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the largest amount of national lottery money is that has been awarded to *(a)* an organisation and *(b)* an organisation in Southend-on-Sea since the lottery was established; and if he will make a statement. [186415]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The largest single grant was awarded to the New Millennium Experience Company. The grant for £604 million was awarded in November 1997.

The largest grant awarded in the local authority area of Southend-on-Sea was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in March 1999. The recipient was the Southend-on-Sea borough council and the grant of £1.5 million was used for the Southend Cliff Gardens Project.

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

**Obesity**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's target is for reducing obesity; and what baseline figure was set. [185255]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Last year's comprehensive spending review set a new public service agreement (PSA) to "Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Children and

Young People", which is co-owned by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

As part of this new PSA, there is the commitment to reduce the rate of increase in obesity among children under 11 as a first step towards a long-term national ambition by 2020 to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels in the context of tackling obesity across the population.

The baseline figure is still in development and will be confirmed by the Department of Health by April this year.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport remains a key partner in delivery of this commitment.

**Portable Antiquities Scheme: Finance**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect a real terms reduction in funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme would have on the reporting of treasure finds in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [186391]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

The PAS is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum (BM). Any assessment regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the BM. The contribution of the PAS to the reporting of treasure finds is recognised and will be a factor in ensuring the scheme's future strength.

**Public Libraries: Standards**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in reducing the striking variation in the standard of library services in different parts of the country identified in his Department's 2003 publication Framework for the Future: Libraries, Learning and Information in the Next Decade. [186949]

**Margaret Hodge:** At a national level my Department continues to advocate for the valuable role libraries play in every community, and to share best practice within the sector to raise national standards. DCMS does not, however, individually manage public library authorities. Libraries are a locally managed and delivered service, and therefore subject to local funding decisions.

In 2004-05 only 55 per cent. of authorities passed more than five Public Library Service Standards (PLSS). This figure rose to 70 per cent. by 2006-07, indicating an overall improvement in national service quality. Among the authorities that have improved most notably are Oldham and the East Riding of Yorkshire—having each passed only three out of 10 Standards in 2004-05, they now pass nine. Improvements in library opening hours have been particularly significant since the introduction of PLSS 2, which challenges authorities to open their libraries for 128 hours per 1,000 population: since the publication of Framework for the Future in 2003 the number of libraries open for more than 60 hours per week has more than doubled, from 42 to 97.

In implementing the Government's strategy for libraries, Framework for the Future, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has introduced a number of programmes to promote improvement in the public library service. 661 people have completed MLA leadership training, ensuring effective delivery of library services into the future. 16 authorities have benefited from the experience and support offered through their successful peer review programme, helping them to improve services.

The MLA also manages The People's Network Service, at:

www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk.

Launched in October 2005 the network presents a national online presence for public libraries, offering 24 hour access to innovative services, plus campaigns and features.

MLA is currently developing a public library strategy for 2008-11 that will build on the successful delivery of Framework for the Future.

**Regional Arts Councils: Public Participation**

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requirement there is for Arts Council regional meetings to be held in public; and if he will make a statement. [186814]

**Margaret Hodge:** Currently there is no requirement for Arts Council regional meetings to be held in public and meetings of both the national and the regional arts councils are not open to members of the public. However, the Arts Council publication scheme sets out the information it is committed to make publicly available, which includes the minutes of national council and regional council meetings. The Arts Council's publication scheme is available on the website:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?sid=1&id=413

Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 on open age sport. [185748]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Children Schools and Families, the Department of Health and the Home Office share responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

We are aware that these Departments received feedback on the issue of under 18-year-olds playing in open age sport from a wide range of stakeholders in the sports sector during the course of last year. We are also aware that they have no intention to make any

activity a regulated activity unnecessarily, particularly if that means children could be denied access to a wide range of sporting activity.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which ministerial colleagues he consulted over the consequences for sport of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [185749]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Children Schools and Families, the Department of Health and the Home Office share responsibility for the Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme and the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

DCMS was involved in the consultation and continues to be involved in discussion on the implementation of the scheme and its impact on the sports sector.

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184688]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There have been no cases of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination in DCMS since 2002. There have been four cases in the Royal Parks since 1991—two cases of sexual discrimination and two cases of sexual harassment.

### Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184105]

**Margaret Hodge:** DCMS has provided no direct grants to these local authorities in the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and has no plans to do so in 2008-09. Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

### Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the take-up of sports opportunities by users from priority groups; and if he will make a statement. [1] [185845]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey is being used to measure progress against this public service agreement.

The most recent results were published in December 2007 and are in the tables. They provide a comparison between the baseline figures and the second year results of the survey.

The moderate level intensity sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on three separate days during the past week.

| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Percentage Year 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 19.2 | 19.6 |
| Limiting disability | 9.5 | 9.4 |
| Lower socio-economic | 15.2 | 15.3 |
| Women | 18.5 | 18.3 |
| All adults | 20.9 | 21.5 |

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Percentage Year 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 53.3 | 51.9 |
| Limiting disability | 32.3 | 31.7 |
| Lower socio-economic | 43.4 | 42.2 |
| Women | 47.7 | 46.2 |
| All adults | 53.7 | 53.4 |

Sport England have been working to increase the number of participants in sport through a range of interventions across sports organisations at a regional and local level; including national governing bodies, county sports partnerships, community sports networks, sports clubs and others. Since 1997-98, over £4 billion has been invested through Government and the lottery on sport in England.

Participation will be an integral part of Sport England's new strategy to build a world-class community sport infrastructure.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged 16 and above *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from low socio-economic groups, *(d)* who are women and *(e)* in total did not participate in any form of sport (i) in each year for which figures are available and (ii) in the latest period for which figures are available. [185846]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** According to the Taking Part survey, the following data represents those who did not participate in any sport or recreational physical activity during the preceding 12 months.

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* |
| Black and minority ethnic | 32.2 | 1,260,639 | 33.9 | 1,333,611 |
| Limiting disability | 54.2 | 4,639,239 | 54.9 | 4,653,667 |

1. *[Official Report, 7 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 27MC.]*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* |
| Lower socio-economic | 41.5 | 6,534,978 | 40.6 | 6,464,348 |
| Women | 35.3 | 7,239,154 | 35.2 | 7,212,542 |
| All adults | 30.5 | 12,114,715 | 29.9 | 11,913,593 |

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged 16 and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from low socio-economic groups, *(d)* who are women and *(e)* in total (i) participated in active sports at least 12 times a year and (ii) engaged in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week (A) in each year for which figures are available and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [2] [185847]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey provides national data on sports participation.

The most recent results were published in December 2007 and are in the tables. They provide a comparison between the baseline figures and the second year results of the survey.

The moderate level intensity sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on three separate days during the past week.

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Year 2* |
| Black and minority ethnic | 19.2 | 19.6 |
| Limiting disability | 9.5 | 9.4 |
| Lower socio-economic | 15.2 | 15.3 |
| Women | 18.5 | 18.3 |
| All adults | 20.9 | 21.5 |

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Year 2* |
| Black and minority ethnic | 53.3 | 51.9 |
| Limiting disability | 32.3 | 31.7 |
| Lower socio-economic | 43.4 | 42.2 |
| Women | 47.7 | 46.2 |
| All adults | 53.7 | 53.4 |

### Sports: Finance

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial support his Department provided to promote *(a)* sport and *(b)* the arts in the North East in each of the last five years. [185394]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS has provided the following financial support to promote *(a)* Sport and *(b)* the Arts in the North East in each of the last five years through Sport England and the Arts Council respectively.

*(a) Sport*

| | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 13,224,971 |
| 2003-04 | 5,017,216 |
| 2004-05 | 18,644,343 |
| 2005-06 | 5,079,713 |
| 2006-07 | 7,364,550 |

In addition, in 2003, DCMS contributed £2.863 million of PFI Credits to the Boldon Colliery Community Theatre and Swimming Pool PFI scheme which is being led by DCSF.

*(b) The Arts in the North East*

| | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 7,297,581 |
| 2003-04 | 14,018,479 |
| 2004-05 | 15,719,234 |
| 2005-06 | 18,127,079 |
| 2006-07 | 18,358,720 |

### Sports: Greater London

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports clubs are registered in each London borough. [185971]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS does not hold the information requested and there is no central register for such clubs.

### Sports: Young People

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to provide support to outstanding young athletes in relation to elite sport. [185320]

**Andy Burnham:** For our most talented athletes, UK Sport, the Government's high performance sports agency, operates a World Class Performance Programme supporting our aspiring Olympic and Paralympic athletes at podium, development and talent levels.

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) and TASS 2012 Scholarships aim to bridge the gap between junior representative sport and world class levels for athletes typically aged between 12 and 25. This provides funding to meet the costs of providing talented athletes with a package of support services, including coaching, sports medicine, conditioning and lifestyle management.

### Telephone Calls: Ofcom

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom to issue its review of charges of calls made to 0870 numbers; what the reasons are for the time taken to complete the review; and if he will make a statement. [184308]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

2. *[Official Report, 7 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 28MC.]*

### Television: Disability Aids

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage digital television *(a)* broadcasters and *(b)* equipment providers to incorporate talking menus and programme guides in digital television (i) broadcasts and (ii) receivers for blind and partially sighted people. [185540]

**Andy Burnham:** Ofcom is responsible for promoting the development of electronic programme guides (EPGs) accessible to people with visual impairments. Ofcom's codes of practice on access services and EPGs already require broadcasters to supply relevant data, and EPG providers to make their EPGs usable by people with visual and hearing impairments, so far as practicable.

There is already one specialised digital receiver available that uses broadcast EPG data to provide a speaking EPG. Ofcom continues to encourage equipment manufacturers and service providers to make available mainstream digital receivers with speaking EPGs.

### Tourism: East of England

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting *(a)* the Eastern region and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each of the last five years. [186193]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per visit by overseas residents visiting the *(a)* East of England and *(b)* Peterborough in the last five years for which data is available.

*Average expenditure[1] per visit by overseas residents*

£

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England[2] | 372 | 335 | 315 | 325 | 421 |
| Peterborough[3] | 377 | 224 | 283 | 334 | 268 |

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.
[2] Government Office Region.
[3] Figures are based on small sample sizes and as such should be treated with extreme caution, and used solely as an indicative estimate.
*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

### Tourism: Historic Buildings

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to encourage the public to visit historic buildings since 1997. [181579]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This Department and its sponsored bodies have been working with other historic environment organisations, including the National Trust, the Historic Houses Association and Civic Trust to encourage the public to visit historic buildings in the following ways:

Heritage Open Days—over a million people now participate in this annual English Heritage funded scheme run by the Civic Trust. A record 3,500 properties across the country opened their doors for free as part of Heritage Open Days last September. In 2006, Heritage Open Days attracted more than 1 million visitors with support from an army of 30,000 volunteers, making Heritage Open Days England's largest voluntary cultural event. Evaluation shows that this free access event significantly increases access to the historic environment by people on lower incomes.

Festival of History—this is the UK's biggest historical event, and is organised by English Heritage. It brings together the country's leading performers, interpreters and historians in a celebration of over 2,000 years of England's history. This annual event attracted over 20,000 people in 2007.

Great British Heritage Pass—English Heritage and VisitBritain are partners in this scheme which is marketed by VisitBritain to inbound visitors.

Property Development Programme—English Heritage manages over 400 properties that attract around 11 million visitors every year. 665,000 people have demonstrated their commitment to caring for these historic buildings by becoming members of English Heritage. Since 2005 English Heritage has invested approximately £21 million in improving visitor facilities at its properties and in creating new interpretation schemes. 5.3 million people visited English Heritage staffed properties in 2006-07.

Free Access—in 2003 English Heritage introduced free access for children and young people under 19 with an accompanying adult who is a member. Members can take up to six children under 19 into its 400 properties without charge, and entry is free to all children under five.

Learning—English Heritage hosted 481,000 free educational visits in 2006-07 and, in response to market demand, hosted facilitated visits, known as Discovery Visits, at 70 sites across the country. The scheme was marketed to every school in England and 10,400 children took part in the first year. Additionally, 418 events were staged at English Heritage sites designed to attract and entertain all sections of the community. English Heritage has also expanded its events programme, 'Tours Through Time', which is aimed at adult learners.

Outreach work—English Heritage outreach programmes demonstrate the potential of the historic environment for supporting social inclusion, and projects are developed with communities and groups all around the country. In 2006-07, 85 outreach projects were held attracting nearly 49,500 people who had never participated before. English Heritage has also allocated £400,000 per annum in National Capacity Building Grants for the period 2006-08 for historic environment organisations to develop their ability to engage with under-represented groups.

Television—research has shown that television programmes play a strong role in attracting visitors to English Heritage sites. English Heritage experts have been involved in the Time Team programme for many years and continue to contribute to new programming as appropriate. In particular, English Heritage has partnered the BBC TV Restoration series with website links, point launch promotion, publishing collaborations and, where appropriate, English Heritage has grant-aided eligible properties featured in the series.

Film—since 1997 English Heritage has positioned its buildings as a first port of call for the film and television industry both across the world and within the UK. English Heritage's success has brought well publicised associations with feature films such as Mrs. Brown, Notting Hill, and Elizabeth: The Golden Years. It has been proven that working proactively with this industry cannot only bring more visitors through the doors but also allows a large audience to become more familiar with the properties overall.

Access Conditions for English Heritage Grants—in most cases English Heritage grants are offered on condition that a guaranteed level of public access is provided for a minimum of 10 years after the grant-aided work has been completed.

English Heritage commissioned research in 2003 which indicated that 29 per cent. of people from ethnic minorities had visited a historic building or garden in the last 12 months compared to the national average of 40 per cent. We have set a target for heritage organisations to increase the number of adults and

young people aged 16 and above from priority groups visiting designated historic environment sites by 3 per cent. by 2008. We expect to report on whether this has been achieved in December 2008.

### Tourist Attractions: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the 10 most popular tourist attractions in Essex were in each of the last three years. [186405]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is contained in the table.

*Top 10 tourist attractions in Essex*[1]

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Weald Country Park | Weald Country Park | River Lee Country Park |
| 2 | Colchester Zoo | Colchester Zoo | Weald Country Park |
| 3 | Hadleigh Castle Country Park | Hadleigh Castle Country Park | Heritage Centre (Castle Point) |
| 4 | Marsh Farm Country Park | High Woods Country Park | Colchester Zoo |
| 5 | High Woods Country Park | Cudmore Grove Country Park | Hadleigh Castle Country Park |
| 6 | Audley End House | RHS Garden, Hyde Hall | RHS Garden, Hyde Hall |
| 7 | Dedham Art and Craft Centre | Chelmsford Cathedral | Tiptree Museum |
| 8 | Chelmsford Museum | Dedham Art and Craft Centre | First Site |
| 9 | Audley End Miniature Railway | Audley End House | Dedham Art and Craft Centre |
| 10 | Bridge End Gardens | Langdon Nature Reserve | Barleylands Farm Museum |

[1] Participation within the Visitor Attraction survey is voluntary and so there may be attractions that choose not to participate or to remain anonymous.
*Source:*
Visitor Attraction Trends survey, England (Visit Britain)

### Tourist Attractions: Greater London

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the 10 most popular tourist attractions in the *(a)* City of London and *(b)* rest of London were in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [186409]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is contained in the following tables.

*Top 10 tourist attractions*[1] *in the City of London*[2]

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | St. Paul's Cathedral | St. Paul's Cathedral | St. Paul's Cathedral |
| 2 | Museum of London | Museum of London | Museum of London |
| 3 | Barbican Art Gallery | Guildhall Art Gallery | National Museum of Cartoon Art |
| 4 | Guildhall Art Gallery | Church of St. Mary Aldermary | Church of St. Mary Aldermary |
| 5 | Church of St. Mary Aldermary | St. Martin-within-Ludgate | St. Martin-within-Ludgate |
| 6 | St. Martin-within-Ludgate | Mansion House | College of Arms |
| 7 | Mansion House | College of Arms | St. Katharine Cree Church |
| 8 | College of Arms | — | — |

[1] Participation within the Visitor Attraction survey is voluntary and so there may be attractions that choose not to participate or to remain anonymous.
[2] There have been less than 10 respondents in each of the last three years from the City of London.
*Source:*
Visitor Attraction Trends survey, England (Visit Britain)

*Top 10 tourist attractions in London (excluding City of London)*[1]

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | National Gallery | British Museum | Tate Modern |
| 2 | British Museum | National Gallery | British Museum |
| 3 | Tate Modern | Tate Modern | National Gallery |
| 4 | British Airways London Eye | British Airways London Eye | Natural History Museum |
| 5 | Natural History Museum | Natural History Museum | Science Museum |
| 6 | Science Museum | Science Museum | Victoria and Albert Museum |
| 7 | Tower of London | Tower of London | Tower of London |
| 8 | Victoria and Albert Museum | Victoria and Albert Museum | National Portrait Gallery |
| 9 | National Portrait Gallery | Tate Britain | Tate Britain |
| 10 | Kew Gardens | National Portrait Gallery | British Library Exhibition Galleries |

[1] Participation within the Visitor Attraction survey is voluntary and so there may be attractions that choose not to participate or to remain anonymous.
*Source:*
Visitor Attraction Trends survey, England (Visit Britain)

### Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to make regulations under powers granted him by section 134 (9) of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [185686]

**Margaret Hodge:** I am currently considering the responses to the public consultation on the content of the Regulations, which closed on 21 December. The regulations will be laid before Parliament once we have concluded our consideration and discussed the outcome with the devolved Administrations.

### Video Games: Violence

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has conducted on the effects on behaviour of depictions of *(a)* knife use and *(b)* other violence in computer games. [185200]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In 2005 we published a review of research on the impact of violent computer games on young people. The review examined the academic literature relating to violent video games and violent behaviour. It is available on our website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3093C6FE-5932-41D5-B901-2BAF02810AC9/0/research_vcg.pdf

copies were placed in the Library on 28 February 2005. 18 pieces of research were key in this review, but the reviewers also took into account a further total of 69 pieces of work. It ensured that all the key studies examining the relationship between playing violent computer games and real-world violence in young people between 1985 and 2004 were covered.

None of the research specifically considers the depiction of knives; it does not differentiate between that and other types of violence.

### VisitBritain

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* VisitBritain and *(b)* VisitEngland spent on advertising overseas in each financial year since they were established. [186239]

**Margaret Hodge:** The advertising, promotion, and marketing of both Britain and England in overseas and domestic markets is the responsibility of VisitBritain. In the marketing of England, VisitBritain is advised by VisitEngland (which was known as the England Marketing Advisory Board until October 2007). There was no overseas advertising or other marketing spending on England until 2005-06, other than as part of VisitBritain's wider marketing of Britain. In March 2005, the specific marketing of England in a number of established European markets was agreed between DCMS, VisitBritain, and the Devolved Administrations.

VisitBritain's spending on direct marketing costs (not including staff and other marketing expenditure), has been as follows since its establishment:

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Britain International* | *England International* |
| 2003-04 | 16.93 | — |
| 2004-05 | 16.90 | — |
| 2005-06 | 16.84 | 2.01 |
| 2006-07 | 17.24 | 2.04 |

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of VisitBritain's grant-in-aid has been allocated to promoting *(a)* Britain and *(b)* England overseas in each of the next three years. [186236]

**Margaret Hodge:** VisitBritain presently spends £35.5 million a year on the overseas marketing of Britain, and £14.4 million a year on the marketing of England at home and overseas.

The split of VisitBritain's allocated funding for future years is a matter which is currently being considered as part of the Strategic Review of tourism led by VisitBritain. I have ensured that the devolved Administrations have the opportunity to fully participate in that process, and in the review's wider work of improving the impact of the £350 million a year which the public sector invests in supporting tourism.

### WiFi

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government have taken to provide wi-fi access to the general public in public buildings; what steps are planned up to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [173566]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no Government policy on provision of wireless access to the public in public buildings and there are no steps planned between now and 2010 to provide wireless access to the general public in public buildings. However, some public authorities make wireless access available to the public in their buildings, for example, 23 per cent. of library services currently deliver wireless access, with 42 per cent. actively planning to offer wireless access in future. Most of these services are providing wireless access free of charge to the end user. This is a matter for public authorities individually.

### Youth Sport Trust: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Youth Sports Trust has received from his Department in each of the last three years; and whether such funding has been targeted to particular programmes. [184614]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is an important partner in the delivery of sport for children and young people and as such receives funding direct from Sport England.

Sport England advise that YST has been awarded the following amounts for particular programmes in each of the last three years:

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Name:* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Step into Sport | 2,044,500 | 1,972,178 | 1,972,168 |
| Club Links | 490,000 | 524,750 | 489,750 |
| Respect Athlete Mentoring Project | n/a | 63,500 | 242,500 |

In 2006-07 Sport England also allocated £15,000 to the YST to support the National Competition Framework and £23,000 to support the running of the School Sport Partnerships Conference.

Sport England has also funded the National Council for School Sport which is a separate entity from the YST.

## TREASURY

### Average Earnings

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage has been in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England for each year since 1979. [186627]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage has been in (a) Cornwall, (b) the South West and (c) England for each year since 1979. (186627)

Since 1997, levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full time employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. Prior to 1997, levels of earnings are estimated from the New Earnings Survey (NES) and are provided for all full time employees either on adult rates of pay, or for years prior to 1984, aged 21 and over (male) or 18 and over (female), whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach a table showing Gross Weekly Pay for Cornwall, the South West and England, for all full-time employees, for the years 1979-2007.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

*Gross weekly pay for all full time employee[1] jobs*

| | Cornwall | South West | Mean (£) England |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1979 | 72.6 | 82.9 | 89.9 |
| 1980 | 88.9 | 103.6 | 110.7 |
| 1981 | 106.3 | 118.6 | 108.8 |
| 1982 | 114.8 | 127.6 | 137.1 |
| 1983 | 125.3 | 139.6 | 149.0 |
| 1984 | 135.0 | 149.1 | 160.2 |
| 1985 | 143.8 | 160.6 | 172.0 |
| 1986 | 152.6 | 172.8 | 186.3 |
| 1987 | 161.1 | 185.7 | 200.8 |
| 1988 | 172.8 | 202.8 | 220.9 |
| 1989 | 196.3 | 225.0 | 242.8 |
| 1990 | 214.1 | 246.7 | 266.7 |
| 1991 | 219.9 | 265.6 | 288.3 |
| 1992 | 239.4 | 283.1 | 308.1 |
| 1993 | 252.3 | 298.4 | 320.8 |
| 1994 | 265.1 | 308.7 | 330.1 |
| 1995 | 266.1 | 313.8 | 340.6 |
| 1996 | 271.2 | 326.5 | 356.2 |
| 1997 | 289.0 | 349.4 | 378.9 |
| 1998 | 298.4 | 361.4 | 399.7 |
| 1999 | 301.0 | 371.6 | 412.6 |
| 2000 | 318.2 | 385.0 | 433.3 |
| 2001 | 337.3 | 413.4 | 459.2 |
| 2002 | 349.0 | 429.2 | 482.0 |
| 2003 | 391.5 | 449.3 | 497.2 |
| 2004[2] | 395.1 | 464.3 | 516.7 |
| 2004[3] | 390.5 | 457.6 | 508.0 |
| 2005 | 402.6 | 471.8 | 525.5 |
| 2006[4] | 414.6 | 491.1 | 546.6 |
| 2006[5] | 414.4 | 488.6 | 544.3 |
| 2007 | 429.6 | 506.2 | 560.2 |

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[3] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[4] 2006 results consistent with 2005 methodology.
[5] 2006 results consistent with 2007 methodology.
*Sources:*
New Earnings Survey, Office for National Statistics. 1979-96
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. 1997-2007

### Bank Notes: Scotland

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the results of the consultation on banknote issue arrangements in Scotland and Northern Ireland were; and if he will make a statement; [185637]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Scottish banks regarding the issuing of Scottish banknotes; [185638]

(3) when he last met representatives of the Scottish banking industry; and if he will make a statement; [185639]

(4) when he last met *(a)* representative bodies from (i) Scotland and (ii) Northern Ireland note-issuing banks and *(b)* the Bank of England to discuss the consultation on banknote issue arrangements in Scotland and Northern Ireland. [185640]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

As part of the consultation document on financial stability and depositor protection released last week, the Government reaffirmed their intentions to legislate to strengthen the arrangements underpinning banknote issuance by commercial banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It also plans to bring the law in Scotland relating to the treatment of cheques into line with that in the rest of the United Kingdom. The Government intend to take forward these proposals within the legislation on banking reform provided it remains appropriate in light of the consultation launched last week.

### Child Benefit

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many child benefit payments have been backdated by more than three months from the date of the initial application in each of the last three years; [186731]

(2) how many child benefit claims were made *(a)* within and *(b)* after more than three months of a child's birth in the last 12 months. [186733]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC do not backdate a child benefit award for more than three months from the date the claim is initially received.

The other information requested is not available.

### Child Benefit: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of children living in each European country for whom UK child benefit was received by a parent resident in the London Borough of Bexley in the most recent period for which figures are available. [184174]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Poynter Review has been able to conclude whether the two data discs missing from HM Revenue and Customs were posted. [185212]

**Jane Kennedy:** As my right hon. Friend the Chancellor outlined in his statement of 17 December on publication of Kieran Poynter's interim report, 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 612W, the Poynter Review remains ongoing and the final report is expected during the first half of 2008.

### Child Tax Credit

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments of child tax credit have been made since their introduction; and how many

have involved overpayment because of a failure by HM Revenue and Customs to record the return of an annual declaration. [184504]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the numbers of families benefiting from tax credits, and payments of entitlement, are available in table 1.1 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Annual Awards. 2005-06", for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on the numbers of families benefiting from tax credits is not produced separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

There should be no overpayments arising because of a failure by HMRC to record the return of an annual declaration. If this happens the award is restored.

## Coinage

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing the new design of the 50 pence piece coin. [184297]

**Angela Eagle:** The estimated cost of the new 50p coin design is approximately £15,000 which includes, under the terms of the public competition, a £5,000 fee to the artist that submitted the final design.

## Crown Estate Commissioners

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Crown Estate spent on its communications department in each of the last five years; [183391]

(2) how much the Crown Estate spent on hospitality in each of the last five years; [183392]

(3) what the cost of producing the Crown Estate's annual reports was in each of the last five years. [183393]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is given in the table.

*£000*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Communication Department (staff costs)[1] | 133 | 138 | 131 | 235 | 272 |
| Hospitality | 6 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Annual Reports (including Corporate Responsibility Report, since 2003-04)[2] | 90 | 126 | 131 | 132 | 132 |

[1] Figures given are for the staff costs of the Crown Estate's Communication Department.
[2] In 2003-04, the Crown Estate's first Corporate Responsibility Report was published, and the costs given in the aforementioned answer for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 include costs for both the Annual Report and the Corporate Responsibility Report.

## Crown Estate Commissioners: Finance

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income the Crown Estate received from rents paid for *(a)* marinas and *(b)* piers in each of the last five years. [183394]

**Angela Eagle:** The information available is given in the table.

*£ million*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marinas | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Piers | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.2 |

## Crown Estate Commissioners: Public Relations

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external contracts the Crown Estate had with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of those contracts was. [183397]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is given in the table:

| | *Number of contracts* | *Total amount (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3 | 83 |
| 1998-99 | 3 | 113 |
| 1999-2000 | 4 | 126 |
| 2000-01 | 5 | 134 |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 187 |
| 2002-03 | 5 | 287 |
| 2003-04 | 7 | 704 |
| 2004-05 | 7 | 938 |
| 2005-06 | 10 | 629 |
| 2006-07 | 10 | 713 |

## Crown Estate Commissioners: Research

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of applications made to the Crown Estate's research committee for research proposals in each of the last five years; how many applications were made in each year; what the value of research funding allocated was; and how many applications were successful in each year. [183390]

**Angela Eagle:** The Crown Estate does not have a research committee and it does not invite open applications for research, rather areas of research are decided by The Crown Estate through discussions with industry.

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scottish Aquaculture Research Fund | 0 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Acquaculture Research Fund | 237 | 119 | 100 | 96 | 100 |
| Offshore Research Fund | 70 | 107 | 97 | 120 | 199 |

## Debts

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of unsecured debt owed by individuals in the UK in each year since 1990, broken down by income decile of debtors. [184505]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what estimate has been made of the value of unsecured debt owed by individuals in the UK in each year since 1990, broken down by income decile of debtors. (184505)

The ONS do not publish explicitly data on unsecured debt of individuals and it has been assumed that this is the equivalent to consumer credit.

Data on consumer credit are published in Table 3.2B of Financial Statistics. Table A below shows total consumer credit split by credit cards or other and Table B shows total consumer credit split by type of lender.

These data are not available by income decile of debtors.

*Table A: total consumer credit split by type of lending*

£ million

| | Credit cards | Other | Total consumer credit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 9,012 | 44,459 | 53,471 |
| 1991 | 9,786 | 44,630 | 54,416 |
| 1992 | 10,076 | 43,410 | 53,486 |
| 1993 | 10,658 | 43,287 | 53,945 |
| 1994 | 11,914 | 47,173 | 59,087 |
| 1995 | 13,836 | 55,991 | 69,827 |
| 1996 | 16,161 | 63,722 | 79,883 |
| 1997 | 18,997 | 72,199 | 91,195 |
| 1998 | 23,252 | 83,089 | 106,341 |
| 1999 | 33,117 | 88,430 | 121,547 |
| 2000 | 38,702 | 96,465 | 135,168 |
| 2001 | 42,802 | 108,000 | 150,802 |
| 2002 | 48,248 | 120,961 | 169,209 |
| 2003 | 48,638 | 132,011 | 180,649 |
| 2004 | 56,057 | 142,800 | 198,856 |
| 2005 | 59,036 | 152,002 | 211,037 |
| 2006 | 55,797 | 156,989 | 212,785 |
| 2007 | 56,093 | 168,342 | 224,435 |

*Sources:*
National Statistics and Bank of England

*Table B: total consumer credit split by type of lender*

£ million

| | Banks | Building societies | Other consumer credit lenders | Total consumer credit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 43,316 | 764 | 9,931 | 53,471 |
| 1991 | 44,121 | 719 | 9,576 | 54,416 |
| 1992 | 43,578 | 759 | 9,149 | 53,486 |
| 1993 | 41,768 | 776 | 11,400 | 53,945 |
| 1994 | 44,821 | 1,109 | 13,157 | 59,087 |
| 1995 | 49,845 | 1,235 | 18,747 | 69,827 |
| 1996 | 55,609 | 1,463 | 22,811 | 79,883 |
| 1997 | 64,841 | 212 | 26,142 | 91,195 |
| 1998 | 73,308 | 294 | 32,738 | 106,341 |
| 1999 | 82,980 | 296 | 38,271 | 121,547 |
| 2000 | 94,656 | 391 | 40,121 | 135,168 |
| 2001 | 108,134 | 435 | 42,232 | 150,802 |
| 2002 | 121,434 | 606 | 47,169 | 169,209 |
| 2003 | 123,198 | 762 | 56,690 | 180,649 |
| 2004 | 137,617 | 904 | 60,336 | 198,856 |
| 2005 | 142,142 | 1,110 | 67,785 | 211,037 |
| 2006 | 141,965 | 1,258 | 69,563 | 212,785 |
| 2007 | 143,585 | 1,428 | 79,422 | 224,435 |

*Sources:*
National Statistics and Bank of England

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps were taken to *(a)* prevent similar losses and *(b)* examine data protection procedures in (i) HM Revenue and Customs and (ii) other parts of HM Treasury following the loss of the disc containing data for Standard Life customers in transit between HM Revenue and Customs in Newcastle and Standard Life in Edinburgh; and if he will make a statement. [184205]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC was already undertaking an internal review of data handling and security at the time of the Standard Life incident.

Following the Standard Life incident, HMRC introduced tightened data security measures and controls in time for the next monthly transfer of payment information.

HMRC has also introduced new procedures designed to ensure that all data transfers require the personal approval of a director or their delegated data guardian.

Following the loss of child benefit data the Chancellor also asked Kieran Poynter to undertake an independent review of HMRC's data handling.

In his interim report, published on 17 December, Kieran Poynter noted that HMRC had already put in place a number of measures to tighten its data handling. This report is available in the Library of the House. He is expected to consider the need for any further procedural changes in his final report which is due in the first half of 2008.

HMT are playing a full part in the Cabinet Office data handling exercise. A data handling workstream has been set up to manage the exercise and the risks associated with information handling. On 18 December the HMT permanent secretary e-mailed all staff reminding them of their responsibilities. This covered all aspects of security.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1341W, on departmental data protection, whether the investigation related to the two child benefit discs missing from HM Revenue and Customs. [185345]

**Jane Kennedy:** The investigation referred to in the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1341W, related to the two child benefit discs missing from HM Customs and Revenue.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185422]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury and its agencies own and maintain a wide variety of databases to support their work.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185282]

**Angela Eagle:** The numbers of Treasury PDAs reported as lost or stolen are presented as follows:

| | *Number lost* | *Number stolen* | *Estimated value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | — | 2 | 800 |
| 2004 | — | 1 | 200 |
| 2005 | — | 1 | 200 |
| 2006 | 1 | — | 200 |
| 2007 | 1 | 1 | 400 |

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184361]

**Angela Eagle:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185790]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Department has published five public information booklets in 2007. These were:

| *Publication* | *Print run* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Euro preparations leaflet | 1,117 | 266 |
| Budget 2007 summary leaflet | 1,000,000 | 106,247 |
| Budget 2007 regional summary leaflets | 9,150 | 4310 |
| Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 summary leaflet | 1,000,000 | 101,910 |
| Pre-Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 regional summary leaflet | 9,000 | 3,182 |

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 615W, on departmental training, how many Treasury away days were undertaken in each of the last five years. [178344]

**Angela Eagle:** No central records are held on Treasury teams' away days and the information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. In common with other organisations in the public and private sectors the Treasury uses away days for work-planning, training and staff development purposes.

### Employment

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate was for *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* the disabled and *(c)* the over 50s in each year since 1997, broken down by constituency. [185941]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the employment rate was for (a) lone parents, (b) the disabled and (c) the over 50s in each year since 1997, broken down by constituency. (185941).

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### European Commission: Offices

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK financial contribution was towards maintaining, staffing and operating the representative offices of the European Commission in *(a)* EU capitals, *(b)* non-EU capitals and *(c)* other locations in each of the last 10 years. [186280]

**Angela Eagle:** The UK makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it. There is therefore no specific UK contribution to the areas of expenditure referred to.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue the Exchequer accrued from sales of *(a)* diesel and *(b)* petrol on garage forecourts in the last 12 months; [186237]

(2) what the excise duty rate was on *(a)* diesel and *(b)* petrol fuel in each of the last five years. [186238]

**Angela Eagle:** Historic and monthly excise duty receipts from diesel and petrol can be found in table 3 of the HM Revenue and Customs Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Published figures on receipts are on the basis of excise duty charged on quantities of oil released for consumption rather than on forecourt sales.

### Finance: Afghanistan

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to monitor financial transactions between Afghan individuals in the United Kingdom and *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Dubai. [185344]

**Angela Eagle:** The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 require relevant persons (including banks and money service bureaus) to identify and verify the identity of their customers and to monitor their transactions.

Any suspicious transactions, including suspicious transactions with Afghanistan and Dubai should be reported through the appropriate channels to the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The ED Wire Transfer Regulations impose similar obligations in respect of electronic transfers of funds.

### Financial Services: Disadvantaged

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure that financial advice is made available to those who are financially excluded. [186549]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government recognise the importance of readily available, specialist money advice to ensure that financially excluded people have access to the help and support they need to deal with financial distress, should it arise. The Government have established a £47.5 million money advice project in the current spending period, administered by BERR, to increase the availability of free face-to-face money advice in areas of high financial exclusion.

The Government's recent action plan for financial inclusion announces that the Government will continue to support BERR's face-to-face money advice initiative with funding of £76 million in 2008-11.

In addition, the Government have asked Otto Thoresen to report on the feasibility of a national approach to the delivery of generic financial advice. Generic Advice is basic financial guidance, tailored to the individual's own circumstances. It will be of particular benefit to those most vulnerable to the consequences of poor financial decisions—including the financially excluded and people on low incomes. The Thoresen review is due to report shortly.

### Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings have taken place between his Department and the Scottish Executive to discuss the transfer of the Fossil Fuel Levy to the Consolidated Fund; and when those meetings took place. [186637]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Frontiers: Security

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue and its predecessors spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186412]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs undertakes a range of activities at the border, including security and enforcement, regulatory, fiscal and trade facilitation. Resources are deployed according to risk and officers are trained to, and may discharge any or all of these functions. Security and, enforcement is an intrinsic part of HMRC's frontier work. No assessment has been made of the spend on purely security activity and it is not possible, or sensible in terms of proving meaningful information, to extract these costs.

### Fuels: Prices

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government has taken to ensure the competitiveness of the British haulage industry in respect of fuel prices. [185628]

**Angela Eagle:** Policies have been put in place to support the road haulage industry including a freeze of lorry vehicle excise duty since 2001, the extension of the Reduced Pollution Certificate scheme and the forthcoming graduated fixed penalty and deposit scheme.

Budget 2007 also announced the tripling of spending on enforcement through targeted checks and the recent pre-Budget report announced a further £2 million. We also look forward to receiving the conclusions from the Freight Data Feasibility Study, an outcome of the Haulage Industry Task Group.

The Government set out their policy on fuel duty in the last Budget based on the UK seeking to reduce polluting emissions and fund public services. By 2010 main fuel duty rates will still remain 11 per cent. lower in real terms than they were in 1999.

### Graduates: Unemployed

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 860W, (1) if he will provide comparable figures for the number of unemployed university graduates for each year from 1997 to 2002; [186044]

(2) if he will provide comparable figures for the number of unemployed people aged 16 years and over in each year from 1997 to 2002. [186005]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions on the number of unemployed university graduates for each year from 1997 to 2002 and the number of unemployed people aged 16 and over in each year from 1997 to 2002. (186044) and (186005)

The attached table gives unemployment figures for graduates and all people aged 16+ for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2002. Comparable estimates from 1998 and 2000 are not available.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Unemployed[1] population aged 16 plus—three months ending June each year, 1997-2002 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Total | Thousand Graduates[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,013 | 137 |
| 1999 | 1,695 | 128 |
| 2001 | 1,408 | 115 |
| 2002 | 1,456 | 145 |

[1] According to the ILO (International Labour Organisation) definition of unemployed, i.e. those who are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who want a job and have been seeking a job in the last four weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.

[2] Those who hold qualifications to degree level or higher.

*Notes:*

1. It should be noted that the estimates:
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.
2. Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000.

*Source:*

ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Households

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households of *(a)* married couples, *(b)* cohabiting couples and *(c)* lone parents with dependent children in each year since 1990. [185882]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request to asking what estimate has been made of the number of households with dependent children broken down by *(a)* married couples, *(b)* cohabiting couples and *(c)* lone parents in each year since 1990. (185882)

The question asks for the number of households broken down by family type. However, the number of households would not show the total number of married and cohabiting couples and lone parents with dependent children. This is because some households contain more than one family. Therefore, this answer shows the number of families, not the number of households. The number of families with dependent children in the UK can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). According to the LFS, 0.8 per cent. of households in 2007 were occupied by more than one family.

Table 1 shows the latest UK family estimates for available years. Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 and 2000 or prior to 1997. Work is underway to make comparable LFS data available from 1992 onwards. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the end of 2008.

*Table 1: Number of UK families with dependent children by type*

| Family type | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Thousand 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Married couples | 5,105 | — | 4,914 | — | 4,799 | 4,742 | 4,703 | 4,633 | 4,653 | 4,585 | 4,557 |
| Cohabiting couples | 589 | — | 713 | — | 799 | 800 | 806 | 866 | 870 | 913 | 919 |
| Lone parents | 1,611 | — | 1,746 | — | 1,760 | 1,825 | 1,817 | 1,869 | 1,884 | 1,864 | 1,860 |

*Source:*

LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted.

## Immigrants: Age

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average age was of immigrants to the UK in 2007. [186905]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning the average age of immigrants to the UK. (186905)

In 2006, the latest full year for which data are available, the average age of those migrating to the UK was twenty-eight years.

## Immigration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which 10 countries the greatest number of migrants entered the UK in 2007. [186932]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking from which 10 countries the greatest number of migrants entered the UK in 2007. (186932)

International migration data for the 2007 calendar year are scheduled for release in November 2008. The International Passenger Survey, the main source of international migration estimates, shows that of those migrating to the UK in 2006, the top ten countries of last residence were:

Poland, India, Australia, Pakistan, China, France, United States, Germany, South Africa, and Spain.

## Itis Holdings

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments his Department and its agencies has made to Itis Holdings in the last 36 months. [183269]

**Jane Kennedy:** Neither the Treasury or any of its agencies have made any payments to Itis Holdings in the past three years.

## Landfill Tax

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised by landfill tax between January 2005 and December 2007; how much he expects to raise from landfill tax in 2008; and how the money is being used. [185606]

**Angela Eagle:** Latest landfill tax receipts are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill

Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published in Table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

Landfill tax was introduced alongside a 0.2 percentage point reduction in the main rate of employers national insurance contributions.

Budget 2007 announced that the additional tax revenue from business as a result of the increase in the landfill tax escalator will be recycled to business through reductions in corporation tax announced in the Budget.

## Landfill Tax: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each local authority in London paid in landfill tax in each of the last five years. [186144]

**Angela Eagle:** It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire, dated 22 November 2007, on Northern Rock. [186342]

**Angela Eagle:** I have already done so.

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire, dated 19 November 2007, on capital gains tax. [186343]

**Jane Kennedy:** I replied to the hon. Member on 17 February 2008.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs will respond to the letters of *(a)* 18 October 2007 and *(b)* 22 January 2008 from the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre on a constituent, Mr. Stefan Fish. [186695]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Gentleman on 11 February 2008 and very much regret the delay in doing so.

## Migrant Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 834-36W, on migrant workers, what the change has been in the number of the UK born population in employment in each industry sector since 1997. [185665]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the UK born population in employment in each industry since 1997. (185665)

The attached table gives the number of working age UK born workers in each industry sector for each year since 1997. It also gives the change in the number of UK born workers in each industry sector, between the second quarter of 1997 and the second quarter of 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Working age[1] UK born population, in employment by industry sector[2]—Three months ending June each year, 1997-2007 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Change 1997-2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 433 | 376 | 345 | 334 | 309 | 321 | 327 | 315 | 318 | -116 |
| Energy and water | 268 | 264 | 292 | 303 | 260 | 256 | 257 | 255 | 303 | 35 |
| Manufacturing | 4,513 | 4,370 | 4,059 | 3,908 | 3,720 | 3,401 | 3,334 | 3,223 | 3,130 | -1,382 |
| Construction | 1,711 | 1,746 | 1,858 | 1,841 | 1,956 | 2,007 | 2,054 | 2,059 | 2,074 | 364 |
| Distribution hotels and restaurants | 4,705 | 4,703 | 4,654 | 4,704 | 4,765 | 4,792 | 4,679 | 4,495 | 4,420 | -285 |
| Transport and communication | 1,534 | 1,603 | 1,732 | 1,727 | 1,698 | 1,645 | 1,680 | 1,618 | 1,601 | 67 |
| Finance and Business Services | 3,344 | 3,590 | 3,766 | 3,814 | 3,675 | 3,710 | 3,735 | 3,743 | 3,791 | 448 |
| Education, health and public administration | 5,743 | 5,964 | 6,291 | 6,353 | 6,568 | 6,820 | 6,900 | 6,954 | 6,759 | 1,016 |
| Other services | 1,314 | 1,378 | 1,368 | 1,397 | 1,480 | 1,457 | 1,423 | 1,460 | 1,471 | 156 |
| Total[3] | 23,638 | 24,056 | 24,431 | 24,426 | 24,473 | 24,471 | 24,444 | 24,177 | 23,948 | 310 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Industry breakdowns for Standard Industrial Classification 92 (SIC92).
[3] Includes those who did not state their industry.
*Note:*
1. It should be noted that the estimates are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in Spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics. 2. Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000. *Source:* ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

## Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of job vacancies he estimates were filled by migrant workers from the European Union in the latest period for which figures are available. [186550]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the percentage of job vacancies filled by migrant workers from the European Union. (186550)

Information is not available on the percentage of job vacancies filled by individuals whose country of birth was in the European Union (EU).

## Migration

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many visitor switchers were taken into account for the purpose of calculating the balance of total international migration to and from the UK in each year since 1991; [177391]

(2) how many asylum seekers were taken into account for the purpose of calculating the balance of total international migration to and from the UK in the years 1997 to 2006 inclusive; and what proportion of net migration these figures represented in each of those years; [177392]

(3) what the level of inward migration from EU A8 countries for the purposes of total international migration statistics to the UK was in *(a)* each year and *(b)* each quarter since 1 January 2004. [178332]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions on Total International Migration related issues:

how many visitor switchers were taken into account for the purpose of calculating the balance of total international migration to and from the UK in each year since 1991; (177391)

how many asylum seekers were taken into account for the purpose of calculating the balance of total international migration to and from the UK in the years 1997 to 2006 inclusive; and what proportion of net migration these figures represented in each of those years; (177392)

what the level of inward migration from EU A8 countries for the purpose of Total International Migration statistics to the UK was in (a) each year and (b) each quarter since 1 January 2004. (178332)

Table 1, attached, gives the adjustments made to Total International Migration (TIM) to account for visitor switchers from 1991 to 2006. Visitor switchers are those that intended to come to (or leave) the UK for less than 12 months and then switched to being migrants by staying (or leaving) for more than twelve months; i.e. someone who came as a visitor but switched to a migrant.

Table 2, attached, gives the asylum seeker adjustment made to Total International Migration (TIM) estimates of inflows, outflows, and net-migration from 1997 to 2006. It also gives the corresponding TIM estimates; and shows the asylum seeker adjustments as a percentage of these. As indicated in the table, we do not recommend using the figures on asylum seekers as a proportion of net migration as an indicator.

The asylum seeker adjustments are based on Home Office data but differ from the asylum statistics published by the Home Office in a number of respects. In order to fit with the United Nations recommended definition of an international long-term migrant, which is used in calculating population estimates, the data only include cases where the asylum seeker remained in the UK for more than 12 months. These data will also exclude a number of asylum seekers that are accounted for already in International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of migrants. Finally the adjustments include both principal applicants and their dependants whereas HO figures generally exclude dependants.

Estimates of annual inward migration from EU A8 countries for 2004 and 2005 are available in Table 2.2 of the "International Migration 2005, Series MN no.32" which can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507

The 2006 Total International Migration (TIM) estimates of annual inward migration from EU A8 countries (i.e. by country of last residence) are not yet available but are due to be released in May 2008. All 2006 TIM estimates will be produced using revised methods, and these changes will also result in revisions for earlier years. Therefore the 2004 and 2005 estimates currently in the public domain are likely to change slightly. However, estimates of annual inward migration by EU A8 nationals (as opposed to country of last residence referred to above) are available for 2004-2006 and can be found in Table 1 (Citizenship UK) at the following link on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053

Quarterly estimates of inward migration are not available for country of last residence or nationality either on a TIM or IPS basis.

Total International Migration data are the most comprehensive estimates of long-term international migration. They are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for (migrant and visitor) "switchers", i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Table 1: International migration, visitor switcher[1] adjustment, time series 1991 to 2006[2], United Kingdom*

Thousand

| | *Inflow* | *Outflow* | *Net* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1991 | 28 | 18 | 10 |
| 1992 | 28 | 27 | 1 |
| 1993 | 31 | 23 | 8 |
| 1994 | 31 | 22 | 9 |
| 1995 | 25 | 18 | 7 |
| 1996 | 25 | 17 | 8 |
| 1997 | 23 | 18 | 5 |
| 1998 | 28 | 16 | 12 |
| 1999 | 29 | 21 | 8 |
| 2000 | 40 | 19 | 20 |
| 2001 | 36 | 26 | 10 |

*Table 1: International migration, visitor switcher[1] adjustment, time series 1991 to 2006[2], United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | *Inflow* | *Outflow* | *Net* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 45 | 22 | 23 |
| 2003 | 44 | 21 | 23 |
| 2004 | 43 | 16 | 27 |
| 2005 | 51 | 15 | 36 |
| 2006 | 50 | 16 | 35 |

*Notes:*

1. A visitor switcher is defined as someone who enters or leaves the UK intending to stay in the destination country for less than a year but who actually stays for a year or longer. Thus "inflow" indicates the estimate of those who entered the UK as visitors, but who switched to being migrants and stayed a year or more.
2. Several different methods and data sources have been used between 1991 and 2006 to estimate the visitor switcher adjustment. For the years 1991 to 2000, the adjustment is based on visa extension data from the Home Office. For the years 2000 to 2003, the adjustment is based on fixed proportions applied to certain categories of visitors considered most likely to switch and become migrants. From 2004, the adjustment is based on specific questions asked in the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to identify former visitor switchers which is then applied to certain visitor categories. In all cases, the best available data has been used to produce these adjustments.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

*Table 2: International migration, asylum seeker adjustment[1] flows and as a percentage of Total International Migration (TIM), time series 1997 to 2006[2], United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | *Asylum seekers adjustment* | | | *TIM[3]* | | | *Asylum seekers adjustment as percentage of TIM* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Inflow* | *Out-flow* | *Net* | *Inflow* | *Out-flow* | *Net* | *Inflow* | *Out-flow* | *Net[4]* |
| 1997 | 34 | 10 | 24 | 327 | 279 | 48 | 10 | 4 | 50 |
| 1998 | 51 | 10 | 41 | 391 | 251 | 140 | 13 | 4 | 29 |
| 1999 | 80 | 8 | 72 | 454 | 291 | 163 | 18 | 3 | 44 |
| 2000 | 92 | 10 | 81 | 479 | 321 | 158 | 19 | 3 | 51 |
| 2001 | 84 | 18 | 66 | 479 | 306 | 173 | 18 | 6 | 38 |
| 2002 | 96 | 21 | 75 | 513 | 358 | 154 | 19 | 6 | 49 |
| 2003 | 54 | 17 | 37 | 508 | 361 | 147 | 11 | 5 | 25 |
| 2004 | 36 | 16 | 21 | 586 | 342 | 244 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 2005 | 26 | 16 | 11 | 563 | 359 | 204 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| 2006 | 23 | 17 | 6 | 591 | 400 | 191 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures are a statistical adjustment, not estimates of asylum seekers. Those migrants captured by the International Passenger Survey (IPS) stating the reason for visit as "to seek asylum" are excluded from these calculations to avoid double counting.
2. Several improvements have been made to the data sources and methods used in the estimation of the asylum seeker adjustment between 1997 and 2006. These figures are produced using the best available data and methods for each year.
3. Total International Migration (TIM) is the most comprehensive estimate of migration. It is based mainly on the IPS but also includes estimates of Irish flows supplied by the Irish Central Statistics Office, and adjustments for asylum seekers not captured in the IPS and for "switchers" (i.e. those whose migration intentions are not realised).
4. We recommend looking at the inflow and outflow proportions as the net proportion could be highly misleading. For example, should outflows of asylum seekers exceed inflows this would show as a negative percentage. If TIM net migration were zero, this would show as an infinite percentage.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

## Mortgages: Repossession Orders

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on mortgages: repossession orders, what assessment the Government have made of the reasons for the change in the number of mortgage possession orders from 2002 to 2006. [184063]

**Angela Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice publishes figures for the numbers of possession orders made by county courts. The Government's assessment of personal debt and its proposals for tackling problem debt can be found in the Government's annual reports on tackling over-indebtedness, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consumers/consumer-finance/over-indebtedness/index.html

## National Insurance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the minimum age is at which an individual can be issued with a national insurance number. [185218]

**Jane Kennedy:** The minimum age at which an individual can be issued with a national insurance number (NINO) is 15 years nine months.

## National Insurance Fund

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the balance of the National Insurance Fund was in excess of the minimum balance required in relation to benefit spending in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [180104]

(2) what estimate was made by the Government Actuary of the minimum balance required in the National Insurance Fund in relation to benefit spending in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [180105]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information requested is shown in the following table in respect of the GB National Insurance Fund:

*£ billion*

| | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balance on fund | 7.7 | 9.6 | 12.3 | 14.4 | 19.3 | 23.6 | 26.5 | 27.1 | 29.1 | 34.3 |
| Minimum balance required | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 10.0 |
| Excess | 0.8 | 2.5 | 4.9 | 6.7 | 11.4 | 15.2 | 17.7 | 17.9 | 19.6 | 24.3 |

When there is a surplus it is invested. NICs and associated social security benefits operate within the Government's fiscal rules designed to ensure sound public finances. Any surplus of NICs over social security benefits (the NI Fund surplus) in any one year is not therefore an extra resource available to spend.

The minimum operating balance recommended by the Government Actuary is one sixth of annual benefit payments. Figures for the minimum balance shown in the table are based on actual benefit payments made in each year. Estimated levels of benefit payments are published annually by the Government Actuary's Department in reports on up-rating orders, copies of which are in the Library.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to receive the next quinquennial review of the National Insurance Fund. [185395]

**Jane Kennedy:** There is no firm date for publication but the Acting Government Actuary has confirmed that the review should be published later this year.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he has received from the Acting Government Actuary on the minimum recommended balance in the National Insurance Fund. [185405]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest report by the Acting Government Actuary on the drafts of the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2008 and the Social Security (Contributions) (Re-rating) Order 2008 (Cm 7312) was published on 23 January 2008. The Acting Government Actuary states that his predecessor recommended that the minimum balance in the National Insurance Fund should be one-sixth (16.7 per cent.) of estimated annual benefit expenditure. The report confirms that the balance in the fund is expected to be greater than the minimum recommended in 2008-09.

## Parkinson's Disease: Death

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [186960]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. (186960)

The attached table provides the number of deaths from Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Jarrow parliamentary constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside local authority, *(c)* North East Government Office Region, and *(d)* the UK, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1. Number of deaths from Parkinson's disease,[1] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East government office region, and UK, 1997-2006[2,3,4]*

| | | | | *Deaths (persons)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Jarrow* | *South Tyneside* | *North East* | *UK* |
| 1997 | 6 | 8 | 109 | 2,917 |
| 1998 | 6 | 6 | 98 | 2,976 |
| 1999 | 3 | 4 | 106 | 3,072 |
| 2000 | 6 | 11 | 131 | 3,007 |
| 2001 | 5 | 7 | 171 | 4,275 |
| 2002 | 7 | 12 | 228 | 4,464 |
| 2003 | 6 | 13 | 215 | 4,759 |
| 2004 | 9 | 19 | 217 | 4,287 |
| 2005 | 6 | 10 | 220 | 4,507 |
| 2006 | 10 | 15 | 222 | 4,444 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 332.0 from 1997 to 2000 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and from 1997 to 1999 for Scotland, and the Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code G20 from 2001 to 2006 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and from 2000 to 2006 for Scotland. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2000 for Scotland, and 2001 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland means that the numbers of deaths from this cause for earlier years are not comparable with those for later years.
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the population density is of each region of England; [177451]

(2) how many estimates of population density in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* the regions of England have been made since 1987; and what each estimate was; [177464]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of *(a)* migration on population density in England and *(b)* the increase in population density implied by Office for National Statistics population projections; [177465]

(4) what his most recent estimates are of the likely population densities of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in 2056; [177466]

(5) what the population densities are expected to be of each of the regions of England on the basis of the change in population forecast by the Government Actuary Department and the Office for National Statistics in *(a)* 2031 and *(b)* 2056; [177467]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1035-36W, on population, if he will rank the regions of England in terms of the population density of each region of the EU, giving the population density of each EU region according to the most recent available figures. [178317]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 18 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions on population density:

what the population density is of each region of England. (177451)

how many estimates of population density in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales, (e) Northern Ireland and (f) the regions of England have been made since 1987; and what each estimate was. (177464)

what assessment has been made of the likely effects of (a) migration on population density in England and (b) the increase in population density implied by Office for National Statistics population projections. (177465)

what the most recent estimates are of the likely population densities of (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland in 2056. (177466)

what the population densities are expected to be of each of the regions of England on the basis of the change in population forecast by the Government Actuary Department and the Office for National Statistics in (a) 2031 and (b) 2056. (177467)

pursuant to the Answer of 3rd December 2007, Official Report, Columns 1035-6W, on population, what is the ranking of the regions of England in terms of the population density of each region of the EU, giving the population density of each EU region according to the most recent available figures. (178317)

I am replying in her absence.

Table 1 (parts 1 and 2), attached, shows population density figures calculated for each mid-year estimate from 1987 to 2006 for the UK and constituent countries, and regions in England. This includes (on part 2) the latest, mid-2006, estimate of densities for each region of England. In terms of the number of population density estimates, population estimates are produced annually but may be subject to later revision. Population density calculations are readily produced from these estimates and are normally published each year.

Population projections are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the population levels of an area are likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future developments which may affect trends. Projections should not be seen as predictions. If, as in recent years, there is an increase in migration levels then the assumptions are changed to reflect this.

Table 2 below shows projected population densities for England for the period to mid-2031 based on the ONS 2006-based principal population projection. It also shows what the projected densities would be if net migration at each age was assumed to be zero from 2006 onwards, but making the same fertility and mortality assumptions as the principal projection.

*Table 2: Actual and projected population density of England, 2006 to 2031*

| | | | | | | *Person per sq km* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2011* | *2016* | *2021* | *2026* | *2031* |
| Principal projection | 390 | 405 | 420 | 436 | 450 | 464 |
| Zero migration variant projection | 390 | 396 | 403 | 408 | 411 | 413 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

Table 3, below shows the projected population density of the UK and constituent countries in 2056.

*Table 3: Projected population density of UK and constituent countries in mid-2056*

| | Person per sq km |
|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 324 |
| England | 521 |
| Wales | 165 |
| Scotland | 67 |
| Northern Ireland | 153 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

Table 4, below, shows the projected population density for English regions in 2029, the closest year available to your question. The most recent subnational population projections, published in September 2007, are 2004-based projections and cover a 25 year projection period from 2005 to 2029; this means that it is not possible to provide data for subnational population projections for 2031 or 2056. Please note that as these data are based on 2004 based subnational projections they are not directly comparable with the latest (2006-based) national projections given in Table 2. 2006 based subnational population projections are due to be published in June and these will allow calculation of population densities for 2031 on a comparable basis with the latest (2006 based) national projections.

*Table 4: Mid-2029 projected population density for England by Government office region*

| | *Person per sq km* |
|---|---|
| North East | 299 |
| North West | 519 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 372 |
| East Midlands | 319 |
| West Midlands | 441 |
| East | 341 |
| London | 5,371 |
| South East | 484 |
| South West | 249 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

The ONS does not hold data on population density for EU regions (outside of the UK).

*Table 1 part 1: Population density for mid-year estimates, 1987 to 2006*

| | | | | | | | | | | *Person per sq km* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1987* | *1988* | *1989* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* |
| United Kingdom | 234 | 235 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 237 | 238 | 239 | 239 | 240 |
| England | 363 | 364 | 365 | 366 | 367 | 368 | 369 | 370 | 371 | 372 |
| North East | 302 | 301 | 301 | 301 | 302 | 302 | 303 | 302 | 301 | 301 |
| North West | 484 | 483 | 484 | 484 | 485 | 485 | 485 | 485 | 484 | 483 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 317 | 317 | 319 | 319 | 320 | 321 | 322 | 322 | 322 | 322 |
| East Midlands | 252 | 253 | 255 | 256 | 257 | 259 | 260 | 261 | 262 | 263 |
| West Midlands | 400 | 400 | 401 | 401 | 402 | 403 | 404 | 404 | 404 | 405 |
| East | 263 | 265 | 265 | 266 | 268 | 269 | 270 | 271 | 272 | 274 |
| London | 4,304 | 4,281 | 4,295 | 4,325 | 4,344 | 4,344 | 4,354 | 4,372 | 4,397 | 4,436 |
| South East | 394 | 396 | 397 | 398 | 400 | 402 | 402 | 404 | 407 | 409 |
| South West | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | 201 | 201 |
| Wales | 136 | 137 | 138 | 138 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| Scotland | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 66 | 65 |

*Table 1, part 1: Population density for mid-year estimates, 1987 to 2006*

*Person per sq km*

| | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Ireland | 117 | 117 | 117 | 118 | 118 | 120 | 120 | 121 | 121 | 122 |

*Table 1, part 2: Population density for mid-year estimates, 1987 to 2006*

*Person per sq km*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 240 | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 250 |
| England | 374 | 375 | 376 | 378 | 380 | 381 | 383 | 385 | 387 | 390 |
| North East | 300 | 299 | 297 | 297 | 296 | 296 | 296 | 297 | 297 | 298 |
| North West | 482 | 481 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 482 | 483 | 485 | 486 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 322 | 322 | 322 | 322 | 323 | 325 | 326 | 329 | 331 | 334 |
| East Midlands | 264 | 265 | 266 | 267 | 268 | 271 | 273 | 275 | 277 | 280 |
| West Midlands | 405 | 406 | 406 | 405 | 406 | 407 | 409 | 410 | 412 | 413 |
| East | 276 | 277 | 279 | 281 | 283 | 284 | 286 | 288 | 291 | 293 |
| London | 4,462 | 4,494 | 4,551 | 4,603 | 4,638 | 4,683 | 4,684 | 4,700 | 4,743 | 4,779 |
| South East | 412 | 414 | 417 | 419 | 421 | 422 | 424 | 426 | 429 | 432 |
| South West | 203 | 203 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 209 | 210 | 212 | 213 | 215 |
| Wales | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 141 | 141 | 142 | 142 | 143 |
| Scotland | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 66 |
| Northern Ireland | 123 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 125 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 |

*Sources:*
Office for National Statistics
General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the working-age population was in each region in each year since 1997. [186829]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions regarding what the working age population was in each region in each year since 1997. (186829)

The attached table shows the working age population in each government office region for the years 1997-2006.

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

*Mid-year estimates of working age population by Government office region*

*Thousand*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 29,754 | 29,868 | 30,044 | 30,243 | 30,487 | 30,686 | 30,867 | 31,083 | 31,384 | 31,627 |
| North East | 1,559 | 1,556 | 1,552 | 1,549 | 1,552 | 1,559 | 1,564 | 1,568 | 1,578 | 1,586 |
| North West | 4,104 | 4,108 | 4,100 | 4,110 | 4,122 | 4,140 | 4,167 | 4,193 | 4,218 | 4,236 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 3,003 | 3,004 | 3,006 | 3,012 | 3,035 | 3,063 | 3,090 | 3,126 | 3,167 | 3,200 |
| East Midlands | 2,522 | 2,530 | 2,544 | 2,555 | 2,574 | 2,599 | 2,624 | 2,653 | 2,682 | 2,711 |
| West Midlands | 3,189 | 3,193 | 3,195 | 3,195 | 3,210 | 3,224 | 3,238 | 3,250 | 3,268 | 3,282 |
| East | 3,213 | 3,234 | 3,250 | 3,274 | 3,294 | 3,316 | 3,342 | 3,365 | 3,401 | 3,430 |
| London | 4,498 | 4,540 | 4,633 | 4,726 | 4,829 | 4,875 | 4,884 | 4,919 | 4,982 | 5,033 |
| South East | 4,798 | 4,821 | 4,865 | 4,891 | 4,922 | 4,940 | 4,966 | 4,990 | 5,032 | 5,066 |
| South West | 2,869 | 2,882 | 2,901 | 2,929 | 2,950 | 2,971 | 2,993 | 3,020 | 3,035 | 3,083 |
| Wales | 1,719 | 1,723 | 1,727 | 1,735 | 1,739 | 1,749 | 1,759 | 1,773 | 1,780 | 1,790 |

*Note:*
Working age is defined as ages 16 to 64 for males, and 16 to 59 for females. Source: Office for National Statistics.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection he has made of population figures in 2014. [186924]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what projection has been made of population figures in 2014. (186924)

New national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published on 23 October 2007. These projections give a United Kingdom total population figure at mid-year 2014 of 64.1 million.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the PAYE Coding Notices for 2007-08 and 2008-09 issued by HM Revenue and Customs on 24 January 2008 in respect of Mr. Hemmings of Worthing and Mr. Wigley of Wanstrow, Somerset, were sent to a taxpayer in Christchurch, together with that taxpayer's PAYE Coding Notice; and if he will make a statement. [186677]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC investigations have established that this was an isolated incident resulting from a manual handling error. HMRC has sent apology letters and up-to-date Coding Notices to the affected customers and requested the return of the Coding Notices sent in error.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183348]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1014-15W.

### Seized Articles

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizure notices were issued by customs officials in each of the last five years. [186461]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Smuggling: Animal Products

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many product of animal origin detector dogs have been used at ports and airports in Great Britain in each year since 2001. [185624]

**Jane Kennedy:** Meat detection dogs were introduced by DEFRA in 2002, and were transferred to HMRC in 2003. The number of products of animal origin detector dogs used at ports and airports in Great Britain since 2002 is in the following table:

| | *Number of dogs* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 2 |
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2004 | 6 |
| 2005 | 10 |
| 2006 | 11 |
| 2007 | 11 |
| 2008 | 9 |

### Smuggling: Drugs

**John Cummings:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what volume of illegal drugs was seized at the ports of *(a)* Hartlepool, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* Tyneside, *(d)* Wearside and *(e)* Seaham in each year since 2000, broken down by type of drug; and if he will make a statement. [186211]

**Jane Kennedy:** National information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs is contained in their annual reports.

Information of seizures, by location, cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

### Smuggling: Tobacco

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the proportion of the illicit trade in tobacco in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 that was in (i) manufactured cigarettes and (ii) hand rolling tobacco. [186383]

**Angela Eagle:** The 2005-06 estimates of the illicit trade in manufactured cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco are given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007" published by HMRC in October 2007.

Estimates for 2006-07 will be published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report.

### Strokes: Death

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died as a result of a stroke in each *(a)* strategic health authority area, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* Westminster constituency, *(d)* English region and *(e)* socio-demographic group in each year since 2002. [185823]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The reply has been placed in the Library.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2101W, on tax credits, what proportion of complaints received replies in *(a)* under one week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* between two and three weeks, *(d)* between four and five weeks and *(e)* over five weeks in each of the last three years. [183812]

**Jane Kennedy:** Although HM Revenue and Customs aim to reply to the majority of letters within three weeks, following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have, regrettably, been subject to delays. I am not satisfied with this performance and the Tax Credit Office is working hard to improve the speed of responses. Around 40 per cent. of replies issued in December 2007 were sent within three weeks of receiving the correspondence.

For the proportion of complaints sent a full reply for the periods requested I refer the hon. Member to the following table:

| | *Cleared within* | *Percentage clearance* | *Cumulative percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1 week | 5 | 5 |
| | 1 to 2 weeks | 14 | 19 |
| | 2 to 3 weeks | 14 | 33 |
| | 3 to 4 weeks | 10 | 43 |
| | 4 to 5 weeks | 5 | 48 |
| | Over 5 weeks | 52 | 100 |
| 2006-07 | 1 week | 4 | 4 |
| | 1 to 2 weeks | 12 | 16 |
| | 2 to 3 weeks | 13 | 29 |
| | 3 to 4 weeks | 13 | 42 |
| | 4 to 5 weeks | 11 | 53 |
| | Over 5 weeks | 47 | 100 |
| 2007-08[1] | 1 week | 5 | 5 |
| | 1 to 2 weeks | 8 | 13 |
| | 2 to 3 weeks | 10 | 23 |
| | 3 to 4 weeks | 9 | 32 |
| | 4 to 5 weeks | 9 | 41 |
| | Over 5 weeks | 59 | 100 |

[1] To 31 December 2007.

### Taxation

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stafford of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 291W, on taxation, what levels of need his Department attributes to *(a)* a single person and *(b)* a married couple with (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three children for the purposes of determining tax credit entitlements. [185666]

**Jane Kennedy:** Tax credit entitlement is determined according to family income and the number of children in a family. A single earner family earning £10,000 a year is entitled to tax credits of £90.93 per week with one child, £126.28 per week with two children and £161.63 per week with three children. This is in addition to child benefit payable for each child.

### Taxation: Gambling

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the effective tax rate is for *(a)* bingo clubs, *(b)* casinos, *(c)* local betting offices and *(d)* adult gaming centres. [185703]

**Angela Eagle:** It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the effective tax rate on each premises type as it depends on a range of factors. These include: the types of gambling activity each type of premises offers; the tax liability each gambling activity incurs; and the relative mix of these different activities. However, the average effective rates of taxation on bingo, casino gaming and gaming machines are between 20 and 25 per cent. The rate of general betting duty is 15 per cent.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what gambling activities are subject to *(a)* value-added tax and *(b)* gross profits tax; [185843]

(2) how much value-added tax was collected from adult gaming centres in England and Wales in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [185954]

**Angela Eagle:** VAT is chargeable on admission fees to premises where gambling takes place, club subscriptions, the takings from gaming machines, and fees for the playing of a game of chance where no prize is offered.

With certain exceptions, VAT is also chargeable on the provision of facilities for the playing of any games of chance for a prize, including bingo participation and session fees.

General betting duty, pool betting duty, bingo duty, gaming duty and remote gaming duty are all levied on a gross profits tax basis.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the amount of VAT paid on individual goods and services.

### Taxation: Property

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation made and handouts produced by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency entitled, Towards modernisation in property tax systems: the British experience, during the International Seminar on Property Taxation in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil on 22 November 2007; and what the cost to the public purse of attendance at this seminar was. [183273]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Valuation Office Agency did not send an official representative to this seminar and no cost to the public purse was incurred.

### Taxation: Second Homes

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost to the public purse was of tax exemptions to *(a)* second home owners and *(b)* buy-to-let landlords in each year since 2000. [185972]

**Jane Kennedy:** No tax exemptions are available for either second homes owners or buy-to-let landlords, and therefore there are no costs to the public purse.

### Taxation: Sports

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what criteria were used to classify *(a)* angling, *(b)* ballooning, *(c)* billiards, pool and snooker, *(d)* crossbow, *(e)* rifle and pistol shooting, *(f)* flying, *(g)* gliding, *(h)* motor sports and *(i)* parachuting as sports which do not qualify for a tax exemption; [185325]

(2) for what reason community amateur sports clubs as defined by HM Revenue and Customs receive tax exemptions; what the criteria are for definition as a community amateur sports club; and if he will make a statement; [185326]

(3) what representations he has received on changing the number of animal racing activities which are eligible for tax exemption; and if he will make a statement. [186190]

**Jane Kennedy:** Sports clubs that meet certain criteria are able to register with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) and enjoy a range of tax reliefs. It is not however for HMRC to decide which activities are eligible sports for the CASC scheme. Eligible sports are defined by Treasury Order, by reference to the Sports Councils' list of recognised activities. The list can be accessed at

www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_ul.htm.

HMRC registered CASCs are eligible for tax reliefs because the Government recognise the benefits of community participation in sport and the benefits that CASCs can bring in terms of health, community building and crime reduction. Because of these benefits, the Government provide tax exemptions to support those amateur sports clubs that do make a positive contribution to their local communities and to encourage local communities to support their CASCs.

The key criteria for registration as a CASC are that a club must;

be open to the whole community

be organised on an amateur basis

have as its main purpose the provision of facilities for and promotion of participation in eligible sports—as defined by the Sports Councils' list of recognised activities.

Further detail of these criteria can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/index.htm.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Tobacco: Exports

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the share of the tobacco market in *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* the Netherlands and *(c)* Luxembourg that is UK manufactured hand-rolled tobacco. [186410]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government have not made an estimate of the share of the tobacco markets in *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* the Netherlands and *(c)* Luxembourg that is UK manufactured hand-rolled tobacco. In order to inform its monitoring and enforcement of compliance by tobacco manufacturers with Section 2 of the Finance Bill 2006, HM Revenue and Customs has had, and continues to have, discussions with manufacturers about the level of demand for their products for consumption outside the United Kingdom.

### Valuation Office: ICT

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent in relation to its automated valuation model on *(a)* consultancy, *(b)* payments to CapGemini including those indirectly to CLT, *(c)* hardware, *(d)* staffing and *(e)* other costs since September 2005. [183267]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since September 2005, when the Council Tax Revaluation in England was postponed, approximately £5.5 million has been spent by the Valuation Office Agency on IT development (software, hardware and technical consultancy) and on other support costs associated with securing the investment in its automated valuation model (AVM). This will allow the AVM to be used as a support for the Agency's day-to-day work, including maintenance of council tax valuation lists. Staffing costs associated with developing and maintaining the AVM are not recorded separately.

### Valuation Office: Opinion Research Corporation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on Opinion Research Corporation's services in each year since 2001; and what the purpose of each service purchased was. [178743]

**Jane Kennedy:** No work was undertaken for the agency prior to 2004. The total expenditure (exclusive of VAT) in the last four financial years is:

| *Financial year* | *Project name* | *Total expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Annual customer survey | 10,450 |
| 2005-06 | Annual customer survey | 18,955 |
| | People's Panel research (prior to the postponed council tax revaluation) | 68,390 |
| 2006-07 | Annual Customer Survey | 30,000 |
| 2007-08 | Annual Customer Survey | 25,000 |
| Total spend | — | 152,795 |

### Valuation Office: Rightmove

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 509W, on Valuation Office: Rightmove, (1) what the timetable is for HM Revenue and Customs, on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency, to decide whether or not to exercise its option to extend the contract with Rightmove for a further 12 months; [178657]

(2) whether HM Revenue and Customs, on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency, intends to exercise its option to extend its contract for a further 12 months with Rightmove.co.uk Plc when the current 34 month contract period expires in March 2008; and if he will make it his policy to terminate the contract at the end of the 34 month period. [183270]

**Jane Kennedy:** This is an operational decision for the Valuation Office Agency, who should continue to gather, in the most cost-effective way, the data it requires to perform its statutory functions.

### VAT: Energy

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is the Government's policy to reduce value added tax on energy efficiency devices from 17.5 per cent. to 5 per cent. [185985]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2096W, to the right hon. Member for Scunthorpe (Mr. Morley).

## Welfare Tax Credits

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1500-01W, on welfare tax credits, what definition his Department uses of financial hardship in such cases. [173808]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 13 December 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs approach is set out in its Code of Practice 26 available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-leaflets.htm

HMRC published revised guidance on their website on 31 January.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the review of tax credit cases announced on 25 July 2007; and what implications the outcomes of the review have for those people whose cases are subject to review and are also involved in disputes on tax credit entitlements for the immediately succeeding years. [184539]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs are running a three year programme of work to review tax credit awards where it appears awards were reduced as a result of new information which came to light after the award for that year had been finalised and closed. In a small number of cases the outcome of the review will be to remit an overpayment. Overpayments which are not part of the review will not be affected.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of UK households below *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 40 per cent. of the median household income are eligible for, but not in receipt of (i) child benefit, (ii) working tax credit and (iii) child tax credit; [185908]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of children living in households whose income is below *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 40 per cent. of the median household income are eligible for, but not in receipt of (i) child benefit, (ii) working tax credit and (iii) child tax credit. [185909]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested for tax credit recipients and children in these families could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Estimates for the number of in-work families who were eligible but not claiming tax credits, by income used to calculate entitlement, are presented in table 4 of the HMRC publication "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up rates. 2004-05." This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/takeup-rates2004-05.pdf

It is estimated that around 98 per cent. of eligible families receive child benefit. The household income is not recorded for child benefit purposes as it does not affect the recipient's award. Therefore, the information requested is not available.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of children who would be lifted out of poverty if all households claimed the full amount of *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* working tax credit to which they are entitled. [185914]

**Jane Kennedy:** Increased financial support for families with children through tax credits and child benefit have played a key role in reducing child poverty, helping to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty, and 1.8 million children out of absolute poverty between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

It is estimated that approximately 98 per cent. of families in the UK claim child benefit. Latest statistics show that take-up of tax credits for families with children was 82 per cent. in 2004-05, rising to 97 per cent. for those on low incomes, significantly higher than for previous comparable systems of support.

Evidence from some external studies and Treasury modelling suggest that full tax credit take-up might reduce the child poverty rate by one percentage point or more compared with 2004-05 take-up rates. Such estimates are subject to a number of uncertainties and simplifying assumptions, and should be taken as a very broad guide only.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, on tax credit administration, what has been the effect of rectifying the administrative error in the tax credit system on the time it takes HM Revenue and Customs to *(a)* resolve (i) pre-existing and (ii) fresh complaints, *(b)* submit information regarding (A) pre-existing and (B) fresh complaints to the Adjudicator and *(c)* submit information regarding (1) pre-existing and (2) fresh complaints to the parliamentary ombudsman in (x) affected and (y) unaffected cases. [186017]

**Jane Kennedy:** The administrative error had an initial impact on the time it took HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to handle complaints about tax credits. The position has now been recovered for the majority of cases.

## Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the Tax Credits Office received on tax credits in each of the last five years. [185305]

**Jane Kennedy:** For information about the number of complaints received in the Tax Credit Office for each year from January 2004 to May 2007 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1125W. Information about the numbers of complaints about tax credits received in the Tax Credit Office in each month from June to December 2007 is given in the following table.

| Month 2007 | Number of complainants (approximate) |
|---|---|
| June | 3,850 |
| July | 3,400 |
| August | 3,250 |
| September | 2,800 |
| October | 3,150 |
| November | 3,350 |
| December | 1,900 |

### Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost of recovering overpayment of tax credits from claimants in Northern Ireland. [184728]

**Jane Kennedy:** The cost of recovering overpayments of tax credits in Northern Ireland is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 681W.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department expects to publish details of the new test intended to replace the reasonable belief test used in disputed cases of overpayment of tax credits. [169090]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs published the revised guidance on their website at www.hmrc.gsi.gov.uk on 31 January 2008.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for the recent changes to HM Revenue and Customs' Code of Practice 26, What Happens if We Have Paid You too Much Tax Credit; and if he will make a statement. [184628]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* HMRC published the new Code of Practice 26 on its website (www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf.) on 31 January 2008. Details were also given in my letter to the parliamentary and health service ombudsman of 29 January 2008 setting out the Government's response to her report on tax credits. That letter was deposited in the Library of the House.

HMRC has consulted widely on the changes seeking the views of the adjudicator, the ombudsman and also a number of the voluntary organisations, including the Child Poverty Action Group, Citizens Advice and the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group.

The new code no longer has a reference to what is or is not 'reasonable' for a customer to have understood. Instead, HMRC and customers' respective responsibilities are clearly set out in the code.

*HMRC will be responsible for:*

paying the correct award; and

ensuring that changes reported to them by customers are recorded accurately and promptly.

Importantly, the Department will have a time limit (30 days) to act on information reported to them.

*The customer's responsibilities will be to:*

report changes of circumstances promptly;

check that their award notice properly reflects their family's circumstances and income and if it is incorrect to inform HMRC within 30 days of receiving the award notice; and

check that the award matches the amounts going into their bank account and, if they are incorrect, to inform HMRC.

If a customer reports a change of circumstance then HMRC have 30 days to act on that change. If HMRC fail to act within 30 days then any resulting overpayment after the 30 days will be remitted.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on staff recruitment for the Tax Credits Helpline in each year for which figures are available. [180233]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not available in the format requested as the data cannot be disaggregated from other costs.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methods have been used to recruit staff for the Tax Credits Helpline in the last year. [180235]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC does not recruit staff specifically for the Tax Credits Helpline, but instead advertises for Contact Centre Advisers. Over the last year HMRC has advertised externally in Local and National newspapers, on internet sites, on local radio and conducted road shows, attended Job fairs and Job Centre Plus offices. HMRC also recruits advisers internally and from other Government Departments by advertising vacancies through internal departmental intranet sites and publications.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at each grade were employed on the Tax Credits Helpline in each year since it was established. [180419]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the former Paymaster General on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1392W. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed on the Tax Credit Helpline for the year ended 31 March 2007 is estimated to be around 4,000, and for the year ended 31 March 2008 the figures are not yet available.

The analysis of these figures "by grade" is not available. At any given time, the numbers of staff working on the Tax Credits Helpline can vary considerably from the figures given as staff are increasingly deployed flexibly across HMRC's Helplines to respond to changing customer demand.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Arms Trade: Export Controls

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what applications have been received for export licences for

the sale of arms to Sri Lanka since 1 January 2007; what type of arms were included in each application; whether each application was approved; and what the grounds for refusal were for each application which was refused. [185258]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued and refused, including the overall value and number of export licences approved for Sri Lanka and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. For licences refused, the reports provide, by destination, information on the number of licences refused, and a description of the nature of those goods (by reference to the relevant entry in export control legislation), and indicate which of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria applied.

The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395474

The Government have published quarterly reports on strategic export controls since January 2004 and these are also available from this website.

## Bankruptcy: Agriculture

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* company liquidations there were in the agriculture sector in each year since 1997. [185650]

**Mr. McFadden:** The closest available estimates for bankruptcies in the agriculture sector are among self-employed farmers under the category "agriculture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC). Also provided are the numbers of company liquidations in the agriculture sector.

The following table provides the England and Wales figures in 1997—Q3 2006.

*Bankruptcies and company liquidations in England and Wales in the agriculture sector, 1997—Q3 2006*

| | *Bankruptcy orders* | *Company liquidations* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 155 | 51 |
| 1998 | 157 | 65 |
| 1999 | 183 | 75 |
| 2000 | 173 | 67 |
| 2001 | 183 | 90 |
| 2002 | 132 | 76 |
| 2003 | 151 | 52 |
| 2004 | 204 | 35 |
| 2005 | 195 | 35 |
| 2006 (up to September)[1] | 129 | 28 |

[1] Figures from October 2006 are not available due to development work to update the classification to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003. These will be available for new cases from July 2007.

## Broadband: Elderly

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the potential of the digital switchover programme to increase access to the internet for *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with a disability. [184357]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Discussions on the potential of the digital switchover programme to facilitate increased internet usage have been ongoing between the Department for Trade and Industry/Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport throughout the development of the policy for whether, and if so, how and when, full switchover to television should be implemented. The joint Government—Industry Digital Television Action Plan which operated from January 2002 to November 2004 included a number of actions to explore the potential synergies between television switchover and providing access to services provided over the internet. With further technological advances since 2005, the issue has continued to be considered in the digital switchover programme. However, it remains the case that, while some means of electronic communications such as broadband networks can also offer reliable access to digital television services, digital television does not of itself provide easy-to-use access to the internet.

The Government have asked the BBC to establish and fund the Digital Switchover Help Scheme to assist those aged 75 or over, and younger people with significant disabilities, including those registered as blind or partially sighted to convert to digital television. The scheme will provide practical help with obtaining and installing equipment, and aftercare support. Providing access to the internet would add significantly to the complexity of the scheme and of the communications which support it. It is also likely to add significantly to the complexity for many of the recipients of the Help Scheme assistance and so act counter to the objectives of the scheme. We will continue to keep under review the options for accommodating new and emerging technologies into the scheme to help ensure that the equipment provided best suits the needs and interests of older and disabled people.

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with a disability using broadband to enhance their access to goods or services; what further scope there is for increasing the number of older and disabled people who can gain such access; and if he will make a statement. [184359]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department does not collect statistics on this matter. Statistics on the elderly and people with disabilities using broadband to enhance their access to goods and services are collected by Ofcom and the Ofcom Advisory Committee on Older and Disabled People.

Ofcom's UK Communications Market 2007 report shows that penetration falls with age when you look at internet usage with just 16 per cent. of over-65s using the web, although this age group spend on average almost 42 hours online every month, more than any other group. One quarter of all Britons online are over 50 and 30 per cent. of total time spent on the internet is by over-50s.

There are a number of industry and the third sector groups looking at ways of increasing the number of older and disabled people with access to online who can then benefit from using broadband to access goods and services. Organisations like, UK Online Centres, Citizens Online, RNID, RNIB, Help the Aged, Silver Surfers club, i2010, eAccessibility/Design for all, Action plan against Poverty, the Government's LinkAgePlus and local authorities through the DC10plus are all helping to get more people online.

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was paid by his Department and its predecessor to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180697]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that the following amounts have been paid to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year from 2003-04 to date:

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capita | 177,948 | 46,346 | 78,424 | 716,539 | 665,044 |
| Capita Business Services Ltd. | 615,200 | 551,145 | 5,650 | 37,198,789 | 34,159,964 |
| Capita Centres UK Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | 0 |
| Capita Hartshead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25,575 | 4,272 |
| Capita Health Solutions Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 281,676 | 1,712,412 |
| Capita Insurance Services | 129,682 | 1,217,269 | 28,303,504 | 30,907,287 | 0 |
| Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd. | 3,946,723 | 66,708,092 | 48,052,556 | 127,250 | 0 |
| Capita Learning and Development | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,379 | -895 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 314,737 | 589,595 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd. T/A Veredus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 184,702 |
| Capita Symonds Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 4,126 | 1,113 | 0 |
| BMI Health Services | 15,151 | 5,353 | 682 | 0 | 0 |
| Capita Interim Management | 0 | 0 | 3,270 | 0 | 0 |
| Capita RAS Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 8,500 | 0 | 0 |

[1] To date.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Companies: Data Protection

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of UK companies that store data indefinitely in compliance with one or more of (i) the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive, (ii) the single euro payments area, (iii) the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and (iv) the Companies Act 2006. [185411]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

(i) There is no obligation imposed by the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive to store data indefinitely. MiFID requires that documents be held for at least five years and that certain client records be held for at least the duration of the firm's relationship with the client.

(ii) The Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) is an industry initiative. For this reason the Government have not requested firms to store SEPA compliance data. The European Payments Council, which oversees the SEPA initiative, requires firms to hold information in order to comply with SEPA. To date 16 UK banks have adhered to SEPA, representing 84 per cent. of UK retail banking payment volume.

(iii) The UK Government do not hold data on UK companies that are required to comply with the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

(iv) There is no requirement under company law for UK companies to store any historic data indefinitely. The Companies Act 2006 introduced time limits, of 10 years, for certain records including, for example, minutes of a meeting. This was primarily to allow UK companies to dispose of such information, as some had previously been storing it indefinitely. All companies are required to hold certain documents and records, which should be kept up to date for the lifetime of the company. For example the company's registers of members and directors must be kept available for inspection.

### Construction: Standards

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the creation of a single set of competency standards for the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [184488]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The issue of competency standards for construction has been raised briefly by the Specialist Engineering Group (SEC) at meetings with the Department. No formal representations have been received.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on external consultants in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05. [184884]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that the cost to the Department of engaging external consultants in each of the following financial years has been:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 86 |
| 2003-04 | 112 |

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2187W, on departmental marketing, what the cost of the re-branding exercise was. [184887]

**Mr. Thomas:** The rebranding exercise in the previous answer refers to the costs incurred in setting up BERR. An analysis of these costs dated 21 November 2007 showed them to be £218,063. These included stationery, rebranding and IT changes, including revised email addresses, new signage, web-based changes, new logo and print costs (including the re-launch of BERR on 1 November 2007) and the anticipated cost of branding guidelines.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2187W, on departmental marketing, whether any external contracts were awarded to *(a)* run and *(b)* facilitate the re-branding exercise. [184888]

**Mr. Thomas:** No external contracts were awarded to run or facilitate the rebranding exercise. It was run and managed by BERR staff.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what telephone contact centres his Department is responsible for. [173133]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer this question. Therefore, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessors spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each of those years. [181638]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total amount spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK by BERR and its predecessor, the DTI, in each of the last 10 years was:

| | Outside UK | £ Within UK |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 5,019,971 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 5,291,063 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 5,470,024 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 4,912,785 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 5,583,825 | 4,235,910 |
| 2003-04 | 4,260,257 | 4,310,326 |
| 2004-05 | 5,483,903 | 3,976,125 |
| 2005-06 | 5,601,629 | 3,709,167 |
| 2006-07 | 6,295,501 | 3,234,332 |
| April 2007 to November 2007 | 1,752,867 | 2,529,628 |

n/a = Not available

These figures include travel, accommodation and incidental costs associated with travel.

To provide details of the percentage of the Department's overall expenditure on such travel for each of those years would entail disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181614]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total amount spent on foreign travel by BERR and its predecessor, the DTI, in each of the last 10 years was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 5,019,971 |
| 1999-2000 | 5,291,063 |
| 2000-01 | 5,470,024 |
| 2001-02 | 4,912,785 |
| 2002-03 | 5,583,825 |
| 2003-04 | 4,260,257 |
| 2004-05 | 5,483,903 |
| 2005-06 | 5,601,629 |
| 2006-07 | 6,295,501 |
| April 2007 to November 2007 | 1,752,867 |

The Department does not separately record details of which countries were visited—to provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

These figures include travel, accommodation and incidental costs associated with travel.

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by the former Department for Trade and Industry and his Department on expenses, travel and accommodation to Brussels in each year since 2000. [176051]

**Mr. Thomas:** Details of the amount spent by BERR, and previously by DTI, on travel and accommodation to Brussels are available only from June 2002 to date and are:

| | Travel | £ Accommodation |
|---|---|---|
| June to December 2002 | 420,294 | 55,885 |
| January to December 2003 | 630,725 | 15,256 |
| January to December 2004 | 577,633 | 9,305 |
| January to December 2005 | 717,260 | 16,587 |
| January to December 2006 | 512,668 | 94,076 |
| January 2007 to date | 424,301 | 95,374 |

Details of expenses to Brussels are not centrally recorded. To obtain this information would entail disproportionate cost.

### Employment: Discrimination

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2188-9W, on employment: discrimination, how many cases based wholly or partially on a complaint of age discrimination have been brought before the Employment Service Tribunal in each of the last 10 years. [185432]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The collection of details on Age Discrimination cases only became a requirement from October 2006, thus information is only available from that period. From October 2006 until the end of January 2008, there were 2,514 age discrimination cases out of a total of 147,530 discrimination cases. From 2002 until October 2006, there was a total of 114,392 discrimination cases. The information is summarised in the following table.

*Numbers of discrimination and age discrimination cases, 2002 until January 2008.*

| | October 2002 to October 2006 | October 2006 to January 2008 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Discrimination | 114,392 | 147,530 | 261,922 |
| Age discrimination | Not available | 2,514 | Not available |

Source:
The Tribunals Service

### Energy Supply: Meters

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to paragraph 2.1.25 of the 2007 Energy White Paper, what ways of reducing the costs associated with pre-payment meters his Department has considered; and if he will make a statement. [185360]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The costs associated with pre-payment meters reflect the higher cost of the meter itself, as well as that of the complex payment and support infrastructures required to support them, involving suppliers, meter owners and thousands of retail outlets.

Gas and electricity suppliers have been considering their tariff structures and two companies have equalised their standard credit and prepayment prices for electricity, while one offers prepayment customers a lower price for both fuels than that paid by standard credit customers. In addition, some suppliers offer social tariffs and other measures that benefit their most disadvantaged customers.

I will continue to look with Ofgem and the energy companies at ways of reducing the costs associated with pre-payment meters. I also support Ofgem's work to promote access to cheaper payment methods, especially direct debit.

The Government will shortly set out their next steps on smart meters. Such meters could significantly reduce the cost of serving a prepayment meter customer.

### Energy Technologies Institute: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the public purse is of the Energy Technologies Institute in 2007-08. [180482]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Energy Technologies Institute was legally established on 12 December 2007 as a limited liability partnership. Direct costs accrued in April to December 2007 by the public sector in support of the establishment of the ETI are estimated to amount to approximately £1,466,520. The majority of these costs will be shared with the private sector partners and off-set against public sector contributions to ETI during 2008.

### Energy: Conservation

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was raised by the energy efficiency commitment, broken down by energy supplier in each year since its introduction; and how much will be raised by the carbon emission reduction target on the same basis. [184951]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

We estimate that the first phase of EEC (2002-05) cost suppliers around £410 million and stimulated about £600 million worth of investment in energy efficiency delivering net benefits to householders in excess of £3 billion. The EEC's second phase (2005-08) is expected to cost suppliers around £1.2 billion and stimulate £400 million worth of annual investment in energy efficiency, delivering net benefits of £7.2 billion. The forthcoming CERT (2008-11) is estimated to cost energy suppliers around £2.8 billion, stimulating low carbon investment of some £4.3 billion and delivering net benefits to households worth approximately £12 billion.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance and incentives are available for businesses to implement more energy efficient *(a)* information and communication technology equipment, *(b)* working practices and *(c)* data centres. [185412]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Carbon Trust is working with a number of companies in the information communications technology (ICT) and financial services sectors through the carbon management process, to help reduce their carbon emissions and implement energy efficient practices. This includes a number of data centres, where barriers to energy efficiency implementation include:

education at executive level in relation to risks and opportunities surrounding 'carbon intensity' and differentiation of services offered in the market place. A cultural evolution within these companies is needed, accompanied by significant changes to organisational structure;

commercial risk of installing new technologies due to loss of system availability, brand perception and because the systems are deemed to be of critical importance to the UK economy;

business regulation (particularly in the financial sector) requiring energy intensive backup and disaster recovery systems; and

difficulty in retrofitting existing data centres.

The Carbon Trust is in discussions with industry bodies to share understanding of energy issues in data centres, and is giving serious consideration to rolling out an industry-wide solution.

The Carbon Trust also provides a range of general guidance on the energy efficient use of office equipment, staff awareness and energy management. This is done through its customer centre, website and publications. The Carbon Trust also founded the Low Carbon Culture Company. This makes use of the Carbon Trust's experience in understanding carbon emissions to help companies reduce their carbon emissions by changing employee behaviour.

### Energy: Meters

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the replacement of consumer energy display units with smart meters; who will bear the cost of replacement; and what research his Department has carried out on using alternative meters. [184773]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government have carried out a consultation on metering and billing, including smart meters, display devices and the relationship between the two. The Government will set out the next steps on metering and billing shortly.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he will make the statutory instrument necessary to enable consumers of energy to request real time consumption display devices; [185983]

(2) whether the Government intend to provide free real-time energy consumption display devices to householders. [185984]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In August 2007, the Government consulted on a range of metering and billing proposals, including the provision of electricity display devices. The Government will shortly set out their response to the consultation, including the next steps on smart meters and display devices.

### Energy: Warrington

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to reduce energy costs to *(a)* low income families and *(b)* vulnerable people in Warrington. [184775]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Action to reduce energy costs for those on low incomes cuts across several Departments. The Government have a package of measures in place to support vulnerable households to reduce energy costs.

We have announced that spend on energy efficiency measures for those on low incomes for the period 2008-11 will be in excess of £2.3 billion. Since 2000 the Warm Front programme has helped over 14,000 vulnerable households install energy efficiency measures in Warrington.

In the Energy White Paper we made it clear that we expected energy suppliers to have a proportionate programme of assistance in place for vulnerable customers. Energy companies have responded positively and have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers from £40 million to £56 million this winter.

### Engineering

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the contribution of the engineering industry to the economy in 2007. [182950]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The engineering industry, counting the sectors defined by the Community Innovation Survey as engineering-based manufacturing industries, contributed some £57 billion gross value added to the UK economy in 2006, the last year for which figures are available.

### Export Control Act 2002

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation on the review of the Export Control Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [181739]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government published their response on 7 February 2008. The response is available from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/legislation/export-control-act-2002/review/index.html

### Exports: China

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any commercial export contracts were agreed *(a)* during and *(b)* as a result of the Prime Minister's recent visit to Beijing. [182692]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, witnessed a number of commercial contract signings during the recent visit to Beijing.

It is too early to say what the commercial results of the visit were. However, I am confident that following discussions and agreements reached during the visit, including the announcement of a new $60 billion bilateral trade target, and the business matching event

involving British and Chinese companies, there will be a significant number of commercial relationships arising from the visit.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183849]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department has adopted a policy to use fair trade products within its catering operations and includes a clause within the contract specification with its catering service provider.

### Farepak Response Fund

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the Farepak Response Fund accounts for the period from 10 November 2006 to 31 July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [184734]

**Mr. Thomas:** I will arrange for a copy of the accounts to be placed in the Library promptly.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps have been taken to assist the fuel poor in meeting any increases in electricity prices resulting from the renewables obligation. [175694]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Government measures outlined in the UK Fuel Poverty 5th Annual Strategy Progress Report are aimed at ensuring the fuel poor are able to meet their fuel bills. Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on benefits and programmes, including the winter fuel payment which helped keep 11.7 million people warm in the winter of 2006-07.

In addition, the combination of Warm Front funding of just over £800 million for the 2008-11 period and the focus on low income and elderly consumers through the priority group obligation in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) mean that spending on energy efficiency and other measures in low income, elderly and disabled households is expected to rise by £680 million to around £2.3 billion compared to the previous spending period.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of fuel poverty since 1997. [178470]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The Government developed a strategy for tackling fuel poverty which was published in 2001. The strategy focuses on improving the energy efficiency of low income households and increasing their income.

Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes. Winter fuel payments that helped 11.7 million people keep warm last winter will continue for the rest of this Parliament. The Government have also announced that spend on household energy efficiency measures for the period 2008-11 will be in excess of £2.3 billion—£680 million more than the previous spending period.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of social tariffs for energy supplies in alleviating fuel poverty. [184996]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In the Energy White Paper the Government asked the energy companies to provide a proportionate programme of assistance to vulnerable consumers. Following analysis of Ofgem's review of energy suppliers' social initiatives, the Government found that the energy companies offered an extensive range of social programmes, including social tariffs, trust funds and rebates, and concluded that the energy companies were offering a proportionate level of assistance. A supplier is deemed to be offering a proportionate level of assistance if it is offering measures around or above the industry average at the time of the publication of the White Paper. The energy companies have increased their contribution from £40 million to £56 million this winter, lifting a further 70,000 households out of fuel poverty by the end of 2007.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 805W, on fuel poverty, what the duration is of each of the social initiatives announced by the six major energy suppliers in light of the 2007 Energy White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [185262]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* In the Energy White Paper, we made it clear that we expected energy suppliers to have a proportionate programme of assistance in place for vulnerable customers. Energy companies have responded positively and have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers from £40 million to £56 million this winter. Further details about the duration of these programmes will be provided in due course.

### Fuel: Meters

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to reduce the difference in costs between those paying for fuel on prepay meters and those paying by direct debit. [185295]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The costs associated with pre-payment meters reflect the higher cost of the meter itself, as well as that of the complex payment and support infrastructures required to support them, involving suppliers, meter owners and thousands of retail outlets.

Gas and electricity suppliers have been considering their tariff structures and two companies have equalised their standard credit and prepayment prices for electricity, while one offers prepayment customers a

lower price for both fuels than that paid by standard credit customers. In addition, some suppliers offer social tariffs and other measures that benefit their most disadvantaged customers.

I will continue to look with Ofgem and the energy companies at ways of reducing the costs associated with prepayment meters. I also support Ofgem's work to promote access to cheaper payment methods, especially direct debit.

The Government will shortly set out their next steps on smart meters. Such meters could significantly reduce the cost of serving a prepayment meter customer.

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people pay for fuel on prepay meters in Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency. [185296]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Splits by payment type are not available at constituency level. The lowest level of aggregation available is distribution zone, with Sparkbrook and Small Heath being located in the West Midlands. This information is published quarterly in "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest version of which is accessible online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43302.pdf.

The following table shows the total number of domestic customers and the number of customers paying using a prepay meter in the West Midlands for both electricity and gas.

| *Total customers* | *Pre-payment customer* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *Electricity* | | |
| 2,166,600 | 321,500 | 15 |
| *Gas* | | |
| 1,884,700 | 210,200 | 11 |

**Furniture: Carbon Emissions**

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to encourage British furniture manufacturers to reduce their carbon footprint through the use of sustainable manufacturing practices. [182246]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Government are taking action to encourage all parts of the economy including manufacturing to reduce their carbon footprint. The Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic Performance report published in November reported that there are opportunities for all businesses to improve eco-efficiency and operational performance by addressing the environmental impact of products throughout their whole lifecycle. The Carbon Trust offers advice and support schemes to business and more specific measures are set out in the Climate Change Bill currently going through Parliament. Government have introduced a number of initiatives which help businesses including WRAP which offers advice to manufacturers on recycling and reducing material consumption and from April the Manufacturing Advisory Service will extend its services to include improving resource efficiency in both energy and waste.

**Furniture**

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many furniture manufacturers operate in the UK; how many people the industry employs; and how many items made by British furniture manufacturers were exported in the latest period for which figures are available. [182234]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2006, the latest year for which full figures are available from official statistics, the UK furniture industry had 7,327 enterprises, 110,000 employees and exported £923 million worth of goods (the number of items exported is not available from official statistics).

*Source:*

ONS ABI and MQ10

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the contribution to the British economy made by UK furniture manufacturers. [182235]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Official statistics show that in 2006, the latest year for which full figures are available, the furniture industry contributed £3,588 million in gross value added[1] to the UK economy.

[1] Approximate gross value added at basic prices for SIC 36.1

*Source:*

ONS ABI

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that Government funding to support furniture manufacturing industry and its supply chain is more effective for the industry across all geographical regions. [183017]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have a remit to promote business efficiency and competitiveness and they deploy funding support according to regional priorities. The RDAs are also the principle channel for delivery of business support through Business Link and the Manufacturing Advisory Service which are available to all parts of manufacturing industry.

**Government Office for London: Finance**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government Office for London's budget has been in each year since its establishment. [184616]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I have been asked to reply.

Government office for London's running cost expenditure is as follows:

| | *Total (£ million)* | *Status* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 16.0 | Outturn |
| 1999-2000 | 16.0 | Outturn |
| 2000-01 | 14.7 | Outturn |

| | Total (£ million) | Status |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 13.2 | Outturn |
| 2002-03 | 14.1 | Outturn |
| 2003-04 | 16.7 | Outturn |
| 2004-05 | 18.9 | Outturn |
| 2005-06 | 18.5 | Outturn |
| 2006-07 | 17.6 | Outturn |
| 2007-08 | 16.3 | Forecast spend |

### Imports: Furniture

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effects of furniture imports from *(a)* China and *(b)* Poland on the British furniture manufacturing industry. [182247]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No such assessments have been made. Imports from low cost economies represent a significant challenge to all parts of UK manufacturing and Government are taking action through the Manufacturing Strategy to help companies to compete on value rather than low wages. We have started a review of the Strategy to ensure that it continues to meet the changing demands on the sector and so that companies can take advantage of opportunities in emerging markets.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments were made under coal health schemes in each year for which figures are available. [185178]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table shows the payments made under the coal health compensation schemes since its inception as at 3 February 2008.

£ million

| | COPD | | VWF | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Damages | Solicitors costs | Damages | Solicitors costs |
| Pre 1999 | 21.3 | 0.02 | 4.6 | 1.0 |
| 1999 | 21.8 | 0.8 | 51.5 | 4.5 |
| 2000 | 60.9 | 8.2 | 149.3 | 10.4 |
| 2001 | 134.8 | 31.7 | 232.2 | 24.9 |
| 2002 | 295.5 | 62.7 | 227.4 | 19.2 |
| 2003 | 414.0 | 123.5 | 246.0 | 18.9 |
| 2004 | 341.0 | 138.7 | 175.1 | 7.8 |
| 2005 | 427.9 | 254.0 | 137.4 | 8.1 |
| 2006 | 303.7 | 233.7 | 161.1 | 20.5 |
| 2007 | 162.4 | 102.0 | 230.0 | 48.1 |
| 2008 | 9.7 | 8.1 | 20.6 | 3.0 |
| Total | 2,192.9 | 963.3 | 1,635.1 | 166.5 |

*Note:*
Figures do not add-up due to rounding.

### Information and Communications Technology: Energy

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry on the energy efficiency of ICT products. [185387]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Government Ministers and officials have regular discussions with representatives of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry on a wide range of issues including the energy efficiency of its products.

### International Trade

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department discussed in advance with HRH Prince Andrew, in his role as special representative for international trade and investment, the businesses whose interest he would promote during his visit to the world economic forum in Davos. [183788]

**Mr. Thomas:** In advance of HRH The Duke of York's attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos, in his role as the UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, UK Trade and Investment discussed the programme for his visit with the Duke of York's Private Office.

### Liquified Natural Gas: Milford Haven

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage capacity that will be provided at the two new LNG import terminals to be commissioned at Milford Haven. [185064]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* These developments are a commercial matter. Based on BERR's current data on capacity under construction, the information requested is:

South Hook—LNG storage capacity equivalent to 470 mcm of gas in gaseous form;

Dragon—LNG storage capacity equivalent to 100 mcm of gas in gaseous form.

I should take this opportunity to make the following correction to the answer given to the hon. Member's earlier question, 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 416W. The figure for LNG storage capacity at import terminals is equivalent to 120 mcm of gas in gaseous form (not the 50 mcm previously indicated). Consequently Great Britain's total existing fixed storage capacity for liquefied natural gas is the equivalent of 380 mcm of gas in gaseous form (not the 310 mcm previously indicated).

### London Development Agency: Grants

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether his Department *(a)* records, *(b)* monitors and *(c)* audits grants made by the London Development Agency; [184429]

(2) what records his Department holds of grants made by the London Development Agency to bodies other than trade unions. [184729]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Secretary of State's approval is only required by the London Development Agency for expenditure on individual projects where these exceed the Agency's current financial delegation of £50 million and for a proportion of projects between £10 million and £50 million. The Department keeps records of these projects and receives monitoring reports on them. The Department does not keep records of smaller grants made by the Agency.

It is not the Department's role to audit grants provided by the LDA. As a functional body of the GLA, the LDA's external auditor is the Audit Commission.

### Manufacturing Industries: Employment

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many jobs in the manufacturing sector there were in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire county council area and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [182266]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Figures from the Office for National Statistics detailing the number of jobs in the manufacturing sector as per the hon. Member's question are shown in the following table:

Figures for 2007 are not yet available.

| | *(a) Ribble Valley* | *(b) Lancashire CC* | *(c) England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 9,500 | 138,500 | 3,504,700 |
| 1999 | 9,800 | 129,700 | 3,395,500 |
| 2000 | 10,600 | 127,200 | 3,279,500 |
| 2001 | 9,600 | 116,700 | 3,121,000 |
| 2002 | 10,400 | 115,700 | 2,965,600 |
| 2003 | 9,100 | 112,900 | 2,807,100 |
| 2004 | 8,000 | 107,700 | 2,665,400 |
| 2005 | 7,800 | 102,100 | 2,549,700 |
| 2006 | 8,500 | 98,600 | 2,481,100 |

### Minimum Wage: Publicity

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to promote awareness of the national minimum wage since its introduction. [185371]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* There were high profile publicity campaigns to raise awareness of the national minimum wage in the early years following its introduction. Since then the Government have run a campaign to inform workers and employers about the rates.

This year we are running a more sustained national and regional campaign including radio and poster advertising, an online campaign targeting young workers, an outreach campaign involving a national minimum wage bus visiting more than 30 towns and cities across Great Britain, and a campaign targeting migrant workers bringing in elements of these campaigns. These campaigns seek to promote awareness of the minimum wage, the rates and where workers and employers can get advice or make a complaint.

We are also working with business to identify what support they need to ahead of new penalties for underpayment of NMW which are being introduced through the Employment Bill.

### Minimum Wage: Young People

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of 18 to 21-year-olds in the Halifax area who are being paid more than they otherwise would because of the minimum wage. [184722]

**Mr. McFadden:** Estimates of earnings distribution by region are derived from the ONS's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). ASHE data are not available at the level of detail required to identify the Halifax area.

However, it is estimated that around 7 per cent. of employee jobs held by 18 to 21-year-olds in Yorkshire and the Humber region stood to benefit from the October 2007 increase in the national minimum wage.

### Ministers: Responsibilities

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Baroness Vadera's ministerial responsibilities include oversight of *(a)* UK Trade and Investment and *(b)* the Defence and Security Group; and if he will make a statement. [183629]

**Mr. Hutton:** No. My noble Friend, the Minister for Trade Promotion and Investment has ministerial responsibility in BERR for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). His responsibilities will also include defence and security trade promotion when UKTI takes over responsibility for defence exports from the Defence Export Services Organisation on 1 April 2008. He is responsible for the Department's general relations with the defence and security business sectors.

### Mobile Phones: Fraud

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what regulations his Department has introduced prohibiting phishing texts on mobile telephones. [180380]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The practice of attempting fraud by text message, also known as "smishing", is rare in the UK. Under the provisions of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, any unsolicited text messages are illegal. Text messages should only be sent with the prior consent of the individual subscriber, but there is an exemption where the subscriber has given his or her mobile telephone number direct to a company in the context of the purchase of a product or service. Enforcement is undertaken by the Information Commissioner.

### Nuclear Installations Act 1965

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Government plans to consult on amending the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. [180089]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I understand the hon. Member to be referring to the Government's intention to consult on amending the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 to implement the amendments made in 2004 to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on third party nuclear liability. We intend to consult on this later this year.

### Nuclear Power

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1632W, on nuclear power, how many respondents requested anonymity for their submissions; how many such respondents were *(a)* companies, *(b)* individuals and *(c)* others; and how many submissions were made to the consultation. [185486]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We received 2,728 written responses to our public consultation on nuclear power. Of these, 261 were treated as confidential. We asked respondents to identify themselves by category in making their responses. Of the 261 responses treated as confidential, 62 defined themselves as coming from a company-related sector. Of these, two responses were on behalf of a company, and 60 were individual responses. 149 responses came from those defining themselves as individuals. Of these, four indicated that they were making a response on behalf of an organisation. 50 responses came from a group of sectors summarised as "other", including academic, consultancy, Government agency or sponsored body, local or regional government, trade union, voluntary or environmental organisation. Of these, five indicated that they were making a response on behalf of an organisation.

### Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to encourage West Midlands businesses to examine the opportunities arising from the hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games. [185372]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* London 2012 has recently launched the "London 2012 Business Network", which is aimed at helping businesses, particularly SMEs, to access Contracts and sub-Contracts from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The West Midlands launch of the Network took place on 23 January 2008, at Villa Park. The keynote speaker was Mr. Paul Deighton, the chief executive of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG). The launch was attended by 260 delegates, around 75 per cent. of whom were from private sector businesses. The regional development agency for the West Midlands, Advantage West Midlands (AWM), is committed to promoting the London 2012 Business Network in the region.

As part of that process, the West Midlands Business Council, which is funded by AWM, has organised a series of 17 "Olympic Opportunities" seminars across the region. The first seminar took place on 1 February in Ross-on-Wye and the Coventry seminar will take place on 14 March. A full list of the seminars can be accessed at www.wmbusinesscouncil.org.uk under "Events".

In addition, the agency is working closely with Business Link to support businesses in the region to maximise the number of 2012 Tenders won in the West Midlands. This includes a series of ten, detailed, half-day "Tender Training" Workshops, themed around London 2012. The Coventry workshop is on 20 February.

The regional development agencies, including AWM are joint funders of one of the main components of the 2012 Business Network, the "CompeteFor" system.

"CompeteFor" gives unprecedented access to top-tier and lower-level sub-contracts from Olympic Delivery Authority and LOCOG Tenders.

### Packaging: Misleading Advertising

**Mr. Greenway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether he plans through the implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive to increase consumer protection from misleading copycat packaging; [175501]

(2) what assessment he has made of the trading standards departments' capacity to enforce the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive regulations without the inclusion of provision for private prosecution against misleading copycat packaging. [175502]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Office of Fair Trading and Trading Standards Departments will have a duty to enforce the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. The Government believe that these enforcement arrangements suffice to adequately enforce the CPRs, including in relation to misleading copycat packaging design. OFT and Trading Standards Departments will have to act in a manner consistent with their duty to enforce the Regulations. Indeed the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property notes that in this context the Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services have said that once the UCPD is in place they will act on behalf of consumers by pursuing businesses who act improperly.

For this reason the Government do not propose to allow businesses to enforce the regulations. However, they will review the position three years after the regulations come into force.

### Political Levy

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department has provided to trades unions through the Union Modernisation Fund and Union Learning Fund to promote awareness of trades union members' right to opt out of political funds since 1997. [186084]

**Mr. McFadden:** Neither the Union Modernisation Fund nor the Union Learning Fund provides funding to trade unions to promote awareness of trade union members' right to opt out of political funds.

The Union Learning Fund is administered by the Department for Innovation, University and Skills.

## Post Offices: Closures

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs has given to the letter from the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham dated January 2008 on post office closures in that local authority area. [185475]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have seen the letter from Councillor Paul Bristow of the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham council and would recommend that the council contact Post Office Ltd to discuss their concerns and proposals for future service provision in the borough.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 706W, on post offices: closures, if he will make an assessment of the impact on transport-related climate change emissions arising from the Post Office Network change programme. [185547]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* No. The 17 area plans published by Post Office Ltd. to 5 February indicate that on average over 95 per cent. of the population in each area will see no change to the post office branch they currently use or will be within one mile of an alternative branch. And, as stated in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, closures will principally affect a combination of branches in areas of high provision and those that are least used. Post Office Ltd. have been tasked with taking a strategic overview of service provision to ensure that in areas of high provision, people should be able to find an alternative branch nearby and the vast majority will still be within walking distance of their nearest office. With the least used, the number of people affected will, by the nature of the offices, be low.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the meeting held by his Department with the hon. Member for Billericay on 12 December 2007, if he will instruct Post Office Ltd. to release financial data pertaining to post offices earmarked for closure to Essex county council before the proposed closure of such post offices on 11 February. [185555]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* I understand that detailed discussions are now in progress between Post Office Ltd. and Essex county council regarding the post offices which the council has expressed an interest in supporting financially.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which post office branches closed temporarily in each parliamentary constituency in each month from January 2005 to October 2007; [185924]

(2) which temporary post office closures in each parliamentary constituency were made permanent between January 2005 and October 2007; and on what date each closure was made permanent; [185925]

(3) how many new post office outreach services were created in each month from January 2005 to October 2007; [185926]

(4) how many temporarily closed post office branches remained part of the Post Office network at the beginning of each month from January 2005 to October 2007. [185927]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the quality of the Post Office's consultation process for proposed branch closures. [186029]

**Mr. McFadden:** From the outset, Post Office Ltd has made clear that their local public consultation process is about how, not whether, network changes should be implemented. This was set out in their letter sent to all MPs last July.

Across the 10 area plans for which final decisions had been announced as at 7 February, 22 closure decisions have been withdrawn and two proposed closures have been deferred for up to three months to allow time for local funding proposals to be developed and assessed. In the area plans published to date, on average over 10 per cent. of the initial proposals have been changed to ensure compliance with the access criteria and to take account of other factors demonstrating the company's responsiveness to the concerns of stakeholders such as Postwatch, local authorities and sub-postmasters.

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what system there is for appealing against post office closures following the announcement of the Post Office's response to public consultation on branch closures in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. [186030]

**Mr. McFadden:** The review process for closure decisions after public consultation has been agreed between Post Office Limited and Postwatch. It applies where Postwatch shows for an individual branch that, either Post Office Ltd. has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or, evidence emerging from the consultation suggests that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements. The aim of the review process is to reach an agreed way forward by a bilateral review of individual cases, with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority of the respective Post Office Ltd. and Postwatch representatives. For very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage three, a further stage was recently added whereby Allan Leighton, chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach the final decision.

Under this review process, specific closures proposals have been reversed in response to information received as part of the public consultation.

### Postal Services

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which local authorities made submissions to the Post Office consultation on the post office network change programme for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; [186031]

(2) what the cost was of the Post Office's consultation on the network change programme for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.; [186032]

(3) how many responses were received in relation to each branch proposed for closure in the Post Office's consultation on the post office network change programme for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. [186033]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Postwatch

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of Postwatch's ability to carry out its statutory duties. [186028]

**Mr. McFadden:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made no such assessment.

As an executive non-departmental public body the performance of Postwatch is a matter for its board and the chief executive officer, which is monitored via regular meetings with BERR, the sponsor Department.

### Public Telephones

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the number of public telephone boxes which *(a)* display advertising on their exterior and *(b)* displayed advertising on 24 January (i) 2007 and (ii) 2003; [182212]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of red public telephone boxes that have been replaced. [182548]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Under the terms of the Universal Service Obligation imposed on BT and Kingston Communications by the regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the companies are required to maintain public call boxes to meet reasonable demand across the UK. Ofcom enforce this requirement but I understand that Ofcom do not collect information on the design of public call boxes or the extent to which the exterior is used for advertising. My hon. Friend will need to contact the two companies to obtain this information.

I understand from Ofcom that on UK streets there are currently 61,796 public telephone boxes.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 390-91W, on radioactive materials: transport, if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses to the section of the consultation which includes the question 'Do you agree or disagree with the Government's views on the transport of nuclear materials'. [184290]

**Malcolm Wicks:** A copy of the analysis of the responses to the consultation on "The Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon Economy" has been placed in the Library.

As we received 2,700 written responses to the consultation we do not intend to place copies of responses in the Library. However all the written responses to the consultation have been placed on the internet at:

http://nuclearpower2007.direct.gov.uk

The website allows responses and parts of responses on individual subjects, including the transport of nuclear materials, to be read separately.

### Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on regional development agencies: trade unions, what the diversity works project was for which funds were given to the Trades Union Congress by the London Development Agency. [184731]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand from the London Development Agency that the Agency's London Diversity Works for London programme has been working closely since 2006 with southern and eastern region TUC (SERTUC) to capacity build trade union representatives in their efforts to promote equality and diversity in workplaces in partnership with employers.

### Renewable Energy: Heating

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on renewable heat supplies. [179045]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Representations on renewable heat have mainly been channelled to the Office of Climate Change who, until recently, have been leading work on renewable heat and have conducted initial consultations with a range of industry representatives, including those from the Government's Renewables Advisory Board.

On 31 January 2008, BERR, along with DEFRA and CLG, published the Heat Call for Evidence which encourages input to Government thinking from industry and other stakeholders. Responses are due by the end of March.

### Retail Trade: Internet

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely future change in levels of use of internet shopping and the implications for high street retail outlets; and if he will make a statement. [182045]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have not made any such estimate. The internet has opened up a number of opportunities for high street retail outlets. These include potential increases in the customer base, the ability to sell goods for which there is insufficient space in retailers' high street stores, as well as the extra convenience for customers who can order online and then collect the goods from a high street outlet. The internet can also be exploited for marketing purposes, for example through the provision of information to customers on the products in their stores, and the ability to reach customers who would otherwise face difficulties in visiting high street outlets. Depending on circumstances, overheads can be reduced through lower fixed costs per item and a smaller proportion of goods stolen by shoplifters.

The internet has brought about a wider marketplace where customers have greater information and choice than previously. High street retailers who adapt to new market conditions are likely to have more opportunities to grow their businesses.

### Sellafield

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many completed MOX fuel assemblies were made in the Sellafield MOX plant in the last year for which figures are available; and what the production target was for that year. [184894]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The last full year for which production figures for the Sellafield MOX plant are available is the 2006-07 financial year, when the output was eight completed fuel assemblies against a target of 16. This information is contained in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's annual report and accounts for 2006-07, which is available on their website at:

www.nda.gov.uk

### Solar Power: Standards

**Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress he has made with the accreditation of low pressure solar PV panel manufacturers under the terms of the Low Carbon Building Programme. [174370]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Low Carbon Buildings programme supports microgeneration installations only where approved products and installers are used. This is to ensure that Government grants support reliable and safe installations, which comply with building regulations.

Under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) products must meet specified requirements. Where possible, the product requirements are taken from the appropriate British or European standards (e.g. solar thermal collectors have to comply with BS EN 12975-1:2006 when tested in accordance with BS EN 12975-2:2006).

We assume that this question relates to solar thermal collectors. BS EN 12975 does include a pressure test (EN 12975-2:2006 Clause 5.2 Internal pressure test for absorbers). This test involves subjecting the solar collector to a pressure of 1.5 times the maximum solar collector operating pressure specified by the manufacturer. The 1.5 safety factor is normal for this type of test and since the pressure applied in the test is related to the manufacturer's specified maximum pressure, this test should be equally applicable to 'low pressure designs' as those that require higher pressures. This internal pressure test is not only limited to solar collectors incorporating evacuated tubes but also applied to flat plate solar collectors.

The internal pressure test does not, however, apply to solar PV panels. For solar PV panels (and solar thermal collectors) there are mechanical load tests (to demonstrate the ability to resist the loads caused by wind and snow etc.).

These types of tests are described in Clause 5.9 of EN 12975-2:2006 for solar thermal collectors and Clause 10.16 of EN 61215:2005 for PV modules.

### South East England Development Agency

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 418W, on South East England Development Agency, how much the South East England Development Agency received from renting its facilities to *(a)* enterprise gateway projects and *(b)* enterprise hubs in each of the last five years. [185066]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* SEEDA has not received rent from any Enterprise Gateway Projects or Enterprise Hubs.

### South East England Development Agency: Property

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which properties are owned by the South East England Development Agency; to whom each is leased; and on what terms. [181673]

**Mr. McFadden:** The properties owned by the South East England Development Agency are set out in the table. I have placed a copy in the Libraries of the House.

### Telecommunications: EU Law

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to implement the EU Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Directive; what further steps he plans to take; and if he will make a statement. [185006]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The RTTE directive was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 7 April 1999, and has applied since 8 April 2000. All transitional provisions ended on 8 April 2001.

The directive was transposed into UK law via The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No.730) which were published on 13 March 2000.

The regulations were amended by The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 1903) which were published on 21 July 2003 and which took into account the coming into force of the EU communications directives on 25 July 2003.

The regulations were further amended by The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (Amendment No 2) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No.3144) which were published on 5 December 2003 and which, among other things, added Ofcom as an enforcement authority as a consequence of it assuming the responsibilities of the former Radiocommunications Agency.

No further amendments are expected to be needed in the foreseeable future.

### Telecommunications: Hearing Impaired

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the definition of relay services for the deaf in the Government's 2003 Universal Service Order to include newer technologies such as video and internet protocol relay; and if he will make a statement. [181095]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the right hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Timesharing: Complaints

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many consumer complaints his Department has received on timeshare sales in the latest period for which figures are available. [183069]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer this question. Therefore, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

### Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation in each of the last three years. [178945]

**Mr. McFadden:** Ministers meet many people and organisations as part of the process of policy development. In addition, Ministers will meet their own party organisations from time to time. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions apply to trades unions making payments from their general funds to organisations other than political parties which engage in *(a)* campaigning for changes to legislation and *(b)* political campaigning. [186092]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is unlawful for trade unions to apply their general funds in furtherance of "political objects" as defined by section 72 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, either directly or indirectly via another trade union, association or other organisation.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department has issued on the permissible use of resources from trades unions' general funds for campaign purposes. [186093]

**Mr. McFadden:** The BERR publication "Trade union political funds: a guide to trade unions, their members and others" refers to the use of general funds for expenditure on purposes which do not constitute political objects.

### Tribunals: Employment

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on changes to the role of lay members sitting on employment tribunals. [184572]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Government consultation, "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace", published in March 2007, raised a range of issues relating to dispute resolution. Many respondents to that consultation commented on the role of lay members sitting on employment tribunals.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of employment tribunals with *(a)* three members, *(b)* two members and *(c)* one member adjudicating which will sit each year should the provisions of the Employment (Simplification) Bill be enacted. [184573]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Government acknowledge the valuable and important contribution which lay members make to the tribunal system. This was reaffirmed through responses to the Government consultation "Resolving disputes in the workplace" which issued in March 2007 and closed on 20 June 2007. Most respondents commented that the tripartite structure of the tribunal was a real strength which aided decision-making in cases where considerations of context and reasonableness were important.

There was also support in the consultation for chairs to sit alone in determining cases involving issues of a purely legal nature and in straightforward monetary cases, where the practical experience of the workplace that lay members bring to the tribunal's deliberations is

of less relevance. Additionally over 70 per cent. of respondents to the consultation supported the introduction of a new, swift approach to dealing with straightforward claims, where cases could be determined by an employment tribunal chair, with the consent of the parties, on the basis of the papers. Responding to these findings in the consultation process, the Government propose to develop further good practice which already exists within the tribunals by establishing a fast-track system for dealing with simple monetary claims. The fast-track system will involve five jurisdictions where claims potentially raise straightforward issues and therefore potentially could be determined without the need for tribunal hearing. The jurisdictions considered suitable for the fast-track are:

unlawful deductions from wages;

breach of contract;

redundancy pay;

holiday pay; and

the national minimum wage.

Claims falling within this narrow band that are combined with other jurisdictions outside the list will not be eligible for a fast-track determination.

The Government envisages that employment judges will make an early analysis of claims falling within these jurisdictions and form a view as to whether the case would be suitable for (a) determination based on the documents or (b) whether the issues raised are more suitable for a hearing, and if the latter, whether lay members need to be present. Where a case falls into category (a), the employment judge will write to the parties informing them that in his or her opinion the case could be determined on the basis of documents, but advising the parties that they have a right to a hearing. If the parties are content for the case to be determined without hearing, a written determination will be made. If one of the parties requests a hearing, the case will be heard either by an employment judge sitting alone or before a full tribunal. Where complex issues are raised, the case would be heard by a three-member tribunal.

The fast-track potentially benefits both parties by enabling them to resolve straightforward issues quickly and efficiently reducing unnecessary burdens on the parties' time and, where they agree to a determination without hearing, saving them from costs associated with attendance or representation at tribunal hearings. We have estimated some 10 per cent. of tribunal claims will be potentially eligible for a fast-track determination.

The Government remain committed to the tripartite nature of tribunals and recognise the important role which lay members play. Provisions in the Employment Bill will not impact on these valuable and trusted arrangements other than as outlined above.

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the role of lay members on employment tribunals; and if he will make a statement. [185071]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The Government acknowledge the valuable and important contribution which lay members make to the tribunal system. This was reaffirmed through responses to the Government consultation 'Resolving disputes in the workplace' which issued in March 2007 and closed on 20 June 2007. Most respondents commented that the tripartite structure of the tribunal was a real strength which aided decision-making in cases where considerations of context and reasonableness were important.

There was also support in the consultation for employment judges to sit alone in determining cases involving issues of a purely legal nature and in straightforward monetary cases, where the practical experience of the workplace that lay members bring to the tribunal's deliberations is of less relevance. Additionally, over 70 per cent. of respondents to the consultation supported the introduction of a new, swift approach to dealing with straightforward claims, where cases could be determined by an employment judge, with the consent of the parties, on the basis of the papers.

Responding to these findings in the consultation process, the Government proposes to develop further the good practice which already exists within the tribunals by establishing a fast-track system for dealing with simple monetary claims. The fast-track system will involve five jurisdictions where claims potentially raise straightforward issues and therefore potentially could be determined without the need for a tribunal hearing. The jurisdictions considered suitable for the fast track are:

unlawful deductions from wages

breach of contract

redundancy pay

holiday pay

the national minimum wage

Claims falling within these jurisdictions that are combined with other jurisdictions outside the list will not be eligible for a fast-track determination.

The Government envisage that employment judges will make an early analysis of claims falling within these jurisdictions and form a view as to whether the case is suitable for (a) determination based on the documents, or (b) whether the issues raised are more suitable for a hearing, and if the latter, whether lay members need to be present. Where a case falls into category (a) the employment judge will write to the parties informing them that in his or her opinion the case could be determined on the basis of documents, but advising the parties that they have a right to a hearing. If the parties are content for the case to be determined without a hearing, a written determination will be made. If one of the parties requests a hearing, the case will be heard either by an employment judge sitting alone or before a full tribunal. Where complex issues are raised, the case would be heard by a three-member tribunal.

The fast-track potentially benefits both parties by enabling them to resolve straightforward issues quickly and efficiently, reducing unnecessary burdens on the parties' time and, where they agree to a determination without a hearing, saving them from costs associated with attendance at or representation at tribunal hearings.

The Government remain committed to the tripartite nature of tribunals and recognise the important role which lay members play. Provisions in the Employment Bill will not impact on these valuable and trusted arrangements other than as outlined above.

## UK Trade and Investment: Europe

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment staff there are at each UK embassy in Europe; how many posts at each embassy are to be discontinued; and what are the expected resulting cost savings. [180265]

**Mr. Thomas:** The number of people (full-time equivalents) engaged on UK Trade and Investment business at each embassy in Europe[1] is as follows:

[1] 27 EU member states

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Austria | 4.13 |
| Belgium/Luxembourg | 13.8 |
| Bulgaria | 4 |
| Croatia | 4.1 |
| Czech Republic | 11.47 |
| Cyprus | 3.15 |
| Denmark | 10.75 |
| Estonia | 5.8 |
| Finland | 8.85 |
| France | 41.88 |
| Germany | 45.9 |
| Greece | 6.2 |
| Hungary | 11.04 |
| Ireland | 11.35 |
| Italy | 19.39 |
| Latvia | 3.2 |
| Lithuania | 3.2 |
| Malta | 2.5 |
| Netherlands | 9.8 |
| Poland | 17 |
| Portugal | 12 |
| Romania | 8.5 |
| Slovakia | 4.39 |
| Slovenia | 3.15 |
| Spain | 30.5 |

UK Trade and Investment reviews its overseas network resource on an ongoing basis to ensure it is deployed appropriately in support of the objectives in its strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World", published in July 2006, and to achieve efficiency savings. The number of posts in each UK embassy in Europe to be discontinued as a result of this work, and the resulting cost savings, remains to be determined but UKTI is currently seeking efficiency savings of £4.4 million overall from its overseas network.

## Union Modernisation Fund

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on the union modernisation fund, what the membership is of the independent supervisory board; and by what criteria they were appointed. [186094]

**Mr. McFadden:** The members of the Independent Supervisory Board are: Sir Bill Connor, Bruce Warman, Willy Brown, Jeannie Drake, Danny Carrigan and Adrian Askew.

Members of the Supervisory Board were selected by open competition. Recruitment was conducted in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, with support from the Office of the Commissioner for Public appointments (OCPA). The Nolan Principles of Public Life, which are the foundations of the public appointments process and provide guidance on the standards expected of public appointees, applied to these appointments.

The applicants were assessed against the following criteria:

team working skills;

knowledge of trade union modernisation issues and the broader employment relations context;

experience of working in or with trade unions; and

Analytical skills and judgment.

## Union Modernisation Fund: Audit

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2036W, on the union modernisation fund: audit, if he will place in the Library a copy of each independent accountant's report produced so far for each completed project. [186085]

**Mr. McFadden:** The independent accountant is appointed in accordance with the Standardised Terms of Engagement as published on the BERR website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file31695.pdf

Under these terms the independent accountants' reports are commercially confidential between the Department, the grant recipient and the accountant.

## Video Games

**Mr. Oiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the market share of UK computer games developers in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the US and *(c)* Europe in 2006-07. [182949]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not currently have access to figures giving the share of UK games developers of markets in Europe and the US in 2006-07. However, we are aware the market analysts ChartTrack estimate that in 2007 UK developers' share of the UK video games market was 19.2 per cent.

To help address the lack of reliable data available on the UK computer games industry, in October 2007 UK Trade and Investment published "Playing for Keeps", a report by independent consultants Games Investor which includes a range of valuable new data on the competitiveness of the UK games sector compared to key competitor territories including the US and Canada. This research confirmed that the UK had the second largest number of games development studios, after the US, and was the fourth most revenue generative games development market in the world.

### Video Games: Research

**Mr. Oliver:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average proportion of turnover invested in research and development by UK companies in the computer games development sector. [182948]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Very few figures for investment in research and development (R and D) by UK companies in the computer games sector are currently collected.

The 2007 R and D Scoreboard published by DIUS and BERR lists the top 850 UK companies from all sectors by R and D investment. The list includes only companies who publish their annual reports and who then specify their R and D spend in those reports. Three games companies appear in the scoreboard as follows:

| *Company name* | *R and D spend (£ million)* | *As a percentage of sales* |
|---|---|---|
| Sci Entertainment | 58.00 | 19.4 |
| Sony Computer Entertainment Europe | 55.85 | 15.5 |
| Empire Interactive | 6.82 | 32.1 |

This sample is too small to calculate a reliable average R and D spend for the UK games development sector which comprises some 160 studios, the vast majority of which employ fewer than 100 staff.

### Wind Power

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an estimate of *(a)* how much wind energy the National Grid can manage and *(b)* the total capacity of wind the UK can absorb for energy use. [184408]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* Work by National Grid indicates that there are no major technical barriers to accommodating wind on the GB electricity system. The costs associated with maintaining system balancing and system reliability will, however, be important considerations. All indications are that the GB's electricity networks can operate reliably with high penetrations of wind and other intermittent forms of renewable generation.

*(b)* Limitations to the amount of energy from renewable sources that can be used (i.e. supplied to consumers) are principally dependent on levels of demand in relation to the amount of renewable electricity being produced. This is not currently an issue, but looking forward to much higher levels of wind generation it is possible that potential wind generation may exceed demand for some periods. The implications of this will be considered during the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy.

### Wind Power: Housing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what is the minimum permitted distance from housing at which windfarms may be constructed in England and Wales; and what studies of comparable standards in Germany have been undertaken. [185488]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has not issued standards on specific minimum distances between wind farms and occupied buildings. The distances that will be appropriate will depend on the particulars of each case and issues such as expected noise levels, visual impact and safety requirements. Guidance on these matters in England is provided in the Companion Guide to Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable Energy. No comparative studies with Germany have been undertaken.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on raising the winter fuel allowance. [184007]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply

There have been a number of representations on increasing the Winter Fuel Payment. These have been in the form of correspondence and parliamentary questions.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Ambient Assisted Living

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on participating in ambient assisted living projects at EU level; and if he will make a statement. [181722]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK supports the objectives of the European Commission proposal under Article 169 of the EC treaty for the Joint Programme for Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), which are to support applied research and the demonstration of potential AAL solutions for the elderly in their home/ambient environment through effective co-ordination between national support schemes.

Negotiations are currently progressing under the co-decision procedure in the council and the European Parliament. The UK has indicated it will participate. UK enterprises participating in successful projects will be funded via the Assisted Living Innovation Platform recently established by the Technology Strategy Board.

### Apprentices: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the entry requirement is for a programme-led apprenticeship in each subject. [184037]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are no set national entry requirements for a programme-led apprenticeship. Any entry requirement would be set by the institution providing the learning based on its assessment of an individual's prospects of completing.

As set out in "World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All" published on 28 January 2008, a young person will need to meet a new minimum entry threshold to qualify for the entitlement to an apprenticeship place from 2013. This

new threshold will apply to learners in the entitlement group who are placed in a programme-led apprenticeship because no employed apprenticeship place is immediately available.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176018]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* As far as we are aware, none.

*(b)* As far as we are aware, none.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176465]

**Mr. Lammy:** Any requirements placed on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment would be included in the contractual terms for the specified service, which would include compliance with HMG and departmental security policies.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176477]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

Since the creation of the Department, no formal audit of personal data has yet been completed.

Auditing of the service provider's IT equipment is the contractual responsibility of the service provider.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people are employed by his Department as apprentices. [162713]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has five staff undertaking Advanced Apprenticeships and one undertaking an Apprenticeship. This arrangement was set up by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) which predates the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills set up in the recent Machinery of Government changes.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays since it was established. [179913]

**Mr. Lammy:** One photographic panel has been produced at a cost of approximately £500.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the name is of each special adviser in his Department; [166871]

(2) what the estimated cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the two new Ministers of State in his Department in 2007-08. [166872]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement from my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 148WS.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184372]

**Mr. Lammy:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns147-50WS.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in his Department and its predecessors earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167195]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department was created as a result of the June 2007 Machinery of Government changes and no employees have earned over £100,000. Information on predecessor Departments is listed in the answer given to the hon. Member on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179884]

**Mr. Lammy:** As a new department, created from elements of BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DfES) DIUS is in the process of defining, consulting and communicating Department-specific policies and procedures. Recruitment and selection policies will be part of this project and will be established in 2008. In the meantime the policies of the two former Departments are maintained supported by interim guidance notes for managers.

This guidance and the formal policies ensure that the following points are taken into account when filling posts within DIUS:

1. The need to utilise, wherever possible, surplus staff in the civil service. This requires that suitably qualified and experienced civil servants are given opportunities to apply for

new jobs, prior to them being advertised externally. This ensures that human resources are used as efficiently as possible and saves on severance and recruitment costs.

2. The adherence to rules governing nationality and the right to take up employment in the UK civil service. These rules require that applicants for any job in the civil service must be a UK national or have dual nationality with one part being British.

In addition, about 75 per cent. of civil service posts are open to Commonwealth citizens and nationals of any of the member states of the European economic area (EEA). The remainder, which require special allegiance to the state, are reserved for UK nationals. This includes most fast stream posts. Please see

www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/nationality/AnnexA_Nationality_Rules.pdf.

3. The need to be compliant with all laws governing equal opportunities.

4. The importance of diversity in the work force.

Adhering to these principles will ensure that DIUS has a diverse work force, while complying with all legal requirements.

### Education

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which further and higher educational establishments have opened teaching centres overseas; what estimate he has made of the annual revenue from such centres; and if he will make a statement. [184034]

**Bill Rammell:** Further and higher education institutions are independent and autonomous institutions and the Department does not hold records of establishments which have opened teaching centres overseas.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of non-accredited learning on *(a)* health, *(b)* educational aspirations within families and *(c)* social inclusion. [184664]

**Bill Rammell:** We recognise the many wider benefits of participation in non-accredited learning and its vital contribution to improving personal health and wellbeing, raising confidence and self-esteem, engaging families in learning, and developing stronger communities.

These courses offer social and economic benefits for people of all ages and backgrounds, including the most vulnerable families, marginalised groups and those at risk from offending behaviour. They help adults and children to learn together, helping to change attitudes to learning and widening participation across the community by promoting a positive learning culture, where learning is seen as attractive and relevant. They also have well-documented spin-off benefits in terms of reduced calls on health and social services budgets. People who keep mentally and physically active not only live longer but live happier and more fulfilled lives, and pursuing learning can play a real part in this.

We want to continue to raise people's aspirations and significantly broaden participation, progression and achievement in learning by creating the best learning offer possible and enabling individuals and communities to improve and prosper. Our Skills and Skills for Life Strategies, the Employability Skills Programme and projects like Skilled for Health, together with our decision to extend the Personal and Community Development Learning budget safeguard at £210 million per annum through to 2010/11, will ensure the continuing availability of a wide range of suitable learning opportunities in every area.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills launched a consultation on Informal Adult Learning on 15 January 2008. Through this consultation we will work with other Government Departments, with partners and stakeholders, and with learners themselves, to look at how this learning is funded and delivered to improve social cohesion and progression, focus on disadvantage and engage new learners.

### Educational Institutions: Religion

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether funds were paid to *(a)* Jewish, *(b)* Muslim and *(c)* Christian seminaries by his Department's predecessors between 1997 and 2001. [172370]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not hold information on any funding that might have been paid to Jewish, Muslim or Christian seminaries by its predecessor Departments between 1997 and 2001.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184913]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created by Machinery of Government Changes in July 2008 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills.

DIUS is currently undertaking a project to define document and agree a single set of policies and procedures. Until such time as these are defined, the policies of an employee's former Department (DTI/DfES) remain in force.

These policies allow for staff to report any cases of harassment to line management, trade union representatives, a confidential counselling service or HR.

During the period in which DIUS has existed there have been no cases of complaints of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination.

### English Language: Education

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many individuals *(a)* registered for and *(b)* successfully completed an English for Speakers of Other Languages approved course in England in each of the last five years. [181564]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Learning and Skills Council does not break down the data to subject or level for individual learners as some learners will be taking

literacy/ESOL and numeracy across a number of different levels. However, the following data show all ESOL learning aims enrolled on and achieved over the last five years.

*ESOL learning aims enrolled and achieved for the last five years*

| | *Learning aims enrolled* | *Learning aims achieved* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 302,254 | 197,153 |
| 2002-03 | 409,749 | 287,494 |
| 2003-04 | 455,080 | 363,238 |
| 2004-05 | 538,681 | 405,455 |
| 2005-06 | 549,429 | 392,803 |

## Forced Marriages: Victim Support Schemes

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will ensure that information on helplines and access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is made available on university and college campuses. [184351]

**Bill Rammell:** Higher and further education institutions do provide a range of welfare support to their staff and students and, due to their status as independent organisations, specific support is determined by institutions at the local level based on individual need. However, institutions do receive guidance on welfare issues from a range of national organisations and networks. I have asked the Equality Challenge Unit, the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education, the National Union of Students, and the Association of Colleges to consider how they might best provide sign-posting information on the forced marriages helpline, and other support available, to higher and further education institutions.

## Higher Education: Finance

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding he has allocated in cash terms to *(a)* higher education and further and continuing education funding for teaching costs only, *(b)* fee grants for full-time students and fee grants for part-time students, *(c)* fee loans for full-time students, *(d)* maintenance loans for full-time students, *(e)* maintenance grants for full-time and part-time students and *(f)* access funds in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [183946]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table sets out the funding allocated over the 2007 comprehensive spending review period for higher education (HE) and further education (FE) in the areas the hon. Gentleman requests in cash terms (£ millions).

The funding systems for FE and HE operate differently. For example in HE, support for fees is provided mainly through fee loans. In FE, fee remission is provided in full for all learners undertaking priority qualifications as well as those on limited incomes. This is reflected in the total amount of participation funding for adult FE and skills in the following table.

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Higher education* | | | |
| HEFCE recurrent grant for teaching[1] | 4,920 | 5,095 | 5,325 |
| Fee grants for | | | |
| Full-time students | 51 | 3 | 0 |
| Part-time students | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| Fee loans for full-time students | 1,927 | 2,389 | 2,605 |
| Maintenance loans for full-time students | 2,890 | 3,041 | 3,184 |
| Maintenance grants for | | | |
| Full-time students | 804 | 979 | 1,110 |
| Part-time students | 15 | 14 | 15 |
| HE Access to Learning Fund[2] | 50 | | |
| *Further Education* | | | |
| Adult (19+) FE and Skills Participation[3] | 3,215 | 3,306 | 3,599 |
| FE Learner Support Funds[4] | 139 | 139 | 139 |

[1] As published in the HEFCE 2007 Grant Letter.
[2] The figures for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Access to Learning Fund have not been announced yet.
[3] As published in the LSC 2007 Grant Letter. This includes teaching costs but also other costs borne by colleges in the delivery of teaching.
[4] These figures include a range of funding designed to encourage access to further education for adults, including hardship funding, child care support, and grants to adult learners.
*Note:*
Student support figures are for English domicile HE students.

## Higher Education: Student Wastage

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applicants accepted for places in higher education were no longer enrolled onto higher education courses as first time students in each of the following years by the February of the academic year *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [175789]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information on non-continuation in higher education is shown in the following table. These figures show proportions of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who did not continue in higher education after their first year.

This information is taken from the annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education, which are currently published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

*Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| *Academic year* | *Percentage not in HE after first year* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 9.1 |
| 2003-04 | 9.1 |
| 2004-05 | 8.4 |

*Source:*
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education', published by HESA

## Nuclear Physics

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding has been (i) spent and (ii) allocated for each of the next three years on the large hadron collider; [182767]

(2) what the initial programme of activity is for the large hadron collider; what the programme's objectives are; and if he will make a statement; [182768]

(3) what progress has been made in commissioning and operating the large hadron collider; and if he will make a statement; [182769]

(4) what process is in place for British universities and organisations to bid for projects to run on the large hadron collider; and if he will make a statement; [182770]

(5) what assessment he has made of the merits of the large hadron collider as an instrument for scientific discovery; and if he will make a statement. [183742]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK is a member state of CERN, and the Science and Technology Facilities Council has responsibility for the funding of the UK's membership subscription. Most of the activities at CERN are currently directed towards building the large hadron collider (LHC), and the experiments for it, which are due to start operation later this year. A major part of the UK's CERN subscription relates to spending on the LHC.

The total cost of the LHC facility, which comprises the underground tunnel, the machines which fire the beams of particles, and the people and resources needed to build and operate it, is estimated to be 4.7 BN CHF. The costs of the four LHC experiments, which are not considered part of the LHC, are not included in this figure.

The following table illustrates CERN's spending on the LHC for 2004-07 and the planned expenditure in the next three financial years in millions of Swiss Francs. It also shows the UK contribution for 2004-07, and the estimated UK contributions in the next three years, to the LHC project itself, and to university groups in the UK involved in the project. The expenditure on the LHC is projected to fall as the construction nears completion.

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LHC expenditure (MCHF) | 1,236 | 1,276 | 1,131 | 854 | 732 | 668 | 653 |
| UK contribution (MCHF) | 220 | 245 | 196 | 149 | 128 | 117 | 114 |
| UK contribution (£million) | 101 | 110 | 88 | 70 | 60 | 54 | 53 |
| Support within the UK through grants to institutions (£ million) | 24 | 21 | 21 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 23 |
| Total UK contribution (£ million) | 125 | 131 | 109 | 96 | 86 | 82 | 76 |

The objective of the LHC project is to improve our knowledge of how the universe around us works, in particular by shedding light on the nature of fundamental particles and the forces that govern them.

Commissioning of the LHC is now proceeding according to schedule. Two of the eight sectors have been cooled to operating temperature and one of these two sectors has been commissioned to the full energy value required. Three other sectors have commenced the cool down process. Both injection lines (through which the particles will be fired) have been tested successfully and commissioning has begun of the complex electronics needed to handle the beams. All four detectors are completing installation and the LHC circular tunnel is on schedule for sealing in March/April 2008 with experiments expected to commence in July 2008.

UK university groups are involved in each of the four collaborations that are building the experiments (known as ATLAS, CMS, LHCb and ALICE) and have played key roles in the construction of each detector.

It is expected that the groups involved in constructing the experiments will continue to work on the programmes, enabling them to fully utilise the data each detector acquires. Funding for the university and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory staff involved in the physics programme (with associated costs and the UK contribution to maintenance of the detectors) will be provided by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) at a level set by peer review—taking into account STFC's strategic objectives and the financial resources available.

CERN issues tenders for a wide range of goods and services, from computing and electronics to cleaning. UK companies can compete for this work and in 2006 (the last year for which figures are available) UK companies won approximately 28MCHF in contracts from CERN. STFC provides links and support to UK companies wishing to bid for work at CERN through the activities of its Business Opportunities Manager and information made available on its website.

## Overseas Students

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges in England are approved to provide education for overseas students; how many such colleges have been inspected in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [183206]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently 15,044 institutions on the Register of Education and Training Providers. The Register was established on 1 January 2005, and since then, all colleges which want to recruit international students need to appear on it. The Home Office will not grant any international student leave to enter or remain in the UK unless he or she is studying at a provider on the Register.

Since 1 January 2005, 321 colleges on the Register have been investigated by the Borders and Immigration Agency. Of these, 142 have been found to be in breach of the immigration rules, and therefore removed from the Register.

## Student Loans Company: Complaints

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints the Student Loans Company received in each year since it was established. [175748]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of complaints received by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in each financial year since the SLC has had in place a process for measuring complaints is set out in the following table.

While the table shows that the number of complaints each year has remained broadly stable since 1997-98, complaints as a proportion of the total number of customers has fallen significantly over this period.

*Complaints received by the Student Loans Company 1997-2007*

| *Financial year new complaint registered* | *Number of complaints by financial year* | *Total number of customers at corresponding 1 September* | *Complaints as a percentage of customers* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98[1] | 317 | [2]1,755,986 | — |
| 1998-99 | 1,197 | 2,028,361 | 0.06 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,985 | 2,448,570 | 0.08 |
| 2000-01 | 1,841 | 2,796,132 | 0.07 |
| 2001-02 | 2,471 | 3,141,407 | 0.08 |
| 2002-03 | 2,635 | 3,484,976 | 0.08 |
| 2003-04 | 1,391 | 4,979,789 | 0.03 |
| 2004/05 | 1,503 | 5,665,340 | 0.03 |
| 2005-06 | 1,441 | 6,345,953 | 0.02 |
| 2006-07 | 1,807 | 6,970,703 | 0.03 |
| Total | 18,067 | | |

[1] Part year
[2] At 1 September 1997

## Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) UK, (ii) EU and (iii) non-EU (A) undergraduate and (B) postgraduate students have been (1) excluded from using some university facilities and (2) suspended for the non-payment of fees. [182644]

**Bill Rammell:** The information is not held centrally.

## Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many student loans were paid manually by the Student Loans Company in each year since 1997. [175747]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of manual payments made in each academic year since the Student Loans Company began recording manual payments is set out in the following table.

The numbers generally have fallen since 1999/2000 as technical issues arising from the introduction of a national computer system to deal with student loan applications have been addressed. The increased volume in 2004/05 coincided with all local authorities processing on-line loan applications for the first time. The vast majority of payments are made by automated transfer. In 2006/07 these amounted to 925,000 payments.

*Number of manual student loans paid to borrowers by the SLC*

| *Academic year* | *Number of manual payments* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99[1] | 30 |
| 1999/2000 | 9,253 |
| 2000/01 | 9,260 |
| 2001/02 | 6,032 |

[1] Part year

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average amount of debt of a student on graduation was at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what steps his Department plans to take to improve financial advice for students commencing their studies, with particular reference to advice on arrangements for repaying loans. [179156]

**Bill Rammell:** For students who entered higher education in the 2006/07 academic year, we expect their average level of debt on graduation to be around £15,000.

Student loans have very different features to commercial loans. Graduates repay only once they are in work and only when their annual income reaches £15,000. Interest is charged at the rate of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed.

In July we announced plans to introduce greater flexibility in the repayment of student loans by allowing borrowers to take repayment holidays of up to five years.

A generous package of support is available to students, particularly those from low incomes, who receive maintenance grants of up to £2,700 per annum. From 2008/09 onwards, around two-thirds of new full-time entrants to higher education will be eligible for a full or partial grant—compared to just over a half now.

There is a range of promotional material about student finance for potential students and their advisers, such as the Aimhigher Student Finance 'How to Get Financial Help' booklet. This includes general information about both the type of financial help on offer and an overview of the arrangements for repaying loans.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) also provides a range of published material. It issues 'A Guide to Financial Support for Higher Education Students' to all students prior to taking out a loan, and then sends borrowers an updated version annually. When a loan is taken out the SLC offers further guidance in its booklet 'Student Loans Terms and Conditions'. Both publications include information about repayment arrangements. In addition, the SLC provides a range of guidance materials to help borrowers who are entering into repayment to understand the arrangements for repaying their loans. And its website, www.slc.co.uk, contains a section on repayment that students and potential students can access at any time.

The SLC is currently reviewing the range of guidance materials it provides with the aim of improving the information provided on arrangements for repaying loans.

## Students: Orphans

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what additional financial support is available to undergraduate students who have been orphaned; and if he will make a statement. [185309]

**Bill Rammell:** There are no loans or grants that are specifically available to undergraduate students who have been orphaned; they are eligible for the same

support package as any other undergraduate student. However, students who are eligible for support and whose natural or adoptive parents have both died are treated as independent students for the purposes of the Student Support Regulations. Entitlement to support will be based upon the student's income only, if he or she has any. This means that such students are likely to be eligible for a higher level of support than students whose household income includes the income of their parents or where appropriate, the income of a student's husband, wife or partner. And if necessary, they can apply for additional help from the Access to Learning Fund, available from their university or college.

**Teachers: Training**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of participants dropped out of teacher training courses in each of the last three years, broken down by age. [185692]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The proportion of participants who dropped out of teacher training course is not collected centrally.

Complete data are collected for final year trainees and the number of trainees who leave their course during this final year are recorded. The following table shows the proportion of trainees in their final year for both mainstream and Employment Based Initial Teacher Training (EBITT) courses who have left before the end of their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course for the past three years for which data are available, broken down by age.

*Final year drop out*

| *Age* | | *2003-04* | | *2004-05* | | *2005-06* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Mainstream* | *EBITT* | *Mainstream* | *EBITT* | *Mainstream* | *EBITT* |
| Under 25 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 440 | 10 | 420 | 20 | 420 | 40 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 25-29 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 360 | 110 | 380 | 70 | 280 | 100 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 30-34 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 200 | 90 | 160 | 40 | 170 | 70 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 6 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 35-39 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 170 | 70 | 160 | 40 | 130 | 50 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 7 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| 40-44 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 150 | 70 | 140 | 50 | 130 | 60 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 45-49 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 90 | 50 | 100 | 30 | 100 | 50 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 10 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 9 |
| 50-54 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 50 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 70 | 40 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 17 | 14 | 13 | 7 | 22 | 16 |
| Over 55 | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees for this age breakdown leaving course | 20 | 26 | 18 | 9 | 17 | 26 |

*Final year drop out*

| Age | | 2003-04 Mainstream | 2003-04 EBITT | 2004-05 Mainstream | 2004-05 EBITT | 2005-06 Mainstream | 2005-06 EBITT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | Number of trainees leaving course in final year | 1,470 | 440 | 1,410 | 260 | 1,310 | 420 |
| | Percentage of all final year trainees leaving course | 5 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 |

*Notes:*
1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainees' first year, therefore 2006-07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
3. Trainees taking the assessment only are not included in the table.
4. Teach First trainees are included in EBITT in the table, however the age of final year Teach First trainees was not collected prior to 2005-06, therefore only 2005-06 data include the age break down of Teach First trainees.
5. Overseas Trained Teacher Programme (OTTP) trainees are included in EBITT in the table, however the age of final year OTTP trainees was not collected prior to 2004-05, therefore only 2004-05 and 2005-06 data include the age break down of OTTP trainees.

*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what meetings he has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179852]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

### Vocational Training: Expenditure

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the additional support budget of the Train to Gain programme was spent in each English region by the Learning and Skills Council in 2006-07. [164208]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 57W.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made since the ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations of the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals on the commitment to liaise with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland with the aim of amalgamating the statistics for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [185465]

**Meg Hillier:** We plan to make a final decision on this issue in time for the publication of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2007.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been placed on individuals living in Wirral, West constituency in the last two years; on what grounds each was imposed; and how many such orders were breached. [185848]

**Mr. Coaker:** Antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) data for 2004 and 2005 (latest available) for the Merseyside CJS area in which the Wirral, West constituency lies can be found in the following table. Information on the grounds on which ASBOs are imposed is not collated centrally. ASBO data do not identify the constituency in which an ASBO is issued or breached.

*Number of ASBOs issued and breached in the Merseyside CJS area, 2004 and 2005*

| Merseyside CJS area | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|
| ASBOs issued | 96 | 128 |
| ASBOs breached[1, 2] | 43 | 70 |

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table on area of issue.
[2] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached. Hence the ASBOs listed as breached in 2004 and 2005 may have been issued in earlier years.

*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Ref: ASBO 08-08

*Source:*
OCJR Court Proceedings Database

### Asylum

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by her Department in responding to the key findings of the National Audit Office report Asylum and migration: a review of Home Office statistics (HC (2003-04) 625) of 25 May 2004. [179816]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The asylum and immigration statistics are

"produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political influence".

The National Audit Office (NAO) report concluded that "asylum data and statistics are in most respects reliable". Home Office statisticians continue to quality assure the asylum statistics and to expand their range to provide a broader picture of the asylum process, as can be seen from the published statistics.

A National Statistics Quality Review was conducted in 2006 on the "Control of Immigration: United Kingdom" publications (as is required by the National Statistics code of practice). This review and the Home Office's implementation plan are available from the Library of the House and from the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp.

The Border and Immigration Agency is currently reviewing what asylum and migration statistics are produced and published, and the frequency of the publications. This review was signalled by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on 9 July 2007.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on granting amnesty for asylum seekers without a record of illegal activity who have been in the UK for over 10 years. [184948]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The information requested is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Asylum: Afghanistan

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Afghan nationals were granted asylum in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the 10 previous years. [185045]

**Mr. Byrne:** Provisional information on Afghan nationals granted asylum in 2007 will be published in the Q4 2007 Asylum Bulletin on 26 February 2008. Information on asylum decisions is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

### Asylum: Housing

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum applications originated and *(b)* asylum seekers were housed in Enfield in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [182664]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on numbers of asylum applications relating to particular areas of the UK are unavailable. Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on those asylum seekers in receipt of support. Not all asylum seekers are eligible for asylum support.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are available from December 2002 onwards. These statistics are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

### Beatrice Guessie

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the investigation into the treatment of Beatrice Guessie to be completed. [184188]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* I have been informed that the investigation into the treatment of Beatrice Guessie has now been completed. I am unable to comment until the findings have been published.

### Biometrics

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government have statutory powers to share information held on biometric immigration documents and identity cards issued to foreign nationals resident in the United Kingdom with *(a)* the national's own government, *(b)* other national governments other than the person's own and *(c)* international and non-governmental security-related organisations such as Interpol; and if she will make a statement. [184490]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State has the power to share information with other countries and international organisations, provided this is done compatibly with the safeguards of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. When the identity cards for foreign nationals are rolled out from this year, information provided can be shared, subject to these key safeguards.

The UK Borders Act 2007 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring a foreign national to apply for a biometric document—the identity card for foreign nationals. By regulations made under section 8, the Secretary of State may use biometric information collected as part of the application for the card for any of the specified purposes including the prevention, investigation or prosecution of an offence or to protect national security.

Regulations under section 8 also preserve the ability of the Secretary of State to share biometric information relying on her Common Law powers.

Additionally, the Secretary of State will be able, as now, to share non-biometric information under her existing Common Law powers.

Where it is right to do so, the Secretary of State is able to share information with other governments and international organisations.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what statutory authority the Government have to hold the biometric details and other information relating to foreign nationals who have been issued with biometric information documents and identity cards in the United Kingdom when such nationals are no longer resident in the UK. [184492]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State has the power, by regulations made under section 8 of the UK Borders Act 2007, to retain biometric information about foreign nationals who have applied for a biometric immigration document—an identity card for foreign nationals—even if they leave the UK. The Secretary of State may also retain biographical information about foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control after they have left the UK, under her Common Law powers, provided this is done compatibly with the safeguards of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. It is essential to retain this information, for example, to identify those who may seek to abuse immigration control by seeking to return to the UK with a false identity.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to keep the *(a)* biometric and *(b)* other information held on biometric immigration documents and identity cards issued to foreign nationals after the individual is no longer resident in the United Kingdom. [184851]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State will retain the biometric information provided by those who apply for an identity card for foreign nationals for as long as the Secretary of State thinks the information is likely to be of use for any of the purposes specified under section 8(2) of the UK Borders Act 2007. That will, in all likelihood, include retaining such information even after an individual has left the UK. Where a foreign national becomes a British citizen, the Secretary of State is required to destroy the biometric information in her possession unless it is to be retained and used for the purposes of another Act of Parliament.

The Secretary of State will be able, as now, to retain and use non-biometric biographical information provided by foreign nationals under her Common Law powers, provided that this is compatible with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. This is the case even where the foreign national leaves the UK.

### Border and Immigration Agency: Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the error rate in each of the databases operated by the Border and Immigration Agency. [180257]

**Mr. Byrne:** Within the context of this question, 'error rate' is considered to relate to data accuracy within each database.

This information is not held centrally and cannot be provided from current information available.

However, there are controls in place to safeguard against certain errors and to help prevent them occurring. Where errors are identified, prompt and robust remedial action is implemented.

In order to prevent data being captured which are inaccurate or incomplete (often keystroke errors), it is conventional to provide data capture forms that have as few 'free text' fields as possible to limit the possible occasions of input data error.

All core systems within BIA are subject to quarterly data audits by our data bureau, a third party supplier, overseen by Home Office IT officials where appropriate corrective actions are implemented as needed. Using root cause analysis, such errors are identified, analysed and remedied.

Following advice from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), this statement is included as supporting information:

written ministerial statement of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 notes that the review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. This included a recommendation regarding enhanced transparency with Parliament, and the public about action to safeguard information and the results of that action, through publication of results departmental annual reports and an annual report to Parliament.

### Border and Immigration Agency

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the reasons are for the time taken by the Borders and Immigration Agency to reply to the request made by the appellant in case number 15A/1510/2007, despatched by special delivery on 26 September 2007 (ZU 5490 3847 8GB) and delivered on 29 September 2007 (DL 8504 23545GB); and if she will make a statement; [180893]

(2) if she will make available a copy of the letter dated 27 August 1998 which was despatched from Beckett House to the appellant in case number ISA/15110/2007 to *(a)* the appellant and *(b)* the hon. Member for Thurrock before the hearing on 31st January; and if she will make a statement. [180894]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 February 2008.

### British Nationality

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many naturalised UK citizens have had their citizenship revoked since 1997. [185376]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* One naturalised British citizen has been deprived of that citizenship since 1997. In addition one person who was registered as a British citizen had his citizenship removed in 2006.

### Burglar Alarms

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglar alarm activations were responded to by the Metropolitan Police in each of the last five years; and how many turned out to be false alarms. [176064]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not centrally available.

## Christmas

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182442]

**Mr. Byrne:** The amount spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage since 1997 is as follows:

*Border and Immigration Agency*

Information concerning the *(a)* cost and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards from the Border and Immigration Agency for each year since 1997 is not known centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

*Criminal Records Bureau*

*(a)* The costs for Christmas cards from the Criminal Records Bureau for each year since 2003 are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 558.32 |
| 2004 | 786.14 |
| 2005 | 679.59 |
| 2006 | 578.38 |
| 2007 | 757.76 |

The Criminal Records Bureau's Disclosure service was launched in 2002 and no information is held on costs incurred before or during 2002.

*(b)* Spend on postage of Christmas cards is not separated from spend of all Criminal Records Bureau mail and therefore is not calculable.

*Identity and Passport Service*

*(a)* The costs for Christmas cards from the Identity and Passport Service for each year since 2005 are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997 to 2004 | [1] |
| 2005 | 1,280 |
| 2006 | 1,030 |

[1] No information held centrally

*(b)* Spend on postage of Christmas cards is not separated from spend of all Identity and Passport Service mail and therefore is not calculable.

## Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 180W, on the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, for what reasons she did not provide the information requested in the question; and if she will make a statement. [172525]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I have regular meetings with the Metropolitan police commissioner to discuss official business.

## Crime: Darlington

**Mr. Milburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what trends there have been in crime detection rates in Darlington over *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [186313]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available centrally for Darlington. While detections data are available for basic command units, there are currently only two in the Durham police force area, north and south Durham.

**Mr. Milburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the change has been in crime rates by category of offence in Darlington in *(a)* the last year and *(b)* the last five years. [186454]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information relates to percentage changes in crimes recorded in the Darlington crime and disorder reduction partnership area and is given in the following table. Data for 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years and therefore the percentage change between 2002-03 and 2006-07 has been provided.

*Percentage change in offences recorded by the police in Darlington*

| | Percentage change between | |
|---|---|---|
| *Offence group* | *2002-03 and 2006-07* | *2005-06 and 2006-07* |
| Violence against the person | 27 | 5 |
| Sexual offences | -19 | -19 |
| Robbery | -30 | -23 |
| Burglary | -17 | -19 |
| Offences against vehicle | 19 | 4 |
| Other theft offences | -16 | -2 |
| Fraud and forgery | -53 | -33 |
| Criminal damage | 16 | 5 |
| Drug offences | 35 | -6 |
| Other miscellaneous offence | 21 | 7 |
| Total | 3 | -2 |

## Crime: Genetics

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will undertake an investigation into the Forensic Science Service's use of DNA testing in criminal investigations. [182056]

**Meg Hillier:** The Interim Forensic Science Regulator commissioned a scientific review of low template forensic DNA profiling, which includes the Forensic Science Service's Low Copy Number DNA profiling service. The review, which is being led by Professor Brian Caddy of Strathclyde University, is due to report at the end of February.

## Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of violent crimes committed *(a)* in and *(b)* immediately outside pubs and clubs in each year since 1997. [185132]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the location of violent incidents in England and Wales.

BCS interviews for 2005-06 showed 17 per cent. of violent incidents took place around pubs or clubs (this includes inside the premises or on the street/car park outside). The following table gives the numbers since the 1997 BCS.

*Location of violent incidents (BCS)*

*Percentage*

| | *1997* | *1999* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *All violence*[2] | | | |
| Pub or club[1] | 22 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 17 |
| Unweighted base | 1,012 | 1,130 | 1,361 | 1,537 | 1,540 | 1,612 | 1,631 |

[1] Includes pub/club premises, whether inside or nearby street/car parks.

### Crimes of Violence: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in public parks in each Greater London borough *(a)* in total and *(b)* where the victim was female in each year since 2000. [186658]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Offences which take place in public parks cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime statistics.

### Crimes of Violence: Schools

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pupils were arrested in each of the last five years for violent offences in schools in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the north east, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [185505]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not centrally available.

### Criminal Records Bureau

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was for a Criminal Records Bureau check to be made from the date of application in the most recent period for which figures are available. [182612]

**Meg Hillier:** The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within 28 days. Between April 2007 and December 2007 the CRB has issued 228,728 Standard Disclosures and 2,272,369 Enhanced Disclosures.

During this period the CRB has exceeded PSS with a cumulative total of 99.7 per cent. of Standard Disclosures issued within 10 days and 96.6 per cent. of Enhanced disclosures issued within 28 days.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies are under contract to her Department to provide mail services. [170168]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not hold central courier contracts nor is information held centrally on all the couriers it uses. Firms which have been used by the Department or its agencies either regularly or from time to time include:

Royal Mail Special Deliveries
Data Express
Transworld Couriers
City Link
Amtrak (Netfold)
CDS
DHL
A to Z Couriers
Secure Mail Services
Captain Courier
DX Network Services Ltd.
Hansam Couriers
TNT UK Ltd.
City Sprint (UK) Ltd.
Rico Logistics
Federal Express
Swift Despatch
Ecosse World Express.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to reduce her Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181812]

**Mr. Byrne:** In line with the targets within the sustainable operations on the government estate framework my department has implemented a number of initiatives that should reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. For example further improvements in data capture and performance measurement through the introduction of new shared service facilities management contracts are expected to lead to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

### Departmental Consultants

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultancy contracts her Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181884]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organizations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical

expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The Department does not hold a central record of individual contracts with external consultants showing the level of detail requested. To identify and assemble the requested details from individual records would incur disproportionate cost.

The information held by the Home Department on the total value of spend on consultancy since 2005 is as follows:

£

| | Financial year | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| HO headquarters | 128,000,000 | 118,000,000 |
| IPS | [1]10,912,741 | 29,870,522 |
| Total spend | 138,912,741 | 147,870,522 |

[1] IPS recently revised figures.

## Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract, consultancies and other services placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by her Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179024]

**Mr. Byrne:** The *(a)* nature of all contracts, consultancies and other services placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting is the provision of advice, guidance, training and operational development and support in a broad range of areas from business change to technical analysis.

The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes, such as PA Consulting Group's contract as development partner on the identity cards programme and, where more cost effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

The information held by the Home Department on the *(b)* total value of contracts, in each year since 2004-05 by her Department inclusive of its agencies is as follows:

*Home Office inc. agencies*

£

| | 2004-05 | 205-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deloitte & Touche | 0 | 3,401,919 | 13,753,669 |
| Ernst & Young | 36,165 | 415,393 | 4,675,868 |
| KPMG | 81,800 | 533,045 | 1,873,314 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 2,118,055 | 3,769,092 | 4,669,861 |
| PA Consulting | 19,152,349 | 40,329,593 | 36,095,960 |

## Departmental Data Protection

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many times *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Border and Immigration Agency lost or misplaced databases relating to (i) British citizens and (i) foreign nationals in each of the last five years; what information, relating to how many people, was held on lost or misplaced databases; and if she will make a statement; [169554]

(2) how many officials in her Department are authorised to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's *(a)* immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application; and if she will make a statement; [169555]

(3) how many staff in her Department and its agencies have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for matters relating to unauthorised or attempted unauthorised access to files or databases containing personal information in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [169556]

(4) how many electronic and computer files her Department and its agencies lost in transit in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [169558]

(5) how many people working for or on behalf of her Department and its agencies were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for losing or misplacing sensitive personal data in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [169559]

(6) how many staff in her Department and its agencies were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for not following practice and protocols when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [169560]

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many electronic databases within her Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information on members of the public. [169718]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in her Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence; [170251]

(2) what training is provided to staff in her Department and its agencies on the safe handling of data to counteract identity theft and other data security breaches. [171373]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by her Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on

each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173692]

**Mr. Byrne:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

### Departmental Email

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails printed by officials in her Department. [179467]

**Mr. Byrne:** A number of initiatives are currently in place within my Department to raise staff awareness about printing unnecessary documents, including emails. In particular Home Office staff are encouraged to avoid printing emails by including a message within their signature blocks.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179917]

**Mr. Byrne:** There is no central record of procured products featuring departmental or government branding. Such products procured by the Department and its agencies include stationery, booklets, leaflets and media advertising in addition to promotional items. To manually examine files across all areas of the Department and its agencies for specific procured items in each of the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what weight of paper her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179456]

**Mr. Byrne:** The weight of paper recycled is not currently measured within the Home Office as a whole as this is not a recognised Government target. However, 100 per cent. of paper placed in the designated receptacles at our London headquarters building, which is now shared with Ministry of Justice staff, is recycled. The most recent figures provided by our facilities supplier at 2 Marsham street are as follows:

| *Financial reporting year* | *Tonnage recycled paper* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 48.44 |
| 2006-07 | 71.41 |
| 2007-present | 73.64 |

### Departmental Redundancies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of redundancies in her Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175323]

**Mr. Byrne:** To identify redundancies the Home Department has made in the 12-month periods preceding 30 June, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006, could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Central information held on early departures does not distinguish between those who were compelled to leave the Department on compulsory redundancy terms, and those who wished to leave voluntarily on similar terms and not subject to the Department's formal redundancy procedure. Consolidated historic information on early departures is also not generally held in periods of 12 months to 30 June each year, but held by financial year. It would be necessary to review historic individual files to extract the information requested.

Provisions made each year for new cases of early departures, which include any redundancies, are published in the Home Office Consolidated Resource Accounts. The figures, as follows, show the provisions made each financial year, for the full costs of new cases of early departures (including early retirements) from 2003-04 to 2005-06.

| | *Total (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 9,774 |
| 2004-05 | 52,707 |
| 2005-06 | 22,369 |

The aforementioned totals include the core Department, agencies and the 42 local probation boards but not NDPBs.

Note that the figures include any early departure costs which may have arisen in the Office of Criminal Justice Reform and National Offender Management Service, part of the Home Office during the period shown. They are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

### Departmental: Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 480W, on departmental public expenditure, when she expects budget allocations for 2008-09 to be delegated within her Department. [184879]

**Mr. Byrne:** Budget delegations will be issued shortly within the Department to all the main Home Office business areas. This will allow time for further sub-delegation in advance of 1 April 2008.

### Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many repeat offences of domestic violence were recorded in each police authority area in the last period for which figures are available. [184758]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales, but it is not possible to break it down by region or police force area.

BCS interviews for 2006-07 showed that domestic violence had the highest rate of repeat victimisation,

with 42 per cent. of victims being victimised more than once. Repeat victimisation accounts for 70 per cent. of all incidents of domestic violence as measured by the BCS.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of domestic violence the alleged perpetrator was released on bail without notification to the victim in each police authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [184759]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not routinely collect this information.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions were imposed and *(b)* prosecutions were brought for domestic violence offences in the (i) Bedfordshire and (ii) Luton areas in each of the last five years. [184761]

**Mr. Coaker:** Details of prosecutions for alleged domestic violence related offences in Bedfordshire are contained in the following table (figures for 2007-08 relate only to the period from 1 April 2007 to 4 February 2008). The Crown Prosecution Service is unable to break these data down by towns within the county.

The Home Office does not routinely collect data on domestic violence related cautions, and Bedfordshire police are unable to collate these data at the present time. However, the force is planning to implement mechanisms to enable such data to be collected in the future.

*CPS Bedfordshire magistrates and Crown court defendant prosecutions for domestic violence*

| | *Successful* | | *Unsuccessful* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Total prosecution* |
| 2004-05 | 91 | 37.8 | 150 | 62.2 | 241 |
| 2005-06 | 267 | 46.4 | 309 | 53.6 | 576 |
| 2006-07 | 316 | 59.1 | 219 | 40.9 | 535 |
| 2007-08 | 324 | 66.7 | 162 | 33.3 | 486 |

## Driving Under Influence: Drugs

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests for drug-driving took place *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each police authority area in each year since 1997; [186024]

(2) in how many hit and run incidents where the driver was subsequently identified the driver was found to have been impaired by drugs in 2006. [186026]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally

## Drugs

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce a nationwide scheme to close down crack houses. [185188]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced across England and Wales the power for courts to issue orders for the closure of premises where class A drugs and serious nuisance and disorder are a problem. The provision commenced on 20 January 2004 and is proving effective with over 1,000 properties closed according to early analysis due to be published in the spring.

## Drugs: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W, on drugs: Peterborough, what methodology she will use to assess the delivery of the Prime Minister's recent pledge to deport foreign-born drug dealers; and if she will make a statement. [173220]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 December 2007]:* It has already been made clear that we will take deportation action against those foreign nationals who commit serious offences. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this includes more than 1,100 drug offenders, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 20 killers.

## Drugs: Smuggling

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent support *(a)* her Department and *(b)* police forces have offered to the Government of Colombia in combating the smuggling of illegal drugs across the Colombia-Venezuela border. [185492]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Preventing the cross-border flow of illicit drugs from Colombia to neighbouring countries is a top priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK is investing in projects in Colombia and Venezuela to tackle the cross-border flow of illicit drugs. These projects have helped to build capacity among Colombian and Venezuelan law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. In addition, funding of a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime project on cross-border co-operation has recently been approved.

We take a broad regional approach to tackling the trade in illicit drugs, through a mixture of political engagement, capacity building and law enforcement support in producer, transit and consumer countries. This includes working with Governments of other producer and transit countries in Latin America and countries along the main trafficking routes for drugs via the Caribbean and West Africa.

## Emergency Calls

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average cost of answering and responding to a call to 999; and if she will make a statement. [184138]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office does not collate the cost of answering and responding to 999 calls and we do not hold data centrally on the duration of calls and level of response to each call to provide estimated costs.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost per call is to use the 0845 6070999 non-emergency police number. [186759]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Entry Clearances: Indian Subcontinent

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* spouses and *(b)* fiancés and fiancées were admitted to the UK in each of the last five years from (i) Pakistan, (ii) India, (iii) Bangladesh and (iv) Sri Lanka. [180623]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom as spouses[1] or fiancé(e)s by, selected country of nationality: 2002 to 2006[2]*

| *Country of nationality and category of entry* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Pakistan* | | | | | |
| Spouse | 6,115 | 5,550 | 7,465 | 8,525 | 8,280 |
| Fiancé(e)s | 200 | 95 | 160 | 195 | 250 |
| *India* | | | | | |
| Spouse | 3,380 | 3,330 | 4,149 | 4,955 | 4,810 |
| Fiancé(e)s | 225 | 235 | 250 | 315 | 330 |
| *Bangladesh* | | | | | |
| Spouse | 2,800 | 2,850 | 1,645 | 3,140 | 3,400 |
| Fiancé(e)s | 20 | 20 | 5 | 30 | 45 |
| *Sri Lanka* | | | | | |
| Spouse | 785 | 860 | 925 | 865 | 1,030 |
| Fiancé(e)s | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 15 |

[1] Includes settlement-on-arrival spouses (family reunion), and excludes civil and unmarried partners.
[2] Provisional and subject to change.
*Note:*
Figures rounded to the nearest five.

## Entry Clearances: Students

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were revoked in each of the last five years as a consequence of *(a)* failure to register with the relevant institution at the beginning of the academic year and *(b)* failure to attend classes. [180676]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

## Extradition: USA

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition under the Extradition Act 2003 have been received from public authorities in the United States; what offences those the United States sought to extradite were suspected of; how many such requests have been granted; and how many of those extradited have subsequently been convicted of the offence for which they were extradited. [185999]

**Meg Hillier:** The purpose of extradition is to ensure that those accused—or already convicted—of a crime do not avoid justice by leaving the country in which the offence or alleged offence took place. The available information in the following table does not differentiate between accused and convicted cases, but the great majority of requests for extradition involve those accused of offences. All extradition requests, from the US or any other country, are made by public authorities.

We do not hold information about whether those extradited have subsequently been convicted of the alleged offence for which they were extradited. The involvement of the Home Office extradition section finishes when the extradition case is concluded, either by the person being extradited to the US or by the extradition request being dismissed. The Home Office has no statutory role in the monitoring of cases post extradition.

| | *Number of requests received* | *Offence* | *Number surrendered[1]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 42 | Child Assault (1) | 20 |
| | | Child Pornography(2) | |
| | | Computer Fraud (1) | |
| | | Drugs (11) | |
| | | Forgery (1) | |
| | | Fraud (10) | |
| | | Indecent Assault (1) | |
| | | Money Laundering (2) | |
| | | Murder (2) | |
| | | Obstruction of Justice (1) | |
| | | Racketeering (1) | |
| | | Rape (1) | |
| | | Robbery (2) | |
| | | Satellite Signal Fraud (3) | |
| | | Terrorism (3) | |
| 2005 | 8 | Child Pornography (1) | 4 |
| | | Drugs (1) | |
| | | Fraud (3) | |
| | | Sexual Offences (1) | |
| | | Theft (1) | |
| | | Terrorism (1) | |
| 2006 | 17 | Child Molestation (1) | 9 |
| | | Drugs/Money Laundering (1) | |
| | | Embezzlement (1) | |
| | | Exporting Defence Equipment without a Licence (1) | |
| | | Fraud (5) | |
| | | Murder (3) | |
| | | Obtaining Property by Deception (1) | |
| | | Parental Kidnapping (1) | |
| | | Securities Fraud (1) | |
| | | Terrorism (2). | |

| | Number of requests received | Offence | Number surrendered[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 10 | Drugs (3) | 3 |
| | | Illegal Use of Counterfeit Trademark (1) | |
| | | Mail Fraud (1) | |
| | | Money Laundering (1) | |
| | | Murder (1) | |
| | | Securities Fraud (1) | |
| | | Rape (1) | |
| | | Tax Evasion (1) | |
| Total | 77 | | 36 |

[1] Surrender will not necessarily take place in the same year in which extradition was requested.

### Fair Trade Initiatives

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if she will make a statement. [183873]

**Mr. Byrne:** Although there are no mandatory requirements in place for the procurement of fair trade products by Government Departments it is Home Office policy to provide fairtrade tea and coffee at official meetings in some of its key buildings. In addition the Home Office encourages suppliers to offer fair trade products such as chocolate, biscuits and orange juice in staff restaurants and coffee shops.

### Foreign Workers

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals working as diplomats and in other jobs at foreign embassies, high commissions, consulates and other diplomatic posts will be required to hold biometric information documents and identity cards; and if she will make a statement. [184491]

**Mr. Byrne:** Our intention is that the new identity cards for foreign nationals will eventually be issued to all foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. However, those working as diplomats and in posts at foreign embassies, high commissions, consulates and other diplomatic posts which render them exempt from immigration control, will not be required either to provide biometric information or to apply for an identity card for foreign nationals.

I do not intend to make a statement at this stage.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of foreign senior care workers who will not meet the minimum salary requirements to continue employment under the Border and Immigration Agency guidelines. [184738]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency has made no estimate of the number of foreign senior care workers who will not meet the minimum salary requirements. It is not possible to estimate the salaries that employers will choose to offer when work permits expire in the future.

Senior care worker salary guidance was updated on 13 August 2007. More senior care worker extension applications were granted in the period August to December 2007 than in the same period in 2006.

We have reviewed the transitional measures put in place on 13 August and as a result we announced two new transitional measures on 18 January to further assist the sector in maintaining continuity of care while it adapts its recruitment practices.

We are working with the Department of Health and our Healthcare Sector Advisory Panel to monitor the situation. The Department of Health has also undertaken to provide evidence to the Migration Advisory Committee.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals resident in the United Kingdom serving as diplomats for *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the World Health Organisation and *(c)* other international organisations will be required to produce biometric information documents and identity cards. [184527]

**Mr. Byrne:** Our intention is that the new identity cards for foreign nationals will eventually be issued to all foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. However, diplomats and other employees who are exempt from immigration control, due to their service with the United Nations, the World Health Organisation or certain other international organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund, or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, will not be required either to provide biometric information or to apply for an identity card for foreign nationals.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effect on the numbers of foreign nationals seeking to enter the UK of the hosting of the 2012 Olympic games in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [184850]

**Mr. Byrne:** Most recent projections of foreign national tourism commissioned by VisitBritain and Visit London suggest no appreciable increase through to 2011. In the calendar year 2012 a 3 per cent. rise is forecast due to the 2012 games.

Between 2007 and 2012 about 37,000 athletes of all nationalities are expected to participate in events leading up to the games themselves. A number of delegations are also expected to visit Britain in connection with the Olympics.

Construction at Olympic sites will create employment, but employers are expected to fill vacancies from local labour supplies or by recruiting EEA nationals. No formal approach has been made to the Borders and Immigration Agency to recruit foreign labour.

### Genetics: Databases

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security measures exist to protect the information on the national DNA database. [181247]

**Meg Hillier:** Security measures on the national DNA database (NDNAD) are managed by its custodian, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Direct access to information on the NDNAD is restricted to a limited number of designated personnel under the control of the custodian, either directly, or under a contract awarded by the Home Office to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) for operation and maintenance of the NDNAD and development of its IT systems. Throughout the lifetime of the contract, the FSS are required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the International Standard for Information Security, ISO 17799.

Police and law enforcement staff do not have access to the information on the NDNAD, but receive reports from the custodian's staff of matches between DNA taken from crime scenes and that taken from individuals.

In accordance with the policy that it may assist persons interested in testing the effectiveness of the United Kingdom's IT defences, a detailed description of IT security measures cannot be provided, as this would not be in the public interest.

## Human Trafficking

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to enhance the powers of *(a)* border and *(b)* other officials to stop people on the grounds that they suspect them to be victims or perpetrators of human trafficking. [184458]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* To help meet the increased challenge from organised crime and terrorism the Prime Minister announced in November the creation of the United Kingdom Border Agency which will bring together into a single organisation the work of UKvisas, the Border and Immigration Agency and the border work of HM Revenue and Customs. The UK Border Agency will give officers the power to detain people not just on suspicion of immigration offences or for customs crime but also for other criminal activity. Powers are also being given to airline liaison officers to cancel visas where justified.

To assist in punishing facilitators or traffickers Section 31 (1) of the UK Borders Act 2007 came into force on 31 January 2008. This will give border staff powers to ensure that we can prosecute traffickers and facilitators operating anywhere within the secure areas of ports, whether they commit an act here or overseas and regardless of their nationality.

Increased training and awareness raising, including that provided by other expert organisations, means that our front-line staff are better equipped than ever to identify potential victims at an early stage.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers *(a)* border and *(b)* other officials have to stop people on the grounds that they suspect them to be victims or perpetrators of human trafficking. [184459]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* All people seeking entry to the United Kingdom are subject to examination by an Immigration Officer under Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971. This provides that the officer may examine any person to ensure that they qualify for entry in accordance with the published Immigration Rules.

BIA has provided staff with guidance and training to identify victims both on entry to the United Kingdom and after.

Any passenger suspected of trafficking is referred to a Border and Immigration Agency prosecution unit, or the police, for the offence to be fully investigated. The present offences on statute to deal with traffickers include

Section 25(1) of the Immigration Act 1971 which provides it is an offence to assist in the unlawful immigration of a non EU citizen.

Section 57 (1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which provides an offence of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Section 4 (1) of the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004, which provides an offence of trafficking for non sexual exploitation.

Immigration Officers have power under the Immigration Act to detain, for further examination, any person they believe is involved in the commission of any of the above offences. Furthermore, trained immigration officers also have the power to arrest any individual they have reasonable grounds to believe have committed such an offence.

Police officers and officials from the Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue also have powers to deal with perpetrators of trafficking.

## Hunting: Prosecutions

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for hunting foxes with dogs since 2005; and what steps her Department is taking to enforce the Hunting Act 2004. [186038]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty, cautioned and fined under the Hunting Act 2004, broken down by police force area, are in the following table. The Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance on enforcement of the Hunting Act and the Government are continuing to work closely with the police, and other stakeholders, to identify what more can be done to ensure that there is effective and proportionate enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and fined, and the number of offenders cautioned by the police of offences under the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales, by police force area*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| Police force area | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Fined | Cautioned |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2005* | | | | |
| Merseyside | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | — | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Total | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| *2006* | | | | |
| Cheshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Durham | 1 | — | — | — |
| Essex | 4 | 3 | 3 | — |
| Humberside | 4 | — | — | — |
| Total | 11 | 5 | 5 | 0 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The Hunting Act 2004 came into force in February 2005.
[4] Where police forces are not listed, assume a nil figure.

## Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for (i) knowingly facilitating the entry of an illegal entrant contrary to section 25(1)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971 and (ii) assisting unlawful immigration contrary to section 25 of the Immigration Act in each quarter since 1 January 2002; and how many of those convicted received custodial sentences. [177414]

**Mr. Byrne:** Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty and given custodial sentences for Section 25 of the Immigration Act 1971, from 2002 to 2006, in England and Wales, are shown in the following table.

Section 25 of the 1971 Immigration Act was amended as part of the 2002 Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act. Following this change it is not possible to separate offences under Section 25(1 )(a) from any under the rest of Section 25.

Information on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2004 during 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under Sections 25(1)(a) and 25 of the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2]—Section 25(1 )(a)—Knowingly facilitating the entry of an illegal entrant; Section 25—Assisting unlawful immigration*

*Number of persons*

| | *Section 25(1)(a)* | | | *Section 25 (excludes Section 25(1)(a))* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Immediate custody* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Immediate custody* |
| Q1 2002 | 42 | 40 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Q2 2002 | 54 | 42 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Q3 2002 | 72 | 59 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Q4 2002 | 55 | 60 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Q1 2003 | 63 | 42 | 24 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Q2 2003 | 49 | 35 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Q3 2003 | 65 | 44 | 29 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Q4 2003 | 49 | 38 | 33 | 31 | 10 | 0 |

| | *Section 25[3]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty[4]* | *Immediate custody* |
| Q1 2004 | 54 | 43 | 24 |
| Q2 2004 | 50 | 39 | 33 |
| Q3 2004 | 34 | 45 | 37 |
| Q4 2004 | 26 | 30 | 22 |
| Q1 2005[5] | 21 | 50 | 43 |
| Q2 2005[5] | 24 | 27 | 27 |
| Q3 2005[5] | 33 | 32 | 16 |
| Q4 2005[5] | 31 | 30 | 24 |
| Q1 2006[5] | 13 | 24 | 16 |
| Q2 2006[5] | 29 | 24 | 18 |
| Q3 2006[5] | 17 | 33 | 25 |
| Q4 2006[5] | 22 | 26 | 19 |

[1] Principal immigration offence.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] From 2004 to 2006 it is not possible to separate data for section 25 (1) (a) from the data for the rest of section 25.
[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.
[5] These data are provisional. Data for 2006 were updated on 9 January 2008.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of known illegal immigrants in each constituency. [181776]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* No government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate for the number of immigrants known to be illegally resident in each constituency.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

## Illegal Immigrants: Poole

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what level of fine has been levied on individuals and companies for carrying illegal immigrants through the Port of Poole in the last five years; [184676]

(2) how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies have been fined for carrying illegal immigrants through the port of Poole in the last five years. [184677]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* There have been 107 incidents involving drivers and transport companies for the carriage of clandestine entrants into the port of Poole over the last five years. Penalties were not imposed in all cases as the imposition of a penalty depends upon the measures taken by the company and the driver to prevent the carriage of clandestine entrants and the extent to which they comply with the Code of Practice.

The level of penalty imposed depends upon the measures taken by the owner, hirer and driver to

prevent the carriage of clandestine entrants and with regard to the Level of Penalty Code of Practice. Penalties range from nil to £2,000 per clandestine entrant.

### Immigrants: National Insurance

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her statement of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 531-3 and her answer to the hon. Member for Hertsmere, how many of the non-EEA nationals without the right to work to whom she referred have been issued with national insurance numbers. [165386]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I have been asked to reply.

The information on national insurance numbers is not currently available.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is currently conducting an exercise to determine the right to work status of SIA licence holders. If, following completion of the legal appeals process, an SIA licence is revoked because the holder has failed to demonstrate the right to work in the UK, the SIA will provide DWP with the information they require. This will enable a check to be made upon whether the individuals concerned were issued with a valid national insurance number by DWP and under what circumstances.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not issue temporary national insurance numbers.

### Immigration

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she used to select the cases to be dealt with in the legacy exercise as referred to in the letter of 17 December 2007 from the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee. [177364]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The cases dealt with by the case resolution teams include unresolved asylum applications which are not being processed by case owners in our regional asylum teams, meaning that they are those lodged with the Agency before 5 March 2007, and many of them have been in our system for more than three years.

The common factor that defines incomplete asylum cases for the purpose of the case resolution directorate is that there was initially an asylum claim and, as yet, the case record has not been concluded( i.e. granted, removed or closed) either due to errors in recording information or there are outstanding actions that need to be taken. Our cases largely date from before the Asylum (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004. Case records are concluded when individuals have permission to stay; are removed from the UK, voluntarily or by force; or their records are otherwise closed (e.g. when data errors are resolved).

The priorities are those who may pose a risk to the public, those who can be more easily removed, those receiving support and those who may be granted leave. All cases will be dealt with on their individual merits.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 105W, on immigration, how many unresolved electronic and paper asylum records within the Border and Immigration Agency related to the London borough of Hillingdon; and how many and what proportion of such cases were concluded within the six month target period up to December 2007. [183522]

**Mr. Byrne:** The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

There is no requirement for unresolved asylum cases to be concluded within a specific target date due to the differing nature and complexity of the casework undertaken.

### Immigration Officers: Airlines

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airline liaison officers are employed by her Department; and in which locations they are stationed. [184171]

**Mr. Byrne:** The UK Border and Immigration Agency currently has 34 airline liaison officers (ALOs) posted to 32 locations listed as follows. These long-term deployments are supplemented by five ALOs who provide short-term additional coverage where required for operational reasons.

*Europe*

- Amsterdam
- Athens
- Barcelona
- Budapest
- Copenhagen
- Frankfurt
- Lisbon
- Madrid
- Milan
- Moscow
- Paris
- Rome

*South Asia*

- Colombo
- Dhaka
- Islamabad
- Mumbai
- New Delhi

*East Asia*

- Bangkok
- Beijing
- Hong Kong (two ALOs)
- Kuala Lumpur
- Shanghai

*Middle East/Gulf*

- Amman
- Bahrain
- Dubai
- Doha

*Africa*

Accra
Banjul
Cairo (two ALOs)
Lagos
Nairobi
Pretoria (covering Johannesburg)

**Immigration Officers: Complaints**

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those making a complaint against staff involved in removals from the United Kingdom were interviewed in each of the last three years. [184947]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* Records have only been held centrally since October 2006 and relate to contractors' staff who are involved in the detention and overseas escort process only. During this period, of the 51 complaints received, 37 complainants have been interviewed to date.

**Immigration Officers: Crimes of Violence**

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of assault have been made against staff involved in immigration removals from the United Kingdom in each of the last three years. [184946]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* This information has only been held centrally since October 2006 and relates to contractors' staff involved in the detention and overseas escort process only. During this period there have been 51 complaints of assault to date.

**Immigration: Children**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-29WS, on care for children in the immigration system, which local authorities will be part of the network of specialist local authorities looking after unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [184736]

**Mr. Byrne:** The location of the specialist network is currently being discussed with local authorities.

**Immigration: Work Permits**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1773W, on Immigration: Work Permits, how much her Department spent in relation to reviews where work permits have been refused and the applicant has sought a review of their case *(a)* in total, *(b)* on legal counsel and *(c)* on staffing, administration and accommodation costs in the last 12 months. [184424]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available. The team responsible for the consideration of work permit reviews is part of a larger unit and expenditure relating specifically to work permit reviews is not separately recorded.

**Immigration: Workers**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on the recruitment of highly skilled chefs for Chinese restaurants in the UK of the points-based immigration system, with particular reference to the language test requirement; and if she will make a statement. [175498]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Government have not commissioned specific research to address the effect of the points-based system on the recruitment of highly skilled chefs in Chinese restaurants. Tier 2 of the points-based system is designed to ensure that employers can bring in the skilled migrants they need subject to meeting the relevant points criteria. In addition, the Migration Advisory Committee will produce a list of shortage occupations which will receive additional points and I have specifically asked the MAC to consider the ethnic cuisine sector when they draw up their list later this year.

**Immobilisation of Vehicles**

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensed vehicle immobilisers have had their licences revoked in each of the last five years; how many unlicensed individuals have been prosecuted for carrying out vehicle immobilisations in the same period; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 in regulating the activities of wheel clampers. [184719]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Security Industry Authority revoked three vehicle immobilisers licences in 2006, six in 2007 and four in 2008 as at 6 February 2008. Some 1,500 valid vehicle immobilisers licences are currently held. The following weblink gives the list of revoked licences, which includes the type of licence for each revocation:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/licensing/revoked/rorl_intro.htm

The Private Security Industry Act 2001 provides for the regulation of vehicle immobilisers carrying out licensable activities and for a range of offences which include using an unlicensed wheel-clamper. The most common offence prosecuted under the Act is "conduct prohibited without a licence". This would include carrying out, without a licence, not only wheel-clamping and related activities but also the other types of activity which are licensable under the 2001 Act, such as manned guarding and door supervision. Numbers of prosecutions and convictions for 2004-06 are shown in the following table. The data do not break down further the licensable activities to which the prosecutions related, except where this is clear from the offence.

The Home Office and the SIA are considering various options for the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies in the private sector, including a company registration scheme. The SIA is planning to undertake a feasibility study of the various policy options in the financial year 2008-09. Further details will be published in the SIA's business plan 2008-09. We expect the results of the feasibility study to be available in early 2009.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrate's courts and found guilty at all courts of offences under the 2001 Private Security Industry Act 2001, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006*[1, 2]

| | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Statute* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Offence of using unlicensed security operatives | Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.5(1)(4) | — | — | 3 | — | 13 | 8 |
| Offence of using unlicensed wheel clampers operative | Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.6(1)(4) | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Right to use approved status | Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.3(1)(6) | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Infanticide

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been killed by *(a)* non-resident fathers and *(b)* non-resident mothers in each of the last five years. [186800]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available centrally.

### Isac Dumitru

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations she has had from the Romanian embassy on the case of Isac Dumitru; [183817]

(2) where Isac Dumitru is being looked after by Essex social services; [183818]

(3) what steps she plans to take to secure the future of Isac Dumitru. [183819]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is the general policy of the Border and Immigration Agency not to disclose to a third party personal information about another person, including information concerning their immigration status, as well as personal details, mainly for reasons of privacy, data protection and child protection.

### Licensing Laws

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation her Department has had with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* the Police Federation on the Government's review of licensing hours. [186353]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is looking at the many strands of evaluation that were set up to monitor the impact of the Licensing Act 2003. Those projects would have sought the views of the police where necessary. For example, the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder is being progressed by the Home Office and has included analysis of police force data, a telephone survey of police officers with responsibility for licensing in 26 police force areas and interviews with police in five case study areas. In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers has been able to contribute to the ongoing monitoring of the impact of the new regime as a longstanding member of the DCMS licensing stakeholder advisory group.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 26 November 2007 on a constituent (Home Office reference: B34554/7). [178324]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 21 January 2008.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the special advisers in her Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163416]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's written statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 147WS.

### National Security Strategy

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role her Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [184214]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Home Office is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and Agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

### Neighbourhood Policing Programme

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the results of her Department's monitoring and evaluation exercise in relation to the neighbourhood policing programme across England and Wales. [170015]

**Mr. McNulty:** The evaluation of Neighbourhood policing at the BCD level is currently ongoing and is scheduled to end in March 2009. There is a plan to publish a first report of early findings in the first half of 2008.

## Offenders: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proportion of violent incidents in each region of England and Wales where the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs was in each year since 1997. [185100]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the proportion of violent incidents in England and Wales, where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, but it is not possible to break it down by region.

According to the latest BCS (2006-07), the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol in 46 per cent. of violent incidents, and under the influence of drugs in 17 per cent. of violent incidents. The following table gives the figures for previous years.

*Percentage of violent incidents where offender/s under the influence of drink or drugs (BCS)*

| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | Percentage 2006/07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under influence of drink | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 42 | 40 | 47 | 44 | 50 | 48 | 44 | 46 |
| No | 48 | 50 | 44 | 45 | 40 | 43 | 47 | 44 |
| Don't know | 10 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Unweighted base | 946 | 1,052 | 1,340 | 1,455 | 1,465 | 1,529 | 1,567 | 1,658 |
| Under influence of drugs | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 18 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 23 | 17 |
| No | 53 | 55 | 56 | 52 | 50 | 52 | 53 | 56 |
| Don't know | 29 | 27 | 23 | 27 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 28 |
| Unweighted base | 946 | 1,052 | 1,340 | 1,455 | 1,465 | 1,529 | 1,567 | 1,658 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to founding
2. BCS violence in 1997, 1999, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.
3. BCS violence in 2006/07 excludes snatch theft.

## Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of crimes committed by non-UK nationals which have resulted in a Court recommendation for deportation in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [176073]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is within a judge or magistrate's discretion to make a recommendation, at the time of sentencing, for any foreign national to be subject to deportation action upon completion of a custodial sentence. When a recommendation is made, the subject is referred by the Ministry of Justice to the Border and Immigration Agency to consider deportation.

The Border and Immigration Agency do not hold the requested information and could obtain it only through the detailed examination of individual court, police and immigration records at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminals of foreign nationality who *(a)* were apprehended and *(b)* served their sentences in the UK were deported to their country of origin in each of the last five years. [178718]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee over the last 18 months on the issue of foreign national prisoners and provided the most accurate and robust statistics available. Copies of her letters are placed in the Library of the House. She has also advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance of 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in 2007.

## Offenders: Foreigners

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign former prisoners were housed in *(a)* immigration detention centres and *(b)* young offender institutions on 31 December 2007. [179773]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November advising that there were 1,500 foreign nationals whose sentences had expired and were detained in the agency or prison estate while awaiting deportation. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

## Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people under the age of 18 years were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by bladed weapons in the last year for which figures are available; [178203]

(2) how many fatalities there were arising from the use of bladed weapons in the last year for which figures are available. [178231]

**Mr. McNulty:** Available information relates to offences currently recorded as homicide that were caused by a knife or other sharp instrument. As of 12 November 2007, 258 such homicides were recorded by police in England and Wales during 2006-07. Of these, 19 victims were aged under 18.

Centrally-collected data cannot show how many persons were injured by means of bladed weapons.

### Official Residences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many years remain on the lease for South Eaton Place, the Government House in Pimlico. [183486]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The property is held on a number of co-terminous leases which expire in 45 years.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many months the Government House in Pimlico has been vacant. [183487]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The property has been vacant for 22 months.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the home information pack produced regarding South Eaton Place, the Government House in Pimlico at the time it was put on the market. [183540]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The home information pack will be placed in the Library when it is prepared.

### Organised Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations into organised crime organisations have been undertaken by *(a)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* other police organisations in each of the last five years. [176118]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency, which became operational on 1 April 2006, has the aim of reducing the harm caused to the UK through organised crime. SOCA's annual report published on 18 May 2007 states that during 2006-07—its first year of operation—SOCA ran 404 operations and projects as its contribution to the UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy. Of these 404 operations and projects, 283 were operations focussed on organised criminals and their organisations. Information on the operational activity undertaken by SOCA in 2007-08 will be published in the 2007-08 annual report. Information on investigations undertaken by other police organisations is not held centrally.

### Police

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation determines whether a suspect may be questioned by police following charge; and if she will make a statement. [182463]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The code of practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (code C) issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 provides in paragraph 16.5 that a person may not be interviewed about an offence after they have been charged with, or informed that, they may be prosecuted for it, unless the interview is necessary: to prevent or minimise harm or loss to some other person, or to the public; to clear up an ambiguity in a previous answer or statement; in the interests of justice for the detainee to have further matters put to them which have come to light since they were charged or informed they might be prosecuted.

The PACE Review consultation paper published in March 2007 sought public and stakeholder views on the current use of questioning after charge. The responses to that are available on the PACE Review webpage at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/PACE-Review

We aim to publish final proposals at the end of March 2008.

### Police Custody: Asylum

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what nightly rate is paid by the Immigration Service for the use of police cells to each police force. [176306]

**Mr. Byrne:** Border and Immigration Agency opened negotiations in October 2005 direct with a number of police forces about the rates they charge for the use of police cells and discussions continue. The negotiations are based on a standard charging methodology which takes account of local circumstances. The following table shows in ranges the rates payable in 2007-08, and indicates where rates have been agreed as a result of the negotiations.

| *Range: per 24 hours* | *Rates agreed* |
|---|---|
| *Up to £199* | |
| Avon and Somerset | Negotiated rate |
| Bedfordshire | Negotiated rate |
| British Transport | — |
| Cambridgeshire | Negotiated rate |
| Cheshire | Negotiated rate |
| Cleveland | Negotiated rate |
| Cumbria | Negotiated rate |
| Essex | Negotiated rate |
| Gloucestershire | Negotiated rate |
| Hertfordshire | Negotiated rate |
| Lancashire | Negotiated rate |
| Leicestershire | Negotiated rate |
| Norfolk | Negotiated rate |
| Suffolk | Negotiated rate |
| Wiltshire | Negotiated rate |
| *£200-£299* | |
| Dyfed Powys | — |
| Dumfries and Galloway | — |
| Grampian | — |
| Gwent | — |
| Lothian and Borders | — |
| Merseyside | Negotiated rate |
| Nottinghamshire | — |
| Northumbria | — |
| Northern Ireland | — |
| North Yorkshire | — |
| Staffordshire | — |
| South Wales | — |

| Range: per 24 hours | Rates agreed |
|---|---|
| *£300-£399* | |
| Devon and Cornwall | — |
| Greater Manchester | — |
| Hampshire | — |
| Humberside | — |
| Lincolnshire | — |
| Northamptonshire | — |
| West Mercia | — |
| *£400-£499* | |
| Dorset | — |
| Kent | — |
| South Yorkshire | — |
| Thames Valley | — |
| Warwickshire | — |
| West Midlands | — |
| West Yorkshire | Negotiated rate |
| *£500 to c. £1,000* | |
| Highland Council | — |
| Metropolitan | — |
| North Wales | — |
| Surrey | — |
| Sussex | — |

*Notes:*
1. There are small variations to rates depending on individual circumstances of detentions (e.g. number of meals, clothing required, length of stay, etc.), hence why rates are banded rather than provided as specific figures.
2. Different rates apply to the hire of full custody suites, as opposed to utilising existing facilities.
3. In most cases, interpreter and medical examination costs are charged separately at cost, in addition to the above rates;
4. Those police forces which do not charge or to whom payments made are ad hoc/for incidentals only are not shown.

### Police National Computer

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to prevent the unauthorised passing of information from the Police National Computer to the media. [184022]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Police National Computer (PNC) is a secure facility. All applicants seeking employment at the location are subject to rigorous security vetting checks, which are subject to periodic renewal.

Access to PNC live data systems by a limited number of staff is strictly controlled and monitored by a security manager. All staff at the HOC are reminded of their obligations to adhere to the stringent procedures in place for the handling of requests for information from the media, and these are updated regularly.

The protection of information from PNC that is conveyed to the media by forces is the responsibility of individual chief officers.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forms are required to be completed by a policeman processing a burglary from investigation to conviction; and how many pages each form contains. [180119]

**Mr. McNulty:** The specific information requested is not available as the number of forms and pages completed by a police officer processing a burglary from investigation to conviction is dependent on the circumstances of arrest in each individual case.

Following an arrest, the arresting police officer is required only to record information about the nature and circumstances of the offence leading to the arrest, the reason (s) why arrest was necessary, the giving of the caution and anything said by the person at the time of arrest. Once in custody, the grounds for arrest do not need to be given to the custody officer in person as they may be given remotely or via a third party, enabling the arresting police officer to remain on front line duty.

### Police: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time police officers, excluding police community support officers, there were in the Northern Division of Cambridgeshire Constabulary in each quarterly period since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [184445]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The requested data for police officer strength at the Basic Command Unit level, have been collected annually since 2002-03, and are given in the following table.

I am told by the chief constable (Mrs. Julie Spence) that the reduction in police officer numbers in 2004-05 is the result of transferring responsibility for traffic policing from division to HQ control. It is also the result of the creation of a major investigation team in 2004-05 on the advice of Sir Ronnie Flanagan following his report on the Soham murders investigation.

*Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for Northern Basic Command Unit of Cambridgeshire police force as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007*

| 31 March | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 360 |
| 2004 | 356 |
| 2005 | 308 |
| 2006 | 317 |
| 2007 | 287 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

### Police: Computers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hand held computers have been provided to police officers to log crime in each of the last three years. [184615]

**Mr. McNulty:** Numbers of hand-held computers currently in use by the police service are not held centrally.

The Government have funded a pilot of mobile information systems in six police forces. Based on this pilot, it is estimated that the number of hand-held computers in use has risen from 250 at the end of 2006 to 2,500 at the end of 2007. In September 2007, my

right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, announced an initiative to provide police officers with additional hand-held computers, increasing the total number in use to over 10,000 by the end of 2008. My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, announced that £50 million capital would be made available to provide the police with access to crime-fighting technologies, such as hand-held computers and mobile fingerprinting devices. We are working closely with the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers on proposals to take the initiative forward.

## Police: Genetics

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances a police officer may ask for a DNA sample. [181244]

**Mr. McNulty:** A constable has power under section 63 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) to take a non-intimate sample (i.e. cells inside the mouth or from the roots of a sample of non-pubic hair) for DNA profiling without consent from a person aged 10 or over if that person is in police detention as a consequence of being arrested for a recordable offence and the same sample has not already been taken or the sample previously taken proved insufficient; or in police custody on the authority of a court and authority to take the sample is given by an inspector or above who has grounds to suspect the person of involvement in a recordable offence and to believe that the sample will tend to prove or disprove that involvement; or has been charged with, or reported for, a recordable offence and a same sample has not already been taken or a sample previously taken proved unsuitable or insufficient; or has been convicted of a recordable offence. A sample may also be taken from a person with the appropriate consent in writing.

Appropriate consent means for a person aged 17 or over, the person's consent; for a person aged 14 to 16 inclusive, the consent of the person and their parent or guardian; and, for a person aged 10 to 13 inclusive, the consent of the person's parent or guardian.

## Police: Greater London

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Enfield North in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007, how many community safety officers there were in Enfield North in 2007; and how many incidents of recorded crime there were in Enfield North in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [183318]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police strength data are not collected by parliamentary constituencies; data are available at the basic command unit level from 2002-03 onwards.

Recorded crime data are not collected by parliamentary constituencies; data are available at the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership level from 1999-2000 onwards.

The available data are given in the following tables.

*Table 1. Police officer strength (FTE)[1] in Enfield basic command unit as at 31 March[2]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | — |
| 2002-03 | 487 |
| 2006-07 | 582 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Data were collected centrally from 2002-03 onwards, the data for 2002-03 have been provided for reference.

*Table 2. Police community support officer strength (FTE)1 in Enfield basic command unit as at 31 March*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 119 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

*Table 3. Number of recorded crimes[1] in Enfield CDRP as at 31 March[2]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | — |
| 2006-07 | 27,058 |

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] Data were collected centrally from 1999-2000 onwards.

## Police: Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 294W, on police: influenza, if she will make it her policy to direct individual chief constables to conduct an assessment of the operational capacity of the police service in their area should a serious outbreak of pandemic influenza occur. [184222]

**Mr. McNulty:** Operational capacity and evaluation of any potential threats to this capacity is a matter for individual chief constables.

## Police: Information and Communications Technology

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* hand held computers and *(b)* other time saving technologies for police forces in England and Wales since January 2007; [180151]

(2) when she expects all forces in England and Wales to issue all officers with *(a)* hand held computers and *(b)* other time saving technologies; [180152]

(3) what the procedures are by which police forces in England and Wales may apply for funds for hand held computers and other time saving technologies before September 2008; [180153]

(4) whom her Department consults before a police force is awarded funds to provide its officers with hand held computers and other technology. [180154]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government have no plans to issue all officers with hand held computers and other time saving technologies as this is a matter for individual chief officers of police. However, all police officers have benefited from the introduction of the national 'Airwave' digital radio network which incorporates advanced voice, text and image capability.

Since January 2007, the Government have made £1 million available to pilot mobile information systems in six police forces. In addition, £1.5 million has been provided during the same period for 'Project Lantern', a pilot of mobile fingerprint technology. The amount spent by individual police forces on mobile technology is not held centrally.

In September 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a new initiative to provide police officers with additional hand held computers. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has announced that £50 million would be made available for meeting this objective. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), is working closely with the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officer's Mobile Information Programme Board, on proposals for the bidding criteria and in early February, the NPIA will invite police forces to submit applications for funding.

### Police: North Yorkshire

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police and *(b)* community support officers were employed in North Yorkshire at the latest date for which figures are available. [183435]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Figures published on 31 January 2008 show that there were 1,623 police officers and 186 police community support officers employed in North Yorkshire on 30 September 2007. Both figures are in terms of full-time equivalents rather than head counts, and include officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

### Police: Pay

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the financial liability is for compensation to police officers owed for rest days not taken of *(a)* Warwickshire Police Authority and *(b)* all police authorities in England and Wales. [180651]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Home Office does not collect data on rest days not taken by police officers in England and Wales.

### Police: Standards

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Head of the Police and Crime Standards Directorate will be eligible for a bonus for 2007; and what the criteria are for the award of such bonuses. [176061]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested cannot be provided as it relates to an individual. However, members of the senior civil service are usually eligible for consideration for bonuses based on their performance against agreed objectives and targets.

### Police: Telephone Services

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to *(a)* extend and *(b)* terminate central funding of the 101 non-emergency numbers in local areas. [176708]

**Mr. McNulty:** It has been decided that the Home Office will not continue to fund centrally the operation of the single non-emergency number 101 service in existing live areas or the development of 101 services in other areas. This was a difficult decision taken in the context of significant pressure on resources and competing policing and security priorities.

However, the Government recognise the many benefits demonstrated by the live areas. These benefits include how, through better partnership working and information about what problems are happening where, 101 has helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve services to the public. The Home Office will therefore continue to provide funding for the national 101 infrastructure in order to enable and support local areas to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 services, informed by and building on these benefits.

### Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many items of post sent by her Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997; [171286]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171416]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of her Department's contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers on private finance initiative projects was in each year since 1997. [180846]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not hold a central record of individual contracts with external consultants. To identify and establish whether the Department let contracts where PricewaterhouseCoopers was engaged to work on PFI contracts, and compile their value from individual records would incur disproportionate cost.

### Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the status of the Government's appeal against the decision

of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission in the case of the People's Mojahedin of Iran. [183485]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale) on 21 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1786W.

### Public Order Offences: Photography

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to police forces on steps which may be taken against persons taking photographs in public places. [183454]

**Mr. McNulty:** The police may remove persons from public areas, prevent filming or confiscate equipment where they are responding to an offence or where they suspect an offence is about to happen in order to prevent it from being committed. They may also take action to prevent a breach of the peace. In such cases the police may require a person to leave a place or prevent them from entering a public area where their presence is likely to cause a breach of the peace. Police tactics and decisions on how to achieve these objectives are a matter for the independent judgment of chief officers of police.

### Smart Water

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces have purchased stocks of smart water; and how many crimes have been detected in each police authority area through the use of smart water. [178696]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* Smartwater is only one of a number of crime prevention tools available on the market. The use of Smartwater, as with other operational matters, is a matter for each police force.

### Stop and Search

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 983W, on stop and search, for what reasons data on individuals stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is not collected by *(a)* gender and *(b)* age. [168642]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The recording requirements for stop and search data under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are set out in PACE Code A issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Code A does not require that gender details should be recorded although the officer exercising a stop and search can request a person's date of birth. Police forces nevertheless do collect data on individuals' gender and age when exercising stop and search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. However, these data are not held centrally and the information could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidelines are given to the police in dealing with extremist literature discovered in UK mosques; [183779]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure inflammatory literature is not available in UK mosques. [183782]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 makes it an offence to publish or distribute material which stirs up religious, as well as racial, hatred.

We have also introduced new offences and powers in the Terrorism Act 2006 to tackle those who promote terrorism, including glorification of terrorism; dissemination of terrorist publications; and powers to remove terrorist-related material from a website. We have extended in the Terrorism Act 2006 the grounds for proscription to catch organisations which glorify terrorism.

The police will deal with the discovery of extremist literature in mosques within the parameters of the available legislation. Where there is evidence of an offence being committed, the prosecuting agencies will take the appropriate action.

The Government are also working with the Muslim communities to support them in raising standards of governance in mosques. The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board's (MINAB) work to develop core standards for mosques is an important step. These standards include a focus on strengthening governance and ensuring faith leaders have the leadership skills to isolate and defeat violent extremism. Strong mosques positioned at the centre of the community and effectively governed will be better able to withstand attempts by certain groups or individuals to incite hatred or promote violent extremist interpretations of Islam.

### Vladimir Ismaili

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1398-99W, on Vladimir Ismaili, whether Vladimir Ismaili has been deported. [172778]

**Mr. Coaker:** Vladimir Ismaili remains at large. As such no deportation action has been taken against him.

### Work Permits

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many professional footballers offered employment by UK football clubs were refused a work permit in each year since January 1998, broken down by nationality. [185002]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is as follows:

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

*Number of professional footballers who were refused a work permit for each year broken down by nationality for the period from 1 January 2000 to 1 February 2008*

| *Nationality* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Algeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Australia | 5 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Barbados | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Belarus | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Bermuda | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Bosnia-Herzogovina | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Brazil | 0 | [1]— | 5 | 5 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Bulgaria | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 5 |
| Cameroon | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Canada | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Chile | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| China, Peoples Republic of | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Colombia | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Congo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Costa Rica | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Croatia | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Czech Republic | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Ecuador | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Egypt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Estonia | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Georgia | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 5 |
| Ghana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 5 |
| Honduras | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Iraq | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Israel | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Jamaica | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 5 |
| Japan | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Latvia | 5 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Liberia | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Macedonia | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Morocco | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| New Zealand | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— |
| Nigeria | 0 | [1]— | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Oman | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Poland | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Russia | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Serbia[2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Sierra Leone | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Slovakia | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| South Africa | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| St. Kitts | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| St. Vincent | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Togo | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 10 | 5 | [1]— | 5 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 25 |
| Tunisia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Turkey | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| United States of America | 5 | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Yugoslavia[3] | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Zimbabwe | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Total | 40 | 35 | 25 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | [1]— | 165 |

[1] Indicates 1 or 2.
[2] Until 2005 Serbia was referred to as Serbia and Montenegro.
[3] Yugoslavia ceased to be a nation in 2000.
*Notes:*
1. In November 1999 a new computer system was installed to be 2000 compliant, not all data were copied across to the new computer system; therefore, only data from 2000 onwards are reliable.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
3. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.

## Young Offenders

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of persons under 18 years who have committed *(a)* five offences or more, *(b)* 10 offences or more, *(c)* 20 offences or more and *(d)* 50 offences or more in each year since 1997. [167017]

**Mr. Coaker:** Estimates of the numbers of persons under 18 years who have committed offences is not available.

Statistics on offences committed by offenders sentenced for indictable offences by the courts are routinely published by the Ministry of Justice and can be found in the House of Commons Library.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by juvenile offenders in each year since 1997. [167102]

**Mr. Coaker:** Estimates of the numbers of crimes committed by juvenile offenders are not available.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 19 February 2008*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

8. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the appointment of a special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan. [186590]

**Dr. Howells:** As my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary informed the House earlier, we understand the need to have in place a UN special representative able to undertake with real authority the co-ordination of the international effort to improve Afghan security and reconstruction. We are talking to the United Nations and working towards the appointment of a special representative as a matter of urgency.

The appointment is a matter for the UN Secretary-General. His spokesperson said on 8 February that work was ongoing. We hope an early appointment will be made, to allow more effective co-ordination of the international effort.

### Kenya

10. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Kenya. [186592]

11. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress in resolving the political situation in Kenya. [186593]

**Meg Munn:** The Government welcome the progress made by the Kenyan Government and the opposition in negotiations under the mediation of Kofi Annan. We urge Kenya's leaders to establish the basis for a lasting solution.

22. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Kofi Annan on political mediation in Kenya. [186606]

**Meg Munn:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch Brown, has had regular conversations with Kofi Annan. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the mediation process with Kofi Annan on 8 February and reaffirmed our support for his work and for a sustainable outcome for the Kenyan people.

### Kosovo

12. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Kosovo. [186594]

**David Miliband:** On 17 February the Kosovo Parliamentary Assembly passed a resolution that declared Kosovo independent, committing Kosovo to fully implement UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Proposal, including extensive minority safeguards and international supervision.

The UK has decided to recognise Kosovo's independence and establish diplomatic relations. Thus far we understand that at least 18 countries have indicated their intention to recognise Kosovo. We anticipate more will do so shortly.

### Zimbabwe

13. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United Nations on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [186595]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Zimbabwe during the UN General Assembly in September 2007. He underlined the need for UN action to support African leadership and to tackle economic and social devastation in Zimbabwe. Our embassy in Harare holds regular discussions with the UN Development Programme office there regarding human rights, democracy and good governance.

### India

14. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK relations with India. [186596]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK enjoys a strategic partnership with India and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's recent visit to New Delhi further strengthened this partnership, when progress was made on a range of bilateral and wider international issues.

### Middle East Peace Process

15. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking in support of the middle east peace process; and if he will make a statement. [186598]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government support the political, economic and security elements of the peace process. We are committed to taking forward the Annapolis process to achieve a two-state solution. In support of the Palestinian economy, we committed up to £243 million over three years, linked to political progress. We will co-sponsor the Bethlehem Private Investors Conference and host the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in London. We are contributing to security sector reform.

23. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of suicide bombings in the middle east on the peace process. [186607]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK condemns suicide bombing. The attack in Dimona on 4 February was the first in Israel for 12 months. Terrorist atrocities must never deflect us from our goal of just and lasting peace based on a two-state solution. The UK continues to support leaders whose commitments at Annapolis and since have given Palestinians and Israelis the best chance of progress in seven years.

### Burma

16. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Burma. [186599]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are deeply concerned at the continued lack of progress towards democracy in Burma. On 9 February the Burmese regime announced its intention to hold a referendum on a new constitution in May this year and elections in 2010. However, if any process is to lead to national reconciliation, all stakeholders must be allowed to participate and political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, must be freed.

### Pakistan

17. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political progress in Pakistan. [186600]

**Dr. Howells:** Parliamentary and provincial elections took place in Pakistan yesterday. It was an important opportunity for the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic voice.

The UK took part in the EU election observation mission, which is still working in Pakistan. We expect that it will give its preliminary assessment on the election process tomorrow.

### Iran

18. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Iran's nuclear capability. [186601]

**Dr. Howells:** Iran is pursuing enrichment activities and heavy water projects in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions requiring it to suspend those activities and reprocessing. Their realisation would give Iran the capability to produce nuclear weapons. Iran's development of these technologies is not necessary for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. If Iran suspends its proliferation activities, the E3+3 will negotiate a long-term agreement that would transform the international community's relationship with Iran.

### Hamas

19. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Quartet is on talks with Hamas. [186602]

**Dr. Howells:** The policy of the Quartet on engagement with Hamas remains based on its three Quartet principles: non-violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements, including the road map. These principles are not set unreasonably high and remain the fundamental conditions for a viable peace process. We hope that Hamas will accept the principles and grasp the opportunity for dialogue and progress.

### The Balkans

20. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in the Balkans. [186604]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer the right hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's reply to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) today (UIN 186594).

The UK recognises how difficult Kosovo's independence is for Serbia. But we believe that it is in Serbia's long-term interest.

Having closed this final chapter in the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, we are determined to support a peaceful and prosperous region moving towards a sustainable, stable European future.

### Bilateral Relations

21. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on strengthening relations between the UK and China. [186605]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's recent visit to China strengthened UK-China relations. As a result of his visit a new trade target was announced; new areas of co-operation on climate change, sustainable cities, education, health, science and Olympics links.

### British Overseas Territories: Administration of Justice

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what safeguards exist against the arbitrary dismissal of chief justices in overseas territories which are compliant with European Convention of Human Rights and other international norms and treaty obligations; and if he will make a statement. [186457]

**Meg Munn:** There are chief justices in the following Overseas Territories: Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (including South Georgia), Gibraltar, St. Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The procedures concerning the dismissal of the chief justices in the Overseas Territories are set out in their constitutions. These procedures provide protection against arbitrary dismissal and are compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights and other international norms and treaty obligations.

### Burundi: Elections

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to support the elections scheduled for 2010 in Burundi. [186597]

**Meg Munn:** The Government will work to ensure that the conditions and resources are in place for holding

peaceful, free and fair elections in 2010. With UN Peacebuilding Commission partners, we are urging that international expertise and resources be put in place for establishing an independent electoral commission. We expect the European Commission to include Burundi in its election monitoring and assistance work. Successful elections would promote peace and stability in Burundi.

### Chad: France

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with French authorities on their intervention in Chad. [186835]

**Meg Munn:** The UK has worked through multilateral fora, namely the United Nations and the European Union, to discuss the international response to the rebel incursions in Chad, and to work towards longer term solutions. These discussions have included the French authorities, along with other international partners.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, on 11 February to discuss, among other topics, the situation in Chad and to thank him for his country's help in evacuating British nationals from N'Djamena. He was also contacted by Mr. Kouchner over the weekend of 2/3 February regarding Chad. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been in regular contact with French Foreign Ministry officials concerning Chad, particularly regarding the evacuation of British nationals.

### Chad: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are giving to the African Union's mediation efforts in Chad through *(a)* Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and *(b)* Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Democratic Republic of Congo. [186217]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are fully supportive of the African Union's efforts to find lasting solutions to the conflict in Chad and welcomes the appointment of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville as mediators.

The UK supported the UN Security Council presidential statement of 4 February 2008, which gave backing to the mediators. The UN statement also echoed the African Union in

> "strongly condemning the attacks perpetrated by armed groups against the Chadian government, demanding to put an immediate end to the violence and calling on all the countries of the region to respect the unity and territorial integrity of the member states of the African Union".

### Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of *(a)* the security situation in Chad and *(b)* the impact on the deployment of the EUFOR operation for Chad and the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [186218]

**Meg Munn:** The security situation in Chad remains unstable following rebel incursions into the capital, N'Djamena, on 2 February. As of 11 February 2008, the security situation in Chad is calmer, with Chadian rebel groups having retreated from N'Djamena. However, conditions on the ground have been changing rapidly. The UN estimates that over 30,000 people were forced to flee into neighbouring Cameroon as a result of the fighting, though many are now returning. There have been eye-witness reports of widespread looting in N'Djamena.

Deployment of the European Union mission to Chad (EUFOR), was delayed temporarily due to fighting in western Chad. However, Lieutenant General Nash, the EUFOR operation commander, indicated on 7 February that deployment could recommence with immediate effect. The EU agreed on 8 February that the mission should resume deployment, but agreed also to follow closely the evolution of the situation in relation to the mission.

### China: Sudan

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the policy of the Government of China towards Sudan is in alignment with British policy towards that country, with particular reference to the situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [186363]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed with Chinese Premier Wen, when they met during the UK-China Summit from 18-19 January, that both countries were keen to see a resolution to the Darfur conflict. Following their meeting, the Chinese Premier called on the parties to the conflict in Darfur to "realise a complete ceasefire in Darfur and reach a comprehensive peace agreement through negotiation".

When I visit China later this month I will continue to encourage China to use its influence in Khartoum to work for a solution to the Darfur conflict and support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We have also agreed with China that the Special Representatives of China and the UK on Darfur will work together for the early realisation of peace, stability and development in Darfur.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Detainees

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the detention of *(a)* Major Mbokolo Wawa, *(b)* Captain Kawende and *(c)* Pastor Fernando Kutino. [186875]

**Meg Munn:** The UN's mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is in contact with the Congolese authorities regarding the detention of Major Mbokolo Wawa and Captain Kawende. We have not made representations on this issue ourselves.

We and our international partners in the DRC, including the EU and UN, have registered our concerns at the conduct of the investigation and subsequent trial of Pastor Kutino with the Congolese on several

occasions. The UN is in regular contact with the Congolese authorities on the issue of his treatment.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Prisoners

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the treatment of detainees and prisoners in government-controlled areas of that country. [186491]

**Meg Munn:** We have called on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) authorities to respect international humanitarian law and human rights conventions. The UK remains in close contact on human rights issues with the UN mission in the DRC and with EU partners, through the local EU human rights forum. The UK supported the EU presidency's call in August 2007 for the DRC to meet its human rights obligations. We will continue to urge the DRC to uphold international human rights standards, including the treatment of people in custody.

The UK makes a significant contribution to the EU's programme on security sector reform in the DRC. One of the aims of this project is to promote accountability and awareness of human rights among members of the DRC's armed forces and its security and justice sectors.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184367]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 14 January, *Official Report*, column 852W.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183168]

**Meg Munn:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contracts and the resultant expenditure specifically for public relations, are not categorised separately from that for external consultancy as a whole. The information the hon. Member requests could, therefore, be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, annual expenditure on external consultants or consultancies as a whole, is published in the FCO's annual departmental reports, copies of which are available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395438

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185791]

**Meg Munn:** During calendar year 2007, the following public information booklets were published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) centrally.

The following table shows the numbers of copies and the overall cost of the publication.

| *Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Directorate/Department* | *Name of Publication* | *Print Run* | *Costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Communication Directorate | 'FCO Departmental Report 2006' | 1,400 | 40,493 |
| Communication Directorate | 'Your World' | 3,016 | 8,300 |
| Communication Directorate | 'Stern Report Executive Summary' | English—8,500 | 66,075 |
| | | French—1,250 | |
| | | Spanish—1,750 | |
| | | Portuguese—325 | |
| | | Czech—500 | |
| | | Slovak—500 | |
| | | Chinese (Traditional)—800 | |
| | | Hungarian—300 | |
| | | Japanese—1,000 | |
| | | Indonesian—1,000 | |
| | | Brazilian Portuguese—750 | |
| Communication Directorate | 'Muslims in Britain' | 3,000 | 3,025 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Victims of Crime' | 10,000 | 2,206 |
| Consular Directorate | 'International Child Abduction' | 10,000 | 1,385 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Transfers Home' | 10,000 | 1,380 |

| Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Directorate/Department | Name of Publication | Print Run | Costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Consular Directorate | 'Checklist for Travellers' | 4 million | 36,200 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Support for British Nationals (summary)' | 700,000 | 34,994 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Child Abduction' | 10,000 | 1,350 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Passport to Extreme Fun' | 20,000 | 4,944 |
| Consular Directorate | 'Rape and Sexual Assault' | 10,000 | 2,100 |
| European Union Directorate | 'Guide to the EU'—Welsh | 1,000 | 2,439 |
| Human Rights Department | 'Annual Report on Human Rights 2006' | 400 | 2,750 |

The FCOs overseas posts and its non-departmental public bodies also occasionally commission public information booklets, but details are not recorded centrally.

Information about the costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Diplomatic Service: Complaints

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many formal complaints British ambassadors have lodged with host countries since March 2006; and what those complaints were. [186917]

**Meg Munn:** This information is not held centrally. Responsibility for protests and other diplomatic communications to Ministries of Foreign Affairs is devolved to embassies. Compiling this information would be disproportionately costly.

### Ethiopia: Terrorism

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will offer technical support to the government of Ethiopia in developing its internal security infrastructure as part of its attempts to tackle international terrorism. [186451]

**Meg Munn:** Where suitable opportunities arise and we are satisfied that human rights concerns are being met, we remain interested in assisting Ethiopia to develop its internal security infrastructure in order to tackle international terrorism.

### EU Grants and Loans: Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records his Department holds of grants given to UK trade unions by institutions of the European Union since 1997. [186087]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested. This information could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Homosexuality

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to other countries on the decriminalisation of homosexuality in those countries where it is illegal. [185506]

**Meg Munn:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials have been active in promoting and protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in line with UK international policy. This is especially important in countries where same sex relationships are illegal, or there are moves to introduce criminalisation, where we seek ways to raise the issue and lobby for decriminalisation.

In May 2007, the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) and I, as the then Minister for Women and Equality, issued a joint statement pledging our support for the worldwide protests against homophobia planned to mark the International Day against Homophobia (17 May).

Our High Commissioner in Singapore made representations to Singapore's Attorney-General on 26 October 2007 about various human rights issues, including the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

The UK has long been at the forefront of encouraging the EU to speak out in favour of promoting and protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. At the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September 2007, the EU condemned the fact that relationships between adults of the same sex are criminal in two participating states, namely Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The EU also called on all participating states to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people without discrimination.

Over the last year we have lobbied in support of the UN-Economic and Social Council continuing to grant consultative status to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered non-governmental organisations and we also lobbied to persuade Rwanda not to criminalise same sex acts in the revised penal code, and Nigeria not to outlaw advocacy in favour of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered rights.

### Indonesia: Censorship

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Indonesia on the banning and seizure of the book The Sinking of the Melanesian Race: The Political Struggle in West Papua, by West Papuan academic, Sendius Wonda. [186137]

**Meg Munn:** The human rights situation in Indonesia has improved over the last 10 years and we judge that the government remains committed to further progress, as indicated by its 2006 accession to the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We recognise that challenges remain and our embassy in Jakarta closely follows the situation in Papua, particularly concerning civil society work on human rights and freedom of expression. We will continue to encourage the Indonesian government to respect their international obligations in this regard. We remain firm in our commitment to freedom of expression, but do not believe that making representations to the Indonesian government on incidents such as the banning of Sendius Wonda's book would be as effective as the wide-ranging engagement we have with Indonesia on human rights.

### Papua: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his European Union counterparts the prospects for EU-sponsored dialogue between West Papuan leaders and the government of Indonesia on a peaceful resolution to the conflict in West Papua. [186107]

**Meg Munn:** We continue to encourage EU engagement in promoting human rights in Indonesia, but we have not discussed any plans for EU-sponsored dialogue between Papuan leaders and the central government in Jakarta. We believe that the complex issues in Papua can best be resolved through peaceful dialogue between the people of Papua and the government of Indonesia. The Indonesian President has committed his government to improving the situation in Papua, which we welcome.

We continue to encourage all sides to support meaningful dialogue and to focus on fully implementing the existing special autonomy legislation. We judge that this is the best way to ensure the long-term stability and development of Papua and its people.

### Russia: Crime

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent conversations he has had with his Russian counterpart on cyber crime perpetrated against British citizens and originating in Russia. [185957]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has had no conversations with her counterparts in Russia regarding cyber crime.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* troops and *(b)* other personnel are based in Darfur as part of the UNAMID force; and when he expects the UNAMID force to reach its full complement. [186361]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* At present, the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur consists of a total of approximately 10,000 personnel: 7,700 military personnel, 1,500 police and 800 civilian staff. This needs to rise to a total of approximately 31,000 for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur to reach its full complement: 19,500 troops, 6,500 police, and 5,000 civilian staff, both local and international.

We are working very closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union to help achieve the goal of full deployment as soon as practicable. This will be extremely challenging as not all outstanding shortfalls, particularly helicopter capacity, have yet been filled. The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur's deployment to Darfur is one of the most complex and logistically difficult that the UN has ever undertaken.

### Treaty of Lisbon

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what competencies will be transferred from the UK to the EU under the Treaty of Lisbon. [186456]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The changes to the competences of the EU to be made by the Lisbon treaty were set out in the White Paper (Cm 7174) 'The Reform Treaty: The British Approach to the European Union Intergovernmental Conference' of July 2007, as well as the Explanatory Memorandum on the treaty of Lisbon submitted to Parliament on 17 December 2007.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### A Levels: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in receipt of free school meals gained three A grades at A-level in mainstream maintained schools in the last period for which figures are available. [185780]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the achievement of pupils in receipt of free schools meals. Instead, the figures relating to pupils eligible for free school meals are given.

In 2006/07, 176 pupils eligible for free school meals in mainstream maintained schools achieved three A grades at A level. This was 3.9 per cent. of the pupils eligible for free school meals.

These figures relate to pupils aged 16 to 18, (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006), in all maintained mainstream schools including academies and city technology colleges.

### Academies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes there have been to his Department's projection for the number of academies to be opened by the end of each of the next five financial years since inception of the programme; and what the reasons are for those changes. [164513]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 152W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which academies *(a)* expressions of interest and *(b)* feasibility studies have been received since 1 May 2007; who the proposed (i) lead sponsor and (ii) co-sponsors are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [176721]

**Jim Knight:** 35 academies have completed feasibility studies since 1 May 2007 and have progressed to the implementation phase. 32 expressions of interest have been received since 1 May 2007 and feasibility studies have commenced for these proposals. A further three academy proposals have commenced feasibility studies without an expression of interest because they were selected by a local authority competition.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show the lead sponsors and co-sponsors for each of these proposals.

*Table 1: Feasibility studies received since 1 May 2007*

| | *Local authority* | *Academy name*[1] | *Sponsor* | *Co-sponsor* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bristol | The Bristol Brunel Academy | John Cabot Academy | — |
| 2 | Bristol | Oasis Academy | Oasis Community Learning | — |
| 3 | Coventry | Grace Academy | Bob Edmiston | — |
| 4 | Croydon | Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace | Harris Federation of South London Schools Trust | — |
| 5 | Darlington | Eastbourne Church of England Academy | Diocese of Durham and David and Anne Crossland | — |
| 6 | Kent | New Line Learning Academy, South Maidstone Federation | Cornwallis Online Learning, Kent CC and others tbc | — |
| 7 | Kent | TBC (Cornwallis), South Maidstone Federation | Cornwallis Online Learning, Kent CC and others tbc | — |
| 8 | Kent | Marsh Academy | Kent County Council | Microsoft/Tonbridge School |
| 9 | Kent | Spires Academy | Holiday Extras/Crown Products (Kent) Ltd. | — |
| 10 | Lambeth | Evelyn Grace Academy | Ark | — |
| 11 | Luton | Barnfield South Academy | Barnfield College Further Education Corporation | — |
| 12 | Luton | Barnfield West Academy | Barnfield College Further Education Corporation | — |
| 13 | Milton Keynes | Milton Keynes | Edge Foundation | — |
| 14 | North East Lincolnshire | Havelock Academy | David Ross | — |
| 15 | Northamptonshire | Brooke Weston Academy | Brooke Weston CTC Trust | — |
| 16 | Northumberland | Bede Academy | Emmanuel Schools Foundation | — |
| 17 | Nottingham | Nottingham University Samworth Academy | University Of Nottingham and David Samworth (TBC) | — |
| 18 | Nottingham | Nottingham Bulwell Academy | Edge Foundation | — |
| 19 | Nottinghamshire | The Samworth Church Academy | David Samworth and Diocesan of Southwell and Nottingham | — |
| 20 | Oxfordshire | North Oxfordshire Academy | UCST (Vodafone) | — |
| 21 | Rochdale | St. Anne's Academy | The Manchester Diocese and David and Anne Crossland | — |
| 22 | Sandwell | Shireland Collegiate Academy | Ormiston Trust and Shireland Learning | — |
| 23 | Sandwell | George Salter Collegiate Academy | Ormiston Trust and Shirefand Learning | — |
| 24 | Sandwell | Q3 Academy | Eric Payne | — |
| 25 | South Gloucestershire | John Cabot Academy | Rolls Royce/Wolfson Foundation | — |
| 26 | Southwark | Bacon's, A Church of England Sponsored Academy | CTC Trust, Southwark Diosesan Board of Education and the Phillip and Pauline Harris Charitable Trust | — |
| 27 | Southwark | St. Michael and All Angels CofE | Southwark Diocesan Board of Education | Toc H |
| 28 | Southwark | Walworth Academy | Ark | — |
| 29 | Southwark | The Globe Academy | Ark | — |
| 30 | Sunderland | Pennywell/Quarry View Academy | Gentoo Group | Sunderland CC |
| 31 | Sunderland | Red House Academy | Leighton Group with University of Sunderland | Sunderland CC |
| 32 | Sunderland | Castle View Enterprise Academy | Northumbrian Water | Sunderland CC |
| 33 | Swindon | Swindon Academy | UCST (Honda UK) | — |
| 34 | Tameside | New Charter Academy | New Charter Housing Trust | — |

*Table 1: Feasibility studies received since 1 May 2007*

| | Local authority | Academy name[1] | Sponsor | Co-sponsor |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Westminster | King Solomon Academy | Ark | — |

*Table 2: Expressions of interest received since 1 May 2007*

| | Local authority | Academy name[1] | Sponsor | Co-sponsor |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bexley | TBC (New School) | Haberdashers and Temple Grove Trust | — |
| 2 | Birmingham | Heartlands Academy | Edutrust | — |
| 3 | Birmingham | Shenley Court | Edutrust | — |
| 4 | Birmingham | St. Alban's Academy | ARK/Aston University/BMW/Cadbury's/Ove Arup | — |
| 5 | Birmingham | Harborne Academy | ARK/KPMG/University of Birmingham | — |
| 6 | Birmingham | Eastside Academy | Ormiston Trust + UCE (Tbc) | — |
| 7 | Bolton | TBC (Withins) | Diocese of Manchester (Church of England) | Anne and David Crossland |
| 8 | Brent | Wembley Park Academy | ARK | — |
| 9 | Bristol | Colston's Girls | The Society of Merchant Venturers | — |
| 10 | Bristol | Portway Academy | Oasis | — |
| 11 | Bristol | Bristol Cathedral School | No Sponsor Required: School itself is the sponsor | — |
| 12 | Cheshire | TBC North Area Academy (Whitby High School Cheshire Oaks High School and Ellesmere Port School) | Diocese of Chester and David and Anne Crossland | — |
| 13 | Cheshire | TBC South Area Academy (Whitby High School Cheshire Oaks High School and Ellesmere Port School) | University of Chester/West Cheshire College/LA/Diocese of Chester | — |
| 14 | Croydon | TBC (Coulsden) | Oasis Learning Trust | — |
| 15 | Cumbria | TBC (Morton) | Brian Scowcroft and Andrew Tinkler | — |
| 16 | Cumbria | Westlakes Academy | BNFL/Sellafield, NDA and the University of Lancashire | — |
| 17 | Derbyshire | TBC (Shirebrook) | All Roads DLO/Sheffield Hallam University (TBC) | — |
| 18 | Essex | Rickstones | Greensward College | — |
| 19 | Essex | Greensward | Greensward College | — |
| 20 | Essex | John Bramston | Greensward College | — |
| 21 | Gloucester | TBC (Christ College) | Clifton RC Diocese + Gloucester CoE Diocese | — |
| 22 | Kent | Axtane Academy | Leigh Technology Academy Trust, University of Kent | KCC |
| 23 | Kingston upon Hull | Archbishop Sentamu Academy | Diocese of York | — |
| 24 | Kingston upon Hull | The Pickering Academy | Hull College | — |
| 25 | Lancashire | Accrington | ULT | — |
| 26 | Northamptonshire | Brooke Weston Academy | Brooke Weston CTC Trust | — |
| 27 | Nottingham | TBC (St. Ann's/Eastern) | Greenwood Dale | Experian (Business Supporter) |
| 28 | Tameside | Droylsden Academy | Tameside College | — |
| 29 | West Sussex | TBC (Kings Manor Community College) | Woodard Schools | — |
| 30 | West Sussex | TBC (Boundstone) | Woodard Schools | — |
| 31 | West Sussex | TBC (Littlehampton) | Woodard Schools | — |
| 32 | Westminster | Pimlico Academy | FUTURE | — |

*Table 3: Academy proposals from local authority competitions since 1 May 2007*

| | Local authority | Academy name[1] | Sponsor | Co-sponsor |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Lincolnshire | Trent Valley Academy | Edutrust/Gainsborough Education Village | — |
| 2 | Southampton | Oasis Academy Mayfield | Oasis Community Learning | — |
| 3 | Southampton | Oasis Academy Lords Hill | Oasis Community Learning | — |

[1] Predecessor school if academy has not yet been named.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have agreed co-sponsorship arrangements under the academies programme. [164507]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have agreed to co-sponsor academies; and on which date each made the agreement. [174663]

**Jim Knight:** The following local authorities have agreed to co-sponsor academies:

Cheshire county council

Corporation of London

Coventry city council

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Kent county council

Manchester city council

Sunderland city council

Telford and Wrekin council

West Sussex county council.

The following table shows which academies these local authorities are sponsoring and the date that the Expression of Interest was signed.

| *Local authority* | *Academy name (predecessor school if academy not yet named)* | *EOI agreed* |
|---|---|---|
| Cheshire | TBC (Whitby High School, Cheshire Oaks High School and Ellesmere Port School) | 25 July 2007 |
| Corporation of London | City of London KPMG Academy | 20 March 2006 |
| Corporation of London | City of London Academy | 20 April 2006 |
| Corporation of London | City of London Southwark Academy | 1 March 2001 |
| Coventry | Swanswell | 30 January 2007 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | The Chelsea Science Academy | 1 January 2005 |
| Kent | Marlowe Academy | 1 November 2002 |
| Kent | Isle of Sheppey | 13 March 2006 |
| Kent | Marsh Academy | 13 March 2006 |
| Kent | TBC (Cornwallis), South Maidstone Federation | 1 March 2007 |
| Kent | New Line Learning Academy, South Maidstone Federation | 1 March 2007 |
| Manchester | Digital Communications Academy | 22 March 2007 |
| Manchester | Construction and the Built Environment Academy | 18 December 2006 |
| Manchester | Creative Media Academy—Girls | 22 March 2007 |
| Manchester | Creative Media Academy—Boys | 22 March 2007 |
| Manchester | Finance and Professional Service Academy | 22 March 2007 |
| Manchester | Business Enterprise Academy | 18 December 2006 |
| Manchester | Health Academy | 18 December 2006 |
| Sunderland | Pennywell/Quarry View Academy | 8 June 2006 |
| Sunderland | Castle View Enterprise Academy | 8 June 2006 |
| Sunderland | Red House Academy | 8 June 2006 |
| Telford and Wrekin | Abraham Darby Academy | 11 April 2007 |
| West Sussex | TBC (Littlehampton Community School) | 26 July 2007 |
| West Sussex | TBC (Boundstone Community College) | 26 July 2007 |
| West Sussex | TBC (Kings Manor Community College) | 26 July 2007 |

## Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have started construction under the Building Schools for the Future programme, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. [180200]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the schools which have started construction under the Building Schools for the Future programme broken down by local authority and parliamentary constituency.

| *School* | *Local authority* | *Parliamentary constituency* |
|---|---|---|
| Salt | Bradford | Shipley |
| Tong | Bradford | Bradford South |
| Buttershaw | Bradford | Bradford South |
| Whitefield | Bristol | Bristol East |
| Brislington | Bristol | Bristol East |
| Hartcliffe | Bristol | Bristol South |
| Durham Johnston | Durham | Durham |
| Ilfield SEN | Kent | Gravesham |
| St. Edmund Canterbury | Knowsley | Knowsley South |
| Halewood | Knowsley | Knowsley South |
| Prescott | Knowsley | Knowsley South |
| Michael Tippet SEN | Lambeth | Vauxhall |
| Elm Court SEN | Lambeth | Dulwich and West Norwood |
| Park Campus PRU | Lambeth | Streatham |
| West Norwood (temporary) | Lambeth | Dulwich and West Norwood |
| Shuttleworth | Lancashire | Burnley |

| School | Local authority | Parliamentary constituency |
|---|---|---|
| Burnley Sixth form | Lancashire | Burnley |
| Pendle Vale | Lancashire | Pendle |
| Pendle Vale SEN | Lancashire | Pendle |
| Sir John Thursby | Lancashire | Burnley |
| Ridgewood Community High SEN | Lancashire | Burnley |
| Allerton High | Leeds | Leeds North East |
| Cockburn | Leeds | Leeds Central |
| Pudsey Grangefield | Leeds | Pudsey |
| Rodillian | Leeds | Morley and Rothwell |
| Temple Moor High | Leeds | Leeds East |
| Allerton Grange | Leeds | Leeds North East |
| Beaumont Leys | Leicester | Leicester West |
| Fullhurst | Leicester | Leicester West |
| Judgemeadow | Leicester | Leicester East |
| Soar Valley | Leicester | Leicester East |
| Sedgehill | Lewisham | Lewisham West |
| Catford | Lewisham | Lewisham East |
| Melland SEN | Manchester | Manchester Gorton |
| Cedar Mount | Manchester | Manchester Gorton |
| Newall Green | Manchester | Wythenshawe and Sale East |
| St. Pauls | Manchester | Wythenshawe and Sale East |
| Piper Hill SEN | Manchester | Wythenshawe and Sale East |
| Our Lady's (RC) | Manchester | Manchester Blackley |
| St. Matthew's (RC) | Manchester | Manchester Blackley |
| Meade Hill SEN | Manchester | Manchester Blackley |
| Northridge High | Manchester | Manchester Blackley |
| Walbottle | Newcastle | Newcastle upon Tyne North |
| Kenton | Newcastle | Newcastle upon Tyne North |
| Thomas Bewick SEN | Newcastle | Newcastle upon Tyne North |
| Benfield | Newcastle | Newcastle upon Tyne and Wallsend |
| Newfield | Sheffield | Sheffield Heeley |
| Silverdale | Sheffield | Sheffield Hallam |
| Talbot SEN | Sheffield | Sheffield Heeley |
| Yewlands | Sheffield | Sheffield Brightside |
| Lanchester SEN | Solihull | Meriden |
| Park Hall | Solihull | Meriden |
| The Archbishop Grimshaw (RC) | Solihull | Meriden |
| Smith's Wood | Solihull | Meriden |
| Frederick Bremer | Waltham Forest | Walthamstow |
| Kelmscott | Waltham Forest | Walthamstow |

## Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [180711]

**Kevin Brennan:** Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

## Care Proceedings: Fees and Charges

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to change the charging procedures for local authorities paying court fees before they can issue proceedings to take a child into care. [186765]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice is taking steps to minimise the administrative cost to local authorities of paying magistrates court fees (not just for care proceedings). Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) is developing a new payment system that should mean local authorities will be able to set up accounts with magistrates courts allowing them to pay all court fees incurred by single monthly or quarterly payments. In addition we are currently consulting on proposals to increase court fees paid by public authorities in child care and adoption proceedings to reflect the full cost of the process. The consultation closes on 11 March 2008.

## Children

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the Children's Plan expert groups have met; and if he will publish the minutes and attendance lists of each meeting. [186755]

**Beverley Hughes:** Between their inception in September 2007 and the publication of the Children's Plan in December 2007, each of the three age-based Children's Plan expert groups met three times as a group; there was one additional meeting which brought together all three expert groups in a plenary session in November 2007.

Lists of the original expert group members are published as annexes to the expert group reports, which are available on the DCSF Time to Talk website. Attendance lists were not published. Group discussions were held in confidence and minutes not published, as they relate to formulation and development of government policy and free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he proposes to publish the implementation documents referred to in the Children's Plan. [186763]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Children's Plan lists a number of documents due to be published during 2008. The intended timings were set out in the plan or in accompanying press notices and are:

Child Health Strategy, spring;

Obesity Action Plan, already published as 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' in January;

Review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, summer;

Play Strategy, summer;

Staying Safe: Action Plan, published in February;

Byron review, March;

Rose review of the Primary curriculum, interim report due in October, final report by March 2009;

Review of progress on special educational needs due to take place in 2009;

Bercow review on children, young people and speech, language and communication, interim report due spring, final report by summer;

Review of progress on implementation of Steer report, by summer;

Youth Task Force Action Plan, spring;

Drugs Strategy, spring;

Youth Grime Action Plan, during 2008;

Children's Workforce Action Plan, spring.

### Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Finance

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service will be in financial years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [175762]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has been initially allocated the following net amounts:

| | *Funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 106.7 |
| 2008-09 | 114.9 |
| 2009-10 | 124.1 |

### Children in Care

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time was that children waited in local authority care to be placed *(a)* with a foster parent or parents and *(b)* with a parent or parents for adoption in the most recent period for which figures are available. [183550]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested on the average time a child waited in local authority care to be placed with foster parents is not collected centrally.

The average time between the date it was decided that a looked after child should be placed for adoption and the actual date the child was placed for adoption, was nine months in the year ending March 2007, the latest year for which data is available.

### Children in Care: Health Services

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of looked after children in each local authority area received the immunisations appropriate for their age group in the latest period for which figures are available; [179417]

(2) what percentage of looked after children in each local authority area received a health assessment from their primary care trust on an annual basis in the latest period for which figures are available; [179418]

(3) what percentage of looked after children in each local authority area received a dental check on an annual basis in the latest period for which figures are available. [179419]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* Improving the health and well-being of looked after children is of paramount importance, Children in care are more likely to experience health problems, particularly mental health problems, than their peers and it is important that more is done to meet their needs.

Our White Paper 'Care Matters: Time for Change' set out how this is a priority for the Government. It outlined a strong package of measures intended to ensure that we improve health outcomes for this vulnerable group of young people, including by ensuring better joint working between local authorities and health care bodies. For the first time guidance on promoting the health of looked after children will be put on a statutory footing for both local authorities and health bodies.

The available information about the health care of looked after children has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Children: Accidents

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that children are taught about managing risk and staying safe to prevent accidents and accidental injury; [186336]

(2) what guidance has been given to local children's services on measures to reduce incidence of accidental injury among young people; [186338]

(3) if he will take steps to *(a)* identify best practice in child accident prevention and *(b)* ensure that information on effective measures is shared between local safeguarding boards. [186344]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Department has worked across Government to co-ordinate the cross-Government Staying Safe Action Plan which was published on 5 February 2008. The report can be downloaded from www.ecm.aov.uk/stayingsafe and a copy is available in the House Library. In the Staying Safe Action Plan, we set out new commitments to help children, young people and their parents understand better the risks to their safety, including from accidental injury. These include the establishment of a Child Safety Education Coalition to deliver and evaluate child safety education across the country and ensure that more children, including disabled children, are taught about how to manage risk. We also announced new guidance for professionals on common risks in the home as well as a Priority Review of local accidental prevention. These new measures will help to identify and share good practice in accident prevention work between local areas.

My Department issued guidance to schools, "Safety Education Guidance for Schools", in December 2001 This guidance sets out responsibilities for safety education and National Curriculum requirements, recommends approaches to teaching and learning, and provides examples of good practice. It is for schools to determine exactly how they provide safety education.

The effectiveness of these measures will be assessed by the public service agreement to improve children and young people's safety, which was announced in October 2007.

## Children: Behaviour Disorders

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were assessed as having behavioural difficulties in each London borough in each of the last five years. [185736]

**Jim Knight:** Information on pupils having behavioural, emotional or social difficulties identified as their primary need in maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools in London local authorities is given in the following table for 2006 and 2007, the only years for which these data are available at local authority level. This information can be found in two SFRs, available on the Department's website here via the following links:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000661/index.shtml and

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

*Number of pupils in all schools[1] with statements of SEN or at School Action Plus having behavioural, emotional and social difficulties[2,3], January 2006 and 2007, London local authorities*

| | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| London[4] | 22,320 | 23,340 |
| Inner London[4] | 8,950 | 9,150 |
| Camden | 672 | 682 |
| City of London | 8 | 7 |
| Hackney | 643 | 634 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 348 | 481 |
| Haringey | 529 | 533 |
| Islington | 570 | 531 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 150 | 140 |
| Lambeth | 1,255 | 1,301 |
| Lewisham | 686 | 753 |
| Newham | 778 | 828 |
| Southwark | 1,248 | 1,123 |
| Tower Hamlets | 698 | 743 |
| Wandsworth | 1,040 | 996 |
| Westminster | 328 | 404 |
| Outer London[4] | 13,370 | 14,180 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 406 | 447 |
| Barnet | 953 | 985 |
| Bexley | 667 | 724 |
| Brent | 769 | 769 |
| Bromley | 771 | 877 |
| Croydon | 1,125 | 1,307 |
| Baling | 866 | 907 |
| Enfield | 1,111 | 1,173 |
| Greenwich | 1,089 | 1,061 |
| Harrow | 607 | 675 |
| Havering | 361 | 382 |
| Hillingdon | 533 | 567 |
| Hounslow | 819 | 796 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 366 | 375 |
| Merton | 439 | 426 |
| Redbridge | 569 | 633 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 269 | 293 |
| Sutton | 460 | 566 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,192 | 1,219 |

[1] Includes maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools.
[2] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN having behavioural, emotional and social difficulties identified as their primary need or, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census.

## Children: Databases

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment has been made of the security of the eCaf system; [167442]

(2) what assessment he has been made of the effectiveness of the interchange of information between ContactPoint and eCaf; [167443]

(3) what consultation took place on eCaf with the consultees of ContactPoint. [167445]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* Security measures are a fundamental component of the national eCaf system design and all proposed security requirements have been reviewed by the Department's IT Security Officer.

When a common assessment is undertaken and fogged on the national eCaf system, it will automatically notify ContactPoint that an assessment has been carried out along with contact details of the practitioner that can provide information about the assessment (usually the practitioner who performed the assessment). This will help to prevent duplication of effort, allow practitioners to make more informed decisions and respond in a coordinated way. There will be no access to the common assessment, nor any details within it, from ContactPoint. ContactPoint will be provided with limited information (which does not include any case information) extracted from the national eCaf and other systems using a one-way process. ContactPoint will not update the case record systems.

As with ContactPoint, the development of the national eCaf system had significant input from a range of practitioners and managers across a wide range of children's services. Some of these individuals have been involved in the development of both systems.

## Children: Day Care

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the qualifications of existing child care and early years workers in registered settings. [163354]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Data on the qualifications of existing child care and early years workers in registered settings are collected as part of the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey.

This data source is a nationally representative survey of registered Childcare and Early Years Providers, commissioned by the Department. The survey began in 1998 and was repeated in 2001, 2002-03, 2005 and 2006. The survey is also commissioned to take place in 2007 and 2008.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey shows that the workforce is becoming better qualified across all provider types. There has been a rise in supervisory staff in settings coinciding with a rise in staff qualifications. Over 70 per cent. of all paid staff in full day care, and early years settings in maintained schools hold at least a Level 3 qualification, while in children's centres this rises to over 80 per cent. of staff. The proportion of staff with a Level 3 qualification or above in full day care is 10 percentage points higher than in 2005.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of three to four-year-olds in workless families for whom the entitlement to 12.5 hours of formal childcare per week was taken up in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181860]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The 2007 Parents' Childcare Survey collected information about take-up of the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds to 12.5 hours of formal child care per week, by child and family characteristics. This will allow an estimate to be made of the proportion of three to four-year-olds in workless families who had taken up this entitlement.

The findings from the 2007 survey will be published in late February 2008.

Estimates are not available for earlier years as questions about the take-up of the free entitlement to early years education for three and four-year-olds were not asked in previous surveys.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many additional childcare places have been *(a)* provided, *(b)* lost and *(c)* left available to the 100 local authorities with the worst incidences of multiple deprivation in each year since 1997. [185866]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

## Children: Sports

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether time spent *(a)* on roll call and general administration, *(b)* changing, *(c)* travelling and *(d)* before a lesson starting late may be included in the two hours spent on physical education in the public service agreement target. [181785]

**Jim Knight:** As with all other curriculum subjects, time spent on roll call in physical education (PE) lessons is part of the timetabled curriculum, so this will count towards the two-hour target. Time spent on changing for PE lessons also counts towards the two-hour target, as this is used by teachers to explain the lesson plan to pupils and to feed back on their performance after the lesson.

Time spent travelling to or from PE and sporting opportunities does not count towards the two-hour total. As take-up of the two hours is taken from a typical week, time spent before a lesson which starts late does not count towards the two-hour target.

## Class Sizes

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil/teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each year since 2001. [186506]

**Jim Knight:** The available figures are given in the following table:

*Pupil: teacher ratios at primary and secondary schools in Cornwall local authority (LA), the south-west Government office region (GOR) and England, 2001-07*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Primary | | | | | | | |
| Cornwall LA | 22.9 | 22.3 | 22.4 | 22.6 | 22.6 | 22.1 | 22.1 |
| South-west GOR | 23.0 | 22.4 | 22.4 | 22.6 | 22.5 | 21.8 | 21.6 |
| England | 22.9 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 22.7 | 22.5 | 22.0 | 21.8 |
| Secondary | | | | | | | |
| Cornwall LA | 18.0 | 17.8 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17.5 | 16.9 | 16.7 |
| South-west GOR | 17.5 | 17.3 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 16.9 | 16.7 | 16.6 |
| England | 17.1 | 16.9 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.5 |

*Source:*
Schools Census

Information on pupil:teacher ratios in each local authority are published annually by the Department. From 2005 the figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'School Workforce in England', the latest of which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Figures for 2004 and earlier were published in the Statistical Volume 'Statistics of Education Schools in England'. The 2004 edition can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml

Equivalent publications are available for earlier years.

## Classroom Assistants: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants have reached NVQ level *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 of the Training Development for School programme. [163205]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of "NVQ for Teaching Assistant" qualifications awarded at level 2 and level 3 for each year between 2002 and 2006.

*Number of teaching assistants who achieved NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in 2002/03 to 2005/06*

| | NVQ Level 2 | NVQ Level 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 390 | 260 |
| 2003/04 | 2,090 | 2,240 |
| 2004/05 | 3,880 | 4,540 |
| 2005/06 | 4,840 | 5,780 |

*Source:*
National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ)

**Comprehensive Spending Review**

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the effect of the Comprehensive Spending Review on future revenue funding of *(a)* academies and *(b)* maintained schools in Dorset. [168630]

**Jim Knight:** The comprehensive spending review 2007 provides funding for the expansion of the academies programme, a further 50 academies will be opened in each of the next three years, bringing the total to 230 academies open by September 2010. Academies are funded on the basis of equivalence with maintained schools of similar characteristics in the same area, and this will continue.

The average per pupil increases in dedicated schools grant for maintained schools in Dorset by local authority will be as follows:

| | Dorset | Poole | Percentage Bournemouth |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| 2009-10 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| 2010-11 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 |

**Computers: Disadvantaged**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to widen accessibility to computers and the internet for low-income families since 1997. [180067]

**Jim Knight:** The Government recognise the importance of closing the gap between the number of people with access to information technology and those without, commonly known as the 'digital divide'.

Since 1997 we have run a range of education-related programmes to widen accessibility to computers and the internet for low-income families, and these have provided hardware, connectivity and training both into homes and into the local community. In 2001, for example, we opened the first UK Online centres to provide community level access to computers, the internet as well as advice and training in how to use them. There is now a network of over 6,000 centres across the country in libraries, community centres and other accessible buildings.

We also supported cross government initiatives such as the seven point action plan to close the digital divide identified in "Connecting the UK: The Strategy for a Digitally Rich Nation" and were one of the main contributors to the plan's national digital challenge for a region to give universal online access to local public services by 2008.

We have concentrated our efforts on young learners and in school the level of access has increased significantly. In a primary school for example, 19 children had to share one computer in 1997 whereas now there is one computer for every 6.2 children and through our extended schools' programme and our support for the e-learning foundation we have helped schools to provide children with access beyond the school day.

In 2005 we started a £60 million Computers for Pupils programme to put ICT into the homes of the most disadvantaged secondary school pupils in the most deprived areas of the country and last year I established the Home Access Taskforce with representation from industry, education and the third sector. The Taskforce is due to report in April this year on how we might ensure that every family with 5 to 19-year-old learners in England has access to affordable ICT resources and support at home—and I recently announced an additional £30 million to provide further support under the Computers for Pupils programme until the task force proposals can be assessed and if appropriate, implemented.

**Dance: Curriculum**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to maintain dance's position in the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum. [166558]

**Jim Knight:** Dance will remain an important element for schools to deliver within the PE national curriculum. The increased flexibility allowed by the new secondary curriculum for PE, being introduced from September 2008, will make it easier for schools to offer more dance provision within curriculum PE if there is sufficient demand.

**Departmental Data Protection**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176481]

**Kevin Brennan:** The internal audit work programme for the Department in line with Government Internal Audit best practice, adopts a risk based approach to identifying areas for audit coverage

The adequacy of controls over data, including personal data and IT equipment, is covered in all assignments where it is relevant to the risks under review.

The risk based audit tasks below had a specific focus on personal data and IT equipment.

*2004-05*

Payroll

Travel and expenses claims

Teacher's serious misconduct—follow-up

Teachers Pension—ill health performance reporting

Loss of IT kit

IT hardware asset management

*2005-06*

Payroll inspection
Foreign Travel
Network account management
IT security

*2006-07*

Teacher's serious misconduct
New relationships with schools (data)
Network account follow-up
Review of payroll
Travel and subsistence inspection

*2007-08 (to date)*

Travel and subsistence post payment checks
Network account management—follow-up
Payroll—follow-up

Information relating to the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) is not readily available within the cost threshold.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180210]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department has adopted a selective disclosure log whereby only the most interesting and high profile pieces of information are published. Between 2005 and 2007 12.4 per cent. of responses to Freedom of Information requests, where information has been wholly or partially released, have been published on the Department's disclosure log.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days; [163209]

(2) many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [164499]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has not made any permanent or temporary appointments outside civil service grades during the period described.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178486]

**Kevin Brennan:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the House Library.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many responses he has received to his Department's Time to Talk consultation. [166148]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Department's Time to Talk consultation ran from 6 September to 19 October. I received over 3,000 responses from young people and adults, including public, private and voluntary sector bodies. A total of over 400 people also participated in consultation events in Bristol, Leeds, London, Birmingham and Portsmouth.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164957]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has conducted one major survey since 27 June 2007. This took the form of a Customer Perception Tracking Survey of the public in July and August 2007. The survey is being run by BMG Research Ltd. The purpose is to track perceptions and awareness of developments in education and children's services among key stakeholder groups. This was wave 2 of a three-year tracking study. The sample of the public is designed to be broadly representative of the general public, and as such, includes parents, whose views are analysed in comparison with non-parents where relevant. The Department intends to publish the outcomes at the end of the study in summer 2009. The cost of this interim wave was £14,000 excluding VAT.

The Department has not conducted any opinion polls or surveys of staff since 27 June 2007.

### Departmental Publications

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent to produce the *(a)* Aiming High and *(b)* Children's Plan policy documents. [186756]

**Beverley Hughes:** The total cost of producing the document "Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities" was £14,685 shared between HM Treasury and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The cost of producing the "Children's Plan" policy documents was £151,259.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years; [172509]

(2) how much and what proportion of its waste his Department and its predecessors recycled in each of the last five years. [174435]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the last five published reports on sustainable operations in Government the Department's headquarters estate reported the following volumes and percentages of recycled waste:

| *Year* | *Volume (metric tonnes)* | *Percentage recycled* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 610.57 | 34.46 |
| 2002-03 | 284.83 | 25.13 |

| Year | Volume (metric tonnes) | Percentage recycled |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 497.93 | 21.15 |
| 2004-05 | 483.50 | 21.9 |
| 2005-06 | 1534.55. | 43.36 |

The 2005-06 year's performance met the 40 per cent. of total waste arisings recycling target. The Department's waste recycling performance in 2006-07 will be reported by the Sustainable Development Commission early in the new year.

**Departmental Special Advisers**

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of his Department's advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164233]

**Kevin Brennan:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies of the Model Contract are available in the House Libraries.

**Education: Assessments**

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children entitled to free school meals achieved a level four or above in every Key Stage 2 exam in 2006, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority. [167367]

**Jim Knight:** This information has been published as part of a supplement to the "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Provisional)" Statistical First Release (SFR) found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

The additional publication "Local Authority tables showing achievements at Key Stage 2, by ethnicity, English as a first Language, free school meals and special education needs" to this SFR contains the data requested by my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and is found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/Addition4.xls

I draw your attention to tables 62 (Achievements at Key Stage 2 English Level 4 and above in 2006, for Local Authorities, by Free School Meal provision and gender), 63 (Achievements at Key Stage 2 Mathematics Level 4 and above in 2006, for Local Authorities, by Free School Meal provision and gender) and 64 (Achievements at Key Stage 2 Science Level 4 and above in 2006, for Local Authorities, by Free School Meal provision and gender).

**Education: Isle of Wight**

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reason is for the withdrawal of £7 million from the Isle of Wight Council budget in respect of primary capital funding from the national budget. [181803]

**Jim Knight:** There has been no withdrawal of funding. Overall capital support for Isle of Wight and its schools during the period covered by the comprehensive spending review (2008-11) is £36 million. Capital support for the period covered by the current spending review (2005-08) is £37.4 million (excluding funding earmarked specifically for a Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder project). Although, in comparison to 2006-07 and 2007-08, there has been a reduction in capital support for the provision of new pupil places in areas of population growth (or Basic Need) this is in line with forecast data provided by the local authority. However, from 2009-10, Isle of Wight will benefit from the introduction of the new Primary Capital Programme which aims to support local authorities in implementing a strategic approach to renewing at least half of all primary schools by 2022-23.

**Education: Kent**

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183060]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not hold information on funding at district level. However it does collect information on funding allocated to Kent county council. The information on capital, revenue and supported borrowing allocations made by the Department are provided in the following tables. In total £114 million of capital funding (including supported borrowing) and £910 million of revenue funding has been allocated to Kent county council in 2007-08 via schools and children services grants. The figures exclude payments made by non-departmental public bodies which can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Table A: Revenue funding made available to Kent county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Specific Grants* | |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 751,848,000 |
| School Standards Grant | 32,347,428 |
| School Standards Grant (Personalisation) | 9,101,608 |
| School Development Grant | 49,441,196 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) | 934,264 |
| Targeted Improvement Grant | 512,500 |
| Targeted School Meals Grant | 1,369,512 |
| Devolved School Meals Grant | 780,284 |
| Extended Schools | 1,589,683 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 4,294,105 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 3,598,387 |
| Fresh Start and New Partnerships: Recurrent | 231,000 |
| Primary Strategy: Communication, Language and Literacy | 50,00[illegible] |
| School Improvement Partners | 468,864 |
| Music Services | 1,129,485 |
| Music at Key Stage 2 | 631,167 |
| Education Health Partnerships | 261,428 |
| Playing for Success | 168,750 |
| Choice Advisers | 79,351 |
| School Intervention Grant | 409,600 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 744,161 |
| Walking to School Initiatives | 95,500 |
| General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School | 112,865 |

*Table A: Revenue funding made available to Kent county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Extended Rights for Free Travel | 141,603 |
| Aimhigher | 623,155 |
| Connexions | 11,506,441 |
| Care Matters | 70,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant Recurrent | 23,429,622 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 734,395 |
| ContactPoint | 421,030 |
| Total Specific Grants | 897,125,384 |
| *DCSF Recurrent Funding routed through Local Area Agreements (LAA)*[1] | |
| Children's Services Grant | 4,476,878 |
| Secondary National Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance | 183,300 |
| Secondary National Strategy—Central Co-ordination | 639,014 |
| Primary National Strategy Central Co-ordination | 662,337 |
| Positive Activities for Young People | 352,281 |
| School Travel Advisors | 189,000 |
| School Development Grant (local authority retained element) | 2,867,656 |
| Children's Fund | 3,082,807 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 501,000 |
| Total LAA | 12,954,273 |
| Total Recurrent funding including LAAs | 873,918,169 |

[1]Funding routed through the Children and Young Peoples Block of Local Area Agreements, which is paid out by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

*Table B: Capital grants made available to Kent county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Capital Grants* | |
| National Digital Infrastructure | 3,351,099 |
| E-Learning Credits | 1,390,731 |
| Devolved Formula Capital | 24,015,115 |
| School Travel Plan | 493,140 |
| Capital Modernisation: Primary | 2,333,179 |
| Capital Modernisation: Secondary | 2,690,069 |
| Targeted Capital Fund | 4,584,400 |
| Building Schools for the Future | 12,146,000 |
| Advance of Modernisation Capital Grants | 8,372,080 |
| Specialist Schools Capital | 1,114,149 |
| Fresh Start and New Partnerships: Capital | 962,842 |
| General Sure Start Grant Capital | 13,996,797 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 635,193 |
| Information Communication Technology: Mobile Technology | 305,127 |
| Integrated Children's System Capital | 435,000 |
| Total Capital Grants | 76,824,921 |

*Table C: Supported borrowing made available to Kent county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Grants* | |
| Capital Modernisation: Primary | 5,444,085 |
| Capital Modernisation: Secondary | 6,276,827 |
| New pupil places | 22,810,151 |
| Schools Access Initiative | 2,466,986 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's element) | 279,000 |
| Total LA Allocation | 37,277,049 |

## Educentre Ltd: Academies

**Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department is giving to Educentre Ltd. to build academies; and if he will make a statement. [175658]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has informed Educentre Ltd. about the Building Schools for the Future programme. The Department has also included Educentre Ltd. on its list of potential providers to which it circulates details of new school competitions, so that they are aware of projects for which they could enter a bid.

## Family Planning: Finance

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department made to *(a)* Brook, *(b)* the Family Planning Association, *(c)* Marie Stopes International, *(d)* the British Pregnancy Advisory Service and *(e)* Education for Choice in each of the last five years; what the (i) value and (ii) purpose of each such grant was; what restrictions apply to the ways in which funds from each grant may be spent; and if he will make a statement. [186372]

**Beverley Hughes:** The amounts paid by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to the organisations listed in the question, along with a summary of the purpose for which the payments were made, are included in the following table. There no restrictions on the way that funding may be spent other than those that apply to all funding under the programmes listed in the table and that it should be used for the purpose intended. The Department has not provided funding to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) or Marie Stopes International.

| | *Organisation* | *Amount (£)* | *Source of funding* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-06 | fpa (formerly Family Planning Association) | 250,637 | Parenting fund | Delivery of the 'Speakeasy' training programme, which enables parents and carers to have more knowledge and confidence in speaking to their children about sex and relationships |
| 2006-08 | fpa | 170,000 | Parenting fund | Local funding for Speakeasy programmes in Birmingham and Hackney (receiving £85,000 each). |

| | Organisation | Amount (£) | Source of funding | Purpose |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | fpa | 10,000 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | To identify good practice on young people friendly sexual health services in general practice and other health settings |
| 2006-09 | fpa | 575,000 (175,000 in 2006-07; 200,000 in 2007-08; 200,000 in 2008-09) | Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant programme | To support fpa's strategic activities in relation to the Speakeasy programme including accredited training courses for professionals and parents; developing and supporting local Speakeasy networks; and recruiting two trainers to the programme |
| 2004-06 | fpa | 58,000 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | To develop and deliver a training course for health and non-health professionals, to enable them to provide more pro-active contraceptive advice to help young people to avoid second pregnancies |
| 2004-06 | fpa | 20,565 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | To deliver courses on sex, relationships, pregnancy and parenthood for those working with looked after children and young people |
| 2007-10 | Brook | 119,572 (36,223 in 2007-08) | CYPF Grant programme | Strategic funding for training and consultancy support on all aspects of teenage pregnancy prevention and sexual health promotion for vulnerable young people from disadvantaged communities |
| 2006-07 | Brook | 11,750 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | To develop a leaflet "Contraceptive choices after having a baby" for young parents to support them in preventing second unplanned pregnancies |
| 2006-08 | Brook | 9,925 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | Developing and circulating a poster "Believe it or not" which reminds young women of the ease of getting pregnant immediately after having a baby |
| 2007-08 | Brook | 14,306.04 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | Developing and circulating a poster "contraception after abortion" informing young women about the risk of becoming pregnant after an abortion |
| 2006-07 | Brook | 15,000 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | Developing guidance on effective sexual health outreach work |
| 2006-08 | Brook London | 19,350 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | Developing and evaluating dual language cards in eight foreign languages for newly arrived young people in the UK whose first language is not English to encourage them to use sexual health advice services |
| 2004-07 | Education for Choice (EfC) | 38,000 | Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Programme funding | Delivery of training programmes for health and education professionals to facilitate discussion about pregnancy and abortion; revision and development of EfC's website; work with boys and young men; and support for parents to help them discuss pregnancy choices and abortion |

## Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the role of the finance director in his Department is in relation to authorising policies with significant financial implications for the Department. [164966]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department operates a devolved financial framework in which budget responsibility for policy initiatives is delegated to those charged with administering and delivering the policy. The specific role of the Finance Director within this delegated framework is to ensure that line managers within policy areas are supported with professional accountancy and financial advice when considering the financial implications of policy proposals. In line with the Treasury's guidance within "Managing Public Money" (October 2007) the Finance Director is responsible for providing financial leadership within the Department by setting the financial governance framework, establishing the internal financial controls and maintaining the essential external links with Treasury and the National Audit Office.

The Department has a qualified accountant as Director General of Corporate Services who sits on the board and has overall strategic responsibility for all operational matters and for directly supporting the Accounting Officer. On a day-to-day basis many of the key financial tasks are delegated to a professionally qualified Finance Director who manages the Department's central finance function, is responsible

for improving financial literacy of budget managers and ensuring that the Department meets all its statutory financial reporting obligations.

### Forced Marriage

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ensure that information on helplines and access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is available in secondary schools to teachers and pupils; and if he will make a statement. [184353]

**Jim Knight:** Schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils, and we have encouraged them, through guidance, to make available information about helplines and access to support for victims or people in fear of forced marriage. School staff should also be alert to the risk of forced marriage, as with other potential risks of harm to their pupils. They should not attempt to mediate in suspected cases, but should contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance.

### Foster Care

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time was that local authorities took to interview and process an application form from couples and individuals wishing to *(a)* foster and *(b)* adopt a child or children in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [183552]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to her on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 532W.

### Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have eligibility levels for free school meals of 20 per cent. or more in local authorities with overall eligibility levels for that type of school of less than 15 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [163314]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of secondary schools with free school meal eligibility of between 35 per cent. and 50 per cent. are not specialist schools; and what the estimated annual revenue cost to these schools is as a consequence of their non-specialist status. [164021]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested in the first part of this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost. No information is readily available to meet the second part of this request.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children *(a)* were entitled to and *(b)* claimed free school meals in each of the last 10 years. [164243]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The available information is given in tables 3A, 3B and 3C of SFR30/2007 (Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007 (Final)) which can be found at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

Information for earlier years cannot be provided within the time scale required by Parliament.

*Table A: maintained nursery and primary schools[1]: school meal arrangements—position in January each year: 2003 to 2007 England*

| | Day pupils[2] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Number on roll | 4,350,260 | 4,293,180 | 4,243,110 | 4,187,630 | 4,148,390 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 731,610 | 741,150 | 717,230 | 670,340 | 658,910 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 16.8 | 17.3 | 16.9 | 16.0 | 15.9 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Prior to 2003, 'Day pupils' includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils from 2003.
*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
*Source:*
School Census

*Table B: maintained secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements—position in January each year: 2003 to 2007 England*

| | Day pupils[2] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Number on roll | 3,308,490 | 3,326,800 | 3,317,590 | 3,309,720 | 3,272,480 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 478,920 | 477,290 | 465,520 | 448,680 | 429,700 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 14.5 | 14.3 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 13.1 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Prior to 2003, 'Day pupils' includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils from 2003.
*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
*Source:*
School Census

*Table C: all special schools: school meal arrangements—position in January each year: 2003 to 2007 England*

| | Day pupils[1] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Number on roll[2] | 94,660 | 92,620 | 91,210 | 90,450 | 90,600 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 33,430 | 33,100 | 30,690 | 29,410 | 29,110 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 35.3 | 35.7 | 33.6 | 32.5 | 32.1 |

[1] Prior to 2003, 'Day pupils' includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils from 2003.
[2] Excludes general hospital schools.
*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
*Source:*
School Census

### Free School Meals: Somerset

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children are estimated to be eligible for free school meals at *(a)* Manor Court Primary School, Chard, Somerset, *(b)* Neroche Primary School, Somerset, *(c)* South Petherton Junior School, Somerset *(d)* Parcroft Junior School, Somerset, *(e)* Grass Royal Junior School, Somerset, *(f)* Norton-sub-Hamdon Primary School, Somerset and *(g)* Wadham School, Somerset. [164016]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is shown in the table.

*Free school meal arrangements, January 2007*

| | Pupil achievement and attainment tables[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Somerset* | *Number of pupils (used for FSM calculation)* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| Manor Court Community Primary School | 403 | 47 | 11.7 |
| Neroche Primary School | 161 | 5 | 3.1 |
| South Petherton Junior School | 99 | 7 | 7.1 |
| Parcroft Community Junior School | 275 | 27 | 9.8 |
| Grass Royal Junior School | 265 | 59 | 22.3 |
| Norton-sub-Hamdon Church of England Primary School | 127 | 15 | 11.8 |
| Wadham School | 554 | 38 | 6.9 |

[1] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part-time and aged 5 to 15 (inclusive).

### GCE A-Level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the terms of the review of A-levels in 2013 are; and if he will make a statement. [164444]

**Jim Knight:** The 2013 review will consider the evidence and experience following the introduction of Diplomas and the implementation of changes to A-level and GCSE, with a view to reaching conclusions about how in practice the overall offer meets the needs of young people in progressing to further study and employment.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools submitted one or more pupils for GCSEs in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology, *(d)* science, *(e)* history, *(f)* mathematics, *(g)* English, *(h)* French, *(i)* Spanish, *(j)* German, *(k)* Italian and *(l)* a modern language in (i) 1997-98, (ii) 2000-01, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2005-06 and (v) 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [182894]

**Jim Knight:** The 2006/07 figures for parts *(d)*, *(f)* and *(g)* are as follows.

| | *Number of schools entering one or more pupils* | *Percentage of schools entering one or more pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | 4,583 | 82.6 |
| English | 4,463 | 80.4 |
| Science | 3,758 | 67.7 |

These figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all secondary schools.

To answer the other parts of the question would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in pupil referral units did not gain a single GCSE C grade or higher in each of the last five years; [185605]

(2) how many comprehensive schools did not enter any pupils for GCSEs in English, mathematics, science and a modern language in the latest period for which figures are available; [185935]

(3) how many independent schools did not enter any pupils for GCSE examinations in English, mathematics, science and a modern language in the latest period for which figures are available; [185965]

(4) how many and what proportion of pupils in pupil referral units were entered for GCSE examinations in the latest period for which figures are available. [186027]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in each London local education authority area left school achieving fewer than five A* to C grade passes at GCSE, including mathematics and English, in each of the last eight years. [186476]

**Jim Knight:** The information has been placed in the Library.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* 15 year olds and *(b)* pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including (i) English, mathematics and science and (ii) English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2005-06. [165762]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave him on 29 October 2007.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils gained three GCSEs or fewer at D grade or below in 2007. [182753]

**Jim Knight:** The information is provided as follows.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of pupils achieving one GCSE grade D-G and no grades C or above | 9,881 |
| Number of pupils achieving two GCSEs grade D-G and no grades C or above | 13,977 |
| Number of pupils achieving three GCSEs grade D-G and no grades C or above | 19,611 |

28,114 pupils achieved no GCSEs.

The figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2006/07.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each constituency gained five GCSE A* to C grades in subjects including English, mathematics, science and at least one modern language in the last period for which figures are available. [185777]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available and requires significant data development and recalculations to create, which would be at a disproportionate cost.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in receipt of free school meals did not gain a single grade C or higher at GCSE in the last year for which figures are available. [185779]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many mainstream maintained schools one or more pupils gained no passes at GCSE in the last period for which figures are available. [185804]

**Jim Knight:** In 2006/07, the number of mainstream maintained schools in which one or more pupils gained no passes at GCSE (or equivalent) was 2,031. This is 66.7 per cent. of all mainstreamed maintained schools.

### Headteachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Professional Qualification for Headship will be compulsory for those candidates seeking headships in academies; and if he will make a statement. [169797]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply given to him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 823W.

### Health Education: Nutrition

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plans to take to educate parents about nutrition. [185366]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department launched the 5 A DAY programme to promote the health benefits of eating a variety of at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day as we believe this gives a positive message to the consumer.

The 5 A DAY logo was launched by the Department; over 640 organisations are licensed to use the 5 A DAY logo. The Food Standards Agency's (FSA) Consumer Attitudes Survey, 2006 showed that 72 per cent. of people are now aware that they should eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, up from 43 per cent. in 2000.

'Top Tips for Top Mums' is a new 5 A DAY campaign. The campaign aims to help families by sharing real tips from real mums on how they got their kids to eat more fruit and vegetables. Mums or dads can e-mail mums@5adaytoptips.co.uk to send in their tip which may then be shared with other families via the 5 A DAY website, the media and other 5 A DAY partners.

In November 2006, the new Healthy Start scheme was implemented across the United Kingdom to provide vouchers for milk, fruit, vegetables and infant formula and free vitamin supplements to qualifying families and to back this up with information and advice through their health care professional on breastfeeding/healthy eating. They also receive an information booklet and a magazine with links to the healthy start website.

The Government will invest £75 million in an integrated marketing programme to inform, support and empower parents to make changes to their children's diets and levels of physical activity. It will

include simple universal messages for all families as well as tailored messages for at-risk families. There will be an emphasis on highlighting opportunities to take part in activities in the local area—everything from fruit-tasting sessions to 'walking buses' and safe play areas.

The Government will also seek to further develop the NHS Choices website so that it provides highly personalised advice on diet, activity and how to maintain a healthy weight. The Government will work with the FSA and other relevant bodies to ensure that this advice is based on the best available evidence, so that individuals can make sense of often conflicting advice from other sources. We will also explore the potential to include information on which companies meet which aspects of the codes of good practice in food and entertainment technology.

### Health Education: Sex

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of sex education on the attitudes and lifestyle choices of young people; and what guidance he has issued to schools on the recommended content of sex education materials. [184960]

**Jim Knight:** The Department issued its "Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Guidance (DfES 0116/2000)" to all maintained schools in July 2000. This outlines the responsibility of schools in this area and provides information on the issues to be covered at each of the four key stages, taking account of the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the young people receiving this education.

The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of SRE on the attitudes and lifestyle choices of young people. However, as part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to review best practice in effective SRE and how it is delivered in schools. We have listened to young people and recognise that many feel that they do not currently have the knowledge they need to make safe and responsible choices about relationships and sexual health. We will involve young people fully in the review to make sure that future SRE better meets their needs.

### Home Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were home educated in each local education authority in the latest year for which information is available. [185956]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

### Home Education: Females

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls aged 14 years and over *(a)* were home schooled and *(b)* had been removed from school and have not resumed in each of the last five years. [184762]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

### Languages: Education

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the quality of teaching foreign languages in schools. [184117]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* My hon. Friend will be aware from my answer of 13 December that the Children's Plan, published that month, has announced a review of the primary curriculum that will examine how best to introduce languages as a compulsory subject in primary schools.

We are taking a number of steps to build up the capacity of the primary school system to deliver this, including a teacher training programme in a primary languages specialism. This has so far trained nearly 3,000 teachers, with thousands more to be trained over the next few years. A report by Ofsted, published on 29 January, showed that trainees on the course are being well prepared as future teachers of languages. Increased funding for local authorities to support the delivery of primary languages—£32.5 million in 2008-09, up from £27.5 million in 2007-08 will help schools to buy in specialist advice or resources. Teachers can also make use of sources of support in the classroom, such as schemes of work in French, German and Spanish and materials on the Primary Languages Training Zone, the online training resource for teaching and learning languages at Key Stage 2.

My answer of 13 December set out what we are doing to raise standards of teaching and learning at Key Stage 3. In addition, to ensure that gains made at primary level are not lost, CILT, the National Centre for Languages, is working with groups of primary and secondary schools in a variety of contexts to develop solutions to transition, and will be publishing draft guidelines later this term. There is already guidance for schools in the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages and as part of the National Strategies and CILT Key Stage 3 programme to ensure that teaching of languages in secondary school builds on progress made earlier.

### Languages: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools offered *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-Level Mandarin in the most recent period for which figures are available. [184195]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the subjects each school offers at GCSE.

### Leisure: Finance

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what central Government funding for leisure facilities for persons aged between 16 and 21 years was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in (i) Cornwall, (ii) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and (iii) England in each year since 1979. [166709]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government do not collect specific information on local funding for leisure facilities as responsibility rests with local authorities.

However, Government are committed to investing in facilities "Aiming high for young people; a ten year strategy for positive activities", which was published in July 2006, announced the launch of a new programme of capital investment based on the reinvestment of unclaimed assets from dormant bank accounts and £60 million of new DCSF funding. Our ambition is that this will lead to new and improved youth facilities in every constituency over the next 10 years.

The "Children's Plan" subsequently announced a further £160 million of DCSF investment over the next two years to support this ambition.

We expect local authorities and the third and private sector to forge genuine partnership to deliver world class facilities driven by the active participation of young people.

## Literacy: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield, North of school leaving age were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years. [177027]

**Jim Knight:** Improving standards of literacy and numeracy at all stages of education has been one of the Government's top priorities. There is no nationally expected level of achievement for 16-year-olds (pupils at the end of key stage 4). The Government's current public service agreement target is for 60 per cent. of 16-year-olds to achieve 5 good GCSE grades (A*-C) or equivalent by 2008. Figures for 2007 published on 9 January show that this target has been met. But we are raising the bar and in future the target for the end of key stage 4 will be measured against the proportion of pupils achieving 5 grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics. The 2007 figure for England achieving this standard was 46.7 per cent. compared with 37.0 per cent. in 1998.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in Enfield and Enfield, North achieving 5 or more grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics for each year since 1998:

| | Percentage | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Enfield* | *Enfield, North* |
| 1998 | 33.4 | 30.9 |
| 1999 | 36.5 | 30.5 |
| 2000 | 35.2 | 28.4 |
| 2001 | 37.4 | 32.5 |
| 2002 | 38.4 | 35.2 |
| 2003 | 38.3 | 37.9 |
| 2004 | 40.5 | 39.8 |
| 2005 | 42.2 | 40.8 |
| 2006 | 42.8 | 40.1 |
| 2007 | 47.5 | 45.4 |

In 2007 60 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English compared with 53.2 per cent. in 1998. We do not publish disaggregated figures for GCSE subjects at local authority level.

## Literacy: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 267-71W, on literacy: Greater London, what the number of children in each borough is from which the percentages for 2007 in table 3 are derived. [185763]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows, for each London borough, the number of children included in the calculation of those achieving five or more A*-C GCSE (and equivalent) including GCSE English and mathematics.

*2007: numbers and percentages of 15-year-olds attaining five or more GCSEs, including English and mathematics, at grades C and above for each London authority*

| *Local authority name* | *Number of 15-year-old pupils* | *Percentage 5 +A*-C including English and mathematics* |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,097 | 39.2 |
| Barnet | 3,285 | 59.3 |
| Bexley | 3,290 | 49.7 |
| Brent | 2,654 | 49.5 |
| Bromley | 3,484 | 55.3 |
| Camden | 1,444 | 45.1 |
| City of London | — | — |
| Croydon | 3,803 | 44.1 |
| Ealing | 2,631 | 49.0 |
| Enfield | 3,729 | 47.4 |
| Greenwich | 2,477 | 33.9 |
| Hackney | 1,323 | 41.3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,078 | 57.8 |
| Haringey | 2,066 | 37.1 |
| Harrow | 2,209 | 56.0 |
| Havering | 3,072 | 53.6 |
| Hillingdon | 3,048 | 44.4 |
| Hounslow | 2,639 | 50.2 |
| Islington | 1,479 | 37.0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 606 | 56.4 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1,497 | 61.3 |
| Lambeth | 1,423 | 41.1 |
| Lewisham | 2,255 | 40.4 |
| Merton | 1,611 | 39.7 |
| Newham | 3,316 | 44.1 |
| Redbridge | 3,279 | 61.2 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1,460 | 47.7 |
| Southwark | 2,282 | 38.3 |
| Sutton | 2,572 | 64.7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2,527 | 36.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 2,595 | 42.0 |
| Wandsworth | 1,793 | 46.6 |
| Westminster | 1,371 | 45.6 |

*Note:*
The number of 15-year-olds relates to those on roll at the start of the academic year.

## London Academy Edgware

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students at the London Academy *(a)* are entitled to free school meals, *(b)* are in receipt of

education maintenance allowance, *(c)* have a special educational need and *(d)* have a mother tongue other than English. [177679]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides data on the number and percentage of students at the London Academy who:

*(a)* are eligible for free school meals (FSM);

*(c)* have a special educational need (SEN);

*(d)* have English as an additional language.

*Results for the London Academy*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils entitled to FSM[1] | 432 | 43.0 |
| Pupils with SEN with statement[2] | 51 | 3.9 |
| Pupils with SEN without statement[2] | 425 | 32.2 |
| Pupils with English as an additional | 464 | 35.2 |

[1] Based on all pupils of compulsory school age.
[2] Based on all pupils.
*Source:*
PLASC 2007

The Learning and Skills Council operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme for the Department and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 January 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many and percentage of students at the London Academy (a) are entitled to free school meals, (b) are in receipt of educational maintenance allowance, (c) have a special educational need and (d) have a mother tongue other than English."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for the London Academy is as follows:

| *Academic year* | *Number in receipt (percentage of post-16 learners in receipt)* |
|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 184 (59%) |

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

### Minibuses: Licensing

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on funding for training and testing of teachers and early years workers for the driving of minibuses. [173981]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* We have received no formal representations on funding teachers or others to train and be tested for the D1PCV licence or MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme). Schools can provide such funding from within their dedicated school budget and local authorities, as employers, can help with the arrangements. Licensing Incidental Drivers of the School Minibus carries details at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/visits/

### Numeracy: Qualifications

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made for the potential for public confusion between the Adult Numeracy and Key Skills Adult Numeracy qualifications. [180644]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The adult numeracy qualifications referred to are properly called the "Certificate in Adult Numeracy' and were developed as part of the Government's national Skills for Life strategy for improving adult literacy, language and numeracy skills. The Skills for Life numeracy curriculum covers a tightly defined set of topics as laid out in the National Adult Numeracy Standards.

The Key Skills qualifications are properly called "Key Skills in Application of Number' and were designed for 16 to 19-year-olds as part of the Curriculum 2000 reforms of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, The "Key Skills in Application of Number" is a broader qualification than Skills for Life Numeracy and covers a wider range of topics. As well as following a curriculum and completing a test, Key Skills qualifications require the student to present a portfolio of work.

The names of the respective qualifications were chosen to reflect the content of the qualifications and, in the case of Key Skills, to reflect the name of the policy. We do not believe there is potential for confusion between these two qualifications since they are named, marketed and described differently. We see these two qualifications as a lateral progression pathway for adult numeracy: adults can take the smaller Certificate in Adult Numeracy and, if they wish, then achieve the broader Key Skills in Application of Number qualification with the addition of a portfolio of work.

### Physical Education: Teachers

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified physical education teachers there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [184182]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Information is available for England from the Secondary Schools Curriculum Survey (SSCSS) which is an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures will be published in spring 2008. The 2002 survey showed that there were 21,400 teachers in secondary schools teaching physical education of which 78 per cent. had a post A-level qualification in the subject. All teachers in primary schools are qualified to teach all subjects of the national curriculum including physical education.

The 2002 SSCSS figures were published in Statistics of Education, School Workforce in England (including teachers' pay for England and Wales), January 2003 edition, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

### Primary Education

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary schools with fewer than 150 pupils there are in *(a)* Bedfordshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Essex, *(d)*

Norfolk, *(e)* Suffolk, *(f)* Buckinghamshire, *(g)* Berkshire, *(h)* East Sussex, *(i)* West Sussex, *(j)* Hampshire, *(k)* Hertfordshire, *(l)* the Isle of Wight, *(m)* Oxfordshire, *(n)* Kent and *(o)* Surrey; [183337]

(2) how many primary schools with fewer than 150 pupils there are in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* Devon, *(c)* Dorset, *(d)* Somerset and *(e)* Wiltshire; [183338]

(3) how many primary schools with fewer than 150 pupils there are in *(a)* Gloucestershire, *(b)* Herefordshire, *(c)* Shropshire, *(d)* Staffordshire, *(e)* Warwickshire, *(f)* West Midlands, *(g)* Worcestershire, *(h)* Derbyshire *(i)* Leicestershire, *(j)* Lincolnshire, *(k)* Northamptonshire, *(l)* Rutland and *(m)* Nottinghamshire; [183339]

(4) how many primary schools with fewer than 150 pupils there are in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* Merseyside, *(d)* Cumbria, *(e)* Greater Manchester, *(f)* County Durham, *(g)* Northumberland, *(h)* Tyne and Wear, *(i)* East Yorkshire, *(j)* South Yorkshire and *(k)* West Yorkshire. [183340]

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils on average were on the roll of schools providing education to children between the ages of five and 11-years-old in England in 2007; and what this figure was in each of the 10 *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authorities. [186830]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is shown in the following table.

*Maintained primary schools[1]: number of schools with fewer than 150 full-time equivalent pupils[2,3] January 2007*

| | Each local authority area | Fewer than 150 pupils | 150 pupils or more | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | England | 4,721 | 12,640 | 17,361 |
| 201 | City of London | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 202 | Camden | 2 | 39 | 41 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 0 | 64 | 64 |
| 204 | Hackney | 1 | 52 | 53 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 | 35 | 35 |
| 206 | Islington | 0 | 45 | 45 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 1 | 59 | 60 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 0 | 69 | 69 |
| 210 | Southwark | 0 | 71 | 71 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 1 | 68 | 69 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 0 | 56 | 56 |
| 213 | Westminster | 2 | 38 | 40 |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | 0 | 49 | 49 |
| 302 | Barnet | 3 | 84 | 87 |
| 303 | Bexley | 0 | 59 | 59 |
| 304 | Brent | 0 | 59 | 59 |
| 305 | Bromley | 9 | 68 | 77 |
| 306 | Croydon | 5 | 86 | 91 |
| 307 | Ealing | 0 | 64 | 64 |
| 308 | Enfield | 1 | 65 | 66 |
| 309 | Haringey | 0 | 63 | 63 |
| 310 | Harrow | 0 | 54 | 54 |
| 311 | Havering | 3 | 62 | 65 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 0 | 65 | 65 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 1 | 59 | 60 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| 315 | Merton | 0 | 43 | 43 |
| 316 | Newham | 0 | 66 | 66 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 2 | 39 | 41 |
| 319 | Sutton | 0 | 41 | 41 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 0 | 57 | 57 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 8 | 291 | 299 |
| 331 | Coventry | 3 | 82 | 85 |
| 332 | Dudley | 0 | 78 | 78 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 3 | 93 | 96 |
| 334 | Solihull | 4 | 63 | 67 |
| 335 | Walsall | 1 | 85 | 86 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 6 | 74 | 80 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 4 | 51 | 55 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 11 | 124 | 135 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 1 | 53 | 54 |
| 343 | Sefton | 8 | 70 | 78 |
| 344 | Wirral | 15 | 83 | 98 |
| 350 | Bolton | 8 | 90 | 98 |
| 351 | Bury | 8 | 55 | 63 |
| 352 | Manchester | 4 | 129 | 133 |
| 353 | Oldham | 10 | 84 | 94 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 7 | 64 | 71 |
| 355 | Salford | 10 | 73 | 83 |
| 356 | Stockport | 10 | 82 | 92 |
| 357 | Tameside | 9 | 66 | 75 |
| 358 | Trafford | 4 | 68 | 72 |
| 359 | Wigan | 13 | 92 | 105 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 12 | 70 | 82 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 13 | 90 | 103 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 18 | 85 | 103 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 7 | 129 | 136 |
| 380 | Bradford | 15 | 143 | 158 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 29 | 56 | 85 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 46 | 105 | 151 |
| 383 | Leeds | 26 | 196 | 222 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 33 | 91 | 124 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 21 | 52 | 73 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 6 | 66 | 72 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 6 | 50 | 56 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 8 | 43 | 51 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 6 | 77 | 83 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 26 | 37 | 63 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 15 | 96 | 111 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 23 | 43 | 66 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 21 | 75 | 96 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 5 | 25 | 30 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 2 | 40 | 42 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 4 | 41 | 45 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 7 | 55 | 62 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 3 | 68 | 71 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 61 | 71 | 132 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 10 | 49 | 59 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 22 | 44 | 66 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 208 | 118 | 326 |
| 816 | York | 12 | 42 | 54 |

*Maintained primary schools[1]: number of schools with fewer than 150 full-time equivalent pupils[2,3], January 2007*

| | Each local authority area | Fewer than 150 pupils | 150 pupils or more | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 81 | 65 | 146 |
| 821 | Luton | 0 | 54 | 54 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 60 | 124 | 184 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 25 | 65 | 90 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 178 | 180 | 358 |
| 831 | Derby | 5 | 73 | 78 |
| 835 | Dorset | 69 | 67 | 136 |
| 836 | Poole | 2 | 26 | 28 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 1 | 26 | 27 |
| 840 | Durham | 114 | 122 | 236 |
| 841 | Darlington | 2 | 28 | 30 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 58 | 98 | 156 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 3 | 53 | 56 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 113 | 317 | 430 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 5 | 48 | 53 |
| 852 | Southampton | 6 | 55 | 61 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 82 | 143 | 225 |
| 856 | Leicester | 5 | 79 | 84 |
| 857 | Rutland | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 104 | 197 | 301 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 2 | 69 | 71 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 104 | 104 | 208 |
| 866 | Swindon | 7 | 60 | 67 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 0 | 30 | 30 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 17 | 28 | 45 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 29 | 37 | 66 |
| 870 | Reading | 4 | 33 | 37 |
| 871 | Slough | 1 | 26 | 27 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 14 | 37 | 51 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 63 | 138 | 201 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 6 | 52 | 58 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 97 | 178 | 275 |
| 876 | Halton | 16 | 36 | 52 |
| 877 | Warrington | 7 | 64 | 71 |
| 878 | Devon | 182 | 136 | 318 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 14 | 62 | 76 |
| 880 | Torbay | 4 | 28 | 32 |
| 881 | Essex | 129 | 344 | 473 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 1 | 36 | 37 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 2 | 41 | 43 |
| 884 | Herefordshire | 50 | 32 | 82 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 83 | 106 | 189 |
| 886 | Kent | 133 | 333 | 466 |
| 887 | Medway | 9 | 76 | 85 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 176 | 310 | 486 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 4 | 52 | 56 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 1 | 28 | 29 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 87 | 205 | 292 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 17 | 75 | 92 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 85 | 57 | 142 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 12 | 45 | 57 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 129 | 109 | 238 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 168 | 111 | 279 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 121 | 129 | 250 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 85 | 322 | 407 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 28 | 18 | 46 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 135 | 150 | 285 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 202 | 182 | 384 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 97 | 168 | 265 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 91 | 47 | 138 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 94 | 139 | 233 |
| 933 | Somerset | 114 | 109 | 223 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 131 | 125 | 256 |
| 936 | Surrey | 72 | 242 | 314 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 60 | 136 | 196 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 72 | 168 | 240 |

[1] Includes maintained schools.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Part-time pupils are counted as 0.5 full-time equivalents.
*Source:*
School Census

## Primary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account the Primary Capital Programme will take of the removal of surplus places; and if he will make a statement. [185333]

**Jim Knight:** We believe it is right that we should challenge local authorities to make best use of resources by taking action to balance the demand and supply of school places. Our guidance Primary Capital Programme: Guidance for local authorities on developing their primary strategy for change makes clear that strategies that fail to commit to doing so will not be approved. However, the guidance also acknowledges that it will not always be practicable, or desirable, to remove all surplus places and that authorities should allow for parental choice, accessibility of schools and possible future increase in pupil numbers due to demographic changes. It also recognises that in order to preserve access for young children, there may be more empty places in schools in rural areas than in urban areas.

## Primary Education: Catering

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital grant will be available from April 2008 to those local authorities with large numbers of primary schools without school kitchens; which local authorities have the largest number of schools without kitchens; and if he will make a statement. [185332]

**Jim Knight:** Over the next three years, we are providing a record £21.9 billion of capital support for investment in school buildings. Much of this funding is devolved to local authorities and schools for their local priorities, which can include installing or improving school kitchens and dining areas. As part of this funding, we are making available £150 million of targeted capital grant to those authorities with high need who aim to install kitchens in over 20 per cent. of their schools where currently there are none, and where to do so without targeted support would put unacceptable pressure on other funding priorities. We issued an invitation and guidance to all authorities on how to apply for this funding in December 2007, and they have until the end of this month to make an application.

The Department does not hold detailed information on which schools do not have kitchens. Working with the School Food Trust in late 2006, we identified the following authorities as having relatively high numbers of primary and secondary schools without kitchens, but this may not be a full list: Bournemouth, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kingston

upon Thames, Lincolnshire, Milton Keynes, North East Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Poole, Somerset, Swindon, West Sussex, Wiltshire, and Worcestershire.

### Primary Education: Closures

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools closed in England in each of the last 10 years. [180395]

**Jim Knight:** The numbers of Primary Schools closed in England in each of the last 10 years are given in the table.

| | *Phase of Education* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Close date* | *Middle deemed primary* | *Primary* | *Grand total* |
| 1997 | 4 | 168 | 172 |
| 1998 | 3 | 171 | 174 |
| 1999 | 3 | 194 | 197 |
| 2000 | 6 | 182 | 188 |
| 2001 | 4 | 244 | 248 |
| 2002 | 3 | 223 | 226 |
| 2003 | 0 | 207 | 207 |
| 2004 | 9 | 219 | 228 |
| 2005 | 5 | 241 | 246 |
| 2006 | 2 | 246 | 248 |
| 2007 | 13 | 279 | 292 |
| Grand total | 52 | 2,374 | 2,426 |

Schools can be closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

### Primary Education: Isle of Wight

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what specific issues his Department has informed the Isle of Wight Council are required to be addressed by 1 February 2008 in the local primary school strategy for change. [184186]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The 6 December guidance sets out the broad requirements. We will be contacting local authorities shortly with regard to specific issues that we would expect to be addressed through the primary strategy for change to be submitted by 16 June. Tackling poor performance and managing surplus places sensitively will be key considerations.

### Primary Education: Rural Areas

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in primary schools designated as rural schools achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 tests in the last period for which figures are available. [185781]

**Jim Knight:** Figures showing results in 2007 key stage 2 tests in all primary schools split by urban/rural areas are shown as follows:

| | | *Percentage of pupils who achieved level 4 or above at key stage 2* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of eligible pupils* | *English* | *Maths* | *Science* |
| All | 569,337 | 80 | 77 | 88 |
| Urban areas | 465,470 | 79 | 76 | 87 |
| Rural areas | 103,867 | 85 | 81 | 91 |

These figures include LA maintained schools and academies.

This information can be found in table 14 of the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

### Primary Education: Standards

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what adjustments for sex are included in the contextual value added measure for Key Stage Two; and how such calculations are made. [173406]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The CVA model is calculated using an established statistical technique referred to as multi-level modelling. This method uses a formula which estimates the contribution each school makes to its pupils' attainment, taking account of each pupil's starting point and a broad range of contextual factors which are shown to affect progress and for which consistent national data are available. The impact of these factors that are accounted for, including gender, are calculated simultaneously. The formula is calculated each year based on the actual attainment of the entire national cohort of over half a million pupils. The CVA calculations, therefore, make an allowance for the different gender mix within each school, when calculating the school CVA measure.

The 2007 Key Stage (KS) 1-2 contextualised value added model shows that boys, on average, achieved 0.44 KS2 points higher than girls with the same pattern of prior attainment at KS1 and contextual factors. This means that boys made just under half a term's more progress than girls over this period.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many primary schools *(a)* 20 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. or more of pupils did not reach level 4 in Key Stage Two tests in 2007. [186631]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is in the following table:

| Subject | Number of schools with: 50 per cent. or more pupils not achieving level 4+ | 30 per cent. or more pupils not achieving level 4+ | 20 per cent. or more pupils not achieving level 4+ |
|---|---|---|---|
| English | 487 | 2,598 | 5,398 |
| Maths | 567 | 3,384 | 6,734 |
| Science | 258 | 1,005 | 2,405 |

Schools covered are those published in the primary school Achievement and Attainment Tables and include maintained special schools.

### Private Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what public benefit test is applied to private schools for charitable purposes; and if he will make a statement. [163291]

**Jim Knight:** The Charities Act 2006 provides a clear definition of charity with the emphasis on public benefit. At the heart of the Act is a new statutory definition of charity, based on a list of charitable purposes, and the principle of charities being for public benefit. The Act removes a long-standing presumption of public benefit for charities for the advancement of education, advancement of religion and the relief of poverty. This means that all charities will have to be able to demonstrate public benefit.

The Charity Commission, as independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, will interpret the public benefit requirement in the light of case law, modern conditions and the removal of the presumption of public benefit. The Charity Commission issued draft guidance on the principles of public benefit for consultation in May 2007, and received over 900 responses. The Commission will publish its final public benefit guidance in January 2008. It will follow this with the development of specific guidance for groups of charities likely to be most affected—including the independent school sector. The relevant provisions of the Act are expected to come into force in spring 2008.

### Private Sector

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1405-06W, on private sector, for each of the two formal investigations referred to, which private sector organisations were concerned; what the result of the investigation was; what the start and end date of the investigation was; and if he will make a statement. [182074]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the first instance, the investigation started on 26 February 2007 and the final report was issued on 5 September 2007. Based on its conclusions, the Department has taken management and disciplinary action to address weaknesses in the way certain contracts had been managed. The release of information about the private organisations concerned would risk prejudicing commercial interests.

In the second instance, the investigation started on 6 July 2007 and the case was reported to the police for further investigation on 24 August 2007. The release of information about the private organisations concerned might prejudice the ongoing investigation, and risk prejudicing commercial interests.

### Pupils

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of primary school pupils live within walking distance as defined by his Department of more than one maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school, broken down by local authority; [186831]

(2) how many and what proportion of primary school pupils live within walking distance as defined by his Department of more than two secondary schools, broken down by local authority. [186832]

**Jim Knight:** The statutory walking distance is two miles for pupils aged under eight and three miles for those aged eight and over. However, from September 2007, under the terms of section 508B of the Education Act 1996, children aged eight but under 11 from low income families became entitled to free travel arrangements where they live more than two miles from their nearest qualifying school. From September 2008 all children from low income families of compulsory school age who are 11 or over will be entitled to free transport in two ways—to one of their three nearest qualifying schools where they live more than two but not more than six miles from that school, and to the nearest school preferred by reason of a parent's religion or belief between two and 15 miles from home.

The measurement of the statutory walking distance is not necessarily by the shortest distance by road. It is measured by the shortest route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety. As such, the route measured may include footpaths, bridleways, and other pathways, as well as recognised roads.

A table showing the number and proportion of primary school pupils who live within two miles straight line distance of more than one maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school and the number and proportion of primary pupils who live within two miles straight line distance of more than two secondary schools, broken down by local authority, has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Pupils: Assessments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the pupils who sat the pilot stage tests in English and mathematics will receive their results. [184196]

**Jim Knight:** In December 2007, 22,543 pupils took a total of 42,833 tests in English and mathematics in the first round of single level tests as part of the Making Good Progress pilot. As this is the first pilot of a new assessment instrument, the National Assessment Agency is reviewing the outcomes from those tests. The results were released to the individual schools which participated on 7 February.

## Pupils: Attendance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent attendance figures are for pupils in each school year from year three to year 11; and if he will make a statement. [163320]

**Jim Knight:** The first year for which information is available on absence rates by national curriculum year groups is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. This analysis was published in Statistical First Release 11/2007 in March 2007 at: (http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000718/index.shtml) and is provided as follows.

Data for 2006/07 are expected to be available in February 2008 and will also include figures for primary and special schools.

*Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Pupil absence by national curriculum year group[2] 2005/06—England*

| | *Maintained secondary schools* | | | | *City technology colleges* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Percentage of half days missed[3]* | | | | *Percentage of half days missed[3]* | | |
| *National curriculum year group* | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]* | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]* | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* |
| 6 and below | 51,530 | 5.35 | 0.28 | 5.63 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 7 | 562,230 | 5.74 | 0.58 | 6.32 | 1,890 | 4.29 | 0.11 | 4.40 |
| 8 | 573,050 | 6.48 | 0.90 | 7.38 | 1,870 | 4.90 | 0.20 | 5.10 |
| 9 | 592,550 | 6.76 | 1.29 | 8.06 | 1,860 | 5.74 | 0.34 | 6.08 |
| 10 | 595,570 | 6.98 | 1.84 | 8.82 | 1,930 | 5.99 | 0.35 | 6.34 |
| 11 | 575,850 | 8.06 | 2.43 | 10.49 | 1,880 | 6.03 | 0.72 | 6.75 |
| 12 and above | 790 | 5.28 | 3.38 | 8.66 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| Total[6] | 2,951,570 | 6.82 | 1.42 | 8.24 | 9,430 | 5.45 | 0.35 | 5.81 |

| | *Academies* | | | | *Total* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Percentage of half days missed[3]* | | | | *Percentage of half days missed[3]* | | |
| *National curriculum year group* | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]* | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]* | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* |
| 6 and below | 600 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 52,130 | 5.35 | 0.28 | 5.63 |
| 7 | 5,030 | 5.61 | 1.11 | 6.72 | 569,150 | 5.73 | 0.58 | 6.31 |
| 8 | 4,770 | 6.41 | 1.58 | 8.00 | 579,690 | 6.48 | 0.90 | 7.38 |
| 9 | 4,350 | 6.98 | 2.58 | 9.55 | 598,760 | 6.76 | 1.30 | 8.06 |
| 10 | 3,720 | 7.34 | 3.49 | 10.83 | 601,220 | 6.98 | 1.84 | 8.82 |
| 11 | 3,570 | 6.94 | 3.89 | 10.84 | 581,300 | 8.05 | 2.43 | 10.48 |
| 12 and above | 10 | 3.57 | 4.54 | 8.11 | 800 | 5.26 | 3.40 | 8.66 |
| Total[6] | 22,050 | 6.63 | 2.42 | 9.05 | 2,983,040 | 6.82 | 1.42 | 8.24 |

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] See Notes to Editors 10 of SFR11/2007 for further information on how absence figures by national curriculum year group have been derived.

[3] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[4] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

[5] Less than 5 pupils, or absence rates based on a small number of pupils.

[6] Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on national curriculum year group was missing.

*Notes:*

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

## Pupils: Data Protection

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides on monitoring the security of IT equipment holding children's data on school premises. [177866]

**Jim Knight:** Becta is responsible for producing and publishing guidance for schools on how to ensure the security of their IT systems. Becta's latest guidance was published in September 2007 and is available on its website. This guidance includes information for schools on monitoring the physical security of ICT equipment, data security and the security of pupil information and data.

## Pupils: English Language

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to assist teachers with the change in the number of pupils with English as a second language since 1997. [175850]

**Jim Knight:** The Government's policy is to encourage rapid English language acquisition as the key to successful integration into the UK education system and the wider community. Newly arrived pupils are given additional help in learning English by specialist advisers and teachers of English as an additional language (EAL) and bilingual classroom assistants, who work in collaboration with classroom teachers to plan lessons and teaching materials. The

evidence indicates that EAL pupils typically catch up with their peers in attainment terms within two years of first admission to a school in England.

The number of pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) rose from 500,000 to 790,000 between 1997 and 2007. Putting this in perspective, such children now comprise 12 per cent. of all pupils as against 7.5 per cent. in 1997 and 9 per cent. in 2001. Funding for EAL children has fully kept pace with these increasing numbers through:

an element within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for primary schools which was some £256 million in 2004-05, rising to £299 million in 2007-08, with a further rise to over £330 million in 2010-11—an 11 per cent. real terms increase on the 2004-05 level;

a substantial provision for EAL through the ring fenced Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG), which has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £179 million in 2007-08 and will rise to £206 million by 2010-11—a 9 per cent. increase on the 2004-05 level;

in addition an Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) has been introduced to reflect changes in local authorities' pupil numbers which occur after the three year indicative allocations of DSG have been announced.

These increases form part of the substantial overall increase in school funding: over the past 10 years since 1997, overall per pupil revenue funding for schools has increased by 67 per cent. in real terms. We expect local authorities to be able to manage new pressures from within these increases, and to ensure that the resources reach the individual schools affected by new arrivals and EAL speakers.

The Government have recently launched a New Arrivals Excellence Programme intended to provide practical support for local authorities, schools and individual teachers. This programme is backed by other practical support including measures to improve the supply, training and qualifications of EAL specialist staff, and to deliver new web-based teaching and learning materials.

### Pupils: Intimidation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to reduce bullying in schools since 1997. [184116]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 159W.

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent per pupil on average in (i) schools, (ii) primary schools and (iii) secondary schools in each local authority area in 2006-07; and how much has been budgeted for each category in 2007-08. [186195]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the House Library.

### School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools demonstrate a surplus on their school meals service; and if he will make a statement. [163318]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

### School Meals: Expenditure

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average daily cost to the public purse was of food provided in schools for each pupil in the most recent period for which figures are available. [168205]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is not collected by this Department.

### School Milk

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged between five and 11 were receiving school milk in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by authority. [186754]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. However, the Rural Payments Agency has advised that in the period 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007, subsidy on 39,524,364 kilolitres was paid. This figure divided by the maximum entitlement per pupil (250ml) and then divided by 190 school days (average) equals an average of just over 832,000 pupils per day.

### Schools

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils attending schools which had been built within the previous five years in each of the last 10 years. [186468]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not hold information on the number of pupils attending schools which had been built within the previous five years in the last 10 years.

In 2007, the Department collected information from local education authorities on the outputs of schools capital investment in the previous 10 years. The information they supplied showed that since 1997, there had been 1,100 new and replacement schools built.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.2 billion by 2010-11. Over this period, increasing numbers of pupils have benefited from being in schools with new buildings.

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of how far on average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils travel to get to school in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England. [186501]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Average straight line distance[1] in miles from pupil residence to school[2] attended*

| | Primary | Secondary[3] |
|---|---|---|
| Cornwall local authority | 1.07 | 2.41 |
| South West Government office region | 0.91 | 2.18 |
| England | 0.78 | 1.84 |

[1] Distance is the average straight line distance from pupil residence to the school attended, based on pupil and school postcode.
[2] Maintained schools—pupils aged 5 to 15.
[3] Secondary includes CTC and Academies.
*Source:*
School Census 2007.

A table giving this information for all local authorities in England will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* new schools opened and *(b)* schools closed in the (i) maintained and (ii) independent sector in each year since 1995; and how many schools there were open in each year. [186958]

**Jim Knight:** We cannot provide the information requested because it would require us to manipulate large volumes of data which could only be undertaken at a disproportionate cost.

## Schools: Admissions

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the 10 per cent. target threshold for surplus places for *(a)* all schools and *(b)* rural schools; and if he will make a statement. [185819]

**Jim Knight:** The hon. Member refers to our guidance to local authorities on developing a primary strategy for change. There are no plans for reviewing the guidance.

We need to ensure that local authorities are able to provide good value for money for their communities, allowing them to invest in higher standards and better facilities for pupils. One aspect of securing good value for money is taking early and decisive action to balance the demand and supply of school places, but we recognise that the extent and nature of local authority plans will depend on local circumstances.

The guidance on preparing primary capital strategies must be read in its entirety. It explains that authorities should allow scope for parental choice, support schools with high standards, ensure schools are accessible to pupils, and take account of possible future increases in pupil numbers due to demographic changes. It also recognises that in order to preserve access for young children, there may be more empty places in schools in rural areas than in urban areas.

The guidance asks authorities to put in place decisive plans for early action to ensure that no school has more than 25 per cent. surplus places, and I anticipate that local authorities will make these plans sensitively taking account of my recent letter which has been placed in the House Library. The 10 per cent. benchmark relates to surplus capacity across the whole primary school estate of a local authority, and not to individual schools. We want local authority strategies to set out how surplus places across the authority as a whole will be managed down over time although there is no fixed timescale.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England operate as their own admissions authority; [186231]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England have their admissions managed by (i) local authorities and (ii) other bodies. [186232]

**Jim Knight:** Local authorities are the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. Governing bodies are the admission authority for voluntary aided and foundation schools. Academies and city technology colleges also determine their own admission arrangements in line with the requirements of the admissions code and admissions law. The following table provides details of the number of schools in each category. Local authorities may delegate responsibility for determining the admission arrangements of community and voluntary controlled schools to individual school governing bodies, but we do not collect information centrally about the number of cases in which responsibility is delegated.

Admission authorities usually manage the process of considering applications for places themselves, but the governing body of a school which is its own admission authority may ask another body, including the local authority, to do so on their behalf. Again, we do not collect information centrally about the number of cases in which this happens.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number of schools by category, January 2007, England*

| | Number of schools | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary | Secondary |
| LA Admission Authority Schools | 13,268 | 2,225 |
| Of which: | | |
| Community | 2,542 | 2,112 |
| Voluntary Controlled | 10,726 | 113 |
| Admission Authority Schools | 4,093 | 1,174 |
| Of which: | | |
| Voluntary Aided | 3,731 | 554 |
| Foundation | 362 | 564 |
| CTCs and Academies | n/a | 56 |

n/a = not applicable
Source:
School Census

## Schools: Biometrics

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether planned guidance on the collection of biometric data in schools will be made available other than on the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency website. [164203]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently no plans to make the guidance on the collection of biometric data in schools available elsewhere other than on this website.

## Schools: Buildings

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of poor quality school buildings which are situated in deprived areas; and if he will make a statement. [185337]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not made an estimate of the number of poor quality school buildings which are situated in deprived areas.

For primary schools, the most deprived areas will receive higher levels of funding in the Primary Capital Programme. For secondary schools, deprivation is a factor determining the prioritisation of funding in the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

Central government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.2 billion by 2010-11. A substantial proportion of capital funding is targeted at transformational programmes, such as those referred to above.

## Schools: Catering

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government have taken to improve kitchen facilities in schools since 1997; [183444]

(2) how much the Government have spent on school kitchen facilities in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [183445]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have increased the capital available for investment in school buildings sevenfold in real terms between 1997 and 2010. In 1996-97, it was under £700 million: by 2010-11 it will be more than £8.2 billion a year. Most of this funding can be used for school kitchens where this is the local priority. Authorities and schools in the West Midlands will get over £1 billion over the next three years. For each of the next three years, a typical secondary school will get over £113,000 of its own money and a typical primary over £34,000 which can be used to improve kitchens and dining areas if they wish. Additionally, we are providing £150 million of targeted funding by 2010 to support authorities install new kitchens in schools which have none and where there is exceptional need.

In 2007 the Department published "Inspirational Design for Kitchen and Dining Spaces" to give good guidance to authorities and schools on how to build kitchens that are efficient and suitable to cook good healthy food, and dining areas that are attractive to children and encourage healthy eating. This was prepared in consultation with the School Food Trust and industry professionals.

Investment decisions are made locally and the Department does not collect information on how much authorities and schools have invested in kitchen facilities. In 2007, authorities provided information on school building projects, including that in the previous 10 years there had been improvement to kitchens and serveries in over 2,300 schools nationally. The School Building Investment Data are available in the parliamentary libraries, showing the information from each local authority.

## Schools: Closures

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have closed each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [184991]

**Jim Knight:** The numbers of secondary and primary school closed in each year since 1997, by local authority, are given in the table which has been placed in the Library.

Schools can be closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

The figures also show closures as part of the Local Government Reorganisation programme.

It was not mandatory to supply school closure dates prior to January 2002 and therefore the figures for the years 1997 to 2002 may not be complete.

## Schools: Community Relations

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to encourage schools to open their facilities to community groups. [185668]

**Beverley Hughes:** Opening school facilities to the community is one of the key elements of the extended schools core offer. We are committed to all schools providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010 with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

Where a school has facilities suitable for use by the local community (e.g. playing fields, halls, sport and IT facilities) they are encouraged to open these up to meet the needs of the community in response to local demand. Schools are expected to consult with pupils, parents and the local community before providing extended services.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much income has been generated by maintained schools in England providing facilities for community groups in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [186793]

**Beverley Hughes:** Opening school facilities to the community is one of the elements of the extended schools core offer. We are committed to all schools providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010 with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of school facilities that have opened up for extended school provision or how much schools charge for their facilities. Local authorities have different systems and variable rates around schools charging community groups to use their facilities.

### Schools: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults there were on school teachers in 2005-06 which led to exclusions, broken down by *(a)* category of assault and *(b)* local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [163431]

**Jim Knight:** The number of incidents of assaults towards staff in schools is not collected centrally. The Department does collect information on the reasons why pupils have been excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. This includes a category for "physical assault against an adult" although this is not broken down by category of assault.

Local authority level tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason have been placed in the library. For 2005-06 this information is only available for secondary schools due to underlying changes in the data collection. For 2006-07 this coverage will extend to also include primary and special schools.

### Schools: Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure on schools was as a proportion of gross domestic product in each year since 1997; what estimate he has made of the likely proportion in each year until 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [163442]

**Jim Knight:** The Department is unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. The information is not held on a UK basis. However, spending on education in England is set to rise to £63.7 million in 2007-08. The Government will increase spending in education as a proportion of GDP to 5.6 per cent. in 2010-11. This compares to 4.7 per cent. of GDP spent on education in 1996-97.

| | *Total Government education spend as a proportion of GDP* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5.6 |
| 2008-09 | 5.6 |
| 2009-10 | 5.6 |
| 2010-11 | 5.6 |

### Schools: Finance

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors determine the level of the dedicated schools grant per pupil in Plymouth is below the national average; and what the dedicated school grant per pupil is in *(a)* Plymouth and *(b)* England. [165585]

**Jim Knight:** The distribution method for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) starts from each authority's budgeted spend for schools in 2005-06, which largely reflects the historical allocation of resources through the Schools Formula Spending Share (FSS) formula, which gave additional funding for additional educational needs, sparsity, and area costs. The DSG per pupil for Plymouth is below the national average because it attracts no additional funding for area costs or sparsity, and its proportion of funding for additional educational needs at 11.6 per cent. is only slightly above the national average of 11.3 per cent. for 2006-07. The DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for Plymouth will be £3,889 in 2008-09, rising to £4,198 in 2010-11. The England averages are £4,066 and £4,398.

### Schools: Isle of Wight

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of surplus places there were in each of the last three years in *(a)* primary, *(b)* middle and *(c)* high schools on the Isle of Wight. [184673]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* We do not collate figures for middle schools as they are deemed to be either primary or secondary schools. The percentage of surplus places in primary and secondary schools (including middle schools) on the Isle of Wight in each of the last three years is as follows:

| | *Percentage* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Primary* | *Secondary* |
| 2007 | 18 | 12 |
| 2006 | 13 | 11 |
| 2005 | 12 | 10 |

### Schools: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers teachers have to confiscate weapons on school premises; and if he will make a statement. [185189]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 275W.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether all proposals to close rural schools have to be called into the Secretary of State for decision. [184187]

**Jim Knight:** Local authorities are responsible for deciding proposals to close schools, including rural schools. Where there is an appeal against closure, the schools adjudicator makes the decision. Ministers do not have a role in this process. In coming to a decision local authorities and the adjudicator must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Those who may appeal against a local authority decision are the local Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses, the governors and trustees of a foundation or voluntary school proposed for closure, and the Learning and Skills Council where proposals relate to a secondary school.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural schools closed in each year between 1996 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [185339]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has only maintained information on rural schools closures since 1998. The number of rural schools closed in each year between 1998 and 2007 is given in the following table.

| *Year* | *Number of rural school closures* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 5 |
| 1999 | 2 |
| 2000 | 2 |
| 2001 | 3 |
| 2002 | 5 |
| 2003 | 12 |
| 2004 | 9 |
| 2005 | 8 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2007 | 12 |

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there are in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools designated as rural schools. [185778]

**Jim Knight:** The most recent data available on the number of surplus school places relate to January 2007. In primary schools designated as rural there were 111,187 (14 per cent.) surplus places. Rural secondary schools are not designated but are identified as being in an area classified as rural by the Office of National Statistics. In rural secondary schools there were 33,326 (7 per cent.) surplus places.

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rural *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have closed in Cornwall since 1997. [186622]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has only maintained information on rural school closures since 1998. Rural primary schools that have closed in Cornwall between 1998 and 2007 are listed in the table. There have been no rural secondary school closures since 1998.

| *School name* | *Date of closure* |
|---|---|
| Lanreath CofE VC Primary | 31 August 2007 |
| Penzance Infant and Junior Schools[1] | 31 August 2005 |
| Tresilian Infant | 31 August 2004 |
| Barncoose Primary | 31 August 2002 |
| Nine Maidens Primary and Carnkie Primary[1] | 31 August 2002 |

[1]Two schools on two separate sites amalgamated and were replaced by a new school on a new site in the same area.

The table excludes amalgamations of infant and junior schools where the resulting primary school was located on the same site.

### Schools: Science

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to improve science facilities in schools since 1997. [180068]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have been and continue to be committed to improving science facilities in schools as part of their aim to transform all school buildings. More than £31 billion has been invested in school buildings since 1997 including through Schools for the Future and Academies during which time 6,644 new or refurbished laboratories have been provided.

This year £6.7 billion of funding is available for investment in schools, and this will rise to £8.2 billion a year by 2010-11. Most of this can be invested in science facilities where this is the local priority.

This unprecedented level of investment is a marvellous opportunity to create science facilities that inspire learners and teachers alike. With this in mind my Department set up Project Faraday in 2006, developing exciting design ideas at 12 demonstration schools that can act as 'exemplars' for science provision, to inspire and inform local authorities and schools.

A book showing the exemplar designs will be published later this month. The first built project will be completed at the end of 2008.

### Schools: Standards

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) under what circumstances an executive board will take over the management of a failing school, as outlined by the Prime Minister in his speech of 31 October 2007; [186472]

(2) what powers an executive board taking over management of a failing school will have to improve that school; [186473]

(3) who will sit on the executive boards proposed by the Prime Minister to take over failing schools. [186474]

**Jim Knight:** The Prime Minister's speech indicated that the use of interim executive boards (IEBs) may be one of several measures to help raise standards in low attaining secondary schools.

Local authorities have existing legal powers to apply to the Secretary of State for permission to replace the governing body of a school with an IEB when, after an Ofsted judgment, a school is in special measures, or requires significant improvement. The power may also be used when a school has received a valid Warning Notice under section 60 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The Secretary of State also has reserve powers to replace the governing body of a school with an IEB when a school is in special measures or requires significant improvement.

The IEB is the governing body of the school for the time it is in office. It has all the powers and responsibilities of a governing body. The IEB's main functions are to secure a sound basis for future improvement in the school and promote high standards of educational achievement.

Members of an IEB are chosen on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate authority, that is, the local authority or the Secretary of State, depending on the origin of the intervention.

Since the introduction of the policy in 2002, IEBs have proved to be an effective way of improving the leadership of failing schools.

### Schools: Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to improve career advice services in schools. [180066]

**Beverley Hughes:** We are taking a range of measures to improve the quality of the careers advice received by young people in schools.

We are seeking to place a statutory duty on schools to deliver careers education impartially. This will be backed up by guidance to which schools will be required to have regard.

The Children's Plan announced several measures designed to improve the quality of careers provision in schools; for example, by promoting experiential learning and by providing materials to support more effective peer mentoring. It also announced pathfinder projects in primary schools designed to explore the benefits of early careers interventions in extending young people's horizons and raising aspirations.

And we are looking at ways of ensuring the delivery of high quality careers education within the new PSHE: Economic Well Being curriculum. This is expected to include the development of new curriculum guidance and the provision of high quality teaching materials for use in the classroom. We are also looking into new arrangements for the continuing professional development of the careers workforce.

Schools' careers support for young people is backed up by external, independent advice from the Connexions service. From April 2008 responsibility for Connexions will pass to local authorities which will enable them to make improved links with other services for young people. Local authorities will also be expected to have regard to recently published "Quality Standards" which set out my Department's expectations of the information, advice and guidance services that they will provide.

### Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage students to choose single science GCSEs. [179586]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1737-38W.

### Secondary Education

**Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest performing 100 secondary schools, as listed in the Government's achievement and attainment tables for 2007, had (i) fewer than 500 pupils, (ii) between 500 and 1,000 pupils and (iii) more than 1,000 pupils in that year. [185390]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested can be found in the House of Commons Library.

### Secondary Education: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were on the roll *(a)* in each secondary school and *(b)* at special schools in Enfield in each of the last five years; and how many children in Enfield with special educational needs attended special schools outside Enfield in each year. [183718]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is shown in the tables.

*Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1], position in January each year 2003 to 2007, Enfield local authority*

| School name | LA number | Estab number | Headcount of pupils 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Maintained Secondary Schools* | | | | | | | |
| Edmonton County School | 308 | 4007 | 1,599 | 1,639 | 1,657 | 1,636 | 1,660 |
| Kingsmead School | 308 | 4015 | 1,345 | 1,357 | 1,376 | 1,390 | 1,392 |
| Winchmore School | 308 | 4026 | 1,420 | 1,449 | 1,478 | 1,476 | 1,468 |
| The Gladys Aylward School | 308 | 4027 | 1,425 | 1,408 | 1,430 | 1,427 | 1,359 |
| Southgate School | 308 | 4029 | 1,609 | 1,594 | 1,595 | 1,553 | 1,532 |
| Enfield County School | 308 | 4030 | 1,093 | 1,115 | 1,142 | 1,120 | 1,122 |
| Chace Community School | 308 | 4037 | 1,204 | 1,221 | 1,210 | 1,214 | 1,224 |
| Lea Valley High School | 308 | 4038 | 977 | 970 | 1,007 | 1,061 | 1,143 |
| Salisbury School | 308 | 4041 | 1,444 | 1,457 | 1,446 | 1,355 | 1,254 |
| Highlands School | 308 | 4043 | 696 | 927 | 1,179 | 1,307 | 1,394 |
| Bishop Stortford's School | 308 | 4702 | 1,019 | 1,052 | 1,079 | 1,075 | 1,076 |
| St. Anne's Catholic High School for Girls | 308 | 4706 | 1,061 | 1,096 | 1,090 | 1,102 | 1,098 |
| The Latymer School | 308 | 5400 | 1,354 | 1,363 | 1,377 | 1,415 | 1,397 |
| Broomfield School | 308 | 5401 | 1,237 | 1,266 | 1,311 | 1,344 | 1,376 |
| Albany School | 308 | 5402 | 1,391 | 1,448 | 1,447 | 1,455 | 1,452 |
| St. Ignatius College | 308 | 5403 | 1,118 | 1,122 | 1,108 | 1,112 | 1,148 |
| Enfield Grammar School | 308 | 5404 | 1,131 | 1,130 | 1,129 | 1,112 | 1,122 |
| *All special schools* | | | | | | | |
| Durants School | 308 | 7000 | 96 | 80 | 83 | 87 | 94 |
| West Lea School | 308 | 7002 | 105 | 100 | 108 | 101 | 88 |

*Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1], position in January each year 2003 to 2007, Enfield local authority*

| School name | LA number | Estab number | Headcount of pupils 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aylands School | 308 | 7004 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 35 | 34 |
| Oaktree School | 308 | 7005 | 86 | 90 | 78 | 78 | 90 |
| Waverley School | 308 | 7007 | 108 | 106 | 103 | 104 | 106 |
| Russet House School | 308 | 7008 | 69 | 56 | 70 | 69 | 72 |

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils.
*Source:*
School Census.

*Number of pupils resident in the Enfield area who are attending special schools, either within or outside the borough[1], position in January each year 2003 to 2007, Enfield local authority*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attending special school in Enfield LA | 447 | 416 | 425 | 425 | 438 |
| Attending special schools outside Enfield | 163 | 166 | 154 | 125 | 99 |
| Total | 610 | 582 | 579 | 550 | 537 |

[1] Excludes independent special schools.
*Source:*
School Census.

### Sure Start Programme: Tyne and Wear

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many families have received *(a)* healthcare and *(b)* other support from the Sure Start programme in Houghton and Washington East in the last five years. [181825]

**Beverley Hughes:** Data on how many families have accessed health and other support services from the Sure Start programmes over the last five years is not collected centrally. Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) have assessed their own progress against a range of outcomes for children and families as part of their local level monitoring and evaluation. Local evaluation reports can be obtained directly from the programme or from the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) website www.ness.bbk.ac.uk The report for Sure Start Hetton and Houghton in 2005 shows that, based on 95 responses out of a survey sample of 240, 93 per cent. were satisfied or very satisfied with their antenatal services, 96 per cent. (of 58 responses) were happy with the baby clinic, and 90 per cent. with the health visiting services. The 2005 report for Sure Start Monument shows that, based on 92 responses out of a survey sample of 260, 98 per cent. were satisfied or very satisfied with their antenatal services, 92 per cent. with the baby clinic, 91 per cent. with the health visiting service and 90 per cent. with their GP surgery. The information in these reports is locally collected and is not validated by the NESS team or the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

### Teachers: Food Technology

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers qualified in food technology are employed in each London borough. [185733]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not currently available.

It is expected that the new School Workforce will be in place in 2010 and it will provide more detailed information on qualifications of teachers.

### Teachers: Qualifications

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to bring forward specific proposals for the structure of the proposed Masters degree for the teaching profession. [186764]

**Jim Knight:** As we said in the Children's Plan, we will work with the social partnership for school work force reform and with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to agree how we realise our ambitions to make teaching a Masters level profession. We will publish more detailed proposals for the structure of the Masters degree as soon as we are ready to do so.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings he has had with trade union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179868]

**Kevin Brennan:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

### Truancy

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of unauthorised absence was in each school in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [164423]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is available as part of the Achievement and Attainment tables and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils took unauthorised absence in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007, broken down by local authority. [182749]

**Kevin Brennan:** The rate of overall absence in primary schools in 1996/97 was 6.1 per cent.; this has reduced to 5.3 per cent. for the first two terms of the 2006/07 academic year, the latest period for which

information is available. For secondary schools the overall absence rate fell from 9.1 per cent. to 7.8 per cent. over the same period.

The standardisation of codes for pupil absence and attendance in 2006 has lead to a tightening of authorisation of absence from schools, correspondent with an increase in unauthorised absence in the context of falling overall absence.

For primary schools the unauthorised absence rate in 1996/97 was 0.5 per cent.; for the combined autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 (the latest period for which figures are available) this had changed to 0.52 per cent. For secondary schools the rate of unauthorised absence changed from 1.1 per cent. in 1996/97 to 1.46 per cent. in autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007.

Tables showing the absence rates by local authority for both 1996/97 and combined data for autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 have been placed in the House Library.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities have a dedicated local pupil tracking officer to identify children missing from education. [185955]

**Jim Knight:** All local authorities have met the requirement to have a named individual responsible for identifying children missing education and their role includes proactively tracking pupils. Local authorities use different job titles for this responsibility which some have chosen to call pupil tracking officers.

### Vocational Training: Finance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total value is of the fund set aside to support grants given under the Train to Gain skills development programme. [184496]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Train to Gain service is designed to meet employers' specific skill needs and thus is flexible in what it can fund, but there is no 'Train to Gain skills development programme' and thus no funds set aside for support grants given under it.

In 2006/07 we invested £270 million in Train to Gain supporting directly delivered learning. The expansion of Train to Gain means the budget is £524 million in 2007/08 and is projected to rise to over £1 billion in 2010/11.

We have set out our ambitions to reach more employers and to drive up levels of investment in skills in Train to Gain: A Plan for Growth, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

### Work Experience

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the 10 types of work experience placement most frequently attended by schoolchildren were in the last year for which figures are available. [181084]

**Jim Knight:** 95 per cent. of learners participate in work-experience at key stage 4 (years 10 and 11) which represents around 550,000 learners each year. Information on types of placement is not held centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for managing the network of Education Business Link Organisation Consortia through which work-experience is brokered and which hold information about the range and type of work-experience placements. Mark Haysom, the chief executive of the LSC has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 4 February 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; "What the 10 types of work experience placement most frequently attended by schoolchildren were in the last year for which figures are available."

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for contracting with Education Business Link Organisation Consortia through which work experience placements for 14-16 year olds are brokered.

The last year for which figures are available is the 2005-2006 academic year; in that year the 10 sectors which had the highest numbers of young people placements were:

Education/Training
Retail
Business
Catering
Personal Service
Leisure Services
Community Care
Engineering
Mechanical
Construction

These placements represent 92.4% of the total number of work experience placements for the year.

### Young People: Sports

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 on 17-year-olds playing open age sport. [185747]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* We have received useful feedback on the issue of under 18-year-olds playing in open age sport from stakeholders in the sports sector during the course of last year. It is not our intention to make any activity a regulated activity unnecessarily, particularly if that means children could be denied access to a wide range of sporting activity.

As a consequence of feedback from stakeholders we are currently consulting on the proposal that activities relating to the teaching, training and instruction of children aged 16-17 years should not be considered to be regulated activity, where the 16 and 17-year-old is part of an activity aimed at mixed age groups which includes adults. The proposals can be found in paragraphs 3.11-3.12. of the consultation document on the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006: Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme which is available on the Department for Children Schools and

Families consultation website. The consultation will run until the 20 February 2008.

The Department for Children Schools and Families, Department of Health and Home Office will continue to consulting widely with stakeholders including sports bodies and organisations and will continue working with the Department for Culture Media and Sport and sports bodies to help inform Regulations and prepare for implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

### Young People: Unemployed

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16 and 17-year-olds and *(b)* 18 to 24-year-olds of each sex were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. [185384]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DGSF) in a Statistical First release (SFR) each June. The most recent SFR relates to end 2006 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Table 1 shows the numbers and proportions of academic age 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England at end 2006.

*Table 1: Proportion and number of young people aged 16 and 17 not in education, employment or training (NEET) by gender in England, end 2006*[1]

| | *Age 16* | | *Age 17* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Female | 13,500 | 42 | 27,500 | 8.6 |
| Male | 29,300 | 8.6 | 35,200 | 10.4 |
| Total | 42,800 | 6.5 | 62,700 | 9.5 |

[1] Provisional.

The DGSF does not publish estimates of those NEET above academic age 18. However, it is possible to produce estimates for 18 to 24-year-olds from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates for England from the LFS, relating to the first quarter of 2007, are shown in Table 2. It is important to note that the LFS will not produce estimates that directly match those from the Department's Participation SFR, and that they will be subject to sampling error and respondent error. The LFS estimates of population size by cohort also differ from the Participation SFR. LFS estimates are also provided for young people of academic age 16-18 for comparison with the Department's estimates above.

*Table 2: Proportion and number of young people aged 18-24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) by gender in England, Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1, 2007*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Female | 393,000 | 18.1 |
| Male | 277,000 | 13.1 |
| Total | 670,000 | 15.6 |

## WALES

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were employed in his Department's ministerial correspondence unit in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the unit, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187049]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office has a single correspondence unit which deals with all forms of correspondence, ministerial and other, as well as related issues. This unit's staff complement over the last five years has been three.

Many other Wales Office staff will work on ministerial correspondence as part of their work. It is not possible to quantify this.

Our costs are not readily available in the format requested, and obtaining these could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were employed in his Department's press office in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the office, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187053]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office has had three press officers in its press office in each of the last five years.

Our costs are not readily available in the format requested, and obtaining these could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of the senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187117]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

### Sunbeds

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on numbers of *(a)* sunbed salons and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [185446]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular meetings with the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues.

I understand the Welsh Assembly Government supports the annual Sunsmart campaign, run by Cancer Research UK, advising people about the risks of using sunbeds.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons

Commission how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to House of Commons staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184338]

**Nick Harvey:** Records held on lost, missing or stolen mobile telephones, personal digital assistants and laptop computers are not differentiated between owners, i.e. Members or Members' staff or House of Commons staff, nor between those issued by the House of Commons Service and those owned personally by Members or others. Lost and missing items are not separately recorded.

The total number of reported *(a)* lost or missing and *(b)* stolen items in the years 2001-08 is given as follows:

*(a) Lost or missing*

| | *Mobile telephones* | *PDAs* | *Laptops* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 14 | 0 | 1 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*(b) Stolen*

| | *Telephones* | *PDAs* | *Laptops* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| 2002 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| 2003 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| 2004 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2005 | 3 | 0 | [1]18 |
| 2006 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

[1] 17 laptop computers purchased by PCD were stolen from the back door of 7 Millbank in 2005 but these items had not at that time been allocated to Parliamentary users.

### Department of Finance and Administration: Operating Costs

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Department of Finance and Administration cost to run in 2007. [186169]

**Nick Harvey:** The total resource cost of running the former Department of Finance and Administration for the year ended 31 March 2007 was £9,045,000. This figure includes a significant level of corporate expenditure which is not directly attributable to the direct costs of running the Department. Some of the larger corporate items during 2006-07 included contracts management (£1,084,000), specialist advice (£1,023,000) and child care vouchers (£229,000).

### Political Activities

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Horsham of 28 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 3W, on political activities, how many and what percentage of staff working in the House are politically restricted. [186088]

**Nick Harvey:** Staff in catering, craft, cleaning and Vote Office porter roles are politically unrestricted. These members of staff represent 20.1 per cent. (395) of the House of Commons service. The other 79.9 per cent. (1,573) of staff are not necessarily politically restricted, but must obtain permission from their Departmental Establishment Officer (DEO) to take part in any political activity. Of these, 0.1 per cent. have requested and been granted permission for specific political activities. Staff in the Senior Commons Structure (SCS), staff in regular direct contact with Members in support of the business of the House and its committees, and those who provide information, briefing or advice to Members will not normally be given permission to take part in political activity. There are 86 SCS staff (4.4 per cent.), but it is not readily possible to identify the numbers of staff in the other categories.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which *(a)* rooms, *(b)* furniture and *(c)* telephone facilities are allocated to recognised trades unions on the parliamentary estate for their exclusive use. [186089]

**Nick Harvey:** The recognised trade unions in the House have exclusive use of three rooms on the parliamentary estate. Two rooms are located in 2 The Abbey Garden and one in Portcullis House. In 2 The Abbey Garden, one room is furnished with a standard desk, a small meeting table and chairs, a filing cupboard and a bookcase. The office has computer equipment, two telephones and a fax facility. The second room is furnished with a large table and chairs, and has a telephone and modem facilities. The room in Portcullis House is furnished with a desk and meeting chairs. It has computer equipment, a fax machine, a small photocopier, a shredder and one telephone line.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which trades unions have recognition agreements with the House authorities. [186090]

**Nick Harvey:** The following trade unions have recognition agreements with the House administration: PDA, Prospect, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union (GMB).

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crime: Victims

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to inform relatives of victims who have been murdered when a convicted

murderer is released from prison in Northern Ireland. [186816]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Prison Service's Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme provides for close family members, who have registered under the scheme, to receive details about the release of individuals convicted of murdering their relatives.

### Firearms

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many illegal firearms he estimates are in circulation in Northern Ireland. [185678]

**Paul Goggins:** As any estimate about the number of illegally-held weapons in Northern Ireland would be based on intelligence, it is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment upon such matters.

### Firearms: Licensing

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what consideration is given to *(a)* imprisonable and *(b)* non-imprisonable driving offences when determining an application for a firearms licence in Northern Ireland; [186158]

(2) what consideration is given to criminal convictions, spent or otherwise, when determining an application for a firearms licence in Northern Ireland. [186164]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that applications for firearms certificates are assessed on a case by case basis and all relevant information, including criminal convictions, is taken into consideration in determining whether an applicant is a fit person to possess firearms within the meaning of Articles 5 and 63 (Prohibited Persons) of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 and Appendix 2 of the Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearms Controls.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are applied to applications for firearms licences in Northern Ireland. [186165]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that all applications for firearms certificates are subject to the provisions of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004 and with reference to the Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearms Controls as published by the Northern Ireland Office.

The Order and Guidance can be viewed at:

www.nio.gov.uk/index/firearms.htm

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many engagements his predecessor undertook between 1 January 2007 and 27 July 2007. [185658]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the time in question and up until I took office on 29 June 2007, my predecessor carried out the full range of his ministerial responsibilities.

### Organised Crime

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of organised crime in Northern Ireland; and what steps he plans to take to tackle this problem. [185674]

**Paul Goggins:** The Organised Crime Task Force Annual Report and Threat Assessment for 2006-07 highlights a range of threats from organised criminal gangs in Northern Ireland. Key threats include drugs, criminal finance, public sector fraud, intellectual property crime and paramilitary involvement in organised crime.

The Organised Crime Task Force has had significant successes in tackling organised crime and continues to work to improve our effectiveness in disrupting the criminals and raising public awareness of the impact of organised crime and the role everyone can play in tackling it.

### Police

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers there are in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* religious belief. [185676]

**Paul Goggins:** The figures shown in the following table are as at 1 February 2008 and relate to regular officers only.

*Regular officers as at 1 February 2008*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *Total number of Regular Officers* | 7,402 | — |
| *Gender* | | |
| Male | 5,771 | 77.97 |
| Female | 1,631 | 22.03 |
| *Community background*[1] | | |
| Protestant | 5,460 | 73.76 |
| Catholic | 1,753 | 23.68 |
| Not Determined | 189 | 2.56 |

[1] The PSNI currently meets statutory monitoring obligations in line with the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (NT) 1998, the Fair Employment (Monitoring) Regulations (NI) 1999 and the Police (NI) Act 2000, by monitoring community background. The PSNI holds data on members who are members of the Roman Catholic community, the Protestant community and on those who belong to neither community. The PSNI does not currently monitor beyond these categories.

We remain on track to reach our target of 30 per cent. Catholic composition within PSNI regulars by March 2011.

### Prisoners: Contraceptives

**Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will ensure that condoms are

made available in prisons in Northern Ireland to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. [185860]

**Paul Goggins:** I reviewed this matter very recently. The incidence of HIV and hepatitis infection in Northern Ireland is low and a survey published by the Northern Ireland Prison Service in 2005 showed that the incidence of blood borne infections in its establishments was very low indeed. Therefore, although the issue will be kept under review, there are no current plans to make condoms freely available to prisoners.

### Real IRA

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what estimate he has made of the number of members of the command structures of the *(a)* Real IRA and *(b)* Continuity IRA; [185726]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of former Provisional IRA members who are now members of the *(a)* Real IRA and *(b)* Continuity IRA. [185727]

**Paul Goggins:** As I am sure the hon. Gentleman is aware it is the longstanding policy of the Government not to comment on matters of intelligence. No matter how many individuals are involved in terrorist activity in Northern Ireland the Government have every confidence in the Police Service Northern Ireland to combat the threat they pose.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reports he has received of Real IRA and Continuity IRA involvement with organised crime and criminal gangs *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside Northern Ireland. [185966]

**Paul Goggins:** The International Monitoring Commission regularly reports on the activities of paramilitary groups' involvement in organised crime, including the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA. The Organised Crime Task Force has had significant success in disrupting organised criminal gangs and we are determined to tackle organised crime from whatever source it comes.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Leader of the House how many of her Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185270]

**Helen Goodman:** The Leader of the House of Commons Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will be answering this question shortly on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

### Government Bills

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* amendments and *(b)* Government amendments were made to Government Bills by end of the Report Stage in the House in each Session since 1997-98. [185236]

**Helen Goodman:** There is no single source of all such amendments. Therefore it is not possible to answer the question, especially over such a time period, without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Legislation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Leader of the House how many powers to enable primary legislation to be amended or repealed by secondary legislation have been enacted in each of the last 30 years. [185516]

**Helen Goodman:** The Government accept that powers to amend primary legislation by secondary legislation should only be created where circumstances make it necessary or appropriate to do so.

However, there is no single source of all such provisions. It is therefore not possible to answer the question, especially over such a lengthy time period, without incurring disproportionate cost.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to increase the number of apprenticeships in the west midlands. [183841]

**Mr. Lammy:** West Midlands Learning and Skills Council plan to increase apprenticeships by around 4 per cent. in 2008-09. Projections are for 12,550 apprenticeship starts with 8,415 completions and a further 5,620 advanced apprenticeship starts with 3,385 completions in 2008-09. The overall completion rate will be 65 per cent. which represents a rise of 3 per cent. on the projected 2007-08 level The plans to increase apprenticeship numbers reflect our ambitions for growth outlined in the recent report of the 'Apprenticeship Review—World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All', published on 28 January 2008.

The increase in apprenticeships in the west midlands will be achieved by re-directing funding to high performing providers, introducing the apprenticeship matching service, developing closer employer engagement, removing support for poorly performing provision and introducing new opportunities for young people to prepare to undertake an apprenticeship.

### Higher Education: VAT

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the total Value Added Tax (VAT) paid by higher education institutions in each of the past five

years; and what forecasts he has made of such VAT receipts expected in each of the next five years. [185693]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the amount of VAT paid on individual goods and services.

### Ministerial Science Group

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the membership of the Ministerial Science Group is; how frequently the group has met in the last 12 months; and what subjects it has considered. [181724]

**Mr. Watson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministerial Sub Committee on Productivity, Skills and Employment, which superseded the Sub Committee on Science and Innovation, has responsibility for issues relating to science. Details of the Committee's membership and terms of reference can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/edpse.aspx

or in the Library of the House.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet committees, including the number of meetings held and topics discussed is generally not disclosed.

## TRANSPORT

### A628

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by the Highways Agency on preparation for the A628 Mottram to Tintwistle bypass public inquiry to date. [180962]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The A57/A628 Mottram Tintwistle Bypass Public Inquiry started in June 2007 but took a number of years of preparation to get to this stage. Approximately £11.8 million has been spent by the Highways Agency on preparation for the A628 Mottram Tintwistle Bypass scheme.

### Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenues have been received from the Dartford Crossing tolls for the period during which this programme object has had a comparability factor of 100 per cent. for the purpose of the application of the Barnett Formula. [186865]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The annual provision for the Dartford crossing toll receipts on which the Barnett formula comparability factor is based is £67 million as set out in the October 2007 Statement of Funding Policy. Previous years' revenues, since the regulatory charge was introduced for the Dartford Crossing in 2003, were:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 68.1 |
| 2004-05 | 69.0 |
| 2005-06 | 69.3 |
| 2006-07 | 69.0 |

### Railways: Bicycles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bicycles were carried by train by each train operating company in each year since 1997; how many bicycle spaces were provided on the railways *(a)* at the latest available date and *(b)* in 1997; and which train operating companies have increased the number of bicycle spaces on board their rolling stock since 1997. [181619]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not collected centrally.

We continue to encourage train operators to carry bikes on trains where possible. The Department's Cycling Policy document and the White Paper published last year set out our policy: train operators should facilitate the carriage of cycles on off-peak services and accept the folding cycles at all times. However, during the peak hours, where capacity is under pressure, it can be in the interests of the majority of passengers not to permit non-folding cycles on board. It is for individual train operators to determine which services cannot accommodate non-folding bicycles and of course to determine the number of bikes which can be carried at other times.

We want all Train Operating Companies to take into account the wider benefits of cycling when considering both investments in cycle facilities and their own rules for carrying cycles. This is particularly important when procuring new rolling stock where Space for bicycles must be considered.

The White Paper also announced the setting up of a task force to look into how bike and rail journeys can be better integrated. The task force includes the Association of Train Operating Companies, Network Rail, Passenger Focus and Cycling England. I look forward to hearing about their progress.

### Railways: Swindon

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that the doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line takes place in 2009. [186273]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Government are supportive of rail growth to meet the needs of our growing economy and we have specified and funded the high level improvements in capacity, safety and reliability required by 2014. It is for the industry to determine the enhancement schemes required to deliver this specification, subject to independent evaluation by the Office of Rail Regulation.

### Roads: Tolls

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of which tolled road crossings in

England *(a)* tolls have ceased to be levied in the last five years and *(b)* there are proposals to cease to levy tolls. [184961]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The only tolled undertaking in England where a toll has been removed in the last five years is the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing, where tolls ceased in April 2003 after the construction costs of the QE2 bridge had been paid for and a maintenance fund built up. The toll was succeeded by a regulatory charge under the Transport Act 2000, at the same level as the previous toll.

I am not aware of any formal proposals from concessionaires to cease the levying of tolls prior to the end of any concession agreement.

### Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of each grant provided by her Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184098]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has provided grants and funding allocations for Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, Shropshire county council and Telford and Wrekin borough council and has announced funding for 2008/09 as shown in the following table.

| *DfT Funding* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *£000 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council*[1] | | | |
| Special grant for concessionary fares | — | — | [2]391 |
| *Shropshire county council* | | | |
| Integrated transport capital allocation | 4,476 | 4,388 | 4,425 |
| Maintenance capital maintenance allocation | 13,859 | 14,322 | 13,386 |
| Capital grant for de-trunked roads | 880 | 1,810 | 291 |
| Resource grant for de-trunked roads | 645 | 661 | 677 |
| Major schemes - A53 Hodnet Bypass | 209 | — | — |
| Transport Innovation Fund pump priming | 477.3 | [3]377.8 | — |
| Specific road safety grant | — | 885.12 | 917.41 |
| Rural bus challenge | 130 | 6 | — |
| Rural bus subsidy grant | 1,032 | 1,056 | 1,083 |
| Kerbcraft child pedestrian training scheme | 24.29 | — | — |
| Links to school | 38 | — | — |
| *Telford and Wrekin borough council* | | | |
| Integrated transport capital allocation | 2,259 | 2,191 | 2,154 |
| Maintenance capital maintenance allocation | 1,808 | 1,687 | 1,923 |
| Capital grant for de-trunked roads | 210 | — | 260 |
| Resource grant for de-trunked roads | 119 | 122 | 126 |
| Rural bus subsidy grant | 124 | 127 | 131 |
| Special grant for concessionary fares | — | — | [2]513 |

[1] Most funding for the Shrewsbury and Atcham area is allocated to Shropshire county council, which then determines its distribution.
[2] Provisional amounts.
[3] To date only part of this payment has been paid, outstanding payment still to be made.

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

### Street Works

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on street works, what assessment she has made of the ability of local authorities to implement street works regulations from 1 April. [186371]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** A large majority of local authorities consider that they can implement the new street works regulations, laid in July 2007, from 1 April 2008. It is the responsibility of authorities and undertakers to ensure that they are compliant with legislation.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Birds: Nature Conservation

**Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the conclusions of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Working Group meeting in July 2007 were on the illegal trade in falcons; and whether these conclusions were taken into account in deciding whether to retain the *(a)* peregrine falcon and *(b)* merlin in the bird registration scheme. [185857]

**Joan Ruddock:** The meeting noted that although research indicated that illegal trade in falcons is occurring, it is likely to involve single offenders and not organised crime groups. The Wildlife Law Enforcement Working Group considered that the level of criminality may increase if significant changes to Schedule 4 to the

Wildlife and Countryside Act were introduced (i.e. a significant reduction in the number of birds required to be registered) and once Animal Health move to recover the full cost of registering Schedule 4 species and issuing CITES paperwork.

The meeting's conclusions, which did not specifically cover the peregrine falcon or merlin, were taken into account by the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) in its strategic assessment of UK wildlife crime. This, in turn, informed the development of wildlife crime priorities for 2007-08.

The NWCU indicated in its strategic assessment that the persecution of birds of prey occurs across the majority of the UK. The persecution of birds of prey (of which the taking of birds for the commercial market is a small component) is an area where the NWCU is collecting and analysing intelligence.

My Department will take into account the NWCU assessment when considering which species should remain on Schedule 4.

### Carbon Emissions: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of total UK carbon emissions was estimated to be produced in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire County Council area in each year since 2000. [182267]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The most recent estimates available show that in 2005 *(a)* Ribble Valley local authority area accounted for 0.3 per cent. and *(b)* Lancashire county council area accounted for 2.0 per cent. of end user carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. It is not possible to provide consistent estimates for years prior to this.

Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions which relate specifically to Ribble Valley constituency are not available, and figures covering the Ribble Valley local authority area have been provided as a close approximation. Lancashire county council area includes the following local government districts—Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, the Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Wyre.

These estimates exclude emissions, which could not be spatially disaggregated to local authority level; such as aircraft emissions, further information is available on the DEFRA website.

### Energy Using Products Directive

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action the Government is taking to ensure that the Energy Using Products Directive does not have an adverse impact upon UK plants' manufacturing control systems. [186676]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Eco-design for Energy Using Products Framework Directive (EuP) aims to deliver EU objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the negative environmental impacts of products and to ensure free trade in energy-using products. It is a Single Market Directive brought forward under article 95 of the EU treaty.

The EuP framework has involved a wide range of consultation and interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the Commission's initial proposals at the EU consultation forum on 29 February or in writing up to three weeks after that.

### Environment Agency: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the current and proposed budget of the Environment Agency with regard to planned expenditure in *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue schemes. [183047]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency budget for flood risk management in England in 2007-08 is £265 million revenue and £192 million capital. This is funded largely by direct grant in aid from DEFRA and by precepts on internal drainage boards, beneficiary contributions and other miscellaneous income. Additionally some 26 million will be raised and spent locally through Regional Flood Defence Committee levies on local authorities.

DEFRA grant to all operating authorities for flood and coastal erosion risk management in 2008-09 will be £559 million. This comprises £251 million for Environment Agency revenue expenditure and £308 million capital to be divided between the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards. The capital budget has yet to be allocated to individual projects by the agency and it is not possible therefore to say how much will be spent on agency projects. These figures do not include agency income from other sources, but local levies are planned to raise a further £27 million in 2008-09.

### Environment Agency: Pay

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the operational budget of the Environment Agency was spent on staff salaries in the most recent period for which figures are available. [186381]

**Mr. Woolas:** The figures are available from the Environment Agency's 2006-07 annual report and accounts, a copy of which is in the House Library.

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flood defences have been built in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* final construction costs and *(b)* original contract prices were in each case. [186382]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency forecast to have completed over 240 projects in the five years to 1 April 2008.

Information on final construction costs and original contract prices for each case cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Floods: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the steps taken to reduce the risk of flooding in Gloucestershire since the floods of summer 2007. [178796]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency's estimated annual spend in Gloucestershire on controlling development, flood warning and awareness, flood risk mapping, maintenance of flood defences and watercourses is £1.5 million. The Environment Agency has spent an extra £400,000 estimated in Gloucestershire since the summer floods of 2007 on flood recovery, data collection, watercourse maintenance and repairs to flood defence assets.

At the Government's request, Sir Michael Pitt is carrying out an independent review of last summer's floods and published an interim report in December. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has stated that the Government agree with all 15 of the urgent recommendations in this report and will work with other organisations involved in implementing them.

### Plastics: Waste Management

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for incentives to companies proposing to invest in innovative plastics reprocessing facilities in England. [183630]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department is funding the following work to provide incentives to companies proposing to encourage investment in plastics reprocessing.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) current manufacturing programme is developing major projects that switch significant manufacturing processes from virgin material to recycled material input. This includes projects to incorporate up to 30 per cent. of recycled high density polyethylene (HDPE) in the manufacture of one-quarter of the UK's plastic milk bottle production. This work involves capital support for new equipment and work with local authorities to increase collection of plastic bottles. The new demand created by the project is encouraging the development of plastics reprocessing facilities. Furthermore, WRAP is providing direct support through its business growth programme to develop the recycling sector.

WRAP is also undertaking trials with a number of technologies with the aim of understanding the best ways to handle mixed plastics from an environmental, economical and technological perspective. The programme is investigating three main areas: collection, reprocessing, and end markets. Different recycling and recovery options are being considered as part of this work, including reprocessing mixed plastics into new plastics, incineration, chemical treatment and even turning them into diesel. WRAP's focus on mixed plastics follows on from the successful uptake of plastic bottle recycling.

WRAP is also currently finalising its business plan for the three-year period April 2008 to March 2011. This is likely to build on its present work on plastics collection, reprocessing and end markets, with the intention of incentivising further investment in each of these areas.

We also support industrial symbiosis via the UK wide National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP). With over 10,000 members, NISP employs industrial symbiosis to bring together companies from all business sectors with the aim of improving cross industry resource efficiency through the commercial trading of materials, energy and water and sharing of assets, logistics and expertise.

Over the last three years, NISP has helped industry release over £16.2 million in private investment in plastics reprocessing facilities across the UK. Working with over 70 companies nationwide specifically on plastic reprocessing, NISP has helped recover almost 60,000 tonnes of plastics through landfill diversion, whilst actively helping to safeguard over 90 jobs and generating a further 39 new jobs in the plastics reprocessing industry through increased sales and cost savings of over £32 million.

For example, NISP has been working with Chem Polymer Ltd. to secure private investment of over £1 million which has led to the generation of over £10 million in increased sales. Working on landfill diversion of plastic wastes, NISP has helped Petlon Polymers Ltd. generate sales in excess of £10 million as a result of increased plant throughput.

### Radioactive Wastes: Storage

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to publish *(a)* the letter to be sent to local authorities in respect of volunteer communities for the prospective hosting of a nuclear waste repository and *(b)* the local authority recipients to whom the letter is to be sent. [186449]

**Mr. Woolas:** Responses to the recent consultation document "A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" are still being considered. Once that process has been completed, we will publish a White Paper setting out the next steps. This will happen later in the year. At that stage, we expect to invite communities to express an interest in entering into discussions about the siting process, and in finding out more about what hosting a facility might involve. Decisions on how this invitation is to be made and publicised have yet to be taken.

### Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much recyclable waste was *(a)* landfilled, *(b)* incinerated and *(c)* sent overseas for disposal in each year since 1997. [185664]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The UK Plan for Shipments of Waste, which sets out Government policy on shipments of waste, prohibits the export of waste from the UK for disposal with very few exceptions. Waste may be exported for recovery, including recycling.

DEFRA does not have available data on the amount of recyclable waste that is sent abroad for recycling. However, based on HM Revenue and Customs export data, it is estimated that in 2006, the UK exported some 8 million tonnes of metal scrap, 4 million tonnes of paper, 441,000 tonnes of plastic and 136,000 tonnes of glass cullet for recycling. These figures will include recyclable materials collected from all sources including households, commerce and industry.

Statistics for waste arisings and disposal are available only for 1998-99 and 2002-03. In 1998-99, 51 per cent. of household, business and construction/demolition waste in the UK was sent to landfill and 32 per cent. was recycled, with the rest being sent to other recovery or disposal routes, including incineration. In 2002-03, the amount landfilled decreased to 43 per cent., with the amount recycled increasing to 43 per cent.

It is difficult to give a precise estimate of the proportion of the wastes not recycled which could have been recycled in a cost-effective manner, but the Government believe their target for average recycling of municipal waste of 50 per cent. (compared with 31 per cent. in 2007) by 2020 is realistic.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and opinion polling his Department has commissioned on introducing variable charging for household waste in the last 12 months. [183285]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department commissioned the '2007 Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviours' towards the environment, undertaken by the British Market Research Bureau, which included a section on "attitudes to recycling" and sought views on whether individuals would "favour a system that rewarded them if they recycled everything they could and penalised them if they didn't". 52 per cent. of residents were in favour of this statement with 23 per cent. not in favour.

In addition, Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd. produced a report for DEFRA on the project 'Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England'. This report is published on DEFRA's website.

### Wind Power: Noise

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency has undertaken of the noise produced by the WS 1200 wind turbine; when that assessment will be published; and if he will make a statement. [184114]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

Under the Microgeneration Certification scheme, the Government are working with key stakeholders, including industry, to develop installation and product standards for micro wind turbines. These standards will address issues to do with airborne and structural vibration noise.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that sufficient spares for Mastiff armoured vehicles are available in Afghanistan. [186940]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Mastiff availability has never dropped below the critical 85 per cent. availability rate. We work hard to ensure that sufficient spares are delivered to our forces; in the vast majority of cases adequate re-supply to theatre takes place in a timely fashion. A number of measures are being introduced to improve the operational availability of the Mastiff fleet on operations in both theatres. In particular we have put in place an agreement with the US manufacturer to allow the UK Integrator to manufacture, and also to be able to procure spares direct from source. In addition we have established a spares handling warehouse within the US, exclusively to meet UK requirements.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff armoured vehicles are deployed in Afghanistan; and how many more he plans to deploy. [186942]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the precise number of Mastiff vehicles currently deployed in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The Ministry of Defence continually reviews the requirements for protected mobility and where necessary deploys additional resources. As the Prime Minister announced on 8 October 2007, another 140 Mastiff are being purchased by the Ministry of Defence to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Viking vehicles are deployed in Afghanistan; and what plans he has to increase that number. [186944]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the precise number of Viking vehicles currently deployed in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The Ministry of Defence continually reviews the requirements for protected mobility and where necessary deploys additional resources. There are no current plans to deploy additional Viking vehicles to support operations in Afghanistan.

### Afghanistan: Medical Services

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of protection is provided to medical locums serving in Afghanistan. [183131]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 57W.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* helicopters available with winching equipment, *(b)* Pinzgauer vehicles and *(c)* mine resistant Mastiff trucks were available and being used by the British forces in Southern Afghanistan in January 2008. [183404]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Regarding the availability of helicopters fitted with winching equipment, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2136W.

Regarding the number of Pinzgauer and Mastiff vehicles available to British forces in Southern Afghanistan, I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Afghanistan: Rifles

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to supplying the Barrett Light 50 sniper rifle to snipers deployed in Afghanistan. [186941]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Barrett Light 50 sniper rifle is in service with UK forces and is available for operational use should commanders require the specialised capability.

### Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many offences under the *(a)* Naval Discipline Act 1957, *(b)* Army Act 1955, *(c)* RAF Act 1955 and *(d)* Armed Forces Act 2006 resulted in (i) disciplinary action and (ii) convictions in each of the last 10 years, broken down by offence. [184315]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held centrally by the Army or the Royal Air Force and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information held by the Royal Navy is shown as follows:

*Summary Dealing*

| *Offence* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007 (to date)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Absent Without Leave (including desertion) | — | — | — | 1095 | 1085 | 1345 | 1105 | 985 | 1100 | 625 |
| Failure to report deserters/absentees | — | — | — | '— | — | '— | — | — | '— | — |
| Insubordinate Behaviour | — | — | — | 40 | 40 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 55 |
| Disobedience to lawful Command | — | — | — | 40 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 30 |
| Disobedience to Standing orders | — | — | — | 380 | 410 | 465 | 390 | 350 | 310 | 295 |
| Resisting Arrest | — | — | — | '— | — | | '— | — | — | '— |
| Escape from confinement | — | — | — | '— | — | '— | | — | — | |
| Offences in relation to Courts Martial | — | — | — | '— | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Conduct Prejudice to Naval Discipline | — | — | — | 175 | 150 | 175 | 130 | 85 | 80 | 60 |
| Failure to attend Duty/Leaving post | — | — | — | 595 | 570 | 745 | 745 | 720 | 760 | 275 |
| Malingering | — | — | — | — | — | '— | — | — | — | — |
| Neglect/negligent performance of duty | — | — | — | 50 | 50 | 60 | 45 | 40 | 55 | 35 |
| Drunkenness | — | — | — | 295 | 280 | 300 | 260 | 240 | 230 | 425 |
| Possession of Class A drug | — | — | — | 10 | '— | 10 | | '— | '— | '— |
| Possession of Class B Drug | — | — | — | 5 | '— | '— | '— | | | '— |
| Possession of Class C drug | — | — | — | — | — | — | '— | '— | '— | |
| Possession class B with intent to supply | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | '— |
| ABH | — | — | — | '— | 5 | 10 | — | 5 | — | — |
| Common Assault | — | — | — | 70 | 60 | 75 | 40 | 30 | 20 | — |
| Fighting threatening words/Behaviour | — | — | — | 60 | 55 | 70 | 65 | 25 | 45 | 50 |
| By or in relation to Sentry/watch | — | — | — | 15 | 30 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Offences against theft act | — | — | — | 40 | 15 | 50 | 10 | 10 | '— | — |
| Other Theft Offences | — | — | — | '— | 15 | '— | '— | | '— | '— |
| Falsification of Documents | — | — | — | 20 | 25 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 5 |
| False Statement on entry | — | — | — | '— | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Summary Dealing*

| *Offence* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007 (to date)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other Fraud Offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Issues and Decorations | — | — | — | — | 25 | 80 | 165 | 105 | 150 | 110 |
| Obstruction of Provost Personnel | — | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Other civil Offences | — | — | — | 45 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 45 | 55 |
| Misapplication of service/public property | — | — | — | 5 | — | 10 | 10 | — | 10 | — |
| Criminal Damage | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | — | [1]— | — | — |
| Public Order Offences | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | — |
| Offences against Morale | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | | — | — |
| Loss of service or public Property | — | — | — | 5 | — | 15 | 10 | 25 | — | 10 |
| Sexual Offences (M on F, F on M) | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Gross indecency | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — |
| Other Offences of Violence | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | [1]— | | [1]— | [1]— |
| Indecent Assault | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Indecent exposure | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| Disgraceful Conduct | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Disgraceful Conduct Homosexual | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| Damage to service Public Property | — | — | — | — | 20 | 15 | 40 | 5 | 20 | 5 |
| Other damage to property | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Unauthorised disclosure of documents | — | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Other security Offences | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Causing annoyance by low flying | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Low Flying | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Negligent discharge of weapon | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Other Damage to property | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — |
| Lying | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — |
| Inaccurate certification—air/ seaworthiness | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — |
| Offences against Civilians | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Total | — | — | — | 2,970 | 2,915 | 3,650 | 3,170 | 2,765 | 2,960 | 2,065 |

[1] Denotes fewer than 5.

*Notes:*

1. Information on Summary Dealings prior to 1 January 2001 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
2. All entries are guilty findings as Summary acquittal statistics are not captured.
3. Still awaiting a small number of returns for 2007.
4. The introduction of a process to deal with minor acts of indiscipline administratively has reduced the number of cases put before a CO in 2007.
5. All numbers are rounded to nearest five. Due to the rounding methods used totals may not equal the sum of the parts.

*Court Martial*

| *Offence* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007 (to date)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Absent Without Leave (including desertion) | 5 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— (*) | 5 | 10 (*) | 15 (*) | 20 (*) | 5 | 10 |
| Insubordinate Behaviour | [1]— | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | 10 (*) | 20 (*) | [1]— | [1]— |
| Disobedience to lawful Command | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 5 (*) | — | — | 10 | 5 |
| Disobedience to Standing orders | [1]— | — | — | [1]— (*) | [1]— | [1]— | 15 (*) | — | [1]— | 5 |
| Resisting Arrest | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Conduct Prejudice to Naval Discipline | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 10 | — | 5 | — | — |
| Failure to attend Duty/Leaving post | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | 5 | — | [1]— |
| Malingering | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — | — |
| Neglect/negligent performance of duty | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | 5 | 5 | [1]— | 10 | [1]— | — |
| Drunkenness | 20 | 10 | 15 | 5 | 10 | [1]— | 10 (*) | 10 | [1]— | [1]— |

*Court Martial*

| *Offence* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007 (to date)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Possession of Class A drug | [1]— | [1]— (*) | [1]— | 5 (5) | 5 (5) | [1]— (*) | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— (*) | [1]— |
| Possession of Class B Drug | [1]— | 5 (*) | [1]— (*) | [1]— | 5 (*) | — | [1]— (*) | — | — | — |
| Supplying class B drug | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | — | — | — |
| Possession class C with intent to supply | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| Other drug related offence/Laundering money | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| ABH | 10 | [1]— | 10 | 5 (*) | 5 | 5 (*) | 10 | 5 | 15 | — |
| GBH/endangering life by admin of poison | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| GBH | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| Common Assault | 10 | 15 | 25 | — | 30 (*) | 30 (*) | 25 (*) | 25 | 10 (*) | 5 |
| Fighting threatening words/Behaviour | 10 | 5 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | | |
| Other offences of violence | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— (*) | — | 5 (*) | 15 | — | [1]— |
| By or in relation to Sentry/watch | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Offences against theft act | [1]— (*) | 5 (*) | 10 (*) | [1]— | — | 35 (5) | 20 | 10 (*) | 10 (*) | 20 |
| Other Theft Offences | [1]— | — | [1]— (*) | 15 (15) | — | 10 | 15 | 10 | — | [1]— |
| Falsification of Documents | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | — | 30 (20) | — | [1]— |
| False Accounting | — | [1]— (*) | — | [1]— (*) | [1]— (*) | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— |
| Other Fraud Offences | — | — | [1]— | [1]— (*) | — | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | — |
| Ill treatment of Subordinate | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Other civil Offences | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | — | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Misapplication of service/public property | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | — | [1]— | — | — | [1]— |
| Damage to service Public Property | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | [1]— (*) | — | [1]— | [1]— | — |
| Criminal Damage | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | — | [1]— | — | — |
| False witness | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Forgery | — | [1]— | — | [1]— (*) | — | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | — |
| Using False instrument | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | [1]— |
| Sexual Offences (M on F, F on M) | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— (*) |
| Other Offences of Violence | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | 5 | — |
| Indecent Assault(M on M) | — | — | [1]— (*) | [1]— (*) | [1]— | [1]— | 5(*) | [1]— | — | — |
| Indecent Assault | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — | — | — |
| Rape/Attempted rape | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| Disgraceful Conduct | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— (*) | [1]— | — | — | — |
| Indecent exposure | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— | — |
| Indecent Assault (F on F) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| Other sexual Offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| Other damage to property | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other security Offences | — | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Causing annoyance by low flying | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Damage to property | — | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Evading liability by deception | [1]— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total (charges) | 75 | 65 | 95 | 70 | 85 | 140 | 155 | 185 | 80 | 95 |
| Total (guilty) | 75 | 60 | 85 | 40 | 70 | 120 | 135 | 155 | 75 | 90 |

[1] Denotes fewer than 5.

*Notes:*

1. Figures in brackets indicate acquittals with '*' = fewer than 5.
2. Contains figures on offences rather than Courts Martial
3. All numbers are rounded to nearest five. Due to the rounding methods used totals may not equal the sum of the parts.

### Armed Forces: Uniforms

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* sets of body armour, *(b)* AK47 assault rifles, *(c)* underslung grenade launchers for AK47s and (d) 9mm pistols are owned by UK forces. [185180]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Since 2006 approximately 24,550 sets of Osprey body armour and 3,766 sets of Kestrel body armour have been procured. Like Osprey and Kestrel, enhanced combat body armour (ECBA) is composed of a number of components, but because it is available in a range of sizes, comes from various suppliers, and its individual component usage rates vary, it is not possible to say exactly how many complete sets have been procured. Records are not kept of the number of components lost or destroyed, and hence it is also not possible to say exactly how many sets are currently owned by UK forces.

However every person is issued with a complete set of ECBA prior to deployment on operations. To ensure that sufficient operational stock is always available we monitor our requirement closely. At present between 14,000 and 16,000 sets of ECBA are being issued to personnel entering operational theatres, every six months. Further stocks are also held in theatre for maintenance purposes.

In addition, there is a pool of approximately 8,000 sets of ECBA which is used for training purposes.

The MOD does not procure or support AK47 assault rifles or underslung grenade launchers for AK47s. However, UK forces own a number of AK47 assault rifles as specimens, museum pieces and such like. Information on the numbers owned are not held centrally.

### Bowman Combat Radio System: Batteries

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the defects in Bowman batteries on *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* civilians in operational theatres, broken down by incident; and for what reason the Bowman batteries were recalled. [186661]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There have been no known incidents involving Bowman battery defects that have impacted upon armed forces personnel or civilians in operational theatres.

However, in 2006, all Bowman high frequency (HF) mark 1 radio batteries were recalled when it became evident that an immersion requirement had not been met and water ingress could occur.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183851]

**Derek Twigg:** There are no mandatory policy requirements in place for the procurement of fair trade products. MOD catering services are usually provided as part of a site multi-activity contract and may include a pay-as-you-dine requirement for catering services in military establishments. The MOD is committed to supporting ethical trading, wherever possible, subject to the need to obtain best value for money. Each catering contractor may choose to offer fair trade products in their tender for a contract but a bid cannot be rejected or considered non-compliant because it does not include any desired fair trade options. After contract award, contract documents can be used to make it clear that, where the winning tenderer is able to provide fair trade options, such products should be made available.

The requirements for official functions and meetings are usually procured through the on-site catering service.

### Helicopters

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attack helicopters are owned by British forces; and how many are in active service in each location. [186307]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** British Forces own 67 attack helicopters of which 49 are in the forward fleet—i.e. available for use—in Wattisham, Middle Wallop and Afghanistan.

I am withholding a breakdown of the forward fleet numbers by location as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Influenza: Disease Control

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 48W, on influenza: disease control, if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic in the UK, *(b)* Use of Influenza Vaccines and Antivirals in the events of an Influenza Pandemic and *(c)* Pandemic Influenza—Infection Control Guidelines for Military Settings; what further guidance the Defence Medical Services Department plans to issue on pandemic influenza; what elements of business continuity the generic influenza exercise scenario is designed to test; whether the scenario has been used to test business continuity; and if he will make a statement. [184221]

**Derek Twigg:** I will place copies of the requested documents in the Library of the House. Currently the Defence Medical Service Department have no plans to issue further guidance. The Ministry of Defence follows the guidance of the Department of Health as the lead Government Department for pandemic flu planning.

On the issue of business continuity, the generic influenza exercise scenario is designed to test that business continuity plans are able to maintain (or recover) and deliver Defence critical outputs in the event of a pandemic, which may result in the long-term absence of staff. As a secondary issue, the exercise scenario helps to raise awareness among staff of the threat of a pandemic, and its associated potential impacts. The MOD used the influenza scenario to test the pan-Defence Flu Framework in March 2007. MOD

top level budgets and trading funds and agencies (down to business unit level) have also been encouraged to test their own business continuity plans using the influenza scenario.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Hercules 170 aircraft have foam suppressants fitted to their wing tanks. [186729]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the UK armed forces.

All Hercules C-130 aircraft that are routinely deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are now fitted with explosion suppressant foam.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* replacement lifting gear and *(b)* temporary alternative arrangements were considered for those Chinook helicopters in theatre which had their winches removed. [183612]

**Des Browne:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Ministry of Defence Votes A

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's *(a)* ACO 85 and *(b)* Votes A returns for each month since 2005-06. [185718]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Copies of DASA (Army)'s ACO 85 and Votes A Return need to be collated. Once this has been completed I will place copies in the Library of the House. ACO 85 was last published in March 2007.

### Missiles: Procurement

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Aster 15 and *(b)* Aster 30 missiles will not now be purchased as a result of the forecast £30 million reduction in procurement costs; [186674]

(2) whether financial penalties will be incurred as a result of reducing the order for Aster missiles by £30 million. [186675]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No final decisions have been taken on the numbers of missiles that will be required. As with all capability decisions, this will be considered in the context of defence requirements, affordability and value for money. Commercial and contracting strategies, including financial penalties, also form part of these considerations.

### Peacekeeping Operations: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the mine/improvised explosive device resistant vehicles in service with British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. [186359]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We continually keep the effectiveness of our vehicle fleet in Iraq and Afghanistan under review in order that UK forces are properly protected against the continually evolving threat, including that from mines and improvised explosive devices. I am withholding the detail of the relative protection of different vehicle types as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Reserve Forces: Job Satisfaction

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department carries out separate continuous attitude surveys for reserve forces. [164550]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Continuous attitude surveys are currently carried out annually by the Royal Navy to cover the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Marine Reserve, and by the Army to cover the Territorial Army. The Royal Air Force conduct surveys biennially and planning for the latest is currently under way. All of these surveys are aimed specifically at reserve forces.

### Russia: Land Mines

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Russian counterpart on improving information on legacy mines to reduce mine casualties amongst UK armed forces personnel. [185250]

**Des Browne:** I and my NATO colleagues meet regularly with the Russian Defence Minister in NATO-Russia Council meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern.

### Vector Aerospace

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has agreed to guarantee to Vector Aerospace a specified volume of work from his Department; and if he will set out details of the arrangements agreed with Vector Aerospace. [186309]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There has been no guarantee given to Vector Aerospace for a specified volume of work. The intention is to transfer the extant commercial contracts for DARA's Rotary and Components businesses to Vector Aerospace on the existing terms and conditions.

Vector Aerospace has legally undertaken to retain the operational capability currently provided in the UK and has given a full commitment to meet all employment and pension protections. Throughout the sale process, it has remained our priority to secure the best decision for Defence.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many live Child Support Agency claims there were in Peterborough in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [180860]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many live Child Support Agency claims there were in Peterborough in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [180860]

The attached table shows all live cases where the parent with care has a Peterborough address broken down to show their assessment type and whether any maintenance is due to be paid.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Number of Peterborough live cases being handled by the Child Support Agency*

| | *Interim maintenance assessment* | *Nil maintenance liability* | *Positive maintenance liability* |
|---|---|---|---|
| September 2007 | 10 | 890 | 1,660 |
| September 2006 | 10 | 940 | 1,330 |
| September 2005 | 10 | 900 | 1,230 |
| September 2004 | 20 | 900 | 1,050 |
| September 2003 | 20 | 910 | 990 |
| August 2002 | 40 | 1,040 | 1,300 |
| August 2001 | 40 | 1,000 | 1,240 |

*Notes:*

1. Includes all cases with an assessment/calculation on both old and new scheme.
2. September data have been provided each year from 2003 onwards. Prior to this only quarterly data are available so August data have been used.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Based on the postcode of the parent with care.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission research to establish how frequently Child Support Agency clients are advised by the Agency to contact their hon. Member to make progress on their case. [181103]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will commission research to establish how frequently Child Support Agency clients are advised by the Agency to contact their hon. Member to make progress on their case. [181193]

The Agency does not gather data on the number of clients referred directly to Members of Parliament for resolution of their cases, as this does not form part of the Agency's complaints process. Under the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency reviewed the complaints handling process, and designed a new streamlined approach which focuses on earlier resolution through the introduction of specialist caseworkers responsible for resolving all aspects of our clients' complaints.

Complaints Resolution Teams based in each of our main centres take responsibility for resolving all complaints. If having been through this process the client still remains dissatisfied, the Agency's Complaints Review Team based at Durham House, Washington will review their case. This two stage process aims to promote earlier and complete resolution and reduce the number of complaints escalated to the Chief Executive, Ministers and the Independent Case Examiner (ICE).

The Agency therefore will advise clients of the options open to them should they be dissatisfied about how their case has been handled and this will include advising a client to contact their MP, should the client wish to take issue with current child support policy. It is however clearly inappropriate for the Agency to direct clients to their Member of Parliament if the Agency has mishandled their case.

Should the hon. Member continue to find that his constituents are advised to contact him, I would like to be informed.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many cases the Child Support Agency holds which have outstanding debt; [181249]

(2) what proportion of total child support debt is owed *(a)* to the Secretary of State and *(b)* to parents with care; [181250]

(3) what proportion of the £3.7 billion child support arrears relates to cases on the *(a)* old child support computer system and *(b)* the new child support 2 computer system. [181252]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases the Child Support Agency holds which have outstanding debt. [181249]; and

What proportion of total child support debt is owed (a) to the Secretary of State and (b) to parents with care. [181250]; and

What proportion of the £3.7 billion child support arrears relates (a) to cases on the old child support computer system and (b) the new child support computer system. [181252]

The Agency reports the amount of outstanding debt in its Annual Report and Accounts, the latest version of which is held in the House of Commons library. The information requested is supplementary to that reported and this additional analysis therefore does not include the provisions applied as a result of the annual debt analysis exercise within the Agency's accounts.

This debt is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their responsibilities to their children. The Agency is committed to recovering as much of the outstanding debt as possible and is significantly increasing collections under the Operational Improvement Plan.

At the end of November 2007, the latest period for which these figures are available, the Child Support Agency had 1,056,500 cases with outstanding debt. Of the total debt outstanding, we estimate that 53 per cent is owed to the Secretary of State and 47 per cent to parents with care. Of this debt, we estimate that 56 per cent related to cases on the old child support computer system, and 44 per cent to cases on the new child support computer system.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill proposes to strengthen and streamline the range of enforcement and debt management powers that will be at the disposal of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission. These will be used both to encourage ongoing compliance to prevent the new debt building up, and to enable more of the accumulated debt to be recovered.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the £1.5 billion child support debt regarded as collectable is owed *(a)* to the Secretary of State and *(b)* to parents with care. [181251]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

## Low Incomes

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of bus transport as a proportion of incomes of less than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* 60 per cent. of the median in each year since 1997. [185862]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the cost of bus transport as a proportion of incomes of less than (a) 30 percent, (b) 40 percent, (c) 50 percent, and (d) 60 percent of the median average in each year since 1997 (185862).

Estimates of household income are provided in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2005/06 was published on the National Statistics website on 17th May 2007 at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits.

The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK. The EFS has been used for this response because it collects both income and expenditure data.

The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent of median. The sample size for the number of households with an income below 30 per cent of median is too small to yield reliable results. In addition presenting information for households with an income of 40 or 50 per cent of median income can be misleading. One reason for this is that households stating the lowest incomes may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many households who report very low incomes appear to have high spending equivalent to households higher in the income distribution.

The table provided shows bus and coach expenditure as a percentage of household unequivalised disposable income for households that have income of 40, 50 and 60 percent below median income. Due to the issue of small sample size, an average for the period 2000/01 to 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 2005/06 has been provided. Data for 1997/1998 to 1999/00 is not available. In addition figures showing only bus fares could not be provided as expenditure on bus and coach fares are collected as one item.

*Bus and coach fares as a percentage of median household disposable income[1] United Kingdom*

*Percentage*

| | *Households where income is below 40% of median* | *Households where income is below 50% of median* | *Households where income is below 60% of median* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.6 |

[1] Unequivalised household disposable income.

*Note:*
Ranked by unequivalised disposable income.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Minimum Wage

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of paying apprentices a wage at least as great as the young persons' rate of the minimum wage. [184497]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

"World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All" published on 28 January 2008 confirms that the Government will be asking the Low Pay Commission to look at the whole issue of apprenticeship pay in the future.

We also recognise the need to ensure that apprentices in learning today are receiving at least the current minimum apprentice wage of £80 per week. We will therefore ask the LSC, as a matter of urgency, to write to all employers and providers contracted to the LSC to deliver apprenticeships to reiterate their contractual responsibility to ensure all their apprentices are paid at least the minimum weekly amount, and to check on compliance through the existing audit arrangements. We will also ask the new National Apprenticeships Service to work with employers and the TUC to publicise the national helpline for apprentices who believe they are being paid less than the minimum apprenticeship wage, and also look at how the current minimum could be more effectively enforced.

## National Insurance: Edinburgh

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued in the city of Edinburgh in each of the last 18 months, broken down by parliamentary constituency of recipient. [180654]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Information on the total number of national insurance numbers issued is not available at the level requested.

## Occupational Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector employers which offer pension schemes with contributions above three per cent.; and what percentage of occupational pension schemes this figure represents. [175059]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available shows approximately 300,000 private sector employers offer a contribution above three per cent to pension schemes (defined benefit schemes, defined contribution schemes, group personal pension schemes, stakeholder pension schemes and personal pensions)

### Pensions: Elderly

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women over state pension age on 5 April 2010 would benefit if the reduction from 39 to 30 in the number of qualifying contribution years required for a full basic pension applied to them; and what estimate he has made of the additional cost for 2010-11. [171793]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The estimated total additional net cost in 2010-11 of reducing the number of qualifying years required for a full basic sate pension to 30 for women over sate pension age in 2010 is around £1 billion in 2007-08 price terms. It is estimated that around 2 million women would gain more basic state pension as a result of this.

*Notes:*

1. GB estimates based on the Government Actuary's Department Retirement Pension model.

2. This is an estimate of the net annually managed expenditure cost of re-assessing basic state pension entitlement of all women pensioners in 2010 against 30 qualifying years, rathor than just the cohort that reach state pension age in 2010.

3. These net costs take into account expenditure on income-related benefits.

### Pensions: Females

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimated weekly rate of basic pension will be payable in 2010-11 to *(a)* a woman reaching age 60 years on 6 April 2010 with a contribution record of (i) 10, (ii) 15, (iii) 20, (iv) 25, (v) 30, (vi) 35 and (vii) 39 qualifying years and *(b)* a woman one day younger with a similar contribution record. [171794]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The estimated weekly rates of basic state pension payable in 2010-11, to a woman reaching state pension age on 6 April 2010 with a contribution record of (i) 10, (ii) 15, (iii) 20, (iv) 25, (v) 30, (vi) 35 and (vii) 39 qualifying years are shown in the following table. A woman one day (or more) younger will receive the same amounts. The number of qualifying years required for a full basic state pension for anyone reaching state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 is 30 years.

| *Number of qualifying years* | *Estimated weekly rate of basic state pension payable in 2010-11, for a woman reaching state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 (£)* |
|---|---|
| (i) 10 | 31.90 |
| (ii) 15 | 47.85 |
| (iii) 20 | 63.80 |
| (iv) 25 | 79.75 |
| (v) 30 | 95.70 |
| (vi) 35 | 95.70 |
| (vii) 39 | 95.70 |

*Notes:*

1. For a woman reaching state pension age on 6 April 2010, qualifying years may be comprised of contributions and/or credits including home responsibilities protection. For these women, each complete year of home responsibilities protection awarded under the existing rules will be converted into a qualifying year for basic state pension.

2. We have uprated the current level of basic state pension by the Retail Prices Index, using Treasury economic assumptions. The level of basic state pension, in 2010-11, is forecast to be £95.70 per week.

3. Estimated weekly amounts are presented rounded to the nearest 5p.

*Source:*
DWP Modelling

### Social Security Benefits

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most common length of time was for each benefit delivery centre or processing site that social fund applicants had to wait for *(a)* initial decisions, *(b)* internal reviews, *(c)* applications awaiting any action and *(d)* applications not yet registered, or best estimate thereof in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179250]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 19 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what the most common length of time was for each benefit delivery centre or processing site that Social Fund applicants had to wait for initial decisions, internal reviews, applications awaiting any action and applications not yet registered, or best estimate thereof in the most recent period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is available only for initial decisions.

The most common clearance times (mode) for discretionary Social Fund applications in November 2007 are given in the table.

*Most common (modal) length of time for clearing applications in November 2007 (working days)*

| *Social fund benefit delivery centre by region* | *Community care grants* | *Crisis loans* | *Budgeting loans* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *East of England* | | | |
| Essex | n/a | 1 | 2 |
| Norwich BDC | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| *East Midlands* | | | |
| East Midlands North | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| South East Midlands | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| *London* | | | |
| Balham3 | 10 and 11 | 1 | 7 |
| Ilford | 5 | 1 | 2 |

*Most common (modal) length of time for clearing applications in November 2007 (working days)*

| *Social fund benefit delivery centre by region* | *Community care grants* | *Crisis loans* | *Budgeting loans* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *North East* | | | |
| Northumbria | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| South Tyneside and Wear Valley | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Tees Valley | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| *North West* | | | |
| Greater Liverpool | 10 | — | 6 |
| Chorlton BDC | 8 | — | 4 |
| *Scotland* | | | |
| Inverness BDC | 11 | — | 3 |
| Springburn BDC | 12 | — | 3 |
| *South East* | | | |
| Milton Keynes BDC | 25 | — | 11 |
| *South West* | | | |
| South West Central | 6 | — | 5 |
| *Wales* | | | |
| Llanelli BDC | 14 | — | 5 |
| South East Wales | 8 | — | 8 |
| *West Midlands* | | | |
| West Midlands SF | 5 | — | 11 |
| *Yorkshire and Humberside* | | | |
| Y & H Bradford | 3 and 4 | — | 4 |
| Y & H Sheffield | 2 | — | 1 |

*Notes*
1. Insufficient data are available for Essex for Community Care Grants. This is because of a limitation of the Management Information System.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in November 2007, not on applications received during that month.
3. The two figures given are the most common clearance times (the same number of Community Care Grant applications were cleared in each number of working days).

*Key:*
BDC -Benefit Delivery Centre
SF - Social Fund
Y&H -Yorkshire and Humberside

*Source:*
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

## Sonia Poulton: Child Support Agency

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his statement of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 230WH, when the Child Support Agency case of Sonia Poulton will be resolved; and if he will make a statement. [179751]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter, from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to his statement of 24th July 2007 Official Report column 230WH when the Child Support Agency case of Sonia Poulton would be resolved; and if he would make a statement. [179751]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

## Sunbeds

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made on updating Health and Safety Executive Leaflet INDG209 on sunbeds. [180624]

**Mrs. McGuire:** My noble Friend Lord McKenzie and my hon. Friend the Minister for Public Health met on 23 January to discuss how best to take forward HSE leaflet INDG209 in the context of the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy, announced in December 2007. It was agreed that HSE would put out for consultation a revised draft update of the leaflet and that a joint letter will be sent to the hon. Member to inform her more fully of the outcome of this meeting.

## Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1414W, on winter fuel payments, how much was spent on making winter fuel payments to pensioners living outside the UK in 2006-07, broken down by country of recipient's residence. [179255]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* European Community law means that some benefits acquired in one member of state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European Economic Area. Winter Fuel Payments are only paid to former UK residents living in the European Economic Area if they qualified for payment before leaving the UK. The number of Winter Fuel Payments made to former UK residents living in the EEA is in the following table.

*2006-07*

| *By country* | *£* |
|---|---|
| Gibraltar | 16,600 |
| Republic of Ireland | 755,250 |
| Austria | 20,650 |
| Belgium | 24,200 |
| Denmark | 8,700 |
| Finland | 7,600 |
| France | 1,878,400 |
| Germany | 119,200 |
| Greece | 115,300 |
| Italy | 130,200 |
| Luxembourg | 3,100 |
| Netherlands | 32,650 |
| Norway | 6,500 |
| Portugal | 154,350 |

*2006-07*

| *By country* | £ |
|---|---|
| Spain | 4,021,450 |
| Sweden | 16,800 |
| Switzerland | 20,400 |
| Iceland | 900 |
| Liechtenstein | 200 |
| Malta | 95,300 |
| Republic of Estonia | 1,400 |
| Republic of Latvia | 2,500 |
| Republic of Lithuania | 600 |
| Hungary | 15,400 |
| Poland | 25,000 |
| Cyprus | 479,500 |
| Republic of Slovenia | 800 |
| The Czech Republic | 1,400 |
| The Slovak Republic | 400 |
| Total | 7,954,750 |

## Written Questions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's target time is for answering written parliamentary questions; and what the average time taken for answering parliamentary questions has been in each of the last 12 months. [180134]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department aims to answer parliamentary questions within the timescales set by Parliament. The average time taken to answer written House of Commons parliamentary questions in each of the last 12 months is in the following table.

*Average number of working days taken to answer Commons written PQs in 2007*

| *Month* | *Average number of days* |
|---|---|
| January | 14 |
| February | 16 |
| March | 18 |
| April | 16 |
| May | 16 |
| June | 9 |
| July | 8 |
| September | 5 |
| October | 6 |
| November | 8 |
| December | 12 |
| Average for 2007 | 12 |

*Note:*
Average number of days relates to days when Parliament was sitting and replies to parliamentary questions could be tabled.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 253-4W, on 101 calls, (1) what information her Department has received from each pilot on the costs and benefits of the 101 single non-emergency number; if she will place the information in the Library; and if she will make a statement; [182614]

(2) what evaluation has been conducted of the costs and benefits of the 101 single non-emergency number pilots; and if she will make a statement. [182615]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office has worked closely with all the initial 101 single non-emergency number areas since the service was launched to understand the costs and benefits of the 101 service and to inform options for its future operation. The information gathered has formed part of the overall evaluation of the costs and benefits of the 101 service and has included assessment of caller demand, customer satisfaction, public awareness and the impact on the delivery of local services and the management of resources.

The evaluation and assessment found that the 101 service has successfully demonstrated benefits around improving the public's access to and satisfaction in local community safety services. Through greater partnership working and better information about what problems are happening where, the 101 service has also helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve the delivery of those services to the public.

The Home Office will be making available the wider learning and good practice identified from this assessment, to provide a toolkit to help enable and inform all local areas to embed the benefits in local services and to develop locally funded 101 services where possible. This material will be placed in the Library when it is available.

### Crime: Computers

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) staff work on e-crime; and what SOCA's budget for dealing with e-crime is in 2007-08. [186945]

**Mr. Coaker:** SOCA's e-crime work is carried out by either the e-crime department (within the Intervention Directorate) or by staff from elsewhere across the organisation. In addition, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre—which is affiliated but operationally independent to SOCA—undertakes e-crime investigations in relation to child protection. SOCA's e-crime department has a target capacity of 58 staff, with 51 in post as of 12 February 2008. The staff budget for the e-crime department in 2007-08 is £3,337,000, which does not include the cost of centralised services such as IT and premises.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Hi Tech Crime Unit in dealing with e-crime following its transfer into the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [186946]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office monitors SOCA's performance regularly. As required under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will issue an annual report as soon as possible after the end of the 2007-08 financial year to describe how SOCA discharged its functions in that year.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in the e-crime department of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in April 2006; and how many people are so employed now. [173827]

**Mr. Coaker:** In April 2006 there were 50 staff in the e-crime department. As of 25 January 2008 the e-crime department has 51 staff. Planned recruitment will bring the unit to its target capacity of 58 staff.

### Crime: Statistics

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 209W, on crime: statistics, what account is taken in the compilation of crime statistics of unreported crime. [186948]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime statistics are complementary series, and together these two sources provide a more comprehensive picture of household and personal crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

The main purpose of the BCS is to give a count of crime that includes those incidents that are not reported to the police, or not recorded by them. As such, the BCS asks victims whether an incident had been reported to the police, or whether the police came to know about it another way, and is therefore able to estimate reporting rates. Overall, the 2006-07 BCS estimated that more than half of crimes are never reported to the police. Reporting rates are reported at a national level and published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales. See

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pdf

for the latest figures.

### Driving Under Influence: Drugs

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on driving under influence: drugs, when the Forensic Science Service will complete the specification for a roadside drug screening device. [186020]

**Mr. Coaker:** The specification must set realistic requirements to ensure reliability and lead to a device that the police will find helpful. The continuing identification of issues has delayed issue of the specification, but we hope to reach a conclusion shortly on how best to proceed.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on driving under influence: drugs, what progress manufacturers are making towards preparing a roadside drug screening device; when they are expected to submit a device for type approval; and how long the type approval process is expected to take. [186021]

**Mr. Coaker:** Manufacturers and our advisers remain in contact over what should be required in a device that could be submitted for type approval. The development of such a device is a matter for the manufacturers The future time scale will depend on how quickly they can finalise and submit a device once a specification is available, how well the device performs, how quickly they can make any necessary adjustments and how soon they can put them on the market.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on driving under influence: drugs, what progress has been made by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch in its investigation into developing an impairment measuring device. [186022]

**Mr. Coaker:** The HO Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB), in consultation with the Department for Transport, continues to discuss possible improvements to the field impairment test currently used by the police. A review of published scientific data originating from research in Australia into alternative impairment cues has been completed. Discussions regarding suitability of any further tests to meet the operational requirement and practical application are being undertaken. HOSDB continues to investigate a possible impairment measuring device through established contacts working in this area. Opportunities for partnership with a suitable university or other outside agency continue to be sought.

### Drug Screening

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 553-4, on drug screening, what further progress has been made towards making a roadside drug screening device available for use by the police; and if she will make a statement. [186018]

**Mr. Coaker:** Any drug screening device to be used by the police in a suspected drug driving case must be of a type approved by the Secretary of State. It remains the position that no device currently available is type approved. The independent advice we have received is that, whatever its use in other circumstances, none should be type approved for use at the roadside in this country to assist in enforcing the criminal offence of driving while impaired by a drug.

Type approval will be granted to devices that meet an appropriate specification and perform satisfactorily in an operational setting. Our advisers are continuing their work to produce such a specification. We hope to reach a conclusion shortly.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 553-4, on drug screening, when she expects a roadside drug screening device to be available for use by the police. [186019]

**Mr. Coaker:** It is necessary first to resolve the issues raised by setting realistic requirements for a device that will meet police needs and be useful rather than counter-productive. This work is in its final stages. Once it is done, it will be for manufacturers to prepare devices and put them through the type approval process. The time scale will depend on how quickly they can submit

devices, how well those devices perform, how quickly the manufacturers can make any necessary adjustments and how soon they can put them on the market once type approved.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of drug rehabilitation beds in England and Wales are *(a)* occupied and *(b)* vacant; and if she will make a statement. [178104]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

### Drugs: Schools

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many school pupils were arrested for possession of illegal substances in schools in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [185509]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Ministry of Justice and Department for Children, Schools and Families both confirm that no information is collected centrally on arrests of school pupils.

### Genetics: Databases

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of maintaining the DNA database was in each year of its operation. [167015]

**Meg Hillier:** The National DNA Database (NDNAD) was established in 1995, when responsibility for the operational management of the NDNAD rested with the Forensic Science Service (FSS) on behalf of the Police Service. No central records of costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD are held prior to 2002, as cost data were incorporated in other costs incurred by the FSS.

In December 2005, the FSS was vested as a Government owned company and ownership of the NDNAD transferred from the FSS to the Home Office. On 1 April 2007 the NDNAD transferred from the Home Office to the National Policing Improvement Agency. Costs for the 2007-08 financial year are not yet available.

The costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD from 2002-07 are given in the following tables. The costs for 2006-07 are higher than for previous years, because of the complete separation of costs from the FSS, and because the increase in the number of forensic suppliers requires additional resources for accreditation and continuous monitoring.

*Table 1*

£

| | *NDNAD Services costs* | *Supplier Accreditation costs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 774,304 | 320,507 | 1,094,811 |
| 2003-04 | 904,385 | 388,047 | 1,292,432 |
| 2004-05 | 1,276,823 | 433,828 | 1,710,651 |
| 2005-06 | 1,245,151 | 459,192 | 1,704,343 |

*Table 2*

£

| | *NDNAD Service delivery including delivery of IT development projects* | *Custodian accreditation* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,041,743 | 527,677 | 2,569,420 |

### Identity Cards: Databases

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much additional data storage will be required to administer the national identity card database. [185514]

**Meg Hillier:** Until the national identity scheme is up and running it is too soon to determine the amount, if any, of additional storage that will be required to administer the national identity scheme. The information that may be recorded on the national identity register is set out in section 3 and schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

### Identity Cards: Finance

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent in preparation for and on development of the Government's identity card scheme. [172036]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to the response to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban), on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W.

### Immigration: Children

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-9WS, on care for children in the immigration system, how much extra funding will be allocated to local authorities that will be part of the specialist network looking after unaccompanied child asylum seekers; and whether her Department's central funding will cover the full costs incurred by the local authorities. [184737]

**Mr. Byrne:** The amount of funding available to local authorities who wish to be specialist authorities will be agreed in advance. Funding will be based on the costs the specialist authority incurs directly in supporting the care and accommodation needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

### Metropolitan Police Arts and Antiques Squad: Finance

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding has been allocated to the Metropolitan Police Arts and Antiques Squad in each of the last three years; [186761]

(2) what plans she has to expand the Metropolitan Police Arts and Antiques Squad; and if she will make a statement. [186762]

**Mr. McNulty:** Funding of the Arts and Antiques Unit is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

### Migration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact of migration on the UK's gross domestic product in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [186936]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

In HM Treasury's trend growth framework, migration contributes to output growth through its contribution to growth in the working age population.

Latest data available from the Office for National Statistics indicate that between mid-1997 and mid-2006, migration contributed around 0.5 percentage points per year to growth in the working age population, and therefore towards the trend rate of growth in the economy.

### Offensive Weapons: Durham

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested and prosecuted for the carrying and use of a knife in the Durham police authority area in 2007. [183029]

**Mr. Coaker:** The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group only, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

The information requested on prosecutions for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

### Opium: Crops

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 868-69W, on opium: crops, if she will break down the figures by the location in which the crops were grown. [181714]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* During 2007, opium poppies were grown at 67 locations in nine counties, as shown in the following table.

| *County* | *Number of growing sites* | *Total area (ha)* |
|---|---|---|
| Berkshire | 4 | 239.92 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1 | 24.80 |
| Dorset | 6 | 206.06 |
| Hampshire | 26 | 1,238.68 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 16.13 |
| Lincolnshire | 9 | 445.61 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 63.88 |
| Oxfordshire | 10 | 281.71 |
| Wiltshire | 9 | 228.19 |

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many departmental officials have been working on reducing police bureaucracy in each of the last 10 years. [176299]

**Mr. McNulty:** Until 1 April 2007, when the newly vested police-led National Policing Improvement Agency took on policy oversight for reducing unnecessary police bureaucracy, overall policy oversight for reducing unnecessary bureaucracy was held by the Police Reform Unit in the Home Office. However, a much wider number of departmental officials in many different business areas have been involved in contributing to this important area of work over the last 10 years. This work has included:

improvements to custody and case management information technology systems;

the implementation of new time and labour saving technology such as electronic fingerprinting;

the development of improved business processes and work force management as part of wider efficiency and value for money work; and

the development of a new performance management framework which recognising the significant improvements made to date, will provide greater local flexibility and reduce the number of targets that necessitate measurement by the police going forward.

It is not possible therefore to specify a 'headcount' number which would properly reflect the contribution of such a wide number of departmental officials.

Reducing unnecessary bureaucracy is the duty of all those involved in policing. It is the responsibility of local managers and chief officers in particular, to keep processes as streamlined as possible and to empower and equip officers to provide the most visible and accessible police presence in the community possible.

### Police: Surveillance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* communications intercept and *(b)* surveillance requests by Essex constabulary have been (i) made and (ii) approved in the last 12 months. [186166]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures for the numbers of interception warrants and authorisations in respect of directed and intrusive surveillance are published annually by, respectively, the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Chief Surveillance Commissioner. Copies of both reports are in the Library of the House.

### Police: Urban Areas

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to increase the number of policemen on the beat in urban areas. [186916]

**Mr. McNulty:** The deployment of police personnel to urban areas is an operational matter for each chief officer of police.

### Security Industry Authority

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the challenges to the Security Industry Authority's minded to revoke letters have been processed; and when this process is expected to be complete. [185696]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS, in which I outlined the steps being taken by the Security Industry Authority and the Borders and Immigration Agency following their checks on the right to work of non-EEA licence holders. In that Statement I reported that some 10,500 individuals had been contacted by the SIA and informed that the SIA was minded to revoke their licences, and that some 3,000 challenges to the minded to revoke letter were being processed.

We plan to send updates on the position to the Home Affairs Select Committee in March and June 2008. I will arrange for copies of those letters to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations within the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, if she will make a statement on her Department's commitment to explore the scope available to make the Home Office's RDSD database fully searchable by public stakeholders. [186252]

**Meg Hillier:** The Home Office is currently looking at ways of making statistics available on the internet. This project is still in the developmental stage and a decision will be made on the Animal Procedures Committee recommendation once the work has been completed and trialed.

### Surveillance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were under surveillance by criminal justice agencies in the UK at the most recent date for which figures are available. [186913]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures in relation to surveillance are published in the annual report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, a copy of which is in the House Library. Law enforcement agencies were granted some 16,651 directed surveillance and 350 intrusive authorisations during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, the most recent period for which figures are available. Figures for intelligence agency use of these powers are not published in the interests of national security.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 November, *Official Report*, column 682W, on terrorism, which countries have proscribed Hizb-ut-Tahrir; and what account she has taken of these countries' positions in his decision on the position of Hizb-ut-Tahrir in the UK. [168897]

**Mr. McNulty:** The following countries to our knowledge have some form of ban in place on Hizb-ut-Tahrir:

Germany
UAE
Russia
Pakistan (pending an appeal)
Turkey
Saudi Arabia
Egypt
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
Kyrgyzstan
Syria
Turkmenistan

Different jurisdictions have different criteria for banning organisations. I understand, for example, that in Germany it is banned for, among other things, anti-Semitic activity.

We examine all relevant information about an organisation, including any action taken by other countries and the basis for that action if known, when an organisation is under consideration for proscription. I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 682W for the statutory and other tests which must be applied in proscription cases. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the deliberations which may or may not have occurred in respect of organisations not on the proscribed list, except to say that Hizb-ut-Tahrir remains an organisation of concern and is kept under close review.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times terrorist suspects have been held in pre-charge detention for *(a)* 28 days, *(b)* 27 days, *(c)* 26 days, *(d)* 25 days, *(e)* 24 days, *(f)* 23 days, *(g)* 22 days, *(h)* 21 days, *(i)* 20 days and *(j)* 19 days in each year since the 28 day maximum came into effect; and if she will make a statement. [185046]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The Terrorism Act 2006 extended the maximum period of pre-charge detention to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. Statistics compiled from police records show that to date 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge (10 in 2006 and 1 in 2007).

Of these, nine were arrested following Operation Overt, the disruption of an alleged plot to target aircraft. One individual was charged on the 27-28 day of detention following his arrest in a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester Police and one individual was charged on the 18-19 day of detention following his arrest in relation to the incidents in London and Glasgow.

The following table provides a breakdown of the numbers:

| *Period of detention* | *No of persons held* | *Charged* | *Released without charge* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 to 15 days | 1 | 1 | — |
| 18 to 19 days | 1 | 1 | — |
| 19 to 20 days | 3 | 3 | — |
| 27 to 28 days | 6 | 3 | 3 |

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many of the criminal offences created by *(a)* the Terrorism Act 2000, *(b)* the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, *(c)* the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and *(d)* the Terrorism Act 2006 have (i) no arrests been made (ii) no prosecutions laid and (iii) no convictions gained. [185818]

**Mr. McNulty:** The power of arrest in section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows police to arrest a person upon reasonable suspicion of being a "terrorist", which is defined in section 40. It also allows arrests to be made at an earlier stage than if there was a requirement for suspicion of a specific offence. There is no power of arrest under any of the other Acts mentioned.

Statistics on the number of arrests, charges and convictions under the Terrorism Act 2000 and under other legislation are available on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/

These figures are compiled from police records and are not broken down in the format requested.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency work on on-line activities by terrorist and extremist groups. [186947]

**Mr. Coaker:** None. SOCA's remit does not include online activities by terrorist and extremist groups.

### Terrorism: Arrests

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases are awaiting trial for people charged with offences under *(a)* the Terrorism Act 2000, *(b)* the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, *(c)* the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and *(d)* the Terrorism Act 2006. [184747]

**Mr. McNulty:** Statistics on the number of people awaiting trial are available on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/

The information is not broken down in the manner requested. Since 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007, there have been 1,228 arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 and under other legislation, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation. Of those arrested, 132 were charged with terrorism legislation offences only, 109 were charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences and 195 were charged under other legislation including murder, grievous bodily harm, firearms, explosives offences, fraud, false documents Of those charged 114 were awaiting trial on 31 March 2007. Statistics are compiled from police records and are subject to change as cases go through the system.

### UK Football Police Unit

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers are assigned to the UK Football Police Unit. [186316]

**Mr. Coaker:** The UK Football Policing Unit undertakes a range of co-ordination and infrastructure functions related to the role of the police in preventing and tackling English and Welsh football disorder at home and abroad. The UKFPU incorporates the Football Banning Orders Authority and the UK National Football Information Point required under EU provisions. There are currently six police officers seconded to the unit in addition to a British Transport police liaison officer.

### Victim Support Schemes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people received state provided counselling as a result of being the victim of crime in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Essex in 2007. [186920]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not centrally available.

### Video Games: Young People

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests were recorded for retailers selling (i) video games and (ii) DVDs to underage customers in each year since 1997; and what average fine was levied for subsequent convictions in each case. [186727]

**Mr. McNulty:** Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table for 1997 to 2006. Data on those arrested are not available.

*Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification[2]*

| | *Number of police cautions issued* | *Number of fines imposed* | *Average fine amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1 | 15 | 519 |
| 1998 | — | 18 | 440 |
| 1999 | — | 33 | 798 |

*Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification[2]*

| | Number of police cautions issued | Number of fines imposed | Average fine amount (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | — | 16 | 1,028 |
| 2001 | — | 9 | 1,378 |
| 2002 | — | 12 | 1,079 |
| 2003 | 1 | 14 | 921 |
| 2004 | — | 6 | 775 |
| 2005 | — | 8 | 489 |
| 2006 | — | 8 | 1,244 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[2] Video Recording Act 1984 S.11 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.88(4).
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

### West Midlands Police Authority: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much West Midlands Police Authority has received from central funds in each of the last 10 years; how much its precept has been set at for 2008-09; and at what rate the precept will be levied upon local householders. [186784]

**Mr. McNulty:** As can be seen from the following table, the central funding of the West Midlands police authority has increased from £317.34 million in 1997-98 to £487.88 million in 2007-08.

*West Midlands police authority central funding since 1997-98*

| | Government grant[1] (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 317.34 |
| 1998-99 | 335.10 |
| 1999-2000 | 342.16 |
| 2000-01 | 357.58 |
| 2001-02 | 379.35 |
| 2002-03 | 388.14 |
| 2003-04 | 415.20 |
| 2004-05 | 433.31 |
| 2005-06[2] | 466.12 |
| 2006-07[3] | 471.41 |
| 2007-08 | 487.88 |

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] In 2005-06, figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.
[3] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.
*Source:*
DCLG.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to question 161593 tabled on 24 October 2007 by the hon. and learned Member for Harborough. [178812]

**Mr. Byrne:** I wrote to the hon. Member on 15 February 2008.

## JUSTICE

### Crimes of Violence: Greater London

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there were for violent crimes in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last four years; [186899]

(2) how many people under the age of 18 years were convicted of criminal offences in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Essex in 2007. [186926]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons convicted at all courts for violence against the person offences in *(b)* Essex, and *(c)* City of London and Metropolitan police force areas for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in table 1.

The number of young persons under the age of 18 years convicted at all courts for all offences in *(b)* Essex, and *(c)* City of London and Metropolitan police force areas for the year 2006 can be viewed in table 2.

City of London and Metropolitan police force area data have been provided, and combined they make up the Greater London police force area.

It is not possible to identify those defendants in *(a)* Romford constituency, as the data are not collected at this level of detail.

*Table 1: the number of persons convicted at all courts of offences relating to violence against the person, in the City of London, Essex, and Metropolitan police force areas, for the years 2002 to 2006[1,2]*

| Force | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of London | 65 | 55 | 45 | 43 | 34 |
| Essex | 618 | 702 | 827 | 832 | 808 |
| Metropolitan Police | 6,394 | 5,871 | 6,080 | 6,060 | 6,168 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Note:*
Includes the following offence classes:
1 Murder
2 Attempted Murder
3 Threat or Conspiracy to Murder
4.1 Manslaughter
4.2 Infanticide
4.3 Child Destruction
4.4 Causing Death by Dangerous Driving
4.5 Manslaughter Due to Diminished Responsibility
4.6 Causing Death by Careless Driving when under the influence of Drink or Drugs
4.7 Causing Death of a child or vulnerable person
5 Wounding or other act Endangering Life
6 Endangering Railway Passenger
7 Endangering Life at Sea
8 Malicious Wounding etc.
11 Cruelty to or Neglect of Children
12 Abandoning Child aged under Two Years
13 Child Abduction
15 Concealment of Birth
37.1 Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking
*Sources:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

*Table 2. The number of young persons under the age of 18 years convicted at all courts of all offences, in the City of London, Essex, and Metropolitan police force areas, for the year 2006*[1,2]

| Force | 2006 |
|---|---|
| City of London | 5 |
| Essex | 2,837 |
| Metropolitan police | 12,185 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

## Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179033]

**Maria Eagle:** In the financial years from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the last full year for when figures are available, the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor Department and agencies engaged the organisations named above to deliver consultancy services as outlined in the following table.

While details of expenditure on other categories of service delivered by these organisations are held by individual business managers for the period in question, they are not held centrally by my Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Financial year 2004-05*

| Supplier | Objective | Value (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche | Update of Libra business case and finance model. | 79,529 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Implementation of IT Shared Services including creation of a new DCA IT delivery organisation. | 1,603,700 |
| Ernst & Young | Independent Regulatory Review of the Regulatory Framework for Legal Services in England and Wales. | 235,256 |
| KPMG | Consultancy support connected with public register of fines and judgements. | 101,000 |
| KPMG | Consultancy support connected with corporate reorganisation of DCA centre and subsequent transition planning. | 817,751 |
| KPMG | HR review and assessment connected with post of Head of Scotland Office | 2,816 |
| KPMG | Review of Finance Division functions and roles. | 68,750 |
| KPMG | Specialist audit by independent consultants of fraud risk at Court Funds Office. | 22,000 |
| KPMG | Management review and assessment of SCS processes on behalf of Human Resources. | 26,704 |
| KPMG | Review and assessment of European Policy and Information Rights Division. | 5,747 |
| KPMG | Advising on balance sheet accounting issues, standardisation manual and project management for HMCS Estates. | 17,137 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | A number of projects, including Vulnerable Customers Project; Civil Justice Consumer Research & Criminal Justice Experience Project that fed into the Consumer Strategy Review. | 2,162,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Review of Court Private Finance initiative schemes accounting treatment and review of annual reporting. | 34,150 |
| PA | Consultancy support connected with Courts Act Pilots and data / performance analysis and best practice identification. | 1,304,050 |

*Financial year 2005-06*

| Supplier | Objective | Value (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche | Update of Business Case to Treasury relating to Supreme Court Implementation Programme. | 92,950 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Support with implementation of the IT Shared Services Project. | 174,570 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Supported development of Libra Business Case. | 35,227 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Project/programme management connected with Gateway Review. | 88,076 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Project and programme management connected with eDG Assignment Initiation Document. | 64,652 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Finance & Project Accounting support to eDG, Costing & Charging Process Assurance, Contract Management Team Review. | 888,688 |
| Deloitte and Touche | Change management co-ordinators for implementation of Oracle 11i financial software. | 52,370 |
| Ernst & Young | Provided financial advice connected with HM Treasury Green Book analysis. | 23,412 |
| Ernst & Young | Development of policies and procedures regarding expense payments to Lord Lieutenants. | 21,951 |
| Ernst & Young | Development of a number of financial management modelling tools for use by HMCS. | 323,000 |
| KPMG | Risk management review of DCA corporate Governance structures. | 86,160 |
| KPMG | Re-shaping HQ Delivery of its 5 Year Strategy Plan. | 173,900 |

*Financial year 2005-06*

| *Supplier* | *Objective* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| KPMG | Review of DCA Governance structures to highlight gaps, inc[illegible]tencies and issues. | 73,200 |
| KPMG | Review and development of Performance Management Framework. | 86,750 |
| KPMG | External recruitment campaign for senior change management personnel. | 58,827 |
| KPMG | Redesign of Assessment Centre for Senior Staffing & Talent Management. | 10,000 |
| KPMG | Analytical support and advice on existing financial systems and processes for Financial Systems Implementation (FSI) project. | 382,073 |
| KPMG | Financial management accounting assessment. | 12,870 |
| KPMG | Modelling and financial analysis on behalf of Legal Services Commission. | 33,119 |
| KPMG | Consultancy support with DCA Senior Civil Service Assessment Centres. | 5,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Provided financial analysis to support the draft Legal Services Bill and produced an actuarial report on the Compensation Fund. | 150,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | External research, analysis and project management of major survey of public attitudes to and engagement with the Criminal Justice System | 325,530 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | External research and analysis of business information held across the Criminal Justice Service. | 106,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Support connected with the cross-government Administrative Burdens Reduction project. | 95,020 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | HR consultancy concerning provision of Learning and Development advice and delivery of a plan for the "new" Department. | 128,352 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Workforce Development Strategy, summary document and advice | 8,852 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Consultancy on Performance Management | 19,588 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Provided support and advice on setting up HMCS Finance plus transition of other DCA Finance functions. | 74,025 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Project management connected with implementation of Oracle 11i financial software. | 204,163 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | External Review of DCA Internal Audit Function. | 24,400 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Development and implementation of financial reporting tool. | 167,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Development of a risk management identification and reporting format. | 77,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Cost Benefit Analysis of Civil justice Centre, Liverpool. | 22,090 |
| PA | Embedding programme and project management techniques within Constitution Directorate. | 13,074 |
| PA | Programme & Project Management of major change programme within Constitution Directorate. | 37,900 |
| PA | Provide consultancy support to help build the evidence base to inform HM Courts Service Business Strategy | 92,500 |
| PA | Electronic Filing & Document Management (EFDM) feasibility study | 136,300 |
| PA | Expert development of the Electronic Filing & Document Management (EFDM) business case. | 373,700 |
| PA | Support with various consultancy projects associated with roll out and in support of the National Enforcement Programme whose aim was to improve enforcement performance within HMCS. | 1,523,196 |
| PA | Development of capacity modelling tool leading to improved performance by HMCS Enforcement (London) region. | 141,900 |
| PA | Development of high-level business case and implementation plan for the HMCS Business Strategy to improve operating efficiency and effectiveness. | 482,026 |
| PA | Development of a capacity modelling tool designed to improve operational performance in the magistrates courts. | 40,373 |
| PA | Strategic consultancy advice for developing supplier market. Analysed market and advised on development of supplier strategy to improve operation and process. | 299,109 |

*Financial year 2006-07*

| *Supplier* | *Objective* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche | — | Nil return |
| Ernst & Young | — | Nil return |
| KPMG | Project Management consultancy support and advice for Performance Management Division. | 31,800 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Diversity consultancy to support better and more focussed use of resources across the staff networks. | 55,351 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | Business process re-engineering at the Public Guardianship Office and Court of Protection. | 459,092 |
| PA | Delivery of project to undertake fundamental review of judicial training | 31,564 |
| PA | Consultancy connected with transfer of Access Rights Unit to Information Rights Division. | 95,628 |
| PA | Consultancy support connected with the completion and publication of the Carter Review of Legal Aid Procurement. | 50,597 |
| PA | Development and implementation of operating procedures to support eDG in management of DISC programme. | 1,812,175 |

*Financial year 2006-07*

| *Supplier* | *Objective* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| PA | Review/ and assurance of supplier project plans for workstream development, including knowledge transfer in the Service Upgrade Programme Study (SUPS). | 377,963 |
| PA | Support to develop and implement the National Enforcement Service and HMCS Enforcement Programme. | 1,476,563 |
| PA | Expert advice and support to a major IT enabled business change programme within Civil, Family and Customer Services Division. | 740,000 |
| PA | Consultancy support to HMCS Enforcement Programme in London including a detailed impositions analysis of traffic offences across the London Region. | 115,881 |
| PA | Analysis and review of listing processes to identify potential cost and efficiency savings within the Asylum & Immigration Tribunal. | 207,500 |

## Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185420]

**Maria Eagle:** Details of databases owned and maintained by the Department and its agencies are as follows:

CaseMan
FamilyMan
e-Diary
Money Claim On Line
Crest
Juror
Juror Summoning Bureau
eXchanging Hearing Information By Internet Technology
ProbateMan
ARIA (Asylum and Immigration system)
Service Upgrade Project (pilot)
Funds Accounting System
Receivership Accounting System
Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal system
Generic Appeals Processing System 2
Mental Health Tribunal
ETHOS (Employment Tribunal system)
CLAIMS (Criminal Injuries and Compensation Panel system)
MERIS (Office of the Public Guardian system)
ORACLE financials (General Ledger, Supplier database, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets)
Local Fees database
CHRIMSON (HR system)
Occupational Health, Counselling and Screening Services
Business Management System
Magistrates Courts databases
Libra application
Trust Accounting and Banking System
BACCHUS (Bankruptcy case management system)
Centralised Attachment of Earnings
County Court Bulk Centre
Commercial Court
Electronic Records Management
Judicial Database
Management Information System
Tax Tribunal Remuneration
Decree Absolute System
Parental Responsibility
Supreme Court Costs Office System
Wardship System
Crown Office Information Network System
Life Imprisonment Minimum Term
Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration
Case Recording System
RECAP (Civil Appeals Case Management)
CASREC (Public Guardian Office Case Recording)
CACTUS (Criminal Appeals Case Recording)
LIDS (Local Inmate Database System)
IIS (Inmate Information System)
C-NOMIS
OASYS
SIS (Security Intelligence System)
Phoenix
National Intelligence Unit
APVU (Assisted Prison Visitors Unit)
Prisoner Location Service
Pin Phone
PSIMON
Lifers Service
Branston Staff Files
Branston IRMS Service
ROWD MIS
Construction Unit Service
E and SS Textile Service
DGCU Service
Accommodation and Occupancy
Registered Intermediaries database
Court Appearance Database
PROGRESS
XHIBIT Portal
CJS Exchange Links
CJ MIS
FOI database
Sharepoint

As well as this list, other smaller database systems support local business areas. Details of these are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185278]

**Maria Eagle:** The Department does not have a comprehensive historical record of this information. Records held centrally show that one personal digital assistant was lost in 2003. The estimated value was approximately £100. There have been no reported thefts of personal digital assistants.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and its predecessor and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185537]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only by contacting every member of staff in post in the areas requested during this period. The Ministry of Justice's IT Systems are unable to provide a record of Wikipedia entries which have been created and amended by special advisers, Ministers and communications officials since August 2005.

### Firearms: Crime

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* non-EU citizens and *(b)* foreign nationals were convicted of (i) firearms and (ii) drug offences in Britain in each of the last 12 months. [182764]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the total number of foreign nationals convicted for firearms and drug offences are not held centrally. The central databases of criminal court cases collect information on defendants' ethnicities, but do not presently contain information on their nationalities. This is because, as a general rule, nationality is not germane to the outcome of criminal court proceedings. Defendants will not be asked their nationality by the court for this reason. Information on nationality may be recorded where it is specifically relevant to the case (e.g. immigration-related offences) but this would be held on local files and would not be systematically recorded on central databases.

However, in preparation of the implementation of the UK Borders Act 2007, the Crown court IT systems are being changed to allow for the collection of nationality data. This Act introduces automatic—rather than discretionary—triggers for the deportation of foreign nationals who meet certain sentencing criteria, and it will require more detailed recording of data on foreign national criminal defendants. Upgraded systems to meet this requirement are expected to be in place in late 2008.

Data held on the prison IT system do record the nationality of offenders. The following table gives the number of foreign national and EU national prisoners received into all prison establishments in England and Wales under immediate custodial sentences between 2004 and 2006.

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Foreign nationals | 8,355 | 9,612 | 9,832 |
| EU nationals (not including UK nationals) | 2,087 | 2,457 | 2,840 |

*Note:*
The foreign nationals data are taken from table 7.5 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006.

It should be noted, however, that only a percentage of defendants found guilty of offences receive a custodial sentence.

### HM Prison Service: MC2 Project

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what involvement HM Prison Service has had in the MC2 project. [186276]

**Maria Eagle:** A representative of the Prison Service has attended one meeting about the Multi Culture 2 (MC2) project in a consultative position. The service has had no further participation.

### HM Prison Service's Race Advisory Group

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the members are of HM Prison Service's Race Advisory Group; how much they are paid; what recommendations they have made; and which have been implemented as a result of such recommendations. [186255]

**Maria Eagle:** There are 18 members of the Race Advisory Group (RAG), which was reconstituted during 2007. They include representatives of voluntary and community sector groups working in prisons, as well as managers from other large organisations and concerned and motivated individuals.

Membership of the RAG is on a voluntary basis, and members receive no payment other than reimbursement for travel and miscellaneous expenses.

The reconstituted RAG has completed two familiarisation visits to prison establishments, but has had only one formal meeting and has yet to make any recommendations to the Prison Service.

### Judges

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges are expected to be appointed in 2008; what steps he plans to take to promote diversity amongst the judiciary; and if he will make a statement. [185005]

**Mr. Straw:** Appointments to judicial office are made by the Lord Chancellor following selection and recommendation by the Judicial Appointments Commission. The JAC puts forward its recommendations on the basis of requests from the Lord Chancellor to fill vacancies, the timing of which is determined by business need.

The JAC have already made 38 recommendations for appointment to me in 2008 and current plans are for some 30 further selection exercises to be completed, covering in excess of 250 posts for both courts and tribunals. These figures are, however, subject to change,

as business need and priorities can vary in-year, affecting both the timing of selection exercises and the number of vacancies to be filled.

I plan to continue the work under way as part of the Judicial Diversity Strategy, which was agreed between my predecessor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Chairman of the Judicial Appointments Commission in May 2006, and to work constructively with stakeholders to drive progress in this challenging area. This includes legislative changes to extend the ranger of individuals eligible to apply for judicial office; outreach work to promote judicial service to a wider pool of applicants; judicial mentoring and work-shadowing schemes; and work to produce guidance for Diversity and Community Relations Judges in engaging communities.

I am also exploring what more we can do to work with others to support and encourage greater diversity in our legal professions

**Magistrates: Easington**

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates on the Peterlee Bench are resident in Easington constituency. [186212]

**Mr. Straw:** There are two local justice areas administered by the Durham Advisory Committee: North Durham and South Durham. There is no separate Peterlee local justice area. North Durham has 18 magistrates who are resident in the Easington constituency. South Durham has one magistrate resident in the Easington constituency.

**Magistrates: Public Appointments**

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to encourage the appointment of more magistrates from areas which experience the highest levels of crime and antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [185007]

**Mr. Straw:** Her Majesty's Courts Service in liaison with the Advisory Committee will determine how many magistrates are needed and recruitment campaigns are run locally.

The need is based on workload forecasts which take account of anticipated number of cases coming to the magistrates court including criminal and antisocial behaviour cases. They also take into account projected retirements; possible resignations; average sitting days; bench make-up (responsibility to ensure that the magistracy is reflective of the communities it serves in terms of gender, ethnic origin, age, disability, geographical spread, occupation and industry); local workload data; resources and the use of district judges (magistrates courts).

Specific initiatives to encourage the recruitment and diversity of magistrates include: advertising materials to raise the profile of recruitment campaigns; information including a DVD that gives extensive and accessible information about the qualities and commitment required; a dedicated website; and awareness raising schemes including magistrates in the community, mock trials, and the magistrates shadowing scheme.

**National Offender Management Service**

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on offender services for adults by the National Offender Management Service *(a)* in prison and *(b)* in the community in the latest year for which figures are available. [185546]

**Mr. Straw:** Expenditure by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not routinely divided between offender services for adults and non-adults. By deducting expenditure on the Youth Justice Board, its Sponsor Unit and an estimate of Probation Boards' contributions to Youth Offending Teams, from the total NOMS expenditure for 2006-07, the estimated expenditure relating to adults is £3.9 billion. Extracting a precise figure across all offender management activity would involve disproportionate cost.

**Police National Computer**

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there is a unique personal identifier to connect individual data records in OaSys, C-NOMIS, Libra and the Police National Computer. [185542]

**Mr. Straw:** The information is as follows.

(a) Offender Assessment System (OASys)—OASys uses the 'PNC Number' as a unique personal identifier but this system has no physical interface to the PNC.

(b) C-NOMIS—C-NOMIS uses the 'NOMS Number' as a unique personal identifier. The NOMS Number is currently passed to, and stored within OASys, from C-NOMIS. The PNC number and arrest summons number (ASN) are manually entered into the C-NOMIS system if and when available.

(c) Libra—Libra has no specific unique personal identifier for a defendant, although each case related to one or more defendants is assigned a unique 'Libra Case Number'. This case number is not exchanged with any other system. Police forces supply Libra with their own 'Unique Reference Number' (URN) and the ASN from their case and custody systems that are case specific. Libra then uses the ASN as a unique reference to the PNC. A defendant will have many URNs or ASNs if they are involved in multiple cases. Libra can also store, via manual entry, the 'National Insurance Number' for the defendant if it is supplied by the police or the defendant.

(d) Police National Computer (PNC)—The Police National Computer uses the 'PNC Number' as a unique personal identifier. The Police National Computer also utilises the 'Criminal Records Office Number' if the defendant has previously provided fingerprints which can be positively identified and 'Arrest Summons Numbers' (ASNs) which links the defendant to one or more offences.

OASys, C-NOMIS, Libra and Police National Computer (PNC) systems do not share a 'unique personal identifier' that is common to all these systems. This has been a continuing challenge for joining-up the Criminal Justice System. The connection of individual data records, where specifically required to date, has largely been accomplished by other indirect identification methods which are further detailed by system.

OCJR is undertaking a review as to how a common unique personal identifier for the CIS might be achieved; the first stage of which is due to be completed by the end of March 2008.

### Prison Service: Finance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of publishing and printing the communities engagement newsletter for HM Prison Service was, including staff costs, in the latest period for which figures are available. [186253]

**Maria Eagle:** The Community Engagement Newsletter is produced by a member of the Prison Service Race Equality Action Group (REAG): the higher executive officer (whose, annual salary is around £29,000) spends approximately 33 per cent. of his time producing the newsletter. There is a nil production cost as the newsletter is posted on and disseminated via the REAG site on the Prison Service intranet.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what work the Anne Peaker Centre has carried out for HM Prison Service in each of the last three years; and how much they have been paid by HM Prison Service. [186277]

**Maria Eagle:** A representative of the Prison Service has attended one meeting at the Anne Peaker Centre in a consultative capacity. The service has had no other contact with the centre.

### Prisoners: Death

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government intend to take to reduce the numbers of deaths in prisons. [186297]

**Maria Eagle:** A broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner safer custody strategy (an umbrella term for suicide prevention, self-harm management and violence reduction) is in place. The strategy can be summarised as,

'Reducing distress and promoting the wellbeing of all who live and work in prisons.'

It integrates with other agendas that share the aim of improving the quality of life in prisons; such as resettlement, drugs, detoxification, health, and staff leadership and training.

Prison Service Order (PSO) 2700: Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Management, aims to embed improved methods of working in all relevant areas of prison life. Building on several years of learning from the experiences of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, it incorporates developments such as the introduction of ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) a new care-planning system for at-risk prisoners, improved cross-agency information flows, and integrated local safer custody teams pursuing a continuous improvement plan in each prison. Also reflected in the PSO are long-standing areas of safer custody work such as listener and insider peer supporters, suicide prevention co-ordinators in each prison, and working with outside organisations.

A focus on personal safety, supporting victims, and repairing the physical and emotional harm caused by violence or abuse, links closely with the suicide prevention strategy. The recently revised PSO 2750 requires all prisons to have local violence reduction strategies appropriate to needs, encouraging a whole prison approach to reducing violence and the fear of violence. The PSO takes account of the recommendations of the report into the death of Zahid Mubarek (murdered by his cell-mate in 2000), and brings together policy on violence reduction, anti-bullying and cell sharing risk assessments.

### Prisoners: Drugs

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government intend to take to reduce re-offending rates by reducing the rate of prisoner dependency on drugs. [186296]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive strategy to address the misuse of drugs by offenders serving custodial sentences. The strategy for prisons has a three-way focus:

reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;

reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and

establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

NOMS' comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, addresses the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. Interventions comprise:

Clinical services, detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through-care service)—lower-level interventions that, following assessment, deliver treatment and support. CARATs take the lead Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) role in prisons, engaging with prison resettlement teams and Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs) in the community

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes

The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) will bring considerable improvements to the quality of prison treatment. With £18.7 million invested in 2007-08, around 24,500 prisoners annually will benefit from improved quality clinical treatment.

Offenders who are released on licence may have conditions attached to their licence that require them to address their problem with drugs. Prolific and other priority offenders who are released on licence may be required to submit to drug tests.

### Prisons

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value of new contracts let for prisons was in each of the last 10 years, in terms of *(a)* annual value and *(b)* value over the life of the contract. [185545]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table gives the financial details available regarding prison contracts awarded in the last ten years

| Date of award of contract | Name or prison | Annual value at current prices (£) | Value over the life of the contract (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 July 1998 | Ashfield | 22,056,508 | 121 million over 25 years |
| 6 July 1998 | Forest Bank | 23,277,701 | 197 million over 25 years |
| 23 July 1999 | Rye Hill | 15,767,244 | 154 million over 25 years |
| 27 September 1999 | Dovegate | 25,461,259 | 240 millions over 25 years |
| 20 June 2000 | Doncaster | 20,277,198 | 140 million over 10 years |
| 20 December 2002 | Bronzefield | 23,020,125 | 219 million over 25 years |
| 5 January 2003 | Wolds | 6,711,541 | 45 million over 10 years |
| 14 February 2003 | Peterborough | 27,207,116 | 291 million over 25 years |

*Notes:*
1. The annual value is based on the payments made to the contractor during the contractual year.
2. The value over the life of the contract is based on the net present value (NPV) calculated for the winning bidder at the award of the contract. The NPV is a. standard method used for the financial appraisal of log term projects and is calculated in accordance with the HM Treasury Green Book. This information has previously been published.
3. There is no direct relationship between the annual value of the contract shown and the NPV for the whole life of the contract.
4. We do not hold details of annual contractual value for the duration of the contract as there are a number of changeable factors e.g. population levels, services requirements which would have a significant impact on the values.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means prisons are assessed on the effectiveness of their community engagement. [186209]

**Maria Eagle:** The effectiveness of community engagement in establishments is measured by internal audits of the Prison Service Standard on Race Equality. These are conducted annually.

It is also measured during inspections by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons.

### Prisons: Race Equality Action Team Training

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in HM Prison Service have completed race equality action team training; and how much this training has cost; [186204]

(2) how many people in HM Prison Service have completed the race equality officer training course; and how much this training has cost. [186205]

**Maria Eagle:** The Race Equality Action Team (REAT) training was rolled out in October 2006. Five training for trainers courses have taken place, training 79 associate trainers. In total, 1,576 REAT members had been trained by 31 December 2007—this includes 1,317 Prison Service employed REAT members, 166 prisoner representatives and 93 external representatives.

The Race Equality Officer (REO) training was rolled out in September 2007. 81 REOs have been trained to date.

The revised courses, including all course literature, were developed 'in-house' by two members of the Race Equality Action Group (REAG). Responsibility for the delivery of the training is shared between REAG, area offices and training services, and no figure for the cost is collected centrally.

### Race Equality Action Group Conference

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the recent Race Equality Action Group Conference held at the Emirates Stadium; and how many HM Prison Service staff attended the conference. [186254]

**Maria Eagle:** The Race Equality conference held on 27 September 2007 at the Emirates Stadium, London, entitled 'Uncovering Hidden Racism: The Next Challenge', was attended by 323 delegates at a cost of approximately £34,000.

### Rosemary West

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to establish how photographs of Rosemary West taken in Bronzefield prison came to appear in the 23 January 2008 edition of the *Daily Mirror*. [185710]

**Maria Eagle:** The Director of HMP Bronzefield has commissioned an investigation in to the origins of the material in the *Daily Mirror* on 23 January 2008, and further articles in the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*. The investigation is being conducted by a senior manager at Kalyx who is external to HMP Bronzefield and this is due to be completed by 22 February 2008. A copy of the investigation report will be provided to the regional offender manager for the south east once completed.

### Sentencing: Protection of Badgers Act 1992

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced following successful prosecutions under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since its entry into force. [186233]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested information is contained in the following table.

*Number sentenced[1] for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, all courts, England and Wales, 1992 to 2006*

| | Number of offenders |
|---|---|
| 1992 | — |
| 1993 | 31 |
| 1994 | 35 |
| 1995 | 33 |
| 1996 | 23 |
| 1997 | 29 |
| 1998 | 10 |
| 1999 | 28 |
| 2000 | 20 |
| 2001 | 36 |
| 2002 | 28 |

*Number sentenced[1] for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, all courts, England and Wales, 1992 to 2006*

| | Number of offenders |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 16 |
| 2004 | 22 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 7 |

[1] Principal offences basis.

*Notes:*

1. The offence of 'failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified' is an offence under the Badger Act (1992) and the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991). It has been included in these figures, although it is not possible to tell which Act was intended when sentencing.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

*Source:*

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Dams

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contingency plans he has should the Kajaki dam in Afghanistan cease to work. [185252]

**Mr. Malik:** The Kajaki Dam is currently not working at full capacity and contingency plans are already in place. These include the installation of diesel generator farms in Lashkar Gah, Gereshk, Sangin, Kajaki and Musa Qala for nine months while repairs to the turbines are taking place. Generator farms have already been installed in Lashkar Gah, Sangin and Musa Qala, and are currently being built in Kajaki and Gereshk. A new sub-station for Lashkar Gah will also be installed shortly.

USAID is leading on supporting the Government of Afghanistan in the energy sector in Helmand. They are making electricity generation a priority. The UK plays a key role in providing the security that enables these power supply projects to be implemented.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many reconstruction projects implemented by the UK provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan were subject to violent attacks in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [186912]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Records show that violent attacks on reconstruction projects implemented by UK Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan are rare. We are not aware of any such attacks during the UK's engagement in Mazar-e-Sharif during 2005. Since taking over responsibility for the PRT in Lashkar Gah, Helmand, in May 2006, information from the PRT indicates that none of over 200 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) implemented has been directly targeted in violent attacks.

However, a number of QIPs have supported the development of Afghan security infrastructure, and we are aware that a small number of projects have been affected by attacks. In October 2007 an explosion in Gereshk resulted in four police casualties and five locals being killed. This damaged the walls of a day care centre being constructed as a PRT project, but it is most likely that the target of the attack was the police. In February 2007, another incident involving the Afghan National Police and Taleban resulted in damage to a school in Lashkar Gah.

### Afghanistan: Tax Collection

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Afghan Ministry of Finance's efforts to enhance revenue collection; and what discussions he has had with the Afghan government on the matter. [186863]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** At 8 per cent. of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Afghanistan currently has one of the lowest rates of domestic revenue mobilisation in the world and the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) cannot cover its operating costs. It is essential that domestic revenue collection is prioritised in order to keep the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) and other international aid programmes on track. Along with our American colleagues, we have stressed the importance of this issue to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), and we have all discussed with the Afghan government the need to fully and transparently collect existing taxes as well as continue reforms of the tax system to increase the number of tax payers.

### Bangladesh: Elections

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the UK is providing to Bangladesh to assist the electoral process. [186724]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK is providing the following assistance to Bangladesh for the electoral process:

Preparation of the Electoral Roll with Photographs Programme—the UK is the lead donor providing £10 million to this $77 million multi-donor and government funded programme. It will generate an internationally acceptable photo voter roll, with photographs, to reduce room for fraud, and generate public confidence in the Election Commission (EC). The data collected are also being used for National ID Cards, which will provide most Bangladeshis with proof of identity for the first time.

National Election Programme—£2.2 million is being provided to NGOs to reduce electoral fraud through international and domestic monitoring; support the EC's registration process through voter motivation and awareness, with a focus on ensuring those groups usually excluded (religious and social minorities and the poor) are included on the list; improve the quality of campaigning to deliver more accountable representatives.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian programmes are funded by his Department in Bangladesh. [186722]

**Mr. Malik:** Total UK aid to Bangladesh in 2007-08 is £116.7 million. This includes just over £10 million of funding for emergency assistance to meet the humanitarian needs of people affected by the floods and by Cyclone Sidr in 2007, listed as follows.

| *Title* | *Description* | *Commitment (£)* | *Duration (months)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UN Emergency Relief and Early Recovery Needs | Provision of immediate emergency relief and enabling vulnerable households and communities in 22 flood districts in Bangladesh recover their food security, shelter and basic social support in the following six months | 6,100,000 | 8 |
| Cyclone Sidr Relief and Early Recovery Support | Provision of immediate emergency relief and enabling vulnerable people in the most cyclone affected districts in Bangladesh to recover after cyclone Sidr and reduce their vulnerability to similar disasters in future | 4,500,000 | 9 |

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185416]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1552W, to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg).

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182722]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development's reward arrangements do not allow for the payment of bonuses to staff below the senior civil service. No bonuses have been paid to press and communication officers in any of the last 10 years.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6th May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184371]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Nicaragua: Young Offenders

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider financially supporting the construction of separate police holding cells for minors in Bluefields in Eastern Nicaragua as part of his Department's work in Nicaragua. [186199]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to be concerned about poor prison conditions in Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast. In September 2006, DFID provided $14,600 for a seminar in Bluefields to address this problem. The seminar brought together penal reform experts, as well as local, regional and national officials. At that meeting, Bluefield prison authorities committed to a number of actions to improve the health and sanitation conditions of prisoners. This included measures for prisoners who are minors.

DFID does not provide financial support to prison construction. Nevertheless, working in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we will continue to use our good working relationship with authorities in Bluefields to encourage them to improve prison conditions and to specifically construct separate holding cells for minors.

### Overseas Aid

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the proportion of his Department's funding allocated to civil society through the Partnership Programme arrangements will increase in proportion to the overall increase in his Department's expenditure. [186440]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual programme allocations will not be finalised until March 2008.

### Whaling

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, on whaling, what response his Department made to the letter referred to from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; if he will place a copy of that response in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [186048]

**Mr. Thomas:** The former Secretary of State, in his response to the letter of 19 January 2006 from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural

Affairs, on international whaling, offered help where possible, in promoting UK policy on whales with the target countries listed in the letter. He also stated that DFID has limited engagement with countries that are not members of the International Whaling Commission.

A copy of the letter, dated 5 February 2006, has been placed in the Library of the House. DFID officials will continue to remain aware of any critical developments in international whaling that might affect international development issues.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Fees and Charges

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what processes are available to consumers who wish to reclaim bank penalty charges; and if he will make a statement. [186311]

**Angela Eagle:** Generally, if consumers believe that they have been wrongly or unfairly charged by their bank, they should raise the issue with their bank in the first instance. If they are not satisfied with the response they obtain, then it is open to them to take a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service or to pursue a claim in the Courts.

On the issue of bank charges for unauthorised overdrafts and returned item fees, there is currently a test case before the High Court. This is considering the preliminary legal point of whether such charges are subject to the unfairness test in the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

Until the outcome of this legal action is known, the normal complaint channels have been affected as follows:

the Financial Services Authority has granted firms a waiver from dealing with complaints within the usual time-table, except where consumers are in hardship. Rather, firms will record and store complaints and deal with them as quickly as possible once the legal action is resolved;

the Financial Ombudsman Service will also not progress complaints or deal with new ones, other than in hardship cases; and

the courts are generally suspending the hearing of cases.

Further information can be found on the websites of the Office of Fair Trading (www.oft.gov.uk) and the Financial Services Authority (www.fsa.gov.uk).

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on a moratorium on consumers reclaiming bank charges. [186350]

**Angela Eagle:** The Financial Services Authority has given financial institutions a waiver in respect of compliance with time limits for dealing with complaints related to bank charges while a test case on such charges is proceeding in the High Court. The Chancellor has been kept informed about the issues surrounding the waiver. However, responsibility for the waiver is a matter for the FSA, which is independent of Government.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has issued to financial institutions on the rate of interest to be applied to reclaimed bank and credit card charges; and if he will make a statement. [186351]

**Angela Eagle:** None. The issue of fairness of such charges is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), which is independent of Government. In April 2006, the OFT stated that credit card default charges have been generally set at a significantly higher level than was considered legally fair. A £12 threshold for intervention was set: where credit card default charges are set above this threshold, the OFT will consider whether an investigation needs to be launched. The OFT also believes that the unfairness test in the 'Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999' covers bank charges and is investigating whether these charges are unfair. In order to provide certainty on whether the unfairness test applies, OFT is currently taking a test case against the major UK banks in the High Court.

### Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in tax revenue arising from the proposed revision to the capital gains tax rules governing homes other than a principal residence. [186907]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2340W.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many written complaints have been made to the tax credit hotline by people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since the inception of the service; [184907]

(2) how many telephone complaints have been made to the tax credit hotline by people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (d) the UK in each year since the inception of the service. [184908]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, I would refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, regarding the total number of complaints received by the Tax Credits Helpline.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis the police are conducting an investigation into the loss of child benefit data at HM Revenue and Customs; and whether it is classified as a criminal investigation. [183705]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the Chancellor's statement to the House of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1101W, in which the Chancellor confirmed he instructed the then Chairman of HMRC to call in the police on 14 November 2007.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) of 22 November 2005. [176399]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

A copy of the minutes will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Employment

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the workforce is in permanent employment. [186773]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the percentage of the workforce in permanent employment. (186773)

In July-September 2007, which is the latest period available, 94 per cent of all employees aged 16 and over had a permanent main job.

This estimate is taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This figure covers employees only since the LFS does not ask self employed people, unpaid family workers or those on government supported training and employment programmes whether their job is permanent or temporary.

Permanency relates to the job itself rather than to the individual who does the job.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

### Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cars registered in the UK were eligible for Band A vehicle excise duty in the latest period for which figures are available. [186953]

**Angela Eagle:** As at the end of September 2007 there were 363 vehicles licensed under the band A zero rate of Vehicle Excise Duty.

It has also come to light that the figure reported for band A in a written answer to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) on 30 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 318W, was incorrect. The Treasury apologises for this error. The correct figure for the number of band A cars licensed as at the end of October 2006 was 342.

The band A zero rate for cars with the very lowest carbon emissions was introduced in Budget 2006 to encourage take-up and assist the development of the low carbon market. The Government are aware of at least one model of car available in the UK market that is eligible for this rate.

### Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since it was established the Financial Services Authority has used its powers under section 45 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. [186950]

**Angela Eagle:** The matter concerned is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the Chairman of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

### GCSE

**Danny Alexander:** To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people of working age had fewer than five GCSEs grade A* to C in each region in each year since 1997. [186828]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many and the proportion of people of working age with less than 5 GCSEs at A-C grade or equivalent in each region in each year since 1997. (186828)

The answer was compiled using estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is a sample survey covering around 53,000 households in the United Kingdom.

The attached table gives the number and percentage of people of working age in the category requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 2001 to 2007.

Comparable estimates are not available prior to 2001. These estimates have not been seasonally adjusted.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Number and percentage of working age[1] population with fewer than five GCSEs[2,3,4] by Government office region, April to June 2001-07, not seasonally adjusted*

| | UK | North-east | North-west | Yorkshire and the Humber | East midlands | West midlands | East |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Level (Thousand)* | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 12,612 | 573 | 1,368 | 1,134 | 979 | 1,241 | 1,145 |
| 2002 | 14,151 | 632 | 1,665 | 1,243 | 1,049 | 1,371 | 1,288 |
| 2003 | 13,900 | 630 | 1,604 | 1,215 | 1,043 | 1,344 | 1,270 |
| 2004 | 13,599 | 616 | 1,522 | 1,172 | 986 | 1,325 | 1,243 |
| 2005 | 13,447 | 569 | 1,510 | 1,237 | 992 | 1,251 | 1,253 |
| 2006 | 13,167 | 546 | 1,480 | 1,204 | 984 | 1,245 | 1,228 |

*Number and percentage of working age[1] population with fewer than five GCSEs[2,3,4] by Government office region, April to June 2001-07, not seasonally adjusted*

| | UK | North-east | North-west | Yorkshire and the Humber | East midlands | West midlands | East |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 13,194 | 544 | 1,477 | 1,197 | 1,018 | 1,236 | 1,273 |
| *Percentage* | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 40 | 43 | 39 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 40 |
| 2002 | 39 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 40 |
| 2003 | 38 | 41 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 39 |
| 2004 | 38 | 41 | 37 | 39 | 38 | 42 | 38 |
| 2005 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 41 | 38 | 39 | 38 |
| 2006 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 37 |
| 2007 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 38 |

| | London | South-east | South-west | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Level (Thousand)* | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 1,635 | 1,582 | 929 | 646 | 1,007 | 373 |
| 2002 | 1,908 | 1,691 | 1,078 | 720 | 1,109 | 398 |
| 2003 | 1,935 | 1,686 | 1,045 | 664 | 1,081 | 382 |
| 2004 | 1,949 | 1,657 | 1,032 | 653 | 1,042 | 403 |
| 2005 | 1,971 | 1,603 | 997 | 676 | 980 | 407 |
| 2006 | 1,865 | 1,628 | 956 | 664 | 985 | 381 |
| 2007 | 1,875 | 1,599 | 963 | 647 | 971 | 395 |
| *Percentage* | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 43 | 37 | 42 |
| 2002 | 41 | 35 | 37 | 42 | 35 | 39 |
| 2003 | 41 | 35 | 36 | 38 | 35 | 37 |
| 2004 | 41 | 34 | 35 | 38 | 33 | 39 |
| 2005 | 41 | 32 | 34 | 39 | 31 | 39 |
| 2006 | 38 | 33 | 32 | 38 | 32 | 36 |
| 2007 | 38 | 32 | 32 | 36 | 31 | 37 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged to 16-59
[2] When calculating percentage those with unknown qualifications are excluded.
[3] Includes all those of working age in employment with qualifications below NVQ level 2, including those with no qualifications.
[4] Qualifications below NVQ level 2 is equivalent to fewer than five GCSEs.
*Note:*
Comparable data not available for 1997,1998, 1999 and 2000
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Inflation

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage changes there were in *(a)* the retail price index, *(b)* the consumer price index, *(c)* fuel prices and *(d)* food prices in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008 to date. [186895]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of changes there were in a) the retail price index, b) the consumer price index, c) fuel prices and d) food prices in i) 2006, ii) 2007 and iii) 2008 to date. (186895)

In the table below I have provided the percentage changes over 12 months within a) the retail price index, b) the consumer price index, e) fuel prices and d) food prices.

*Annual growth rates*

| | 2006 | 2007 | January 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Consumer price index | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| Fuels and lubricants (CPI) | 5.5 | 2.9 | 19.3 |
| Food (CPI) | 2.3 | 4.6 | 6.6 |
| Retail price index | 3.2 | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| Petrol and oil (RPI) | 5.5 | 2.7 | 19.0 |
| Food (RPI) | 2.1 | 4.6 | 6.6 |

The 2006 and 2007 figures provided are annual growth rates based on average prices in each calendar year. The January 2008 figures are the latest figures available (published on 12 February 2008), the table shows the percentage increase in prices between January 2007 and January 2008.

The CPI and RPI both measure the average change from month to month in the prices of consumer goods and services purchased in the UK. However, they differ in both coverage and methodology. A detailed description of these differences is given in an article entitled "The New Inflation Target: the Statistical Perspective":

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/New_inflation_target_summary031210.pdf

Specifically when comparing petrol and oil (RPI) and fuels and lubricants (CPI), the major difference is the fact that the RPI measures pump prices on index day each month, whereas CPI measures the average pump price across the whole month.

The major difference between food in the RPI and CPI are the differences in the weights used to combine the low level indices.

### Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the percentage change in *(a)* UK population growth and *(b)* population growth in England was in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [177452]

(2) what population increase has been attributable to migration in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* each region of the England since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the likely future increase in population attributable to migration in each case in the light of the Government Actuary Department's principal population projections; [177460]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of population growth attributable to migration in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1987; [177463]

(4) what the percentage change in *(a)* UK population growth and *(b)* population growth in England was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the average percentage change in population in EU member states was over the same period; and if he will rank EU member states according to change in population growth in the last year for which figures are available. [178331]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The reply will be placed in the Library.

### Small businesses

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent estimate is of the cost over the next comprehensive spending review period of reversing the small companies rate increases announced in the 2007 budget. [163258]

**Jane Kennedy:** In line with the Code for Fiscal Stability, at Budget 2007 the Government published the impact on Exchequer revenues of the increase in the small companies rate for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. These can be found in Table 1.2 of the Budget 2007 document.

### Tax Yields: Cornwall

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government has raised in tax from Cornwall in each of the last five years. [186505]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Taxation: Immigrants

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount paid by migrants to the UK in taxes and national insurance in 2007. [186933]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on taxes and national insurance contributions paid by migrants is not reported separately.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Supermarkets

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessor have had with representatives from supermarkets where alcohol price, promotion and harm was discussed in the last 12 months. [186315]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Secretary of State and his predecessor have had no meetings with representatives from supermarkets over the last 12 months. However, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) did attend the Prime Minister's seminar on alcohol on 21 November which was attended by individuals representing supermarkets.

### Bingo

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications to open *(a)* bingo halls and *(b)* high street bookmakers were approved in each of the last five years. [186778]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The table shows the number of new bingo licences issued under the Gaming Act 1968 by licensing magistrates (licensing boards in Scotland) for the five years from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2007.

*New bingo licences issued from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2007*

| *April to March each year* | *Licences issued* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 34 |
| 2003-04 | 19 |
| 2004-05 | 10 |
| 2005-06 | 6 |
| 2006-07 | 8 |

Under the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), the Gambling Commission (the Commission) is responsible for issuing bingo operating licences to operators; licensing authorities are responsible for issuing bingo premises licences in respect of individual bingo halls. Since 1 January 2007, the Commission has been able to accept applications for bingo operating licences; it has so far issued 218. (Under the 2005 Act the earliest date bingo operating licences or bingo premises licences could take effect was 1 September 2007.)

No figures are available for the period requested for the number of high street bookmakers to whom licences were issued. Prior to the introduction of the 2005 Act, high street bookmakers were authorised by permits issued by magistrates courts; no information was collated centrally. Since 1 January 2007 the Commission has been able to accept applications for general betting operating licences from operators wishing to run high street bookmakers; it has so far issued 691. Licensing authorities are responsible for issuing betting premises licences to high street bookmakers.

Under the 2005 Act the Commission is responsible for collecting information on the number of premises licences issued by licensing authorities. However, the Commission does not yet have figures for how many applications for bingo or betting premises licences have been granted by licensing authorities.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180218]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act the Department has published 85 per cent. of responses on its website. Our Department has adopted a full disclosure log where we aim to publish all requests for information where information has been released.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182523]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of press officers employed by the Department in each of the last 10 years is shown in the table:

| | *Press officers* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 9 |
| 1999-2000 | 8 |
| 2000-01 | 9 |
| 2001-02 | 8 |
| 2002-03 | 9 |
| 2003-04 | 10 |
| 2004-05 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | [1]13 |
| 2006-07 | [1]13 |
| 2007-08 | [1]10 |

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

The Department does not have a "communication officer" grade. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and the book is updated twice yearly.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in his Department since August 2005. [185530]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** 103 Wikipedia entries have been created or amended by people in my Department. We do not hold the information as to how many of these changes were made by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials.

All staff in the Department are required to sign an acceptable use policy before they are given access to the internet. Occasional and reasonable personal use is permitted provided it does not interfere with the performance of duties. Any activity that would bring the Department into disrepute is prohibited.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184364]

**Andy Burnham:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185797]

**Margaret Hodge:** The following publications were published by DCMS in the year 6 April 2007-5 April 2008:

| *Publication title* | *Print run* | *Cost (exc. VAT) (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Cm 7057: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century | 3,500 | 9,520 |
| Cm 7071: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on "London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: Funding and Legacy" (HC69) | 100 copies | 960 |
| Cm 7072: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Call TV quiz shows | 60 copies | 552 |
| Cm 7088: Government Response to the Science and Technology Select Committee Report on Human Enhancement Technologies | 50 copies | 948 |

| Publication title | Print run | Cost (exc. VAT) (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Cm 7118: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme: A Scheme Agreement Between Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the British Broadcasting Corporation | 125 copies | 2,299 |
| Cm 7184: Government Response to the NAO Review of the Experiences of UK Nationals Affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami | 400 copies | 1,652 |
| Cm 7309: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on Public Service Content (HC36-I) | 40 copies | 1,269 |
| Public Appointments and Public Bodies | 3,000 copies | 2,935 |
| Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond | 360 | 27,321 |
| Winning: A tourism Strategy for 2012 and beyond—Executive summary | 2,800 | 6,625 |
| London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report January 2008 | 1,500 | 22,805 |
| Staying Ahead: the economic performance of The UK's creative industries | 3,000 | 62,466 |
| 7/7 flyer | 5,000 | 275 |
| HC63 Report of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in respect of three Rubens Paintings | 100 | 1,571 |
| London Open House leaflet | 3,000 | 675 |
| Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 05-06 | 525 | 12,627 |
| CM7236 Government Response to House of Lords Select Committee on Communications | 45 | 460 |
| CM7186 Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport select committee report into New Media and the Creative Industries | 55 | 712 |
| Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games | 7,700 copies | 19,469 |
| Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Welsh version) | 200 copies | 2,847 |
| Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet | 212 copies | 10,570 |
| Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet (Welsh version) | 1,000 copies | 982 |
| Sustainable development action plan | Online publication | 1,487.50 |
| Culture on Demand: Ways to engage a Broader audience | 1,200 (full publication)<br>1,500 (summary version) | Overall 16,220 |
| Culture and Creativity in 2007 | 1,000 | 8,949 |
| Community Amateur Sports Club(CASC) scheme leaflet | 30,200 | 2,357 |
| Helping keep your child safe in sport: Child protection leaflet for parents[1] | 2,240 | 7,060 |
| Findings and Recommendation of the Live Music Forum | 3,500 | 39,793 |

| Publication title | Print run | Cost (exc. VAT) (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Final Report of the Casino Advisory Panel | 1,250 | 12,600 |
| Treasure Annual Report 2004 | 3,000 | 24,114 |
| Cenotaph Memorial Order of service | 25,000 | 1,098 |

[1] The Department for Children Schools and Families funded a large scale print run

### Digital Broadcasting: Television

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 775W, on digital broadcasting: television, when he expects a decision to be taken on the proposal to establish a rolling television channel to provide information on the digital switchover. [187083]

**Andy Burnham:** There are currently no plans to establish a rolling television service for digital switchover.

### Digital Switchover Help Scheme

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are *(a)* eligible for the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme and *(b)* expected to apply for the scheme, broken down by constituency; and whether those figures were calculated before access was granted to records held by the Department of Work and Pensions; [184479]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are eligible for the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme who will receive help *(a)* for free and *(b)* on payment of a £40 charge, broken down by constituency. [184480]

**Andy Burnham:** The information is not available in the form requested. A table giving details of the number of households eligible to receive assistance from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme, broken down by parliamentary constituency, has been deposited in the House Libraries.

The previous estimates have now been updated to reflect benefits statistics as of May 2007 and revised forecasts of benefit growth provided by DWP. The DWP benefits statistics used to produce these and previous estimates are publicly accessible through either the National Statistics Nomis portal or the DWP National Statistics tabulation tool.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of people in each region who will require assistance through the Targeted Assistance Scheme during digital switchover. [185636]

**Andy Burnham:** Details of the number of households eligible to receive assistance from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme broken down by ITV region are in the table. The table also shows current estimates of projected take up for each ITV region.

| ITV region | Number of eligible households | Projected to take up assistance |
|---|---|---|
| Border (excluding Isle of Man and Copeland) | 73,000 | 53,000 |
| West Country | 246,000 | 171,000 |
| Wales | 420,000 | 298,000 |
| Granada | 817,000 | 586,000 |
| West | 203,000 | 137,000 |
| Grampian | 136,000 | 94,000 |
| Scottish | 458,000 | 321,000 |
| Yorkshire | 631,000 | 435,000 |
| Anglia | 577,000 | 388,000 |
| Central | 1,030,000 | 685,000 |
| Meridian | 719,000 | 457,000 |
| London | 953,000 | 607,000 |
| Tyne Tees | 374,000 | 241,000 |
| Total—Great Britain | 6,640,000 | 4,480,000 |

1. The estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme covers ITV regions covering England, Wales and Scotland. Information on Northern Ireland constituencies is held separately by the Department of Social Development. Revised estimates for Northern Ireland will be made available as soon as possible.
2. The figures do not include those living in the Copeland constituency who were outside the switchover area for the recent Copeland switchover or residents of the Isle of Man.
3. The figures do not include households where the person qualifying for help under the scheme is registered blind or registered partially sighted who qualify on grounds of registration rather than on grounds of age or entitlement to disability benefits.
4. Eligibility for help from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be by benefit unit rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth. The scheme definition of eligible households mirrors Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) definition of a benefit unit: a couple (which from December 2005 includes gay couples) and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the help scheme in their own right.
5. These revised estimates use data from the Department for Work and Pensions Client Group Analysis for May 2007 adjusted by changes in future household and benefits growth for the period from May 2007 until the date switchover takes place in the relevant area.
6. Totals for ITV regions are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Totals for Great Britain are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

### Licensing: Circuses

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the progress of his Department's review of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on travelling circuses. [183112]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Our assessment of the impact on circuses during the first year of the Licensing Act 2003

has confirmed that circuses were able to operate under the new legislation, but faced new burdens in doing so. We have therefore included a commitment to look at options for reducing the burden for travelling entertainment and mobile forms of licensable activity as part of the DCMS Simplification Plan which was published in December 2007. We will consider how to address some of the specific issues identified in our survey of circuses when progressing simplification projects such as minor variations and adjustments to the application process.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's definition is of a sport; and whether each event planned for the Olympic Games 2012 meets this definition. [186189]

**Andy Burnham:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does not have a standard definition of a sport. However, a commonly used definition appears in the Council of Europe European Sports Charter 1993:

> "Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels."

The Home Country Sports Councils, for example, take account of the above definition, alongside other considerations, when making determinations about the recognition of an activity as a sport.

The Government are confident that each event planned for the 2012 Games will meet this definition.

The Council of Europe definition does not limit the scope for Ministers to determine, in the context of sports policy development, which sports or activities DCMS should or should not fund.

A list of sports and recreational activities for the local and national government measurement framework from April 2008 will be largely based on the broad definition of sport currently used for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment framework. The definition of sport will be based principally on the notion of moderate intensity, where some degree of physical demand is placed on the participant.

Sport England's forthcoming strategy on delivering a world leading community sport infrastructure will detail those sports which will fall under its remit to fund.

### Sports: Sponsorship

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to regulate sponsorship of UK sport. [186957]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have no plans to regulate the sponsorship of sport in the UK. However the Government have taken a number of steps to encourage sponsorship of sport that is socially responsible, particularly when aimed at children and young people. For example, the Government have supported moves by the Portman Group to place a voluntary ban on alcohol advertising on children's replica football shirts.

Furthermore, we have supported similar voluntary arrangements between the gambling industry and sport to remove gambling sponsorship from children's replica kit.

Finally as my hon. Friend will be aware, the EU ban on tobacco advertising for Formula One motor racing remains in place.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public information booklets were published by her Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185796]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This information is not held in the form requested and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of departmental publications are published online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/communities-lgps/publications-database/

### Disabled: Access

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with local authorities on access arrangements for those with temporary disabilities. [182556]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport has regular discussions with local authorities on a range of issues around access to transport for disabled people, including on taxis and access to train stations. These issues will often be equally relevant to people with temporary disabilities. We are also currently consulting on proposals to extend the Blue Badge scheme to people with temporary disabilities that severely impact on their mobility (for example, people with very severe Autism and Alzheimer's and people who are expected to recover following treatment for a stroke or multiple fracture).

### Domestic Visits: Regional Ministers

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many official visits regional Ministers have made to the region for which they are responsible, broken down by county. [184395]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: Regional Ministers have made a number of official visits to the counties in their regions since their appointment in July 2007. The following tables summarise those meetings made in their capacity as Regional Minister.

*The Minister for the South West*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Cornwall | 1 |
| Devon | 5 |
| Dorset | 2 |
| Gloucestershire | 2 |
| Somerset | 2 |
| West of England | 2 |
| Wiltshire | 2 |
| Total | 16 |

*The Minister for the North East*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Northumberland | 5 |
| Durham | 3 |
| Cleveland | 7 |
| Tyne and Wear | 14 |
| Total | 29 |

*The previous Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber*

| *Break down by sub region* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| North Yorkshire | 3 |
| South Yorkshire | 8 |
| West Yorkshire | 12 |
| Total | 23 |

*The Regional Minister for the North West*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Cheshire | 1 |
| Cumbria | 2 |
| Lancashire | 2 |
| Greater Manchester | 2 |
| Merseyside | 4 |
| Total | 11 |

*The Minister for the East of England*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 6 |
| Suffolk | 6 |
| Norfolk | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 |
| Total | 18 |

*The Minister for the South East*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Kent | 4 |
| Sussex | 2 |
| Surrey | 3 |
| Berkshire | 2 |
| Hampshire | 5 |
| Buckinghamshire | 2 |
| Total | 18 |

*The Minister for the East Midlands*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 2 |
| Leicestershire | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 10 |
| Lincolnshire | 4 |

*The Minister for the East Midlands*

| *Break down by county* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Northamptonshire | 1 |
| Total | 20 |

The table combines visits for my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln, the previous Minister for the East Midlands, and those of my hon. Friend the Member for Corby who was appointed on the 24 January 2008.

The Minister for London has made eight visits within Greater London not including visits made by the Minister relating to her Olympic responsibilities.

*The Minister for the West Midlands*

| *Unitary authorities* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| Birmingham | 1 |
| Stoke on Trent | 1 |
| Wolverhampton | 1 |
| Sandwell | 1 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1 |
| Dudley | 1 |
| Coventry | 1 |
| *Counties:* | |
| Shropshire | 1 |
| Staffordshire | 1 |
| Warwickshire | 1 |
| Herefordshire (also unitary) | 1 |
| Worcester | 1 |
| Total | 12 |

## Energy: Conservation

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the performance in reaching residential energy efficiency targets of *(a)* local authorities in England, *(b)* local authorities in each region and *(c)* each London local authority in respect of (i) private, (ii) registered social landlord and (iii) local authority housing; and if she will make a statement. [185755]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The 1995 Home Energy Conservation Act requires local authorities with housing responsibility to prepare a strategy for improving energy efficiency within residential accommodation in their areas and report annually on progress. Since 1996, authorities have reported an average total improvement of approximately 19 per cent. to 31 March 2006. A breakdown of reported progress by English region can be found on the DEFRA website.

Results for the period up to 31 March 2007 will be published shortly.

A number of programmes are likely to have contributed to this improvement in energy efficiency, particularly the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Warm Front and Decent Homes.

It is important to note that the figures have not been independently verified and that, because Home Energy Conservation Act strategies and monitoring techniques differ, the information should not be used to compare the performance of authorities.

## Enfield Borough Council: Finance

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money was held in reserve by Enfield council in each of the last 10 years. [186500]

**John Healey:** The amount of revenue reserves held by the London borough of Enfield in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. Information for England has been published in Statistical Releases and editions of 'Local Government Financial Statistics'.

£000

*Level of revenue reserves*

| Date | Schools | Other earmarked | Unallocated |
|---|---|---|---|
| *At 1 April* | | | |
| 1997 | 4,954 | 15,040 | 28,253 |
| 1998 | 4,512 | 23,144 | 20,039 |
| 1999 | 5,026 | 25,747 | 9,202 |
| 2000 | 6,367 | 19,615 | 0 |
| 2001 | 8,047 | 14,740 | 5,754 |
| 2002 | 8,085 | 15,583 | 9,486 |
| 2003 | 8,035 | 16,980 | 12,352 |
| 2004 | 10,163 | 18,857 | 12,418 |
| 2005 | 13,322 | 34,693 | 11,500 |
| 2006 | 13,835 | 45,546 | 10,507 |
| *At 31 March* | | | |
| 2007 | 11,376 | 44,926 | 10,111 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are as supplied by the local authority to Communities and Local Government.
2. Use of the schools reserves is not controlled by the council, but by the individual schools to which the reserves belong.
3. Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

*Source:*
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

## Fire Services: Buildings

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the lease for each of the proposed regional control centres in respect of the FiReControl Project commences; how long each lasts; and if she will make a statement. [186134]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Regional Control Centre (RCC) building leases commence five working days after practical completion of the buildings. Four buildings have achieved practical completion, as detailed in Table 1.

*Table 1: RCC buildings that have achieved practical completion*

| Region | Practical Completion Date | Building Lease Began | Lease Term (years) |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 29 June 2007 | 6 July 2007 | 25 |
| North East | 29 June2007 | 6 July 2007 | 20 |
| South West | 15 August 2007 | 22 August 2007 | 20 |
| West Midlands | 20 December 2007 | 27 December 2007 | 25 |

The remaining five RCC buildings are contracted to achieve practical completion as detailed in Table 2.

*Table 2: Planned dates for remaining RCC buildings*

| Region | Practical Completion Date | Building Lease Begins | Lease Term (years) |
|---|---|---|---|
| South East | 14 May 2008 | 21 May 2008 | 25 |
| North West | 1 July 2008 | 8 July 2008 | 25 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 1 July 2008 | 8 July 2008 | 20 |
| East of England | 1 October 2008 | 8 October 2008 | 25 |
| London | 26 February 2010 | 5 March 2010 | 25 |

## Fire Services: Contracts

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Firebuy will sign a managed service contract with the preferred bidder for the integrated cloth project (ICP). [186822]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Firebuy Ltd. expects to sign the fully managed service and purchase with managed services contracts for the integrated clothing project with the preferred-bidder in February 2008.

## Floods: Finance

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided to *(a)* Gloucestershire County Council, *(b)* Tewkesbury Borough Council and *(c)* Cheltenham Borough Council for (i) flood recovery and (ii) improved flood resilience in the last 12 months; what restrictions she has placed on the ways in which such funds can be spent; what plans she has for further similar expenditure over the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [183648]

**John Healey:** To date the Government have made available up to £73 million to support communities in England affected by the floods last summer.

Gloucestershire county council has been allocated £12,107,900 of this funding:

£1,100,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government through the Bellwin scheme, a scheme providing financial assistance for local authorities dealing with emergencies, with more to come.

In addition:

£1,007,900 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for schools and children's services affected by the floods; and

£10,000,000 allocated by the Department for Transport for repairs to local highways, with further funding expected.

Tewkesbury borough council has received £673,500 in Flood Recovery Grant from Communities and Local Government and Cheltenham borough council £646,500 respectively. Both councils have submitted Bellwin claims and we are currently looking at the detail with a view to making payments within the next few weeks.

Local authorities have flexibility to decide how to best use Flood Recovery Grant based on their own local circumstances. In practice this has included:

Support payments to flood affected households;

Purchase and provision of new household items to flood affected households;

Provision of temporary caravans to allow people to remain within their communities while houses are repaired;

Resilience and rescheduling of home improvement programmes to support families in flood damaged homes;

Other priorities set through consultation with flood-affected householders and communities.

There are no current plans to make any more payments under the Flood Recovery Scheme to the authorities affected by the June and July 2007 floods.

DEFRA is progressing with its £500,000 pilot grant scheme to encourage flood resilience and will be reporting to Ministers by the summer. The pilots, together with a parallel research project, are providing useful information that will help Ministers take a long term decision on whether such measures should feature in the long-term approach to flood risk reduction.

**Homelessness**

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to bring forward a new statutory definition of homelessness as proposed in the Housing Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [183178]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are no current proposals to bring forward a new statutory definition of homelessness. The Housing Act 2004 does, however, include a power for the Secretary of State to change the existing statutory definition of overcrowding. We have pledged to update the statutory overcrowding standards to the Bedroom Standard.

**Housing Market: Public Participation**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many perception surveys have been undertaken in market renewal areas in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [184624]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is impractical to determine the number of perception surveys undertaken in market renewal areas in the last 12 months as some pathfinders measure perceptions as part of their everyday work, e.g. at consultation events, at the citizens advice bureau, in questionnaires and as part of master planning activity. The practice also varies according to the needs of the individual area.

**Housing: Carbon Emissions**

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates her Department has made of the number of houses which have been built to the carbon emission standards set out at *(a)* Level 3, *(b)* Level 4 and *(c)* Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes; and if she will make a statement. [184240]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Building Research Establishment has informed the Department that there are currently 395 registered developments that are building to the code, covering around 30,000 homes. Four of these are now formally going through the design stage assessment. Of those four going through the design stage, two are aiming for Code level 3 and two are aiming for Code level 4. BRE has also received the first post-construction assessment, for a development which was designed to Code level 4.

Other homes may have been built to the carbon emission standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes but may not have been built to meet the other sustainability requirements of the code and may not therefore have been assessed against the code.

**Housing: Construction**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the amount of gravel required to build three million new homes by 2020; [185224]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average amount of aggregate required for the construction of a house with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four bedrooms. [185225]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The current national demand forecasts for aggregates were published in 2003 as 'National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, 2001-16'. The forecasts are derived from a number of variables, including commercially available forecasts of construction activity. These include an element for house-building, which is currently around 180,000 units a year. The increase in net additions may not equate to a proportionate addition in requirements for primary aggregates. This is because:

net additions covering some conversions and changes of use categories which may require less aggregate;

the possibility that alternative aggregate could be used for some new houses;

the possibility that the increase in new house building would substitute construction activity away from other projects which use aggregates.

The Department is committed to monitoring annually the aggregates guidelines. The guidelines will be revised downwards or upwards in the light of any changes in forecasts of construction activity.

Although the Department has not estimated the average amount of aggregate required for the construction of a new house, the European Commission has estimated that to build a new home requires around 400 tonnes of aggregates (Commission Staff Working Document, 'Analysis of the competitiveness of the non-energy extractive industry in the EU'. June 2006).

**Housing: Finance**

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding is held by her Department under the Decent Homes Programme in relation to London, broken down by London borough; when that money is due to be released to each borough; and if she will make a statement. [179280]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Local authorities retaining both the ownership and the management of their housing stock have to deliver their decent homes programme using the resources available through the housing revenue account and supported capital expenditure.

Additional investment needed to make all social housing decent is provided by

Setting up a high-performance arm's length management organisation (ALMO) which can then access additional supported capital expenditure;

Entering into a private finance initiative (PFI) contract; or

Transferring stock to registered social landlords.

*Local authority landlords*

Supported capital expenditure is allocated to local authorities via the regional assemblies and paid via the housing revenue account (HRA). The London Mayor determines the allocations of supported capital expenditure for the London boroughs. The following table shows the allocation of supported capital expenditure to London boroughs for 2008-09. The revenue support for the interest payments on this borrowing has been built into the subsidy determination for 2008-09.

| *Name of local authority* | *2008-09 (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 2,208 |
| Islington | 9,112 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,100 |
| City of London | 40 |
| Croydon | 3,256 |
| Ealing | 5,900 |
| Enfield | 4,797 |
| Greenwich | 6,742 |
| Hackney | 17,700 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,072 |
| Haringey | 6,233 |
| Harrow | 2,725 |
| Havering | 2,114 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1,439 |
| Lambeth | 8,757 |
| Lewisham | 2,697 |
| Merton | 2,090 |
| Newham | 16,410 |
| Sutton | 1,244 |
| Southwark | 12,526 |
| Tower Hamlets | 15,500 |
| Waltham Forest | 6,680 |
| Camden | 10,643 |
| Total | 149,985 |

*ALMOs*

The Minister for Housing determines the allocations of the supported capital expenditure to ALMOs which is paid as revenue support for the interest payments on this borrowing and this has been built into the HRA subsidy determination for 2008-09. The London boroughs which are receiving supported capital expenditure for ALMO programmes to deliver decent homes are listed in the following table:

*London ALMOs: Allocations 2007-08 to 2010-11*

| *Authority* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnet | 18,931,000 | 15,198,000 | 10,608,000 | [1] |
| Ealing | 41,000,000 | 28,000,000 | 37,000,000 | 17,773,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 47,122,000 | 50,892,000 | 43,906,000 | [1] |
| Haringey | 6,990,000 | 23,000,000 | 30,000,000 | [1] |
| Hillingdon | 11,300,000 | — | — | — |
| Newham | 46,113,000 | 65,113,000 | 49,113,000 | 53,113,000 |
| Islington | 33,761,000 | 36,300,000 | 38,360,000 | [1] |
| Waltham Forest | 22,000,000 | 22,349,750 | 16,349,750 | 16,349,750 |

[1] To be confirmed

The London boroughs of Enfield, Hackney, Havering, Lambeth, Lewisham, Sutton and Tower Hamlets have yet to agree their funding with the Department but we expect to do so by 31 March 2008.

*Housing PFI Programme—decent homes schemes*

The London boroughs which are receiving funding for PFI schemes to deliver decent homes are listed in the following table:

| *London borough* | *PFI scheme* | *PFI credits (£ million)* | *Signature date (operational date)* | *Full year subsidy (£)* | *Contract length (years)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camden | Chalcots Estate | 65.00 | May 2006 | 6,824,382 | 15 |
| Islington | Islington 1 | 74.69 | March 2003 | 6,140,376 | 30 |
| Islington | Islington 2 | 165.00 | September 2006 | 16,327,104 | 16 |
| Lewisham | Brockley | 115.91 | June 2007 | 10,353,146 | 20 |
| Newham | Canning Town | 31.89 | June 2005 | 2,391,331 | 30 |

Schemes on the Housing PFI Programme are allocated PFI credits which act as a promise of government funding and indicate the level of capital investment which will attract government support. Support for Decent Homes Housing PFI schemes is paid to local authorities via the housing revenue account subsidy system on a fixed annual basis over the life of the PFI contract. Subsidy is payable when schemes are operational. It is calculated on the overall capital cost of a scheme and does not reflect capital expenditure in individual years.

In addition, the Department has made a commitment to release subsidy for two further Decent Homes Housing PFI schemes in London, which are currently in procurement, provided they meet all relevant terms and conditions. These schemes are:

London borough of Lambeth—Myatts Field North—contract signature expected April 2009; and

London borough of Newham—Forest Gate—contract signature expected March 2008.

The levels of PFI credits and subsidy are not confirmed until schemes reach contract signature.

*Transfer to registered social landlords (RSLs)*

Gap funding arrangements with RSLs enable local authorities to transfer their housing stock when the level of private finance required to deliver investment for decent homes improvements cannot be supported by the rental income from the homes. The numbers of arrangements in place in London are:

| *London borough* | *Number of transfer schemes* | *Total gap funding value (£ million)* | *Grant expected to be paid in 2007-08 (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Islington | 1 | 32.340 | 10 |
| Tower Hamlets | 9 | 39.864 | 11 |
| Lewisham | 1 | 42.2 | 0 |

All gap funding payment arrangements are the subject of annual grant letters issued to each RSL.

### Housing: Local Government Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the amount taken from each local housing revenue account by the Government in each year since 2005-06, indicating in each case the *(a)* amount taken to pay off historic housing debt, *(b)* amount redistributed to other housing authorities and *(c)* gains or losses to each local authority from this redistribution process; and how much she expects to be taken for each in each year until 2009-10. [186842]

**Caroline Flint:** A table that shows each local housing authority's subsidy entitlement for 2005-06 and 2006-07 (the latest year we have figures for) has been deposited in the Library of the House. Negative figures indicate where the authority generated an assumed surplus which was captured and recycled within the system. In both years, all surpluses were redistributed through the subsidy system and the Exchequer contributed £232 million and £150 million in the respective years to make up the overall deficit.

The requirement for local housing authorities to set aside resources to pay off debt ended in 2004. An authority may still pay off debt if it so wishes, but that is a local treasury management decision. Local authorities are, however, required to make a contribution to the cost of servicing housing debt and this is included in the housing revenue account subsidy system as a "cost of capital".

We do not forecast the subsidy position for individual authorities.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south-west and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [186629]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1668W.

### Housing: Migration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of migration on housing demand in the UK in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [186928]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not have an estimate of the impact of migration upon housing levels in the UK in the last 10 years. The 2004-based household projections show that 33 per cent. of the projected household growth in England up to 2026 is attributable to net international migration. The household projections take account of past demographic trends including migration.

### Housing: Repossession Orders

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house repossessions took place in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* each Greater London borough in each year since 2000. [186608]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on mortgage possessions is only available for the United Kingdom as a whole and is collected by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. These data are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753.

### Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1143-45W, on housing: standards, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the reduction in completions of local authority dwellings between 1990-91 and 2006-07. [182810]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is a matter for local authorities to decide, in the light of the priorities identified in their housing strategy, whether some of their capital resources should be used to provide new social housing. A key issue in deciding how this should be provided and what schemes to fund will be consideration of value for money (VFM). There is no bar on the provision of new housing by local councils and there is no requirement for approval to be sought. The local councils would have to demonstrate to tenants and their auditors that the provision of new housing provides good VFM compared to that provided by registered social landlords (RSLs).

RSLs have been the main providers of social housing since the 1990s. They are non-profit making organisations who can provide a greater number of homes for a given amount of public expenditure because of their ability to access private finance and to widen choice and competition among social landlords.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* local authority properties have been found to have a category 1 hazard under the housing health and safety ratings system since its inception; [185969]

(2) how many *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* local authority properties have been assessed as having category 1 hazards under the housing health and safety ratings system in each London local authority area. [185970]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing Health and Safety Rating System was implemented from April 2006. Headline findings for England from the 2006 English House Condition Survey were published on 30 January 2008 with the following estimates of the number of properties with a category 1 hazard present:

*(a)* private : 4,249,000;

*(b)* registered social landlord: 206,000;

*(c)* local authority: 297,000.

The presence of a category 1 hazard does not necessarily mean that the current occupiers are at serious risk. The risk assessment determining whether a category 1 hazard is present is based on the potential occupant who is most vulnerable to the hazard: for example, and depending on the hazard that is present, whether an elderly person or a young child would be at serious risk if they lived in the property.

The survey will provide annual updates to these estimates.

Communities and Local Government have asked local authorities in England to submit information on dwellings assessed with category 1 hazards under the housing health and safety ratings system for *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* local authority properties in their 2006-07 annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). This is the first year in which we have sought to collect data on the Housing Health and Ratings System (HHSRS). Data that have been returned are considered incomplete and not of reliable quality. We will be working with local authorities and other stakeholders during 2008 to review the data we are seeking on HHSRS.

### Housing: Sustainable Development

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Code for Sustainable Homes assessors in each region *(a)* have been fully accredited and *(b)* are in training; and if she will make a statement. [184241]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Code for Sustainable Homes was launched in April 2007 and is the national standard for the design and construction of Sustainable new homes. To date there are 500 fully qualified and licensed Code for Sustainable Homes assessors. This is already sufficient to meet the existing and anticipated demand for Code assessments over the coming months.

By May 2008 the Government anticipates that the two organisations currently offering Code accreditation services—the Building Research Establishment and Stroma—will have trained and licensed over 900 assessors. Other firms are currently considering providing Code accreditation services, and should they go ahead, this will further increase the capacity and competition within the market.

The number of Code for Sustainable Homes assessors by region, and the number of candidates currently booked onto training courses are as follows:

| *Region* | *Fully qualified and licensed assessors able to operate* | *Qualified assessors still to be licensed and not able to operate* | *Candidates in training up to May 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 43 | 10 | 20 |
| Midlands | 63 | 18 | 49 |
| North | 75 | 16 | 30 |
| South east | 257 | 96 | 162 |
| South west | 47 | 10 | 30 |
| Wales | 13 | 2 | 3 |
| TOTALS | 500 | 152 | 296 |

Not all assessors in training will necessarily pass the exams so the total number of assessors by May 2008 will be slightly lower than the totals above. The regional split above is the one used by BRE rather than by that generally used by Government.

### Land: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land was designated as *(a)* green belt and *(b)* brownfield in each London local authority in each year since 1997. [186138]

**Caroline Flint:** The following tables show *(a)* the amount of green belt and *(b)* the amount of brownfield land from NLUD-PDL for all available years since 1997.

*Note:*

Not all authorities responded to the NLUD-PDL survey in every year.

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority—London since 1997*

*Hectares*

| *London/local planning authority* | *Area* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *2003* | *2004* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 440 | 440 | 440 | 440 | 440 |
| Barnet | 2,380 | 2,380 | 2,380 | 2 466 | 2,470 |
| Bexley | 1,130 | 1,130 | 1,110 | 1,120 | 1,120 |
| Bromley | 7,710 | 7,710 | 7,710 | 7,710 | 7,730 |
| Croydon | 2,310 | 2,310 | 2,310 | 2,310 | 2,310 |
| Ealing | 320 | 320 | 320 | 330 | 330 |
| Enfield | 3,010 | 3,010 | 3,010 | 3,010 | 3,090 |
| Greenwich | — | — | — | — | — |

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority—London since 1997*

Hectares

| | Area | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London/local planning authority* | *1997* | *2003* | *2004* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Haringey | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Harrow | 1,090 | 1,090 | 1,090 | 1,090 | 1,090 |
| Havering | 6,020 | 6,020 | 6,020 | 6,020 | 6,020 |
| Hillingdon | 4,960 | 4,960 | 4,960 | 4,960 | 4,970 |
| Hounslow | 1,230 | 1,230 | 1,220 | 1,220 | 1,220 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 640 | 640 | 640 | 640 | 640 |
| Newham | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Redbridge | 2,040 | 2,040 | 2,070 | 2,070 | 2,070 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 130 |
| Sutton | 640 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 620 |
| Waltham Forest | 840 | 840 | 840 | 840 | 840 |

[1] Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as "—".

*Hectares of brownfield land*

| | *1998* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 33 | 254 | 252 | — | 241 | 90 | 326 |
| Barnet | 71 | 123 | 124 | 124 | 133 | 135 | 135 |
| Bexley | 31 | 16 | 34 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 35 |
| Brent | 48 | — | 70 | 56 | 99 | 77 | 104 |
| Bromley | 22 | — | 13 | — | 21 | — | 20 |
| Camden | 75 | 73 | 80 | — | 87 | 51 | 88 |
| City of London | 2 | 22 | — | 7 | 7 | — | 10 |
| City of Westminster | 42 | — | 37 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 60 |
| Croydon | — | 76 | 60 | 111 | 96 | 95 | 95 |
| Ealing | 49 | — | 78 | 185 | 184 | 174 | 170 |
| Enfield | 98 | — | — | 155 | 125 | 95 | 80 |
| Greenwich | 235 | 217 | 243 | 161 | 156 | 153 | 149 |
| Hackney | 25 | 14 | 24 | 16 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 36 | 44 | 50 | 49 | 28 | 53 | 49 |
| Haringey | 32 | 40 | 48 | — | 83 | — | 217 |
| Harrow | 39 | 79 | 66 | 62 | 39 | 46 | 34 |
| Havering | 88 | 88 | 159 | 124 | 113 | 113 | 87 |
| Hillingdon | 25 | 182 | 152 | 160 | 89 | 94 | 54 |
| Hounslow | 57 | 184 | — | 195 | 140 | 145 | 107 |
| Islington | 26 | 50 | — | 82 | 65 | 60 | 59 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8 | — | 11 | — | 10 | 17 | 7 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 28 | 19 | — | 32 | 52 | 58 | 19 |
| Lambeth | 16 | — | — | 9 | 10 | — | 38 |
| Lewisham | 12 | 59 | 57 | 51 | 48 | 49 | 46 |
| Merton | 16 | — | 77 | 66 | 71 | 71 | — |
| Newham | 478 | 479 | 264 | — | 384 | 376 | 478 |
| Redbridge | — | 198 | 207 | 176 | 78 | 50 | 101 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 38 | — | 49 | — | 58 | — | 26 |
| Southwark | — | 33 | 25 | — | 99 | 99 | 110 |
| Sutton | 90 | — | 33 | 31 | 13 | 18 | 21 |
| Tower Hamlets | — | 64 | 64 | — | 51 | 42 | 41 |
| Waltham Forest | 30 | 39 | 30 | 35 | 28 | 28 | 30 |
| Wandsworth | 17 | 58 | 42 | 48 | 33 | 40 | 59 |

## Landfill

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory obligations require local authorities to identify new sites for landfill. [185228]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is a particular obligation arising from the waste management plan(s) required by the Waste Framework Directive[1] relating to waste disposal sites and installations (which can include landfill sites). Case-law from the European Court of Justice[2] has established that the management plan(s)

"must include either a geographical map specifying the exact location of waste disposal sites or location criteria which are sufficiently precise to enable the competent authority responsible for issuing a permit"[3]

to

"determine whether the site or installation in question falls within the management framework provided by the plan".

In England, the tiered system of waste planning satisfies this requirement. The tiered system includes at the national level Waste Strategy 2007 (and its Annexes) and Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (PPS10); at the regional level, regional spatial strategies; and, at the

local level, development plan documents and any local policies which have been 'saved' during the transitional period between the old system of unitary development plans, structure plans and local plans and the new system of local development documents. PPS10 provides that local planning authorities should, among other things, identify in development plan documents sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities for the waste management needs of their areas.

Local planning authorities in England had an obligation under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 to produce detailed policies in respect of suitable disposal sites or installations for waste management purposes when producing unitary development plans, structure plans and local plans (which continues to apply in relation to saved policies). The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, which will come into force on 6 April 2008, will replace the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994. Under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, local authorities will be required to implement national waste policies and strategies such as Waste Strategy 2007 and PPS10 when preparing and maintaining local development documents.

[1] Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

[2] In particular the judgment on joined cases C-53/02 and C-217/02

[3] Under article 9 of the directive

**Local Government Finance**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1332W, on local government finance, what the average assumed collection rate of *(a)* the business rate and *(b)* council tax of each type of billing authority is for the purposes of allocating formula grant. [178618]

**John Healey:** No collection rates, whether of business rates or council tax, are assumed for the purposes of allocating formula grant.

**Minerals**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what minerals and waste development proposals her Department is considering from each local authority. [185354]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Secretary of State is not currently considering any minerals or waste development planning applications made by local authorities.

The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, is currently considering 22 planning appeals that involve minerals and waste development. None of these involve the local planning authority as the appellant. The following table summarises the details of these.

| *Date appeal received* | *Appellant* | *Development type* |
|---|---|---|
| 10 April 2006 | Castle Hill Quarry Company Ltd. | Miscellaneous Mineral Development |
| 8 February 2007 | G. Bolam Foods Limited | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 17 May 2007 | Chas. Storer Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 8 June 2007 | M. Leivers (Waste Recycling Group Ltd.) | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 13 June 2007 | Alan Williams | Miscellaneous Mineral Development |
| 20 June 2007 | P Casey Enviro Ltd | Miscellaneous Mineral Development |
| 16 July 2007 | Mr and Mrs. M.P. and J.L Hanna | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 31 July 2007 | Vinery Management | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 9 August 2007 | McGovern Haulage Limited | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 10 August 2007 | Biffa Waste Services Ltd. | Landfill |
| 13 August 2007 | Lee Carter | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 16 August 2007 | Solent Skip Hire Limited | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 3 October 2007 | Grundon Waste Management Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 27 October 2007 | Durston Garden Products Ltd and Eclipse Property Investments Ltd. | Surface Mineral Extraction |
| 30 October 2007 | WM Briers and Son (Tamworth) Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 4 December 2007 | Mr. Brian Brocksopp | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 6 December 2007 | Greenfileds (Organic) Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 18 December 2007 | Waste Recycling Group Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 18 December 2007 | Barker Bros aggregates Ltd. | Sand And Gravel Extraction |
| 23 January 2008 | Cappagh Public Works Ltd. | Domestic Refuse Disposal, Waste Disposal |
| 11 January 2008 | Philip Cunningham | Clays (Brick, Brick Earth, China, Ball) |
| 15 January 2008 | Aggregate Industries and Jayflex Aggregates Ltd. | Mineral Handling And Processing Installation |

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what criteria her Department applies to assess submitted minerals and waste development documents; [185222]

(2) what obligations local authorities are under to identify alternative extraction sites in the minerals and waste development documents submitted to her Department. [185232]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Policies in minerals development plan documents are assessed thoroughly for their soundness during their independent examination. The criteria for this assessment is set out in paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement 12 Local Development Frameworks. It covers matters of procedure, conformity, coherence, consistency and effectiveness.

There is no obligation on mineral planning authorities to identify alternative extraction sites in their development plan documents, although some do. Minerals Policy Statement 1 Planning and Minerals only requires them to identify sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search, in order to maintain an adequate and steady supply of minerals for the economy and society.

### Personal Records: Children

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that records with photographs are kept by every local authority social service department of the children that come into their care from ports of entry. [176123]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

In order to respond to this question, my Department will need to gather information from other Government Departments and from representatives of the local authority sector about current operational arrangements when unaccompanied asylum seeking children present at ports of entry. When I have had the opportunity to consider this information then I shall write to the hon. Member and place a copy of that reply in the Library.

### Planning: Railways

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage planning authorities to identify for protection land that may be needed for future rail use; and if she will make a statement. [186493]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG 13) advises planning authorities on the safeguarding of transport routes, in order to widen transport choices for both passenger and freight movements. It also advises that local authorities should consider the potential of disused railway lines and routes for possible future transport use and for walking or cycling routes. Where land is not required and proposals for transport routes are unlikely to be implemented, Planning Policy Statement 12: 'Local Development Frameworks' asks planning authorities to avoid blight by making this clear and to ensure that their policies and proposals are reviewed as part of the next review of their development plan.

### Planning: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Greenway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* adapt planning policy to promote the use of wood reserves as a renewable energy source and *(b)* ask the Biomass Task Force to examine the contribution of (i) wood and (ii) wood processing to the Government's renewable energy targets. [185496]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1332W, about planning policy for renewable energy. In line with a recommendation in the final report of the Biomass Task Force (2005), the Forestry Commission through their Woodfuel Strategy for England (2007) examined the steps which would need to be taken in order to increase the contribution wood and wood processing make to the Government's renewable energy targets. The strategy sets a target to release an additional two million tonnes of woody biomass into the supply chain, annually, by 2020. In achieving the target, the focus will be on the 60 per cent. of English woodlands that are currently under-managed as bringing these woodlands back into management will deliver a number of additional benefits including boosting currently threatened woodland flora and fauna. Wood processing products will also form part of the mix, as will waste wood and arboricultural arisings.

### Quarrying

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the impact of quarries on *(a)* residential areas and *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty. [185214]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No collective assessment has been made of the impact of quarries on residential areas or areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Secretary of State only makes assessments in deciding individual planning applications which come before her. In all other cases, planning applications for quarries are decided by the appropriate mineral planning authority, who will take into account all impacts, including those on residential areas and areas of outstanding natural beauty. All likely impacts are set out in environmental impacts assessments which accompany minerals applications.

### Regional Planning and Development: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of local planning authorities have had the core strategies of their Local Development Framework approved by the Government; and what her Department's targets were for those strategies. [176596]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As of 4 February 2008, 22 core strategies have been found sound at independent examination. This represents 6 per cent. of all local authorities in England.

The cross governmental PSA no 20 on Housing Supply has as its sixth indicator

> "Local Planning authorities to have adopted the necessary Development Plan Documents, in accordance with their Local Development Schemes, to bring forward developable land for housing in line with PPS3".

The "national target" under this heading is

> "By March 2011, 80 per cent of local planning authorities to have adopted the necessary Development Plan Documents, in accordance with their agreed Local Development Scheme".

This is the Government's target.

### Roads: Lighting

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the provision of connections to street-lighting in inner London by EDF; what estimate she has made of the time taken by EDF to reconnect street lights in inner London in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will hold discussions with *(a)* EDF and *(b)* other companies providing connections to street lighting on steps to be taken to expedite connection times. [185603]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

In October 2007, Ofgem introduced a set of key performance indicators with regard to connections and faults repairs for street lighting services. DNOs are required to report on their performance in respect of each local authority against a number of criteria and meet those criteria in 90 per cent. of instances overall. Performance against criteria will be published by Ofgem annually.

Ofgem has received one quarterly return under the new requirements (for the three months ending 31 December 2007). The figures for EDF Energy (London Power Networks) show:

| *Standard 2 – New/transferred connections* | | | *EDFELPN* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *New works 1-10 Jobs* | *Rqmt* | | *Performance* | | |
| < 15 working days | 60.0% | 35 | NO | [1]140 | 25.0% |
| < 30 working days | 90.0% | 44 | NO | [1]— | 56.4% |
| > 30 working days | — | 61 | NO | [1]— | 43.6% |
| *New Works 11 -50 Jobs* | | | | | |
| < 25 working days | 70.0% | 192 | NO | [2]710 | 27.0% |
| < 35 working days | 90.0% | 64 | NO | [2]— | 36.1% |
| > 35 working days | — | 454 | NO | [2]— | 63.9% |

Ofgem will discuss both aggregate figures shown above for the first quarter and performance within each local Public Lighting Authority (PLA) area with EDFE. Ofgem also considers feedback received from PLAs at various forums and will take up specific issues with DNO management when necessary.

### Sustainable Buildings Task Group

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations made by the sustainable buildings task group have been implemented; and which are still under consideration. [186452]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A table which sets out the recommendations made by the group and summarises progress with each has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Thames Gateway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of all correspondence relating to the purchase by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation of *(a)* the Grays Territorial Army headquarters and *(b)* industrial land at Purfleet in the financial year 2007-08. [186442]

**Caroline Flint:** I will arrange for relevant correspondence relating to these land purchases by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to be placed in the Library of the House, subject to the exclusion of any information that may compromise commercial negotiations or contravene the Data Protection Act.

### Thames Gateway: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures she is taking to facilitate the involvement of private investment funding in the Thames Gateway project; and if she will make a statement. [185482]

**Caroline Flint:** Significant private sector investment is already going into the Thames Gateway such as DP World's £1.5 billion investment into the new London Gateway Port in Essex, the new high speed rail link, and development on key sites for example at Barking Riverside. In the future Crossrail will also see significant investment coming into the area.

In November 2007 the Prime Minister launched the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan setting out the Government proposals for investing in the area to help deliver the key infrastructure to create the conditions that will enable investor confidence. The plan sets out how some £9.6 billion of Government funding will be invested to support housing and economic growth along with the necessary transport improvements, schools, health care facilities and other community facilities. The Government will continue to work with private sector partners at all levels to ensure the programme benefits from their expertise and experience.

Together with this Department, the three regional development agencies are establishing a new £200 million strategic economic investment fund to support their economic development and investment plan which will identify major projects that will result in an economic step-change.

In addition, a new Pan-Gateway approach to attracting inward investment into the region is being adopted together with close co-operation with the region's three regional development agencies and their

partners to maximise the value proposition of the Gateway to potential investors.

Some £43 billion is expected to be invested by the private sector over the next 20 years on the back of the proposed investment by Government in the Thames Gateway as set out in the delivery plan.

### Wind Power: Marketing

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance, advice or instructions have been issued to planning inspectors with regard to the involvement of public money in the promotion, development or financing of on-shore wind farms and its relevance to a planning appeal. [186339]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Inspectors reach their decisions having regard to the development plan, published policy and guidance (notably the planning policy statements on renewables and climate change) and any other material considerations. There is no issued guidance, advice or instructions to planning inspectors on

"the involvement of public money in the promotion, development or economics of on-shore wind farms".

Inspectors receive training on matters relating to their decisions which will include background information relating to issues such as the renewables obligation.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Arms Trade: Export Controls

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the Government will extend export laws to control extra-territorial brokering and trafficking of small arms by United Kingdom citizens operating outside the United Kingdom, as announced by his Department on 6 February. [186818]

**Malcolm Wicks:** On 6 February 2008 the Government published their initial response to a public consultation carried out as part of the 2007 review of export control legislation. The Government's commitment to extend the extra-territorial trade controls to cover the activities of UK persons anywhere in the world in relation to small arms forms part of that response, which can be viewed in full on BERR's website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/legislation/export-control-act-2002/review/index.html

The Government have prioritised the implementation of this commitment and intend to act speedily. During the coming weeks, the Government will work closely with stakeholder groups on the detail of how these new controls will operate in practice and will produce guidance to assist industry to operate them, prior to the introduction of secondary legislation.

### British Energy: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments were made to British Energy for contractual historic spent fuel liabilities in each year for which figures are available. [185240]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The payments made to British Energy for historic spent fuel liabilities were as follows in each of the following financial years:

| *Financial year* | *Payments made to British Energy (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 184,812,000 |
| 2005-06 | 189,002,000 |
| 2006-07 | 196,389,000 |

These figures appear in the Department of Trade and Industry's Annual Report and Accounts, available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's website at

www.berr.gsi.gov.uk.

### Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his assessment is of the contribution to the UK economy of Daresbury Science and Innovation campus; and if he will make a statement. [184819]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus has made a significant contribution to the UK, both economically and scientifically. The Government remain committed to developing the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus, as announced in the March 2006 Budget, so it can continue to do so.

The development of the campus has been through a partnership between the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), the North West Development Agency (NWDA), the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster and Halton borough council. This has led to more than 60 high-technology companies locating at Daresbury over the past two years.

The STFC has confirmed that it will continue to invest at Daresbury to provide global leadership in key science and technology areas, building on the world class skills currently on the campus.

The Government have asked Sir Tom McKillop to chair an independent review of how best to implement the Government's and STFC's shared vision for Daresbury.

### Electricity Generation

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many facilities with the capacity to generate more than 500 megawatts were *(a)* given planning consent and *(b)* closed in each year since 1997; and what the type and capacity of each of those facilities was. [186360]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The following new over 500 MW power stations in England and Wales have been consented by this Department since 1997:

BP Saltend 1200 MW CCGT (gas) consented 7 August 1997

Conoco (Immingham) extension to 700 MW Gas CHP consented 22 March 2001

Conoco (Immingham) further extension to 1230 MW Gas CHP consented 1 August 2006

Spalding 800 MW CCGT (gas) consented 15 November 2000

Fleetwood 1000 MW CCGT (gas) consented 15 November 2000

Isle of Grain (Enron) 1200 MW CCGT (gas) consented 15 November 2000

Raventhorpe 750 MW CCGT (gas) consented 15 November 2000

Langage 1010 MW CCGT (gas) consented 15 November 2000

Marchwood Power 800 MW CCGT (gas) consented 28 November 2002

New Isle of Grain 1260 MW CCGT (gas) 31 October 2006

New Severn, Uskmouth 800 MW CCGT (gas) 17 August 2007

New Burton 1270 MW CCGT (gas) consented 30 October 2007

London Array 1000 MW offshore windfarm consented 18 December 2006

Walney 600 MW offshore windfarm consented 7 November 2007

During the same period the following over 500 MW power stations closed:

Blyth B 626 MW coal closed September 2001

Drakelow C 976 MW coal closed March 2003

High Marnham 945 MW coal closed March 2003

Over 500 MW power stations in Scotland are the responsibility of Scottish Ministers and are not included in the data here.

### Electricity: Conservation

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take before 2012 to reduce the waste of electrical power. [180183]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In the Energy White Paper, the Government set out a series of measures, which can significantly reduce energy use in homes and business by 2020 (7.0-11.7 MtC by 2020).

Measures being introduced in the domestic sector include a continued obligation on energy suppliers to reduce home energy use, new building regulations, the energy performance certificates to make energy use more important when buying and selling homes and working with the EU to improve product standards, for example by phasing out inefficient light bulbs by 2011.

In the business sector, the new carbon reduction commitment will mean that for major business and the public sector energy use receives greater attention to encourage companies to take more action on energy efficiency.

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme will continue to provide an incentive for the largest energy users to use energy efficiently.

In addition, the energy industry regulator, Ofgem, has an objective to promote efficiency in electrical distribution and transmission. They do this by providing incentives to system operators in the relevant price controls.

### Employment: Tribunals

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the Gibbons Review recommendation to review the circumstances in which it is appropriate for employment tribunal chairs to sit alone, in order to ensure that lay members are used in a way that adds most value; and if he will make a statement. [185070]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The Government acknowledge the valuable and important contribution which lay members make to the tribunal system. This was reaffirmed through responses to the Government consultation 'Resolving disputes in the workplace' which was issued in March 2007 and closed on 20 June 2007. Most respondents commented that the tripartite structure of the tribunal was a real strength which aided decision-making in cases where considerations of context and reasonableness were important.

There was also support in the consultation for employment judges to sit alone in determining cases involving issues of a purely legal nature and in straightforward monetary cases, where the practical experience of the workplace that lay members bring to the tribunal's deliberations is of less relevance. Additionally, over 70 per cent. of respondents to the consultation supported the introduction of a new, swift approach to dealing with straightforward claims, where cases could be determined by an employment judge, with the consent of the parties, on the basis of the papers.

Responding to these findings in the consultation process, the Government propose to develop further the good practice which already exists within the tribunals by establishing a fast-track system for dealing with simple monetary claims. The fast-track system will involve five jurisdictions where claims potentially raise straightforward issues and therefore potentially could be determined without the need for a tribunal hearing. The jurisdictions considered suitable for the fast track are:

unlawful deductions from wages

breach of contract

redundancy pay

holiday pay

the national minimum wage

Claims falling within these jurisdictions that are combined with other jurisdictions outside the list, will not be eligible for a fast-track determination.

### Energy: Renewables Obligation

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for which *(a)* crops and *(b)* crop by-products renewable obligation

certificates were issued for burning in power stations for each year since 2001; whether each was domestically grown or imported; and what the authorised amounts were in each case. [185619]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My Department does not hold the information requested.

However the following table provides an estimate of the types of material co-fired from 2005 until the end of September 2007 under the renewables obligation:

*Tonnes*

| | *Total* | *2007* | *2006* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palm oil | 45,728 | 6,202 | 36,697 | 2,829 |
| Palm residues | 1,165,087 | 238,216 | 480,043 | 446,828 |
| Olive residues | 514,211 | 131,160 | 99,829 | 283,222 |
| Shea residues | 31,558 | 21,357 | 4,781 | 5,420 |
| Wood and wood residues | 633,595 | 140,868 | 206,804 | 285,923 |
| Crop residues and co- products | 382,821 | 105,880 | 152,457 | 124,484 |
| Short rotation Coppice and Miscanthus | 15,626 | 8,881 | 2,439 | 4,306 |
| Other | 419,094 | 98,343 | 59,735 | 261,016 |

## Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Ofgem *(a)* collected and *(b)* transferred to the Scottish Consolidated Fund in respect of the Scottish fossil fuel levy in each of the last three years. [185495]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The balances of the Scottish levy account for the last three financial years are as follows:

As at 31 March 2005: £9.3 million

2005-06 (as at 31 March 2006): £18.05 million

2006-07 (as at 31 March 2007): £59.27 million

2007-08 (as at 31 March 2008): £98.21 million

These figures include accumulated interest on the account.

No transfers have been made by Ofgem to the Scottish Consolidated Fund in respect of the Scottish fossil fuel levy as no direction enabling such a transfer has been made by Scottish Ministers under section 187 of the Energy Act 2004.

## Fuel Poverty

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the total number of people, *(b)* the number of children and *(c)* the number of pensioners living in fuel poverty in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) constituency. [185893]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fuel poverty numbers are calculated in terms of households rather than individuals. The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005. Detailed splits of fuel poverty for England in 2005, including by household composition and by region, are published in "Fuel poverty 2005: detailed tables"—available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf

No split exists of fuel poverty by household composition and region (or lower geographical area), and to produce one historically would not be possible without disproportionate cost. The following table shows the total number of households, pensioner households and households with children living in fuel poverty in England in each year since 1996 for which figures have been compiled. Note that detailed splits identifying households with children and pensioners have only been produced since 2003.

*Estimated number of fuel poor households in England*

*Thousand*

| | *1996* | *1998* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total households | 5,100 | 3,400 | 1,700 | 1,400 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,500 |
| Pensioners | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 601 | 584 | 761 |
| Children | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 151 | 145 | 199 |

[1] Not available.

*Note:*

Figures for 2006 will be published later this year.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* local authority housing were in fuel poverty in each of the last five years. [185899]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005. Splits of fuel poverty in England by type of tenure are published in "Fuel Poverty 2005: detailed tables"—available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf

The following table shows the splits for number of fuel poor households in private, registered social landlord and local authority housing since 2001 in England.

*Estimated number of fuel poor households*

*Thousand*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private (including owner occupied) | 1,386 | n/a | 981 | 1,020 | 1,315 |
| Local authority | 273 | n/a | 177 | 152 | 140 |
| Registered Social Landlord | 64 | n/a | 64 | 65 | 75 |
| Total | 1,723 | — | 1,222 | 1,236 | 1,529 |

n/a = Not available.

*Note:*

Sums may not match total due to rounding. No detailed splits of data were produced for 2002—due to the change in the English house conditions survey cycle, headline data only was modelled.

Figures for 2006 will be available later this year and those for 2007 will be published in 2009.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* pensioner households and *(b)* households with children were living in fuel poverty in each English region in each of the last five years. [185900]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005. Various splits of the headline fuel poverty numbers for England are published in "Fuel Poverty 2005: detailed tables"—available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf

including a split by household composition and another by region. No split exists of fuel poverty by household composition and region, and to produce one historically would not be possible without disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of pensioner households and households with children living in fuel poverty since 2003, the first year for which estimates for pensioners and children were made.

*Estimated number of fuel poor households*

*Thousand*

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pensioners | 634 | 604 | 794 |
| Children | 44 | 135 | 187 |
| Total | 778 | 739 | 981 |

Figures for 2006 will be available later this year.

**Fuel Poverty: Disabled**

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people under 60 years who are living in fuel poverty and receiving the middle or higher rate of the disability living allowance care component or the higher rate of the mobility component. [186427]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fuel poverty numbers are calculated in terms of households rather than individuals. The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005. In 2005, there were around 1.5 million fuel poor households in England, of which around 98,000 contained a disabled person under 60.

The data used to model fuel poverty come from the English House Conditions Survey (EHCS). Benefits recorded in this survey are grouped, and so it is not possible to accurately identify different levels or types of income support.

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people under 60 who are living in fuel poverty. [186428]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fuel poverty numbers are calculated in terms of households rather than individuals. The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005.

In 2005, there were around 1.5 million fuel poor households in England, of which around 98,000 contained a disabled person under 60.

**Natural Gas: Distribution**

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if Ofgem will provide incentives to gas distribution network companies to provide mains gas connections in deprived communities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. [186464]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The 2008-13 Gas Distribution Price Control includes arrangements to incentivise the gas distribution network companies to provide connections to deprived communities.

**Natural Gas: Imports**

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much gas was imported into the UK from each gas exporting country in each of the last five years. [186376]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* In the last five years gas has been imported into the UK via pipeline from Norway, Belgium and, since 2006, the Netherlands. It is not possible to identify the countries of origin of the gas physically received from the Netherlands and Belgium. However, it is believed that the majority of the gas received from the Netherlands is sourced from the Dutch sector of the North Sea and the majority of the gas from Belgium is sourced from Norway via Zeepipe which terminates at Zeebrugge. In addition, since 2005 relatively small amounts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) has also been imported by tanker—from Algeria, Egypt, Qatar and Trinidad and Tobago. In the 11 months to November 2007 LNG accounted for 5 per cent. of total gas imports. Data on the proximate sources of gas (i.e. separating out Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and LNG) are available on BERR's website in Energy Trends Table 4.3—

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/et4_3.xls

Data for the whole of 2007 are due to be published on 28 February 2008.

Data for the whole of 2007 are not yet available. The following table gives data for 2003 to 2006 along with data for the 11 months to November 2007.

| *(TWh)* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium[1] | 4.4 | 25.6 | 24.1 | 30.5 | 4.7 |
| Netherlands[2] | — | — | — | 9.1 | 64.3 |
| Norway[3] | 71.8 | 95.4 | 127.9 | 157.0 | 203.0 |
| LNGW[4] | — | — | 5.5 | 37.6 | 13.0 |
| Total | 76.2 | 121.0 | 157.5 | 234.2 | 285.0 |

[1] Physical (as opposed to contractual) flows through the Bacton-Zeebrugge Interconnector.
[2] Via the Balgzand-Bacton Line (BBL).
[3] Via the Langeled and Vesterled pipelines, and Tampen Link (from Statfjord to FLAGS).
[4] Liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Algeria, Egypt, Qatar and Trinidad and Tobago to the Isle of Grain and Gasport Teesside LNG terminals.

### News Corporation: ITV

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* communications and *(b)* meetings his Department has had with (i) BSkyB, (ii) News International and (iii) other news corporation controlled companies during the last four weeks (A) generally and (B) on BSkyB's shareholding in ITV. [179312]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1631W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

### Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on engaging professional cost advisers to review cost estimates provided to the NDA by its site licencees. [184895]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My Department has regular discussions with the Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on a range of issues, including the measurement of the size of the task facing the NDA. The estimation of the lifetime costs of the NDA's mission is a key task for the NDA, and it therefore has processes in place for testing and challenging the estimates, including using advisers where appropriate to help them evaluate both the process and to review the cost estimates provided to the NDA by its site licensees.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the costs of decommissioning and decontaminating nuclear power stations over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 years. [185788]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: Estimating the costs of decommissioning and cleaning up the historic civil public nuclear sites, including the Magnox nuclear power stations, is the responsibility of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The latest estimate is set out in the NDA's annual report and accounts 2006-07, which is available on the NDA's website at:

www.nda.gov.uk.

The NDA's latest estimates of the cost of decommissioning and clean-up of the 10 Magnox stations in discounted 2007 money values are as follows:

£4.8 billion for the first 10 years (2007 to 2016 inclusive) for the decommissioning and clean-up of all ten Magnox stations.

£0.6 billion for the second ten years (2017 to 2026 inclusive) for the decommissioning and clean-up of all 10 Magnox stations.

### Post Offices

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to restore the Crown Post Office network to profit. [186825]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account is taken by Post Office Ltd. of the effects of post office branch closures when consulting on its reconfiguration programme. [186802]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Private Sector: Redundancy

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria his Department uses in allocating funds to private sector companies to prevent redundancies. [179732]

**Mr. McFadden:** State aid may be granted to private companies only if they are in difficulty; and in accordance with the European Commission's "Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulties" (OJ C 244, 1.10.2004, p. 2.). A firm in difficulty is where, demonstrably, a company cannot stem its losses through its own resources, or with the funds it obtains from its owners/shareholders, or from market sources. In addition, the Department is obliged to follow the criteria set out in HM Treasury's Green Book:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and-tools/greenbook/data_greenbook_ index.cfm

on the economic assessment of all public sector spending and investment.

The Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) scheme can provide funds to private sector companies to support new capital investment that will safeguard employment going forward. The criteria for the SFIE scheme are set out in the scheme guidelines that are publicly available:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/regional/investment/page29183.html

### Regional Development Agencies: Vehicles

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cars were *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by each regional development agency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184802]

**Mr. McFadden:** RDAs provide lease cars to staff to enable them to make essential visit to projects and clients. However, the arrangements vary and for example some RDAs pay staff, mileage and other

allowances for that purpose. The following details are of cars on long leases and cars owned by each RDA in 2006-07.

| RDA | Number of cars owned | Number of cars leased |
|---|---|---|
| AWM | 0 | 38 |
| EEDA | 0 | 44 |
| EMDA | [1]2 | 7 |
| LDA | 0 | 3 |
| NWDA | 0 | 79 |
| ONE | 0 | 18 |
| SEEDA | 0 | 46 |
| SWRDA | 0 | 26 |
| YF | 0 | 8 |

[1] Utility vehicles at Avenue Coking works.

### Tidal Power: Expenditure

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much expenditure on *(a)* research and development on and *(b)* installation of tidal power his Department is planning in each of the next three years. [178648]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Government have in place a comprehensive range of initiatives that encourage the development of marine energy, including tidal power. The Government's main mechanism for supporting renewable energy is the renewables obligation (RO). On 10 January I announced, in our plans to reform the RO, a doubling of support to tidal barrages and lagoons up to 1 gigawatt and to tidal-stream technologies. Details can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/consultations/renewables-obligation/page39555.html

The £50 million 'Marine Renewables Deployment Fund' provides a package of measures to support the commercial-scale demonstration of new tidal-stream devices. Details can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/funding/marine/page19419.html

On 22 January the Government announced the detailed terms of reference for a feasibility study that will look into the potential for tidal power in the Severn estuary. Further details of the study can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wavetidal/tidal/severntidalpower/page41473.html

In addition, support for research and development into tidal power technologies is available through the Research Councils' SUPERGEN programme and the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) which is a joint Government and industry initiative. Details of the ETIs first call for tidal and wave power projects, launched on 17 December 2007 can be seen at:

www.energytechnologies.co.uk/technology-programmes/current-programmes/marine-wave-and-tidal/

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records his Department holds of grants made by institutions of the European Union to UK trades unions in the last five years. [186091]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department holds no records of these individual grants. Deployment of the EU budget is a matter for the European Commission (within the agreed framework). The Commission publishes information on the grants awarded under each EU policy area on its website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm

### Union Modernisation Fund: Audit

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2036W, on the union modernisation fund: audit, which accountancy firms *(a)* have undertaken and *(b)* are undertaking the audits. [186086]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* In line with normal arrangements for Government grant funding, on project completion, each grant recipient is required to appoint an independent accountant to undertake an audit. The auditor's report accompanies the final claim and confirms that the union has expended the sums in respect of which all claims have been made.

It is for grant recipients to appoint an independent accountant, and therefore, we are unable to indicate the accountancy firms that they propose to, or have appointed to undertake audits at this time. However, the following accountancy firms have undertaken audits on union modernisation fund projects:

Gatwick LLP
Hardy Dowdy
HW Fisher and Company
Hope Agar.

### Wind Power

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of energy needed to meet targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target for total primary energy that will be supplied by means of wind generation. [175678]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Later this year the Government will launch a consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our share of the target. This will cover a broad range of issues, including what contribution different types of renewable generation might make to the target. However the precise technology mix in the electricity sector in 2020 will be a matter for electricity generators to determine.

## HEALTH

### Abortion Act 1967

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to amend section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967 to provide a definition of the words seriously handicapped; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [186247]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Parliament did not define serious handicap in the Act. It chose to leave this to the expert judgment of the two doctors involved, who are required to form their own opinion about the seriousness of the handicap the child would suffer if born, taking into account the facts and circumstances of each individual case.

The Department has received nine letters on the topic of abortion for fetal abnormality in the last six months.

### Abortion: Private Sector

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently private sector abortion clinics are inspected; what action is taken by his Department and its agencies when a clinic fails to meet minimum standards; how many such clinics closed following adverse inspection findings in each year since 1992; what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation provides the regulatory regime for abortion clinics; whether he plans to change this regime; and if he will make a statement. [186244]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Private sector abortion clinics are inspected according to the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/539), (Section 32A), which states that providers will be subject to a minimum of one inspection every five years. Independent sector clinics, approved to perform abortions, by the Secretary of State for Health, are registered with and inspected by the Healthcare Commission. The number of additional inspections is informed following the completion of an annual self-assessment document. If following an inspection, there are areas identified that do not meet regulations, an action plan is requested from the provider to achieve compliance and a time scale for completion. More serious breaches are dealt with by the issue of legal enforcement notices and if non-compliance is still evident, prosecution and possible eventual cancellation of the provider's registration. If the situation poses a serious threat to the health and welfare of clients, the Commission has the power to seek urgent closure of an establishment using a court order.

Since 1992, one abortion clinic has been closed and one clinic closed voluntarily following an adverse inspection.

The primary and secondary legislation which provides the regulatory regime for abortion clinics in England is:

The Abortion Act 1967, as amended the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, and the Care Standards Act 2000 as amended, the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003; and

Abortion Regulations 1991 (SI 1991/499) as amended by the Abortion (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/887) and the Private and Voluntary Health Care (England) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/3968), as amended by the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/539), the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England)(Amendment No2) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1734) and the Care Standards Act 2000 (Establishments and Agencies) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/865), the Care Standards Act 2000 (Establishments and Agencies) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1770) and the Care Standards Act 2000 (Establishments and Agencies) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006 (2006/1493), the National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/3969), as amended by the National Care Standards Commission (Registration)(Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/369).

Under the terms of approval for the termination of pregnancy by the Secretary of State, clinics are also required to meet the relevant independent health care core, acute and termination of pregnancy national minimum standards. They must also comply with the principles set out in Department's Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places for the Termination of Pregnancy.

The Health and Social Care Bill, currently before Parliament, seeks to enhance professional regulation and create a new integrated regulator, the Care Quality Commission, for health and adult social care, with focus on providing assurance about the safety and quality of care for patients and service users.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Children

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 14 years old were treated for alcohol-related health problems in the last 12 months, broken down by strategic health authority. [185738]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: The information is as follows.

*Finished admission episodes (FAEs) for children under 14-years-old with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol-related health problems in data year 2006-07, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA)—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

| *Org. code* | *Description of SHA of treatment* | *Total episodes* |
|---|---|---|
| Q30 | North East SHA | 85 |
| Q31 | North West SHA | 387 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 178 |
| Q33 | East Midlands SHA | 66 |
| Q34 | West Midlands SHA | 155 |
| Q35 | East of England SHA | 73 |
| Q36 | London SHA | 119 |
| Q37 | South East Coast SHA | 89 |
| Q38 | South Central SHA | 63 |
| Q39 | South West SHA | 125 |

*Finished admission episodes (FAEs) for children under 14-years-old with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol-related health problems in data year 2006-07, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA)—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

| Org. code | Description of SHA of treatment | Total episodes |
|---|---|---|
| | Total | 1,340 |

*Notes:*
1. Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
2. FAEs
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
3. All diagnoses count of mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted. Diagnosis codes used: F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, K70—Alcoholic liver disease; and T51—Toxic effect of alcohol.
*Source:*
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital via accident and emergency departments for alcohol-related conditions in England in each year since 1997. [185739]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The following table provides a count of finished admission episodes (FAE) where the primary or secondary diagnosis was alcohol related, for males and females under the age of 18 for years 1997-98 to 2006-07.

*National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

| | Total episodes |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 6,084 |
| 1998-99 | 5,489 |
| 1999-2000 | 6,455 |
| 2000-01 | 6,006 |
| 2001-02 | 6,141 |
| 2002-03 | 5,958 |
| 2003-04 | 6,766 |
| 2004-05 | 7,285 |
| 2005-06 | 8,310 |
| 2006-07 | 8,266 |

*Notes:*
1. FAE
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. All Diagnoses count of Mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.
3. Emergency Admission
These are the emergency admission codes to specify in more detail how the patient was admitted to hospital.
21 = Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another healthcare provider
4. Alcohol Related Diagnoses
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol.
T51—Toxic effect of alcohol.
K70—Alcoholic liver disease.
5. Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Source:*
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings he had with representatives from supermarkets where alcohol price, promotion and harm were discussed in the last 12 months. [185075]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Two such meetings have taken place.

In May 2007 the Government announced an agreement with the alcohol industry that, alcoholic drinks labels should include alcohol unit content along with guidelines on sensible drinking. As part of the

discussions which led to this agreement, on 15 March 2007 the former Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) met with representatives from the alcohol industry, including the British Retail Consortium.

On 21 November 2007, the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Culture Secretary and the current Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), met with alcohol retailers, alcohol manufacturers, enforcement agencies, representatives of local councils and doctors and academics specialising in alcohol issues, to discuss the problems of under-age drinking and binge-drinking.

This included:

Peter V. Marks, chief executive of United Co-op;

Sir Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco;

Mark Bolland, chief executive of Morrisons; and

Nick Grant, chairman of the Alcohol Retail Standards Group and Head of Legal Affairs, Sainsburys.

The purpose of the seminar was to inform the alcohol industry about the action the Government are taking over coming months, as set out in "Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy" to tackle binge drinking and help people to drink sensibly and to discuss what more the industry can do to help.

### Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to the National Drugs Helpline were about anabolic steroids in each year since 1997. [185370]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The National Drugs Helpline ceased in England in March 2003 and no data on calls are available between 1997 and March 2003.

The Frank helpline replaced the National Drugs Helpline in April 2003 and details of telephone calls since then, where anabolic steroids were mentioned are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of calls* |
|---|---|
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 257 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 323 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 357 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 358 |
| April 2007 to January 2008 | 311 |

### Antibiotics: Health Education

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to educate the public in the last three years on the correct use of antibiotics. [186294]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As a result of increasing bacterial antibiotic resistance the Department has run awareness campaigns since 1999. The main message is that antibiotics do not work on most coughs and colds and until 2008 the campaigns were based on the 'Andybiotic' character. These materials have been available on our website and formed the basis of our campaign in 2006.

In addition we supported the distribution of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's "Ask about Antibiotics" leaflet in 2006.

This year's campaign uses new material and was launched on 4 February 2008. Advertisements are appearing in weekly magazines and national newspapers during February and March and a poster and leaflets are being distributed to general practitioners and pharmacists.

### Anti-depressants

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were prescribed anti-depressants in each year since 1997. [184517]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Anti-depressant drugs are classified under section 4.3 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and the information in the following table is provided on this basis. Estimated figures are based on a sample of one in 20 prescriptions and have been grossed up to reflect the population totals and rounded.

| | *BNF 4.3—prescription items dispensed (thousand)* | *Estimate of prescription items dispensed for children (thousand)* | *Percentage dispensed to children* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 16,822.6 | 88 | 0.5 |
| 1998 | 18,424.5 | 84 | 0.5 |
| 1999 | 20,108.1 | 83 | 0.4 |
| 2000 | 22,021.8 | 95 | 0.4 |
| 2001 | 24,342.7 | 110 | 0.5 |
| 2002 | 26,329.3 | 120 | 0.5 |
| 2003 | 27,658.0 | 110 | 0.4 |
| 2004 | 28,995.5 | 94 | 0.3 |
| 2005 | 29,389.9 | 110 | 0.4 |
| 2006 | 31,038.0 | 110 | 0.4 |

*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis system

### Breast Feeding

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated to *(a)* an information campaign to promote the benefits of breastfeeding and *(b)* supporting a national helpline for breastfeeding mothers in the last three years, broken down by financial year. [184523]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since 1993, the Department has supported the National Breastfeeding Awareness Week (NBAW) as a key activity in promoting breastfeeding. The Department has provided support to the breastfeeding helpline since 2003 and we are committed to further support the development of a national helpline at local rates of pay.

The following table sets out the funding for the NBAW and the national helpline on breastfeeding from 2005 to 2008. In the year 2005-06 no central funding was available and NBAW operated at local levels.

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *NBAW* | *National Helpline* |
| 2005-06 | — | 2,000 |
| 2006-07 | 573,000 | 1,766 |
| 2007-08 | 240,000 | [1]150,000 |

[1] planned

### British Pregnancy Advisory Service: Complaints

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were made to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Health Service about the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in each of the last four years; and what the outcome was in each case where proceedings are complete. [186245]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Healthcare Commission is responsible for reviewing complaints about national health service and independent healthcare services in England that have not been resolved locally[1].

Information prior to April 2004 has been archived and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Between April 2004 and December 2006, eight complaints against the British Pregnancy Advisory Service were reviewed by the Healthcare Commission, all of which were resolved satisfactorily.

Data for January 2007-January 2008 are not available.

[1] We do not collect data on complaints that have been resolved locally.

### Cancer: Expenditure

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS's average annual expenditure is on a patient with *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* lung cancer, *(c)* prostate cancer and *(d)* bowel cancer from diagnosis to the end of treatment. [186203]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Data on the national health service expenditure on cancer are not collected by cancer type. In 2006-07 £4.35 billion was spent by the NHS on cancer services, approximately 5.2 per cent. of all NHS spending for that year. Data on this expenditure are not collected by tumour site and cannot be broken down on this basis.

### Care Homes: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve standards in residential care homes since 1997. [186295]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Health and Social Care Act 2003, the Government have set up an independent inspection and regulation regime to raise the quality of care and level of protection for older and vulnerable people living in care homes.

All care homes in England must be regulated (registered and inspected) by the Commissions for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). CSCI regulates care homes in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards (NMS). CSCI has a range of enforcement powers and will take action to drive up standards and protect the welfare of residents.

The regulations set out what providers must do by law. The Government introduced the NMS to set out clearly what care homes are expected to provide to demonstrate that they are complying with the regulations. Since their introduction, CSCI has reported a steady improvement in the performance of care homes against them. According to the CSCI report, "The State of Social Care 2006-07", published on 29 January 2008, care homes for older people meet on average 80 per cent. of standards, a 21 per cent. improvement since 2003. Care homes for younger adults—aged 18 to 64—meet on average 83 per cent. of standards, which is a 20 per cent. improvement since 2003.

### Children: Accidents

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his assessment is of the role of regional directors of public health in the prevention of accidental injury to children; and if he will make a statement. [186337]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The regional directors of public health have a key role in developing and co-ordinating regional strategies and initiatives for the prevention of injury to children, and in ensuring the engagement of cross-sectoral partnerships involving the public, private and voluntary sectors.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental public expenditure, what the cost was of writing-off date expired vaccines broken down by type of vaccine 2006-07; [184461]

(2) how many expired vaccines were written-off, broken down by type of vaccine.[1] [184521]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2006-07 488,629 doses of vaccine in total were written off.

There were 488,457 doses of vaccine written off due to date expiring. They were:

243,000 doses of the Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccine;

123,954 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine;

71,568 doses of combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine;

49,799 doses of Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine; and

136 doses of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

This equates to £2,092,513. The cost breakdown cannot be give for individual vaccines as the cost per dose is commercially confidential information.

There were 172 doses of vaccine written off because they were damaged. They were:

70 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine;

69 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, inactivated polio and haemophilus influenzae; type B, (DTaP/IPV+Hib) vaccine;

21 doses of meningococcal C vaccine vaccine; and

12 doses of the MMR vaccine

The total value of the written-off stock due to date expiry and damage (£2,096,000) represents about 1 per cent. of the vaccine distributed in the United Kingdom in 2006-07.

1. *[Official Report, 26 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1MC.]*

### Depressive Illnesses: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had about the potential adverse effects of administering *(a)* 20mg and *(b)* 40mg of Paroxetine to a patient. [186127]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The safety of paroxetine (brand name Seroxat) has been under review by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) since first marketing and remains under close review. Paroxetine is licensed in the dose range 10 to 60mg, depending on the indication. The recommended daily dose is 20 mg, with the exception of obsessive compulsive disorder and panic disorder for which the recommended daily dose is 40mg. Clinical experience is that some patients not responding to the recommended dose may benefit from having their dose increased. Prescribers have been advised that in the absence of evidence of a benefit from increasing the dose, good practice would be to maintain patients on the lowest efficacious dose.

Guidance on how to use paroxetine safely and effectively along with information on potential adverse effects is provided in the product information for prescribers, the "Summary of Product Characteristics", and in the patient information leaflet which accompanies the medicine. These documents are authorised by the MHRA at the time of licensing and updated through the life of the product as new information on potential adverse effects and benefits emerges.

Paroxetine belongs to a class of antidepressants known as Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs). The safety profile of the SSRIs is a topic which has been the subject of considerable public interest and scientific debate over recent years. In May 2003, in response to continued public concern, the Government established an expert working group to further investigate the safety of SSRIs, with a particular focus on suicidal behaviour and withdrawal reactions. The conclusions and key findings of the expert group were communicated to health professionals on 6 December 2004 and the supporting evidence base was detailed in the Group's comprehensive report entitled "Report of the CSM Expert Working Group on the safety of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Antidepressants" published on the MHRA website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Safetywarningsalertsandrecalls/Safetywarningsandmessagesformedicines/CON1004259

The publication of the Report was timed to coincide with the publication of guidelines on the treatment of depression by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence. Overall it was concluded that SSRIs are effective medicines in the treatment of depression and anxiety conditions, and that the balance of risks and benefits of all SSRIs in adults remains positive in their licensed indications.

### Doctors: Developing Countries

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that employment by the NHS of doctors trained in the developing world does not adversely affect health care standards in developing countries. [186891]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The United Kingdom was the first, and remains the only, developed country to implement and review systematic policies that explicitly prevent the targeting of developing countries in the area of international recruitment. As such, the Department published a code of practice for the 'International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals' in 2001 and updated it in December 2004.

The code of practice proscribes the active recruitment of health care professionals from developing countries.

### Doctors: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on locums for junior doctors at *(a)* Chorley Hospital, *(b)* South Ribble Hospital, *(c)* Blackburn Royal Infirmary and *(d)* Royal Preston Hospital in each of the last 12 months; [186890]

(2) how many junior doctor posts were unfilled for more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* nine months at (i) Chorley Hospital, (ii) South Ribble Hospital, (iii) Blackburn Royal Infirmary and (iv) Royal Preston Hospital, in each of the last five years; [186892]

(3) how many junior doctor posts were unfilled at *(a)* Chorley Hospital, *(b)* South Ribble Hospital, *(c)* Blackburn Royal Infirmary and *(d)* Royal Preston Hospital on the most recent date for which figures are available. [186893]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* This information is not collected centrally. These are local matters which are the responsibility of the relevant national health service trusts concerned. Information relating to the Chorley and South Ribble Hospital can be obtained from the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and for the Royal Blackburn Hospital from the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

### Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent the spread of extreme drug resistant tuberculosis. [186436]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Prevention of the emergence and spread of any type of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) is being addressed as part of the DOH's overall strategy to improve TB prevention and control through 'Stopping Tuberculosis in England: An Action plan from the Chief Medical Officer' (published in October 2004). As well as improvements to public health surveillance systems, this critically requires fast and comprehensive detection of cases, rapid identification of drug resistance if it exists and good clinical management including measures to ensure treatment is both appropriate and completed by the patient. Patients with drug-resistant strains of TB are treated by appropriate multiple drug therapy for a minimum of six months which also helps public health control by breaking the cycle of TB transmission from infectious patients.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline on the treatment and diagnosis of TB published in March 2006 includes specific guidance on treatment and rapid contact tracing of people in contact with any type of drug resistant TB. The Department's TB toolkit (published in June 2007) aims to help commissioners and TB service providers implement the action plan in line with the NICE guideline.

NICE recommends that if a risk assessment suggests a patient has multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, rapid diagnostic tests should be conducted for rifampicin resistance. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) reference laboratory service identifies TB cultures from national health service patients in England and determines if they are drug resistant. The selection of appropriate second line drugs for the clinical treatment of MDR TB and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB is determined by the HPA National Mycobacterium Reference Unit (MRU), which has recently developed newer and faster methods for drug susceptibility testing. The HPA MRU also carries out DNA fingerprinting on drug resistant TB strains in England to help determine patterns of transmission and is working with the World Health Organization on the surveillance of XDR TB.

### Drugs: Advisory Services

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on advertising the national drugs helpline in each year since its inception. [186788]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Drugs Helpline ceased in England in March 2003 and was replaced by the FRANK helpline in April 2003.

None of the promotional output for FRANK, including advertising, is exclusively designed to promote the FRANK helpline. All FRANK printed and broadcast output delivers messages to young people while always signposting the FRANK helpline and website.

The following table provided by the Central Office of Information shows total campaign expenditure and total advertising expenditure for FRANK from the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. The Department did not directly allocate money for campaigns on drug misuse prior to 2003.

*£ million*

| | *Total campaign expenditure* | *Expenditure on advertising only* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 4.25 | 3.7 |
| 2004-05 | 4.3 | 1.9 |
| 2005-06 | 6.17 | 1.8 |
| 2006-07 | 9.18 | 4.57 |
| 2007-08 | [1]5.85 | [1]3.49 |

[1] Estimated.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of drug addicts who are classified as in treatment. [186655]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Between April 2006 and March 2007 (the latest period for which data are available) 195,000 people received specialist drug treatment.

This is 130 per cent. more people in treatment than in 1998. This means that the target of doubling the numbers in drug treatment by 2008 has been exceeded by 30 per cent.

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of addicts receiving low-dose methadone on prescription who are thought to also be using heroin. [186656]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* This data is not collected centrally.

Low dose methadone is not recommended in national guidance and should not be a feature of local drug treatment systems. Rather than low-dose, clinicians should ensure that the dose prescribed for each individual is appropriate to their needs and in line with the available evidence base. The recently revised "National Clinical technological appraisals on substitute prescribing", published January 2007, clearly states that methadone treatment must be optimised to ensure that each patient receives maximum benefit.

### Family Planning

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* adult men, *(b)* adult women, *(c)* boys aged 16 years or under and *(d)* girls aged 16 years or under attended contraception clinics in the last 12 months. [186746]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*First contacts at community contraceptive clinics by gender and age 1996-97 to 2006-07—England*

| | | *Under 16* | | | *16-19* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All ages*[1] | *Under 15* | *15* | *Total* | *16-17* | *18-19* | *Total* | *20-24* | *25-34* | *35 and over* |
| *Females: Number (Thousand)* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996-97 | 1,191 | 23 | 43 | 66 | — | — | 242 | 263 | 371 | 250 |
| 1997-98 | 1,193 | 24 | 42 | 66 | — | — | 257 | 257 | 360 | 253 |
| 1998-99 | 1,172 | 23 | 42 | 65 | — | — | 260 | 259 | 345 | 244 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,187 | 25 | 44 | 69 | — | — | 273 | 268 | 336 | 242 |
| 2000-01 | 1,189 | 28 | 46 | 74 | — | — | 270 | 272 | 330 | 243 |
| 2001-02 | 1,196 | 32 | 48 | 80 | — | — | 264 | 279 | 321 | 252 |
| 2002-03 | 1,182 | 33 | 51 | 85 | — | — | 267 | 274 | 310 | 247 |
| 2003-04 | 1,186 | 36 | 54 | 91 | 142 | 132 | 274 | 272 | 304 | 246 |
| 2004-05 | 1,162 | 32 | 50 | 82 | 138 | 129 | 267 | 266 | 297 | 250 |

*First contacts at community contraceptive clinics by gender and age 1996-97 to 2006-07—England*

| | | Under 16 | | | 16-19 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All ages*[1] | *Under 15* | *15* | *Total* | *16-17* | *18-19* | *Total* | *20-24* | *25-34* | *35 and over* |
| 2005-06[3] | 1,152 | 32 | 49 | 80 | 135 | 120 | 255 | 248 | 308 | 261 |
| 2006-07 | 1,132 | 31 | 50 | 80 | 141 | 123 | 264 | 242 | 300 | 247 |
| *Females: Rate per 100 resident population*[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996-97 | 11.7 | 3.9 | 14.4 | 7.5 | — | — | 21.6 | 17.0 | 9.6 | 7.5 |
| 1997-98 | 11.7 | 4.1 | 14.5 | 7.6 | — | — | 22.3 | 17.4 | 9.4 | 7.4 |
| 1998-99 | 11.5 | 3.9 | 14.3 | 7.3 | — | — | 22.0 | 18.0 | 9.1 | 7.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 11.6 | 4.1 | 14.9 | 7.6 | — | — | 23.1 | 18.7 | 9.0 | 6.8 |
| 2000-01 | 11.6 | 4.6 | 15.2 | 8.1 | — | — | 23.2 | 18.7 | 9.0 | 6.6 |
| 2001-02 | 11.6 | 5.0 | 15.8 | 8.6 | — | — | 22.4 | 18.7 | 8.9 | 6.8 |
| 2002-03 | 11.4 | 5.3 | 16.5 | 9.0 | — | — | 22.1 | 18.1 | 8.8 | 6.5 |
| 2003-04 | 11.4 | 5.8 | 17.1 | 9.6 | 22.9 | 21.5 | 22.2 | 17.6 | 8.9 | 6.4 |
| 2004-05 | 11.2 | 5.0 | 15.8 | 8.6 | 21.7 | 20.4 | 21.1 | 16.9 | 8.8 | 6.4 |
| 2005-06[3] | 10.3 | 4.9 | 15.2 | 8.3 | 20.9 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 15.4 | 9.1 | 6.7 |
| 2006-07 | 10.1 | 4.9 | 15.4 | 8.5 | 22.0 | 18.9 | 20.4 | 14.7 | 8.9 | 6.3 |
| *Males: Number (Thousand)* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996-97 | 79 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1997-98 | 79 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | 81 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1999-2000 | 84 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2000-01 | 85 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | 92 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | 93 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 104 | 13 | 11 | 24 | 18 | 12 | 30 | 14 | 15 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 99 | 11 | 9 | 20 | 19 | 12 | 31 | 14 | 14 | 20 |
| 2005-06[3] | 97 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 32 | 14 | 13 | 19 |
| 2006-07 | 117 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 30 | 15 | 46 | 16 | 14 | 21 |
| *Males: Rate per 100 resident population*[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| 2004-05 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| 2005-06[3] | 0.9 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| 2006-07 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 3.3 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 |

[1] All ages: first contacts with females/males aged 13-44. Under 15, first contacts with females/males aged 13-14. Under 16, first contacts with females/males aged 13-15. 35 and over, first contacts with females/males aged 35-44.
[2] Rates per 100 resident population for 1995-96 to 2005-06 calculated using population estimates for mid-1995 to mid-2005 for each equivalent gender and age group.
[3] 2005-06 data has been revised.
*Source:*
The Information Centre KT31 return

## Female Genital Mutilation

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many victims of female circumcision were treated by the NHS in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of dealing with the results of female circumcision in each such year. [184578]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not available centrally.

## Food: Allergies

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for the regulation of *(a)* the recording and *(b)* advice on the use of food allergens by commercial organisations. [186635]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Food allergens are safe food ingredients for the vast majority of people, although approximately 2 per cent. of the United Kingdom's adult population need to avoid certain foods because they may trigger an allergic reaction. All ingredients deliberately added to a pre-packed food already have to be declared on the label. Furthermore, existing food allergen labelling rules ensure that, despite any other food labelling exemptions, the 14 allergenic food ingredients of greatest public health concern across the European Community must always be declared on the label of pre-packed foods.

The Food Standards Agency has recently issued two best practice guidance documents for food businesses. The "Guidance on Allergen Management and Consumer Information" is aimed at producers of pre-packed foods to help them eliminate the possible cross-contamination of allergenic ingredients and to decide on appropriate warning labels if this should be unavoidable. "The Provision of Allergen Information for Non Pre-packed Foods" is intended to help those businesses providing food in restaurants, sandwich bars, delicatessens etc where the food is not pre-packed and it is essential to

communicate the presence of any allergenic ingredients in the food, where the customer needs this information. These guidance documents were produced with the help of relevant interested parties (food manufacturers, food retailers, enforcement bodies and consumer organisations).

### Food: Labelling

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's *(a)* Healthy Food Code of Good Practice and *(b)* evaluation of different food labelling systems to be completed. [184518]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government will finalise a Healthy Food Code of Good Practice with industry leaders over the course of 2008. It is designed to be an ongoing partnership with the food industry including manufacturers, retailers, the food service and catering sectors all of which will be challenged to make commitments. The Government's aim is to develop long term partnerships with all parts of industry to drive sustained improvements that make it easier for consumers to make healthier food choices.

The independent evaluation of front of pack nutrition signposting schemes is expected to be completed by end of 2008.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which retailers have adopted the Food Standards Authority's recommended traffic light colour-coded approach to nutrition labelling; and if he will make a statement. [186399]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Currently eight United Kingdom retailers use traffic light front of pack labels; Asda, Budgens/Londis, The Cooperative, Boots, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Waitrose. This represents more than 40 per cent. by sales of the food retail market in the UK.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential of the Food Standards Agency's guidance on the provision of allergen information for non-prepacked foods to reduce consumer choice. [186837]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The guidance was produced by a multi-stakeholder group which included representatives of the allergy charities and thus the views of consumers were taken into account as the guidance was developed.

Food allergic and food intolerant consumers need information on the allergen content of foods in order to make safe food choices. The primary aim of this guidance is to increase the information available to such consumers and so enable them to be able to reliably choose the food that is safe for them. Without information on the allergenic ingredients used in the food being provided, many allergic consumers are likely to be restricted in their choices.

### Food: Supermarkets

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislation governs the provision of information by supermarkets in respect of foodstuffs *(a)* produced and *(b)* processed by them in-house. [186320]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Whether the food stuff is produced in-house by the supermarket, or manufactured independently, the information accompanying the food is governed by the Food Labelling Regulations (1996), as amended. These regulations also cover nutrition labelling. There are further regulations covering specific labelling on different commodities, such as honey or meat products.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Animal Feed

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on future supplies of GM free protein ingredients for animal feed. [186463]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for the safety of feed material and feed products that enter the food chain and does not therefore undertake research concerning the future supply of particular feed (or food) commodities. Materials derived from genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) cannot be used or marketed as feed or food unless the GMO in question has been assessed as being safe, and has been specifically authorised by the European Union under the relevant legislation. The FSA has commissioned, and is funding, research which underpins the safety assessment of GM food and feed.

### Health

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what key steps the Government plan to take on public health in the next three years. [183843]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government are taking forward and building on commitments to improve people's health given in the White Paper "Choosing Health:making healthy choices easier" (2004). This includes developing and implementing key strategies on tackling obesity, smoking cessation, alcohol harm, and sexually transmitted infections. They are also addressing the poorest groups and communities through their programme to reduce health inequalities, which is a priority for the national health service and local government in 2008-09.

### Health Services: Children in Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of looked after children in each local authority area received an optical check on an annual basis in the latest period for which figures are available. [179416]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Improving the health and wellbeing of looked after children is of paramount importance. Children in care are more likely to experience health problems, particularly mental health problems, than their peers and it is important that more is done to meet their needs.

Our White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" set out how this is a priority for the Government. It outlined a strong package of measures intended to ensure that we improve health outcomes for this

vulnerable group of young people, including by ensuring better joint working between local authorities and health care bodies. For the first time guidance on promoting the health of looked after children will be put on a statutory footing for both local authorities and health bodies.

The available information about the health care of looked after children has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish full details of the responses to his Department's consultation on proposals to excluded overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services. [186004]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Publication of the full responses to the 2004 consultation "Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services" will form part of the publication of a further consultation document that will result from the Review of Access to the NHS by foreign nationals when it is completed.

### Hepatitis C

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he made to the Health Protection Agency laboratory reports of hepatitis C infection in the third quarter of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [186826]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Health Protection Agency (HPA) published data on reported laboratory diagnoses of hepatitis C for July to September 2007 (third quarter) in Health Protection Report (volume 2 number 4) on 25 January 2008. The data, which are provisional, showed an apparent drop in the number of laboratory diagnoses reported in that quarter compared to the previous two quarters of 2007.

The Department understands from the HPA that a large number of diagnoses were incorrectly allocated to the under one-year age group category and were therefore omitted from the published data. Laboratory reports in cases aged under one year are excluded from the published data because they may indicate the presence of passively acquired maternal antibodies.

Revisions are currently being made to the third quarter figures. Revised data will be published in the Health Protection Report when the fourth quarter's data are available later this year.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the Written Declaration of the European Parliament on hepatitis C; and if he will make a statement. [186827]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* We have not received any representations about the European Parliament's written declaration on hepatitis C.

### HIV Infection

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed as HIV positive in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north east, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years in each age group; and if he will make a statement. [185511]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information available is shown in the table.

| *Area of first United Kingdom HIV diagnosis* | *Year of first UK HIV diagnosis* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| *England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-14 | 82 | 101 | 74 | 101 | 101 | 124 | 143 | 141 | 111 | 95 |
| 15-24 | 254 | 244 | 289 | 366 | 499 | 634 | 755 | 792 | 822 | 702 |
| 25-34 | 1,158 | 1,201 | 1,272 | 1,631 | 2,194 | 2,569 | 3,028 | 2,928 | 2,855 | 2,649 |
| 35-44 | 695 | 757 | 911 | 1,038 | 1,414 | 1,868 | 2,156 | 2,207 | 2,213 | 2,126 |
| 45-54 | 244 | 237 | 255 | 358 | 445 | 540 | 590 | 723 | 795 | 729 |
| 55+ | 108 | 119 | 139 | 167 | 184 | 203 | 244 | 250 | 319 | 294 |
| England sub total | 2,541 | 2,659 | 2,940 | 3,661 | 4,837 | 5,938 | 6,916 | 7,041 | 7,115 | 6,595 |
| *North east region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 5 | 6 | <5 | <5 |
| 15-24 | <5 | <5 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 18 | 25 | 19 |
| 25-34 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 21 | 36 | 59 | 55 | 47 | 40 |
| 35-44 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 18 | 31 | 39 | 36 | 50 | 38 |
| 45-54 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 17 | 18 |
| 55+ | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 14 | 7 |
| North east sub total[1] | 35-38 | 22 | 30-33 | 38 | 55 | 98 | 146-149 | 137-140 | 154-157 | 123-126 |
| *Tees health authority (including Tees Valley, Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland)* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 15-24 | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 |

| Area of first United Kingdom HIV diagnosis | Year of first UK HIV diagnosis | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| 25-34 | <5 | <5 | 0 | <5 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| 35-44 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| 45-54 | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| 55+ | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 6 | <5 |
| Tees sub total[1] | <5 | <5 | 3 | <10 | 14 | 22 | 30 | 25 | 32-35 | 27 |

[1] Ranges are provided where one or more cells have a count under five. This is done to remove the possibility of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.

*Notes:*

1. Cumulative data are as reported by the end of June 2007. Numbers will rise as further reports are received (particularly for more recent years).
2. HPA has provided for its north east region, which is coterminous with the Government office for the north east.
3. Data has been provided for the former Tees district health authority, as HPA do not have data for Tees Valley, Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland.
4. HPA do not provide by data by age because of the risk of deductive exposure of an individual's identity. Data have been provided by age groups. Sub-totals show ranges where one or more cells have a count of under five in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure.
5. Data will include many individuals who have been infected with HIV outside the UK, but who have been subsequently diagnosed in the UK.

*Source:*

Health Protection Agency (HPA).

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the weight range of 751-1000g in Annex A1 of Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care was determined; [184581]

(2) whether his Department has undertaken a disability impact assessment of the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [184662]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The weight range referred to in Annex A of the consultation "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised Proposals" was determined using a sample of data provided by the Prescriptions Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority which was used to:

estimate the average weight of an item within a prescription; and

estimate the average weight of a prescription, assuming that a prescription has an average of 2.2 items in it.

The review of Part IX of the Drug tariff in relation to stoma and incontinence appliances is ongoing. The Department is preparing an Equality Impact Assessment and this will be published. All parties will have an opportunity to comment on it.

### Kidney Patients: Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many strategic health authorities provided regional dialysis capacity plans to his Department by 5 February 2008; what his estimate is of the demand for dialysis capacity in 2008-09, in each strategic health authority; and what changes in capacity he will propose in 2008-09, for each strategic health authority. [185993]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* As of 5 February 2008, three strategic health authorities (SHAs) have provided dialysis capacity plans to the Department. Projected growth in demand for renal replacement therapy is set out in the National Service Framework (NSF) for Renal Services. It is predicted that the number of patients requiring renal replacement therapy will rise to around 45,000 over the 10 years ending in 2014. The NSF modelling was undertaken at a national level and the Department does not have dialysis demand projections broken down by SHA area.

It is for primary care trusts as commissioners of renal services, in collaboration with their specialised commissioning groups (SCG), to meet their current population's dialysis needs and have robust expansion plans to meeting rising demand. The Department highlighted the need for SCGs to pay particular attention to areas where significant increases in demand are likely to lead to pressure on services in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and renal replacement therapies were cited as such an example.

### Leukaemia: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to instruct NHS commissioners in England to adhere to the guidance produced by the Scottish Medicines Consortium on Dasatinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia, pending the publication of its appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [186263]

(2) when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to issue guidance on (a) Dasatinib and (b) Nilotinib for imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia; [186267]

(3) if he will instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to appraise *(a)* Dasatinib and *(b)* Nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia through the single technology appraisal process. [186270]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Ministers made a minded referral of dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in October 2007. NICE'S consultation on the remit and scope of this appraisal closed on 28 January 2008. It is currently proposed that these two products be appraised together so that the national health service has a single source of advice, but feedback on the results of this consultation is awaited. Ministers will make a final decision on the referral of these topics following receipts of a report back from NICE'S consultation.

Good practice guidance published by the Department in December 2006 highlights Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) guidance as one source on which local NHS organisations can draw in making decisions on the use of specific drugs where NICE guidance is not available. We have no plans to mandate the adoption of SMC guidance by the NHS in England.

### Malnutrition: European Union

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have had with members of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Configuration of the Council of the European Union on the subject of undernutrition across the EU. [185573]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council has previously discussed the issue of nutrition, within the context of promoting positive health determinants and physical activity across the member states. On 31 May 2007, the Council adopted conclusions on the strengthening of health promotion and disease prevention by means of balanced nutrition and sufficient physical activity. Subsequently, on 6 December 2007, the Council adopted conclusions in response to the Commission's White Paper on "A strategy for Europe on Nutrition".

### NHS: Allowances

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 346W, on NHS: allowances, which NHS job descriptions are affected by the decision to increase certain national mileage allowances on an interim basis. [186251]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* No job descriptions are affected by the decision to increase certain national mileage allowances on an interim basis. Mileage allowances apply to all national health service employed staff who use a car in connection with their official duties of employment.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS employees received mileage allowance in the last 12 months. [186257]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Department does not collect this information centrally.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Staff Council will come to a decision on the proposals scheduled to be presented to it on 11 March 2008 by the sub group reviewing NHS staff mileage allowances. [186636]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* This is a matter for the NHS Staff Council.

### NHS: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 2236W, on NHS drugs, how many representations he received; and when the classification will be revisited. [186219]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has not received any representations since 24 January 2008.

The classification will be revisited when the responses to the consultation have been analysed.

### NHS: Research

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to improve research conducted by the NHS since 1997. [183106]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government's aim is to make the United Kingdom the best place in the world for health research, development and innovation; to ensure that the national health service is equipped and able to make a key contribution to that end; and to realise the potential of the NHS to support research that improves national health and increases national wealth.

The Government's strategy for health research Best Research for Best Health, published in January 2006 following widespread consultation, is creating a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals working in world-class facilities, and leading-edge research is conducted, focussing on the needs of patients and the public. Copies of the strategy document are available in the Library.

Details of the progress made with implementation of the strategy are set out in the progress report 'Transforming Health Research: the first two years' published on 17 January. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

These reforms are underpinned by increases in Government funding. Total Government investment in health research will reach £1.7 billion by 2010-11, an increase of over £290 million in the three year period covered by the 2007 comprehensive spending review. Almost £1 billion of this total will be spent by the Department's National Institute of Health Research.

### Orthopaedics: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on setting a national tariff for specialist orthopaedic treatments; and if he will make a statement. [186003]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is strengthening commissioning arrangements for specialised services following an independent review led by Sir David Carter. To support this direction of travel, we worked with specialised commissioning groups to refine the targeting of specialist top-ups, which are paid in addition to the tariff, for 2008-09. All providers of specialist orthopaedic services are eligible for specialist top-ups.

Arrangements for the reimbursement of specialist orthopaedic treatments were published as part of the tariff package, and alongside the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09, in December 2007.

We continue to work with interested parties to monitor and review these arrangements.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the drugs dispensed for each of the conditions exempted from prescription charges in each of the last three financial years, broken down by primary care trust; and what the projected costs are for each of the next three financial years. [184540]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the net ingredient cost of medicines dispensed in the community in England to holders of valid medical exemption certificates, broken down by primary care trust, have been placed in the Library. It is not possible to provide information relating to each of the exempt medical conditions. Projections for the next three financial years are not available.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the costs were of drugs dispensed by prescription in each of the last three financial years, broken down by primary care trust; and what the projected costs are for each of the next three financial years. [184541]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community in England, broken down by primary care trust, have been placed in the Library. Projections for the next three financial years are not available.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the costs were of drugs dispensed by free prescription in each of the last three financial years, broken down by primary care trust; and what the projected costs are for each of the next three financial years. [184542]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed free of charge in the community in England, broken down by primary care trust, have been placed in the Library. Projections for the next three financial years are not available.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of cases of early prostate cancer were treated in each of the last five years with *(a)* surgery, *(b)* radiotherapy, *(c)* hormone therapy and *(d)* other treatments. [184260]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of cases of early prostate cancer have been treated in each of the last five years with (a) surgery, (b) radiotherapy, (c) hormone therapy and (d) other treatments. (184260)

The statistics relate to all cases of prostate cancer since the recording of "stage" in the cancer register cannot provide nationally comparable data on early prostate cancer.

The latest year for which data are available is 2005. The table below shows, for 2001-2005, the percentage of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer receiving specific treatments. In 45 per cent. of prostate cancer cases in the national cancer registry database, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having had no treatment.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate[1] cancer by treatment[2], England and Wales, 2001-05*

| | | | | *Percentage receiving treatment*[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
| Chemotherapy | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Hormone therapy | 31 | 29 | 27 | 25 | 25 |
| Radiotherapy | 16 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| Surgery | 25 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 24 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
[3] Percentage of all prostate cancer patients
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Respite Care: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on respite care for children with disabilities from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* voluntary contributions in each of the last five years. [162265]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not currently collect or hold this information. The Department of Health currently collects data on expenditure on foster and residential care, although it cannot currently be disaggregated to give expenditure on respite care alone However, from 2008-09, my Department will take the lead in collecting this data, which will include information on local authority expenditure on short breaks for disabled children. The Government are investing significant additional resources into improving services for disabled children, as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, and seeking to improve the collection of data locally to enable better planning and monitoring of services.

### Tattooing

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people admitted *(a)* to NHS accident and emergency departments and *(b)* for NHS plastic surgery as a result of tattooing and piercing procedures in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by strategic health authority. [186129]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested about national health service plastic surgery is not collected centrally. In relation to the information requested about NHS accident and emergency admissions, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to her on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1087W.

### Transplant Surgery: Ethics

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to the ethical implications of face transplants; and if he will make a statement. [182263]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Clinicians need to be sure that any procedure is safe and that the patient is fully informed of any risks or limitations, in accordance with good professional practice, and in line with General Medical Council guidance. Necessary consent arrangements and tissue matching would need to be in order, as for any other type of transplant. If the procedure is being carried out in the context of research, it would need the approval of the local Research Ethics Committee.

In the particular case of a face transplant, in addition to ethical approval, doctors may need to get agreement from the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee which is part of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The Royal College of Surgeons have now published their report which expressed concerns about the substantial risk of acute or chronic rejection but believed that face transplants could go ahead providing certain conditions were met.

### Urology: Nurses

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of a cap on specialist urology nurse visits, as proposed in the Department of Health consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [185557]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on incontinence: medical equipment, how much of the £487 million per annum is *(a)* Part IX dressings and reagents expenditure, *(b)* Part IX stoma expenditure, *(c)* Part IX incontinence expenditure and *(d)* any other Part IX expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [185585]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The proposed cap does not relate to patient visits made by specialist nurses who work for the national health service. While not covered by their terms of service, many appliance contractors do provide services above basic dispensing, such as home delivery and specialist nurse visits.

One objective of the review is to ensure that such services are provided to the same standard and that remuneration for services is transparent.

As contractors' nurse visits are not remunerated directly today, the Department has had to make an assessment of the number of specialist nurse visits these contractors provide. This assessment has been based on information provided by those contractors through the consultation process.

Proposals regarding payment for specialist nurse visits were set out in the consultation entitled Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances - and related services - to Primary Care. Revised Proposals that closed on 28 December 2007.

The Department is currently analysing these responses. They will help to inform an assessment of how the cap might impact patient care.

The part IX expenditure that has been under review totals £487 million. A breakdown is shown in the following table.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Dressings and chemical reagents (Parts IX A & R) | 227 |
| Catheters (Part IX A) | 58 |
| Incontinence (Part IX B) | 40 |
| Stoma appliances (Part IX C) | 162 |
| Total Part IX under review | 487 |

*Source:*
Prescriptions Pricing Division, NHS Business Services Authority.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Admiralty House: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1080W, on Admiralty House: empty property, which Minister previously occupied the flat in Admiralty House which was occupied by the former Lord Chancellor before his departure from Ministerial office. [183453]

**Mr. Watson:** The flat in Admiralty House which was used by the former Lord Chancellor before his departure from ministerial office was previously occupied by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett).

### Adult Education: Social Exclusion

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the role of non-accredited adult learning in tackling social exclusion; and if he will make a statement. [184663]

**Phil Hope:** Ministers and civil servants meet regularly as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings. However, Cabinet Office Ministers will continue to work closely with colleagues to ensure that people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in training, education and work.

The Families at Risk Review demonstrates the importance of parental learning to improve outcomes for all family members and participation in non-accredited learning is often the first step into more formal learning programmes for many disadvantaged adults and parents. Both formal and non-accredited learning have the potential to improve economic opportunity, health and well-being as well as promoting social and community cohesion, helping to improve the life chances of disadvantaged families.

### Cabinet Office: Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the Cabinet Office's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182991]

**Mr. Watson:** Advertising costs as a percentage of the Cabinet Office's expenditure since 1997-98 can be found in the table as follows:

| | *Perceniage* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 0.09 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.19 |
| 2000-01 | 0.17 |
| 2001-02 | 1.23 |
| 2002-03 | 0.11 |
| 2003-04 | 0.11 |
| 2004-05 | 0.14 |
| 2005-06 | 0.12 |
| 2006-07 | 0.12 |

The increase in advertising spend in 2001-02 was due to expenditure incurred by the Office of the E-Envoy (now known as Transformational Government) for the UK Online advertising campaign, encouraging the public to use the internet, and offering help to those wanting to do so.

### Civil Service Agencies: Publicity

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies listed in the Central Office of Information's White Book include full details of their press and communication officers; [181307]

(2) which executive agencies and non-departmental bodies are not listed in the Central Office of Information's White Book. [181308]

**Mr. Watson:** The extent of the contract details provided in the White Book is decided by those bodies listed in it.

The White Book contains entries for 370 organisations, including some non-government organisations that deal with Government.

Government entries include a range of functions, such as providing information to the public through publications, websites and campaigns around issues such as road safety, public health and smoking.

A full list of non-departmental public bodies is available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

and Government Departments and executive agencies are listed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities.aspx

### Civil Service Appeal Board

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful appeals were made to the Civil Service Appeal board against (i) dismissal, (ii) early retirement, (iii) non-payment of compensation or amount of compensation paid on dismissal, (iv) refusal to allow participation in political activities and (v) forfeiture of superannuation in each year since 1997. [184782]

**Mr. Watson:** Statistics for each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 3 of each of the Civil Service Appeal Board's annual reports. These are available on the Board's website at http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of appeals were heard by the Civil Service Appeal Board within 18 weeks of receipt of the appeal in each of the last 10 years. [184790]

**Mr. Watson:** Statistics for each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 5 of each of the Civil Service Appeal Board's Annual Reports. These are available on the board's website at http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk. Copies are also available in the Library.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what percentage of decision letters were sent out by the Civil Service Appeal Board within 24 hours of the relevant hearing in each of the last 10 years; [184792]

(2) what percentage of reports of hearings were sent out within 20 days of hearings by the Civil Service Appeal Board in the latest period for which figures are available. [184794]

**Mr. Watson:** Statistics for each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 5 of the Civil Service Appeal Board's annual reports. These are available on the Board's website at http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of compensation awards were issued within 15 working days by the Civil Service Appeal Board following receipt of representation on contributory fault in the latest period for which figures are available. [184791]

**Mr. Watson:** This information can be found in Appendix 5 of the Civil Service Appeal Board's Annual Reports from 2003-04 when this performance target was introduced. These are available on the board's website at http://www.civilserviceappeal board.gov.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value of compensation awards issued by the Civil Service Appeal Board was in each of the last 10 years. [184795]

**Mr. Watson:** Statistics for each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 4 of the Civil Service Appeal Board's Annual Reports. These are available on the board's website at http://www.civilserviceappeal board.gov.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179032]

**Mr. Watson:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office with regards to the objective of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting in each year since 2004-05 is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

The following table shows all expenditure (inclusive of VAT) incurred by the Cabinet Office with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

£

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche | 45,978 | 309,815 | 12,485 |
| Ernst and Young | 9,400 | — | — |
| KPMG | 203,309 | 166,508 | 222,956 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 239,479 | 346,648 | 397,512 |
| PA Consulting | 1,088,886 | 2,023,005 | 578,374 |

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185528]

**Mr. Watson:** The Department does not hold this information.

## Departmental Legal Opinion

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 911-2W, on departmental legal opinion, what the cost to the public purse was of external legal advice provided to special advisers in relation to the police investigation into allegations of cash for peerages. [181723]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) and the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-6W. To protect the privacy of the individuals involved, it would not be appropriate to provide further breakdown of the costs.

## Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many ministerial residences were available to Cabinet Office Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183186]

**Mr. Watson:** Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. Rules on the use of official residences are set out in the Ministerial Code. Official residences which have been allocated to Ministers in the last 10 years are as follows:

The flats above Numbers 10 and 11 Downing street have traditionally been the residences of the Prime Minster and Chancellor of the Exchequer;

Flats 1, 2 and 3 in Admiralty House and the Government House in Pimlico have in the past been assigned to a variety of Ministers, which have included the Deputy Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Government House in Pimlico is no longer required and is in the process of being sold.

## Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182255]

**Mr. Watson:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

## Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184919]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 985W, by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron).

## Government Departments: Data Protection

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information his Department holds on the Civil Service grade of senior information risk owners in each Department. [186860]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office does not collate this information.

## Inspectorate Review of Government Information Assurance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library *(a)* the full version of the report by Nick Coleman, Inspectorate Review of Government Information Assurance, and *(b)* the summary paper of the report. [180994]

**Mr. Watson:** Nick Coleman was asked to work on information assurance activity across government to help inform the National Information Assurance Strategy and its implementation. A discussion document was published in June 2007 alongside the national strategy. Since then he has continued his work and the final report has not yet been completed. The current cross-government review on data handling is drawing on his expertise and work to date.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many cases of bullying have been reported in his Department in each of the last 12 months; [182884]

(2) whether any cases of bullying have been reported in the Prime Minister's Office in the last 12 months. [185183]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. In order to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or less individuals.

### Ministers: Pay

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of Ministers have not taken the maximum ministerial salary entitlement in each of the last 10 years, broken down by Government department. [178710]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* Government lists are available in the Library of the House. The list provides details of Ministers who are unpaid. The detailed information requested in respect of Ministers who have not taken their maximum salary entitlement is not held.

### Official Residences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside vacated the Government house in Pimlico. [183520]

**Mr. Watson:** My right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) vacated the Government house in Pimlico in March 2006.

### Organogram

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the organogram of his Department's Strategy Unit. [185237]

**Mr. Watson:** An organogram of the Strategy Unit is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/about/staff.aspx

I have also placed copies in the Library of the House.

### Public Appointments

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which public appointments for which his Department is responsible Sir Alistair Graham has held; and what total annual salary he has received in respect of such appointments in each of the last five financial years. [184563]

**Mr. Watson:** Sir Alistair was a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; a public body sponsored by the Cabinet Office, between 1 October 2003 and 25 April 2004, and was appointed Chairman with effect from 26 April 2004. As a member, Sir Alistair's time commitment was on average two days per month for which he received £180 per day. As chairman, Sir Alistair's time commitment was on average two days per week. From 26 April 2004 to 5 May 2005 he received £380 per day and from 6 May 2005 to 25 April 2007 he received £440 per day.

His fees were as follows.

| | £ | *Daily rate (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2003 to March 2004 | 720 | 180 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 28,290 | [1] 380 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 37,840 | 440 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 44,000 | 440 |

[1] Until 1 June 2004 then £440.

Sir Alistair did not claim any fee for April 2007

There are no records of Sir Alistair having served on any other Cabinet Office public bodies in the last five years.

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184695]

**Mr. Watson:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* In order to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or less individuals.

*(b)* There have been no complaints of sexual discrimination.

### Social Exclusion: Elderly

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consideration he gave to social exclusion among older people in developing *(a)* the Reaching Out action plan and *(b)* the Government's public service agreement on social exclusion. [184898]

**Phil Hope:** 'Reaching out: an Action Plan on Social Exclusion' and the Socially Excluded Adults PSA do not focus on older people as specific groups, but by embodying the Government's emphasis on prevention and early intervention, aim to help tackle exclusion before it begins.

The Department for Work and Pension's Later Life PSA; the Social Exclusion Task Force-funded research project analysing social exclusion amongst all age groups and the former Social Exclusion Unit report, 'A Sure Start to Later Life: Ending Inequalities for Older People', all focus more specifically on tackling existing exclusion among older people.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 20 February 2008*

## WALES

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187888]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### IRA

7. **Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the threat from dissident IRA activists. [186575]

**Mr. Woodward:** The recent decision by the Chief Constable to alert the public to an increased risk of dissident republican activity demonstrates that a small number of individuals continue to live in the past.

The PSNI works tirelessly to thwart the activities of those involved in criminal activity and to bring them to justice for their crimes. I have every confidence in the PSNI's ability to combat the threat they pose.

### Real IRA

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the activities of Real IRA. [186577]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for South Antrim (Dr. McCrea).

### Witness Intimidation

8. **Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the incidence of witness intimidation in Northern Ireland. [186576]

**Paul Goggins:** Witness intimidation, whatever form it takes, is entirely unacceptable. There were 69 recorded offences related to witness intimidation in 2006-07—a 26 per cent. fall on the previous year.

### Drug Smuggling

10. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of levels of drug smuggling in Northern Ireland. [186578]

**Paul Goggins:** While Northern Ireland has the lowest rates of drugs misuse in the UK, we are not complacent and the Organised Crime Task Force, which I chair, will continue to tackle head on those who smuggle and deal in drugs.

### Fuel Laundering

11. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will consider bringing forward measures to introduce an offence of fuel laundering. [186579]

**Paul Goggins:** My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has responsibility for legislation relating to revenue offences.

We are working closely with HMRC in considering the creation of an absolute offence for fuel laundering to increase the powers available in tackling this crime.

### Security

12. **Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland. [186580]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

### Crime Detection

13. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on crime detection rates in Northern Ireland. [186581]

**Paul Goggins:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland continue to improve its detection of crime through intelligence led, community based policing. The detection rate in Northern Ireland for 2006-07 is 23.6 per cent.—just above that for England and Wales.

### On-the-runs

14. **Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what Government policy is on "on-the-runs"; and if he will make a statement. [186582]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Government's policy on "on-the-runs" remains unchanged. We recognise the anomalous position of individuals who are still "on the run" for offences committed before the Belfast Agreement. This anomaly still needs to be addressed.

But, as my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) made clear when he withdrew the Northern Ireland (Offences) Bill two years ago, this issue is one that needs to be considered in the broader context of how we deal with the legacy of past.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185267]

**Mr. Woodward:** One personal digital assistant has been stolen in the last five years; a blackberry stolen in 2005 valued at £200.

### Northern Ireland

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to strengthen ties between Northern Ireland and the rest of Great Britain. [185672]

**Mr. Woodward:** The constitutional position of Northern Ireland is set out in the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Following the Belfast Agreement the British-Irish Council was established to promote positive, practical relationships among its Members: the British and Irish Governments, the devolved Administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The British-Irish Council offers a forum for members to discuss, consult and reach agreement on co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the relevant Administrations.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Development: Business

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each of the next four years of the local enterprise growth initiative. [187337]

**John Healey:** The budget for LEGI is £105 million for 2007-08, £105 million for 2008-09, £100 million for 2009-10 and £95 million for 2010-11. A decision on any funding beyond 2010-11 will be made as part of the next spending round. LEGI funding is now paid mainly through area based grant, plus additional capital sums, and settlements for each LEGI area have been published on the DCLG website.

### Consent to Medical Treatment: Mentally Ill

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the circumstances under which social services may have intimate medical examinations performed on those with mental incapacities without the consent of guardians ad litem; under what authority such examinations are performed; and if she will make a statement. [186497]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 284-85W.

### Social Housing: North-east

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to improve social housing in the north-east. [181550]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Since 2003, the Government have been working with all local authorities to implement the Decent Homes programme. This is being done in conjunction with new arrangements for housing management through the Options Appraisal process. The initial target was that all council homes should be improved to an agreed standard by 2010, although in some local circumstances later dates have been agreed.

In the north-east region some authorities have retained their housing stock, while others have chosen to manage their stock through arms length management organisations (ALMO) or have transferred their stock to registered social landlords as part of the large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT) arrangements.

Progress towards achieving the Decent Homes standard in the north-east region among those authorities still owning properties (either Retention or ALMO) is as set out below. For LSVT authorities who have transferred their stock, the situation is that progress to the Decent Homes standard is an integral part of their business planning process and all RSLs in the north-east indicate that they are on target to achieve the Decent Homes standard by 2010.

Recent publication of the 'New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnership' presents a set of national indicators for use in the current local area agreement (LAA) negotiations. One of these potential indicators, NI158, usefully refers to the 'percentage of decent council homes'.

| LA | *Total LA stock* | *Non-decent at 1 April 2006* | *Non-decent at 1 April 2007* | *Percentage non-decent at 1 April 2007* | *Target for 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alnwick | 1,771 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 1,933 | 77 | 77 | 3.9 | 34 |
| Blyth Valley | 6,799 | 1,585 | 165 | 2.4 | 0 |
| Castle Morpeth | 2,306 | 1,688 | 1,688 | 73.2 | 1,500 |
| Chester-le-Street | 4,331 | 2,077 | 2,010 | 46.4 | 428 |
| Darlington | 5,527 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Durham | 6,208 | 3,848 | 2,139 | 34.4 | 3,080 |
| Easington | 8,979 | 7,506 | 8,004 | 89.1 | 6,691 |
| Gateshead | 21,840 | 8,007 | 5,380 | 24.6 | 5,324 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 30,475 | 28,655 | 26,683 | 87.5 | 26,887 |
| North Tyneside | 15,952 | 9,392 | 8,614 | 53.9 | 8,350 |
| Sedgefield | 8,647 | 3,721 | 3,297 | 38.1 | 8,803 |
| South Tyneside | 18,595 | 14,093 | 11,183 | 60.1 | 8,450 |

| LA | Total LA stock | Non-decent at 1 April 2006 | Non-decent at 1 April 2007 | Percentage non-decent at 1 April 2007 | Target for 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stockton-on-Tees | 11,108 | 4,073 | 2,642 | 23.7 | 3,251 |
| Wansbeck | 5,430 | 2,263 | 2,731 | 50.2 | 2,213 |
| Wear Valley | 4,406 | 1,696 | 1,334 | 30.2 | 660 |

### Housing: Prices

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities had 15 percentile housing prices that were less than 70 per cent. of the national level at the most recent date for which figures are available. [187338]

**John Healey:** Based on HM Land Registry house price data for April to June 2007, there were 20 local authorities that had 15 percentile house prices that were less than 70 per cent. of the national level.

### Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department and its agencies have in relation to supervising the actions of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. [182381]

**John Healey:** The Secretary of State has several statutory powers in relation to Lee Valley Regional Park Authority which are set out in the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966 (as amended). These include a power to amend the authority's constitution by order. The Secretary of State's consent is also required if the authority wishes to sell, exchange or let either land which is open space or any land for a price below best consideration.

### M61: Noise

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis the Valuation Office Agency decided to contest the council tax valuation decision made by Manchester North Valuation Tribunal in relation to traffic noise on the M61. [183033]

**John Healey:** This decision was based on the opinion that the Valuation Tribunal had made an error in law, which would prejudice the bandings of other properties.

### Minerals and Waste Development Documents

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the statutory consultees are for the minerals and waste development documents submitted to her Department. [185233]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are no "statutory consultees" for development plan documents. Paragraph 2(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 only refers to "specific consultation bodies". This distinction gives mineral planning authorities the flexibility to decide which of the consultation bodies listed would have an interest in the contents of a plan, and consult only them.

The specific consultation bodies listed in paragraph 2(a) of the regulations, (which will also apply to any of them which have subsequently changed the names of their organisations) are:

"(a) in relation to a local planning authority whose area is in a region other than London, means the regional planning body and the bodies specified or described in sub-paragraphs (i) to (x);

(i) the Countryside Agency

(ii) the Environment Agency

(iii) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

(iv) English Nature

(v) The Strategic Rail Authority

(vi) The Highways Agency

(vii) A relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority

(viii) A Regional Development Agency, whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority

(ix) Any person -

(a) to whom the electronic communications code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106(3) of the Communications Act 2003,

and

(b) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority,

(x) if it exercises functions in any part of the local planning authority's area:

(a) a strategic health authority

(b) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) or

(c) of the Electricity Act 1989

(c) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act 1986

(d) a sewerage undertaker

(e) a water undertaker

(b) if the authority are a London borough council, means the Mayor of London and the bodies specified or described in paragraph (a)(i) to (x)."

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation units (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas there are in each of the four condition grades. [182314]

**Derek Twigg:** All service families accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC) and most SFA is also assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC). Where SfC is a detailed measure of the physical condition of SFA, GfC is an assessment of both the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as location and closeness to amenities.

Currently, SFA that is measured by SfC is at the following condition:

| | S1fC | Percentage | S2fC | Percentage | S3fC | Percentage | S4fC | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 28,103 | 59 | 17,741 | 37 | 2,105 | 4 | 120 | 0 |
| Overseas | 3,808 | 24 | 4,482 | 28 | 5,319 | 34 | 2,221 | 14 |

SLA is at the following grade:

| | Grade 1 | Percentage | Grade 2 | Percentage | Grade 3 | Percentage | Grade 4 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 34,668 | 25 | 17,398 | 13 | 23,346 | 17 | 62,212 | 45 |
| Overseas | 3,516 | 13 | 1,594 | 6 | 4,848 | 17 | 17,999 | 64 |

Over the next decade the MOD will spend over £8 billion on accommodation, including some £3.1 billion on bringing accommodation up to the top condition. This will include the delivery of some 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces by 2013 and 600 upgraded SFA properties this year, 600 next year and 800 each year thereafter.

### Armed Forces: Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 608W, on armed forces: influenza, if he will place in the Library a copy of each completed guidance note referred to in his Department's pandemic influenza contingency plan published in December 2007. [184269]

**Derek Twigg:** I have placed copies of the preliminary and prepare stage guidance notes of the MOD framework in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 608W, on armed forces: influenza, when he plans to issue guidance on the development of plans for the recovery of operational capability in the aftermath of a human pandemic, as stated in paragraph 2.15 of his Department's pandemic influenza contingency plan, published in December 2007. [184296]

**Derek Twigg:** The generic MOD pandemic flu framework brings together activities which for the most part will be undertaken by Defence business units and operational commands so that they can put in place the necessary response arrangements before a pandemic emerges. The guidance notes being prepared to support the key tasks identified in the framework consist of one-page summaries to assist them. As the framework is a live document, whose development remains ongoing, all the guidance being developed is subject to regular review and amendment.

At the strategic level we are confident that in its current form the framework we have developed covers the key areas we need to address in the event of a pandemic. At present work on the guidance note "Recovery of operational capability in the aftermath of a pandemic" (along with other guidance notes) remains ongoing. We hope to complete this in the next few months.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 608W, on armed forces: influenza, by what mechanism medical treatments will be prioritised in the event of an influenza pandemic as stated in paragraph 2.8 of his Department's pandemic influenza contingency plan, published in December 2007. [184298]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD policy on the prioritisation of medical treatment in the event of a flu pandemic is to refer to the authoritative Department of Health guidelines (based on clinical need) and comprehensive information and guidelines to this effect have been issued by the Surgeon General to the Defence Medical Services.

### Armed Forces: Medical Records

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time was for a person's medical records to be transferred to the NHS following a medical discharge from the armed forces in the last 12 months. [185990]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how military training schedules will be adapted to allow for athletes hosted there to use the facilities. [186665]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of personnel that the British Olympic Association has proposed will use the facilities at Aldershot are expected to be accommodated without disruption to military activities. Military requirements for use of training facilities will take priority.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Mastiff vehicle may be carried in the future A400M aircraft; [167743]

(2) what weapon systems have been added to the Mastiff vehicle; [167744]

(3) how the *(a)* first and *(b)* subsequent Mastiff vehicles were delivered to theatre; [167745]

(4) what the *(a)* cost of the Cougar vehicle ex-USA is before being adapted in the UK to become the Mastiff and *(b)* final cost of the Mastiff is in its ready for theatre state. [167746]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Each Mastiff has been fitted with a general purpose machine gun, and either a heavy machine gun or a grenade machine gun.

All Mastiff vehicles were delivered to theatre by air. Based on the planned technical specifications we have for A400M, it will be able to carry the Mastiff vehicle.

I am withholding the cost of a Cougar vehicle as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 258W, about the cost of conversion to a Mastiff.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* required and *(b)* available for pre-deployment training; [186035]

(2) how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* available to be deployed immediately, *(b)* undergoing repair, *(c)* undergoing Bowman conversion, *(d)* in storage and *(e)* being used for training purposes. [186037]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information is shown in the following table as at January 2008.

| *Vehicle* | *PDT requirement* | *Routine maintenance and under repair* | *Bowman conversion* | *Storage* | *Used for training* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CR2 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 76 | 226 |
| WR | 32 | 109 | 28 | 16 | 514 |
| CVR (T) | 46 | 306 | 33 | 9 | 775 |
| Saxon | 0 | 18 | 0 | 67 | 18 |
| Mastiff | 76 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Bulldog | 17 | 129 | 31 | 0 | 168 |
| Vector | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Viking | 15 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 20 |

Sufficient numbers of vehicles are available to meet pre-deployment training (PDT) demands.

I am withholding the information on the numbers of vehicles available for deployment as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

## Corporate Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place to ensure that invitations to events received by officials in his Department from private companies are assessed using the Gifts, Reward and Hospitality Annex of the Statement of Civilian and Service Personnel Policy. [175952]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Officials within the Ministry of Defence are required to record all invitations to events received from private companies, in a hospitality book, whether they are accepted or declined. Members of the senior civil service, service officers in command appointments and those holding staff appointments at or above one star level are required to maintain their own hospitality book. Each management area is required to maintain a hospitality book for the use of more junior officials.

Hospitality books are to be examined, at regular intervals, (at least once per year), by the appropriate director, head of division or commanding officer. Their hospitality books are in turn, inspected by staff of senior grade/rank, usually their line manager. Hospitality books are additionally subject to audit by Defence Internal Audit and the National Audit Office.

## Departmental Assets

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's monthly defence equipment and support *(a)* regular strength reports, *(b)* breakdown of military staff by geographic location and *(c)* support and supply civilian manpower reduction returns for 2007-08. [184860]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The numbers in the regular strength reports are not rounded. To avoid personal information being disclosed, only fully rounded versions can be released and this could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

The reports at *(b)* and *(c)* have not been produced in 2007-08.

## Departmental Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the departmental minute of 15 April 2005 on Manpower Data: A Need for Consistency. [185767]

**Derek Twigg:** I believe the hon. Member is referring to a loose minute issued on behalf of the Second Permanent Under Secretary of State dated 15 April 2005 and entitled "Manpower Data: A Need for Consistency", I will place redacted copies of the loose minute and its annexes in the Library of the House.

## Gurkhas: Accommodation

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with the Sultan of Brunei about the provision of married quarters for Gurkha soldiers based there; [186938]

(2) what interim financial arrangement he plans to make for Brunei-based Gurkhas who are unable to obtain a suitable married quarter there. [186939]

**Derek Twigg:** One battalion of Gurkhas (about 650 personnel) is permanently stationed in Brunei under the UK/Brunei Defence agreement. The rebuilding of the service families accommodation, single living accommodation and other facilities for the garrison in Brunei has been subject to negotiations within the UK/Brunei Joint Defence Committee. These detailed and constructive negotiations have been refined to take account of the improved Gurkha married accompanied service arrangements for Gurkhas, introduced in 2006, where Gurkhas with more than three years service have the same entitlement to married accompanied service as the rest of the British Army.

The development project for the garrison is proceeding in two stages, with a rolling programme providing accommodation planned for completion in 2011. The project is being paid for and delivered by the Government of Brunei, whose commitment is greatly appreciated by the UK Government.

When Gurkhas are subject to involuntary separation from their families, they are entitled to Longer Separation Allowance in accordance with the provisions of the Tri-Service Regulations for Allowances. This applies to those Gurkhas whose families are unable to join them in Brunei while the garrison development project is in progress.

## National Army Museum

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will request the National Army Museum (NAM) to give to all of the Regimental and Corps Museums funded by his Department *(a)* all reasonable access to and *(b)* capacity to copy any record document deposited within NAM that relates to that Regiment or Corps; and if he will make a statement; [187258]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the National Army Museum's access policy; what the Museum's systems and procedures are for dealing with *(a)* other military, Regimental and Corps museums wholly or partly funded by the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* other museums, *(c)* historians, researchers, authors and journalists and *(d)* members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [187260]

**Derek Twigg:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funds his Department made available to the National Army Museum in each of the last 10 years; and how much other public funding it received. [187259]

**Derek Twigg:** The grant in aid for the National Army Museum over the last 10 years is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3,491,978 |
| 1998-99 | 3,331,047 |
| 1999-2000 | 4,129,563 |
| 2000-01 | 4,709,171 |
| 2001-02 | 4,771,935 |
| 2002-03 | 4,859,557 |
| 2003-04 | 5,516,730 |
| 2004-05 | 5,242,228 |
| 2005-06 | 4,948,258 |
| 2006-07 | 5,362,148 |

## Navy: Data Protection

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the 600,000 people whose personal data were on the laptop recently stolen from a Royal Navy recruiting officer were *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* under 18 when they contacted the recruitment service. [181587]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* Of the 600,000 people whose personal data were on the laptop stolen from a Royal Navy recruiting officer, 47,537 candidate records, that have a stored date of birth, were aged under 18 on 16 Jan 2008. 167,869 candidate records, that have a stored date of birth and a stored initial contact date, were aged under 18 when the initial contact was made.

Applicants who are under 18 years of age, or are in care at the time of application, are to obtain the consent of a parent or guardian or person with parental responsibilities before the application can be considered. This consent will be required again on entry if the applicant is still under 18, or in care.

## Territorial Army: Finance

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the required saving for the Territorial Army of £2.5 million in each of the next two financial years will be achieved, broken down by activity. [187181]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave him on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1769W, which set out the measures being taken in order to deliver the required £2.5 million funding reduction for the Territorial Army over the course of the current and next financial years. The effect of these measures was to be felt in three broad areas; capability, personnel and activities, including recruiting.

It was made clear that those TA units identified as not making a significant contribution to current operations would be directed to manage their recruiting so as to prevent their unit size from exceeding agreed levels. This element of the measures will be applied only in financial year 2007-08. I wrote to those hon. Members in whose constituencies the affected TA units are located in August 2007 informing them of this decision. This does not represent a change to TA recruiting policy.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations she has received on the accessibility of *(a)* the Olympic village and *(b)* each Olympic venue. [184331]

**Tessa Jowell:** All the Olympic family are working to ensure the games are fully inclusive and accessible—both at games time and in legacy. Making this happen requires the best advice from accessibility experts and listening to the needs of local people.

The ODA have a published quality and diversity strategy and are currently working through the design process on the village and venues with preferred developers and contractors (where agreed). LOGOG and the International Paralympic Committee are also fully involved. This process is informed by the ODA's Access and Inclusion Forum and Access Panels (Transport and Built Environment), which includes membership from disability organisations within each of the five boroughs, as well as the borough access officers and key external stakeholders.

A design and access statement was submitted as part of the planning application in January 2007. This will underpin the design of all games venues. Access statements for each venue are being developed, with reviews conducted by the principal access officer at each building stage and with oversight by the Access Panels. Accessible transport and built environment strategies will also be published later this year.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 967W, on Afghanistan: drugs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the UK-funded review of the Afghan Government's national drugs control strategy and the institutional framework supporting it. [186894]

**David Miliband:** The UK-commissioned review of the Afghan Government's national drugs control strategy was conducted by independent consultants and the results were discussed with the Afghan Government. While some of the recommendations have been agreed and taken forward, we agreed not to pursue others. We do not publish all consultancy reports, and as some of the recommendations have not been taken forward, it would not be appropriate to put a copy of the review in the Library of the House.

### Afghanistan: Police

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department has conducted into police training and readiness in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [186710]

**David Miliband:** Improving the capability of the Afghan police is critical to security in Afghanistan. The UK is providing policing assistance to the Afghan Government as a part of our efforts to improve governance and security. Our assistance includes the provision of specialist law enforcement experts based in Afghanistan who are working to improve the quality of the Afghan police through training and mentoring programmes. These individuals are working alongside colleagues in the European Union policing mission to Afghanistan, as well as the US Combined Security and Transition Command—Afghanistan on the development of police training.

Officials within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly receive information from these experts and organisations and also make use of internationally produced research into Afghan policing. The FCO, however, has not commissioned any specific academic research into police training and readiness in Afghanistan.

### Brazil: Human Rights

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to Brazil on the human rights of tribal peoples in Brazil. [187045]

**Dr. Howells:** We have made no specific representations. The rights of indigenous people were discussed during a visit I made to Brazil in September 2007, in a meeting with Brazil's Minister for Human Rights.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185414]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses a large number of databases. The most significant of these are managed centrally. These support activities across the organisation, such as the processing of visa applications from foreign nationals, passport issue overseas, consular assistance and financial and personnel administration.

Many others, where there is no operational need to share data, are locally owned and maintained, either by diplomatic posts overseas or departments in the UK. A survey in 2005 identified more than 1,000 of these, of varying size and complexity, holding over 1 million records supporting the full range of activities undertaken by the FCO worldwide.

There are two FCO agencies. FCO Services maintains databases to support the operational services provided to the FCO. Wilton Park keeps records relating to the conferences held there. Both also use databases in support of internal administration (such as staff records, financial data and other organisational information).

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183291]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services home fleet of vehicles currently comprises 35 vehicles. They are all owned by the Department. Purchases for the home fleet in the last two years have been six vehicles per year. This is based upon a one for one replacement programme with an old vehicle being disposed of when the new vehicle arrives.

We are unable to provide further information on purchases for the home or overseas fleets without incurring disproportionate cost.

In respect of vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W, by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick).

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181589]

**Meg Munn:** It would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information requested by the hon. Member as this information is not held centrally in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. The Government's annual publication about overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers is accessible at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

The list includes details about the number of officials accompanying a Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of lists covering information going back to the 1997-98 financial year are also available in the Library of the House.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.'

### Egypt: Administration of Justice

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Egypt over the independence of the judiciary in that country. [187246]

**Dr. Howells:** We regularly raise a range of rule of law and human rights issues with the Egyptian Government both bilaterally and with EU partners.

There are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to hold discussions on the specific subject of independence of the judiciary with the Egyptian Government. However, we look forward to this being discussed in the context of the political sub-committee established under the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

### Entry Clearances: Internet

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 435W, on entry clearances: internet, what assessment has been made by UK visas of local needs in Sierra Leone with respect to the take-up of the Visa4UK service. [187024]

**Dr. Howells:** The Visa4UK online application service was introduced in Sierra Leone from 1 October 2007, following an assessment of local needs by our high commission in Freetown. This assessment took into account the infrastructure and levels of literacy in Sierra Leone and the benefits to applicants.

### Equatorial Guinea: Diplomatic Service

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will establish a permanent salaried diplomatic presence in Equatorial Guinea. [186650]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Government have no plans to establish a permanent diplomatic presence in Equatorial Guinea at this point.

Non-resident diplomatic cover for Equatorial Guinea is provided by our high commissioner to Nigeria, based in Abuja, and his staff. Consular cover is provided by the British deputy high commission in Lagos and there is a British honorary consul resident in Malabo.

We believe that these arrangements are sufficient to represent UK interests in Equatorial Guinea.

### Equatorial Guinea: Prisoners

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he has made available to the family of Simon Mann; what counselling services have been made available to Mr. Mann; which Government officials have met Mr. Mann in the last month; where those meetings took place; and what representations the Government has made to the Government of Equatorial Guinea about Mr. Mann in the last two weeks. [185729]

**Meg Munn:** Our consul in Harare last visited Simon Mann in prison there on 22 January.

Our deputy high commission in Lagos provides consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea. Our consul in Lagos visited Mr. Mann in Black Beach prison on 12 February.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met the Equatorial Guinean ambassador on 7 February and spoke to him on 11 and 12 February. The Equatorial Guinean authorities have given assurances that Mr. Mann will be treated well while in detention. They have also assured us that he will receive a fair trial in accordance with international law and will be free to appoint a lawyer.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been in regular contact with Mr. Mann's family and his lawyers.

### Eritrea: UNMEE

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Eritrean co-operation with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, with particular respect to fuel supplies. [186867]

**David Miliband:** We are dismayed by Eritrea's refusal to resume fuel shipments to the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), or to allow it to import its own fuel. This refusal threatens UNMEE's ability to carry out its mandate. We strongly condemn Eritrea's actions in this regard.

Eritrea's action is in direct contravention of the demands of the UN Security Council (UNSC), as set out in paragraph seven of UNSC Resolution 1798, adopted unanimously on 30 January 2008, and the UNSC press statement of 4 February 2008. The UK strongly supports the UNSC's demands.

Our ambassador in Asmara emphasised the UK's condemnation of Eritrea and support for the UNSC's demands to the Eritrean Government on 14 February 2008. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, did the same with the Eritrean ambassador to the UK on 18 February 2008.

### European Council: Presidents

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the proposed role of the President of the European Council in representing the EU internationally. [185539]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Heads of State and Government, supported by Foreign Ministers reached agreement on all the key institutional issues in the Lisbon treaty, including the role of full-time President of the European Council, at the 2007 June European Council.

The treaty makes clear that

"The President of the European Council shall, at his or her level and in that capacity, ensure the external representation of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy."

The Lisbon treaty sets out in full the full-time President's broad role, but discussions on the detail have not yet started.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on the salary, allowances and pension of the President of the European Council under the treaty of Lisbon if ratified. [186292]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* The Lisbon treaty sets out the role of the President of the European Council. Details on salary and other job related benefits are not set out in the treaty. Discussions on these issues have not yet started.

### European External Action Service

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff work in the European Council Secretariat on matters relating to the European external action service; and how many of them are on secondment from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU member states. [186861]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information on the staffing of the European Council Secretariat. The Council Secretariat is responsible for the allocation of its staffing resources.

There are currently seven secondees from the UK working in various departments at the Council Secretariat. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold details of nationals from other member states currently seconded to the Council Secretariat.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183855]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) gave to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1504W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) policy on the procurement of fair trade produce is to ensure that fair trade produce is available to purchase and the FCO will explore options to expand the variety of fair trade options offered for sale, within the boundaries of good procurement practice—including value for money. Tea and coffee provided for official functions are fair trade.

### Gibraltar: Administration of Justice

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the suspension of the Chief Justice of Gibraltar. [186859]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* The suspension of the Chief Justice is a matter for the Governor of Gibraltar. The Governor, as Her Majesty the Queen's Representative in Gibraltar, acting in accordance with the Constitution of Gibraltar and on the advice of the Gibraltar Judicial Service Commission, has established a tribunal to consider whether the Governor should request that the removal of the Chief Justice from office be referred by Her Majesty the Queen to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. Pending the outcome of these proceedings the Governor, again acting in accordance with the advice of the Gibraltar Judicial Service Commission, has suspended the Chief Justice from his office.

### Iran

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his statement of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 50WS, on GAERC, 28 January 2008, when the strengthening of the EU's measures in support of action by the UN

Security Council on Iran will take place; and if he will make a statement. [186704]

**David Miliband:** We are working closely with EU partners to ensure that the EU is ready to adopt further measures as soon as possible after the next UN Security Council Resolution is adopted. Foreign Ministers of the E3+3 (UK, France, Germany, US, China and Russia) were unanimous in their agreement on elements of a new resolution on 22 January and we hope for an early vote in the UN Security Council.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the use of P-2 centrifuges in the Iranian enrichment programme; and if he will make a statement. [186868]

**David Miliband:** We are aware that Dr. Mohammad ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited an advanced centrifuge site during his visit to Iran on 11-12 January. During this visit, Iran provided some information to the IAEA about its research and development activities in relation to advanced centrifuge technology. We look forward to learning more about these developments in the next report from Dr. ElBaradei. Iran's enrichment programme has no apparent use in its civilian programme and contravenes three UN Security Council Resolutions. These resolutions require Iran to suspend all its enrichment-related activities.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the economic and political impact of UN sanctions on Iran under UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747; and if he will make a statement. [186712]

**David Miliband:** We continuously monitor the impact of sanctions through reporting from our embassy in Tehran and other means, including the assessments of analysts across Government and key allies on this issue. We also take note of relevant publications on this topic.

### Israel: Human Rights

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the EU-Israel Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) has met; what monitoring the HRWG has undertaken of the implementation of the human rights provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement; and what conclusions have been drawn from the monitoring. [187228]

**Dr. Howells:** Israel and the EU are committed to achieve closer political co-operation and dialogue on the basis of their common values. In November 2005, the EU-Israel subcommittee on Political Dialogue and Co-operation established an EU-Israel human rights working group. This informal working group has held two sessions on 7 June 2006 and 20 February 2007. A third is scheduled to take place on 15 April 2008. The EU-Israel subcommittee on Political Dialogue follows up the work of this informal working group. It last met to do so on 22 October 2007. The European Commission Delegation and EU member states posts in the region closely monitor the situation. Non-governmental organisations provide the EU with additional information and feedback. The situation is constantly evolving, making monitoring and assessment of it an ongoing process.

We continue to have concerns about the human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We are particularly concerned by targeted killings of Palestinians by the Israel Defence Forces; the firing of artillery shells near populated areas of the Gaza Strip causing deaths of civilians; continued settlement construction in the west bank; the impact of the barrier; closures; settler violence; and intimidation and harassment of Palestinian citizens. We also remain extremely concerned about human rights abuses in areas where the Palestinian Authority should take responsibility, in particular its failure to prevent terrorist attacks and rocket attacks on Israeli communities from Gaza and the continuing violence between Palestinian groups. We regularly raise these concerns with the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

### Pakistan: Elections

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Pakistan on the representation of religious minority groups in the selection of candidates for the forthcoming Pakistan parliamentary elections. [187245]

**Dr. Howells:** In our regular contact with the Government of Pakistan at ministerial and official level, bilaterally and through the EU, we have stressed the need for free and fair elections. The elections, which took place on 18 February, were an opportunity for the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic voice and participate fully in the process of electing their new government. The EU observer mission will report preliminary conclusions on the conduct of the elections on 20 February.

We will want to work with the new Government to help build the institutional framework necessary for a sustained democratic transition and ensure that the fundamental rights of all Pakistani citizens, particularly the most vulnerable (women, minorities and children) are guaranteed, as laid down in the constitution of Pakistan and in accordance with international human rights standards.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials recently met with representatives from the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement, a non-governmental organisation working on behalf of Christians in Pakistan, as part of our ongoing engagement with stakeholder communities. Officials remain in regular contact with them on minority religious rights issues.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each such year. [183361]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

Parking fines incurred and paid for by the Department over the financial year 2006-07 totalled £1,750 and for financial year 2007-08 (up to end January 2008) totalled £1,610.

All of the drivers employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services are required to abide by the law at all times, they are held personally responsible for any speeding or other driving offences they may commit while on duty and these fines are not paid for from the public purse.

For previous years the information is not held centrally and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

In respect of vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1014-15W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick).

### Spain: Arrest Warrants

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Spanish authorities on the decision of the courts there to seek international arrest warrants for 40 Rwandan soldiers accused of being complicit in the 1994 genocide. [186834]

**Meg Munn:** The issue of any such arrest warrants is a matter for the Spanish judiciary. Officials are in contact with the relevant Spanish authorities to find out more information on this matter. The execution of a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) in the UK is a judicial process based on mutual recognition between EU member states. Any EAW becomes executable when received and certified by the relevant designated authority, which is the Serious Organised Crime Agency in the UK.

### Sudan: Chad

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of possible links between Sudan and rebel forces in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [186871]

**David Miliband:** We are aware of reports that Sudan and Chad continue to support each other's rebels. In repeated bilateral contacts with the Sudanese Government, including during my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown's visit to Sudan on 28-31 January, we have urged Sudan to end this support. We have also supported calls by the UN and African Union to the Governments of Chad and Sudan to stop supporting each other's rebels, fulfil their obligations under the 2006 Tripoli agreement and abide by the cease-fire agreed in Libya in October 2007.

### Sudan: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of forcible repatriation of foreign nationals resident in Sudan to countries where they are at risk of persecution. [186966]

**Meg Munn:** The UK has not received any official reports or representations on the forcible repatriation of foreign nationals resident in Sudan.

However, we remain in close contact with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sudan who is responsible for ensuring refugees are afforded protection and treated equitably in their countries of refuge according to international human rights law.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what support his Department has given to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the provision of helicopter units required by the UNAMID mission to Darfur; [186304]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of the commercial provision of the helicopter units, engineers and pilots required by the UNAMID mission to Darfur. [186306]

**Meg Munn:** We have lobbied a number of countries to provide helicopters for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). We helped to convene two meetings in New York in January between the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and over 20 countries to discuss helicopter provision for UNAMID. We understand Ethiopia has now offered to contribute a number of helicopters and the DPKO is following up with other potential contributing countries.

We have discussed the feasibility of commercial helicopter support with DPKO, but we have not estimated the cost of full commercial provision of the UNAMID helicopter shortfall. We remain in close contact with the DPKO and partners to discuss how we can continue to support efforts to find helicopters, as well as other support to UNAMID.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the recent meeting of military advisers in New York convened by the UK on helicopters for UNAMID; and if he will make a statement. [186347]

**Meg Munn:** We helped to convene two meetings in New York in January between the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and over 20 countries to discuss helicopter provision for the

UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). We understand Ethiopia has now offered to contribute a number of helicopters for UNAMID. Significant shortfalls remain and the DPKO is now following up with other potential contributing countries. We remain in close contact with the DPKO and partners to discuss how we can continue to support efforts to find helicopters, as well as other support to UNAMID.

### United Nations: Sanctions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people resident in the UK were subject to sanctions by the UN Security Council in 2002; what the average duration of those individuals' appearance on the sanctions list was; and how many individuals were removed from that list and for what reasons in that period. [186696]

**Dr. Howells:** There were four individuals resident in the UK subject to UN sanctions in 2002. By the end of 2002 the average length of time spent by these individuals on the sanctions list was just over 13 months. No individuals resident in the UK were removed from the sanctions list during 2002.

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, what sanctions apply to UK persons who have been blacklisted by the UN under Chapter VII of the UN Charter; and whether these sanctions apply to travel. [186697]

**Dr. Howells:** UK resident individuals who have been listed by the UN for sanctions are subject to an asset freeze and international travel ban. Exemptions are allowed on humanitarian grounds and in other situations as decided on a case by case basis by the UN Security Council.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were employed in his Department's press office in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the office, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187052]

**David Cairns:** The number of press officers is published in the Office's annual reports, copies of which are in the House Library. The Office does not disaggregate its corporate and central running costs to this level of detail.

### Departmental Stationery

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [187058]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1495W.

### Electricity

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on electricity in each of the last five years. [187055]

**David Cairns:** Expenditure was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 28,439 |
| 2003-04 | 23,703 |
| 2004-05 | 23,372 |
| 2005-06 | 21,650 |
| 2006-07 | 36,488 |

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days he spent in Scotland on official business in each of the last 12 months. [182863]

**Des Browne:** Between January and June 2007, in addition to his constituency duties as Member of Parliament for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South, my predecessor had official Scotland Office business in Scotland on 15 days as follows:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| January 2007 | 1 |
| February 2007 | 5 |
| March 2007 | 2 |
| April 2007 | 2 |
| May 2007 | 4 |
| June 2007 | 1 |

Since June 2007, when I assumed the role of Secretary of State for Scotland, I have conducted official business in Scotland, in addition to my constituency duties as Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock and Loudoun, in my capacities both as Secretary of State for Scotland and Secretary of State for Defence, as follows:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| June 2007 | 1 |
| July 2007 | 3 |
| August 2007 | 16 |
| September 2007 | 3 |
| October 2007 | 5 |
| November 2007 | 5 |
| December 2007 | 3 |
| January 2008 | 2 |

In addition to this, during weekends and parliamentary recesses, both I and my predecessor also executed official responsibilities in Scotland.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Annual Reports

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects *(a)* his Department, *(b)* The Big Lottery Fund, *(c)* Arts Council England, *(d)* Sport England, *(e)* The

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(f)* The Heritage Lottery Fund, *(g)* English Heritage and *(h)* the BBC to publish their annual report and accounts for 2007-08. [186240]

**Andy Burnham:** The following dates are indicative:

*(a)* The Department intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts before the House rises for the summer recess.

*(b)* The Big Lottery Fund intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts before the House rises for the summer recess.

*(c)* Arts Council England intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts before the House rises for the summer recess.

*(d)* Sport England's 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts will be published before the House rises for the summer recess. They are in the process of finalising their financial timetable and have set a provisional publication date of 14 July 2008.

*(e)* The Museums, Libraries and Archive Council intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts in September 2008.

*(f)* The Heritage Lottery Fund expects to lay its Annual Report and Accounts before the House of Commons on 16 July 2008 and publish them shortly thereafter.

*(g)* English Heritage intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts by 22 July 2008.

(h) The BBC intends to publish its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts in July 2008.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* laptop computers and *(b)* discs have gone missing from his Department in the last 10 years. [181983]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Since 1998, nine laptops have been reported as missing from my Department. None of those laptops carried personal data. No laptops have gone missing since 2004.

No discs have been reported as missing in the last 10 years.

### Internet

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of households without access to the internet, broken down by *(a)* income decile, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* region; [181375]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households containing children without access to the internet, broken down by *(a)* income decile, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* region; [181376]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents with internet access, broken down by income decile. [181377]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183363]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department uses cars provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA).

In respect of vehicles provided by GCDA I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1008-14W.

### Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people who participated in one active sport at least 12 times a year in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, broken down by region. [187243]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Data from the DCMS' Taking Part survey shows the number of people who participated in one active sport at least 12 times a year. The table sets out the data by region.

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

| | *Active sport (percentage)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| North East | 52 | 54 |
| North West | 50 | 49 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 50 | 53 |
| East Midlands | 55 | 56 |
| West Midlands | 51 | 50 |
| East of England | 57 | 55 |
| London | 55 | 52 |
| South East | 58 | 58 |
| South West | 54 | 54 |
| England | 54 | 53 |

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Departmental e-mail

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179425]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department already makes use of the advantages offered by its ICT technology to minimise the amount of printed material. For example we have an effective Department wide document management system called MATRIX whereby users

are able to store and retrieve e-mails for viewing online rather than printing them out. This service is available to staff whether they are in the office or working remotely. We are also planning an educational initiative for staff to remind them of e-mail best practice, one aspect of which is to minimise the hard copy printing of e-mails and attachments.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162452]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for East Midlands (Phil Hope), on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 596W.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171543]

**Mr. Thomas:** The former Department of Trade and Industry awarded end-year performance awards to Highly Successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available, in the last five years the total amount of Annual Performance Awards is in the table as follows.

*Annual Performance Awards* [2]

| *Financial year* [1] | *Total value* [3] *(£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,579,906 |
| 2003-04 | 1,505,328 |
| 2004-05 | 1,563,180 |
| 2005-06 | 1,808,630 |
| 2006-07 | 2,532,180 |

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.
[2] The Annual Performance Awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's pay-bill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.
[3] Performance awards make up 1.5 per cent. or less of the Department's pay bill.

The agencies of BERR are Companies House and the Insolvency Service. Information on their bonus payments is an operational matter for the chief executives of BERR agencies and I have asked them to reply to the hon. Member direct. A copy of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies since its inception; and what the total cost of those contracts has been to date. [183195]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that for the period June 2007 to February 2008, since the Department's inception, the total cost of contracts with public relations companies is £387,501.

### Departmental Special Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the special advisers in his Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the last year for which figures are available. [163421]

**Mr. Thomas:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister issued a written ministerial statement on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 147-50WS. It gives the names of special advisers in post at 22 November 2007, the special advisers' pay ranges for 2007-08, the number of special advisers in each pay band by Department and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for 2006-07.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184360]

**Mr. Thomas:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter of 2 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Quiligottee, transferred by HM Treasury. [181078]

**Mr. Thomas:** HM Treasury transferred my right hon. Friend's letter on 4 December. On 10 December they requested that the letter be transferred back to them and my Department did this on 12 December.

### Mobile Phones: Fraud

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to protect consumers from phishing texts; and if he will make a statement. [180379]

**Mr. Thomas:** Under the provisions of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, any unsolicited text messages are illegal. Text messages should only be sent with the prior consent of the individual subscriber, but there is an exemption where the subscriber has given his or her mobile telephone number direct to a company in the context of the purchase of a product or service. Enforcement is undertaken by the Information Commissioner.

### Post Offices: Carbon Emissions

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent steps the Post Office has taken to reduce carbon emissions; [186801]

(2) which Post Office branches have been nominated for closure under Post Office Ltd's closure programme. [186803]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps he is taking to encourage the public to participate in promoting the post office closure consultation, [187229]

(2) how many households in each London borough will be sent the Post Office's consultation paper when the list of recommended closures is published on 19 February. [187230]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which post offices are proposed for closure under the consultation process due to begin in July 2008 in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency. [187321]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Pendle

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will instruct the Post Office to publish the subsidy received by each post office branch in Pendle that is scheduled for closure. [186486]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Scotland

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices there were in Scotland at the end of January 2007. [187042]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Regional Development Agencies: Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* IT systems, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* branding in each of the last five years. [182795]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following table shows how much each regional development agency spent on consultants, IT systems, advertising and branding in each of the last five years.

£000

| | Consultancy[1] | | | | | IT systems[1] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *RDAs* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| AWM | 572 | 453 | 672 | 496 | 247 | 271 | 504 | 169 | 199 | 257 |
| EEDA | 279 | 267 | 226 | 714 | 563 | 526 | 721 | 705 | 771 | 810 |
| EMDA | 621 | 295 | 149 | 228 | 148 | 481 | 878 | 323 | 389 | 309 |
| LDA[2] | — | — | 335 | 287 | 1,400 | — | — | 1,024 | 1,085 | 1,675 |
| NWDA | 874 | 815 | 792 | 535 | 518 | 38 | 70 | 206 | 262 | 437 |

£000

| | Consultancy[1] | | | | | IT systems[2] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| ONE | 183 | 146 | 200 | 309 | 197 | 590 | 695 | 502 | 589 | 663 |
| SEEDA | 110 | 80 | 125 | 98 | 120 | 282 | 143 | 239 | 228 | 363 |
| SWRDA | 527 | 431 | 648 | 557 | 281 | 232 | 318 | 483 | 356 | 1,312 |
| YF | 180 | 270 | 296 | 194 | 228 | 758 | 1,537 | 790 | 725 | 754 |

£000

| | Advertising[4] | | | | | Branding[5] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| AWM[6] | 511 | 553 | 1,366 | 1,473 | 3,144 | — | — | — | — | — |
| EEDA | 261 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EMDA | 102 | 110 | 99 | 85 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| LDA[7] | 77 | 333 | 634 | 275 | 393 | — | — | — | 214 | 194 |
| NWDA | 149 | 99 | 198 | 183 | 414 | 7 | 33 | 0 | 30 | 21 |
| ONE[8] | — | 207 | 1,302 | 3,374 | 4,450 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SEEDA[9] | 143 | 201 | 363 | 232 | 163 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SWRDA[10] | 449 | 432 | 960 | 1,227 | 1,271 | — | — | — | — | — |
| YF | 2,062 | 599 | 642 | 1,006 | 701 | 57 | 382 | 38 | 16.5 | 11 |

[1] Consultancy services have been identified as services commissioned by RDAs to inform the management of the agency, organisational development, strategy development, and communications and marketing. This definition does not relate to services for specific project or programme delivery (for example legal advice on land deals as part of development projects).
[2] IT systems covers hardware maintenance, internet and website charges, hardware procurement, membership and licences, other computer consumables, service level agreements, and software maintenance.
[3] LDA adopted new recording systems in 2004-05. Figures before 2004-05 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[4] Advertising figures relate to marketing initiatives procured to promote the region.
[5] Branding figures relate to the cost of including the agency logo in publicity material relating to partnership projects (eg billboards at regeneration sites), or costs related to developing or promoting the region or agency brand. In many cases, project developers bear the cost of branding related to specific projects, as per funding agreements with the RDA involved.
[6] AWM is unable to separate marketing and branding costs within the "Marketing the Region" budget. Please refer to advertising figures.
[7] Branding figures before 2005-06 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[8] There are no advertising figures for 2002-03 as Northumbria Tourism Board were financially responsible for tourism marketing in the region. The responsibility for tourism marketing for the entire North East region switched to ONE in 2004-05.
[9] SEEDA is unable to separate marketing and branding costs. Please refer to advertising costs.
[10] SWRDA is unable to separate the cost of project-specific marketing and branding from general marketing and branding expenditure. Please refer to advertising figures.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on office premises by each regional development agency in each of the last five years. [185197]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following table shows how much was spent on office premises by each RDA in the last five years.

*Expenditure on office premises*[1]

£000

| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 940 | 1,407 | 1,503 | 1,692 | 1,475 |
| EEDA | 695 | 577 | 1,095 | 760 | 1,111 |
| EMDA | 490 | 672 | 783 | 907 | 921 |
| LDA | 1,296 | 3,221 | 3,048 | 3,356 | 2,316 |
| NWDA | 2,099 | 1,855 | 1,611 | 1,872 | 2,093 |
| ONE[2] | 435 | 652 | 618 | 1,023 | 1,230 |
| SEEDA[3] | 1,153 | 2,299 | 1,931 | 1,755 | 1,741 |
| SWRDA[4] | 743 | 711 | 721 | 1,061 | 1,284 |
| YF | 950 | 1,211 | 648 | 1,812 | 832 |

[1] Includes rent, rates, service charges, insurances, cleaning, utilities, security, and maintenance. Figures refer to head offices and other smaller offices from which RDA staff work throughout the region. Some RDAs own their own premises, others rent or lease accommodation. Also, in the last five years some RDAs have moved offices.
[2] From 2003, ONE took on extra responsibilities including tourism and transfer of some responsibilities from Government office. The lower costs in earlier years were a rent-free period on taking up the leases.
[3] Calculated at net costs, rent income is deducted.
[4] 2006-07: rent increases at two offices together with arrears paid from April 2005.
[5] In February 2005, YF purchased the premises which it was renting. This accounts for the subsequent increase in expenditure 2005-06. As the organisation's responsibilities expanded it has rented additional office space next door to its current premises.

## Regional Development Agencies: Stationery

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on *(a)* stationery and *(b)* headed paper in each of the last five years. [182788]

**Mr. McFadden:** RDAs do not record information to a level of detail to separate the cost of headed paper from other stationery and items bearing the agencies' logos. The following table shows how much each RDA spent on stationery and headed paper in each of the last five years.

*Expenditure on stationery and headed paper*[1]

£000

| RDA | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM[2] | 174 | 148 | 115.5 | 128 | 62 |
| EEDA | 81 | 67 | 105 | 99 | 86 |
| EMDA | 81 | 99 | 82 | 68 | 69 |
| LDA[3] | — | — | 187 | 145 | 181 |
| NWDA | 110 | 87 | 95 | 80 | 137 |
| ONE | 93 | 117 | 243 | 225 | 152 |
| SEEDA | 71.5 | 66 | 46 | 69.5 | 68.5 |
| SWRDA | 82 | 82.5 | 84.5 | 68 | 80 |
| YF[4] | 150.5 | 150.5 | 173 | 140 | 112 |

[1] Headed paper includes business cards, compliment slips, envelopes and letterhead.
[2] Includes cost of printing certain corporate materials which is not possible to separate from other stationery costs.
[3] This includes cost of printing certain corporate materials such as board reports which is not possible to separate from other stationery costs. LDA adopted new recording systems in 2004-05. Figures before 2004-05 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[4] This includes cost of printing certain corporate materials including the Regional Economic Strategy and Annual Accounts.

## Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on regional development agencies: trade unions, what grants were given by each regional development agency to *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress from the date of their establishment to the start of the period covered in the answer. [184730]

**Mr. McFadden:** RDAs fund initiatives through a variety of third party organisations to deliver projects to increase economic growth, such as on work force development and economic inclusion. The specific focus and priorities of such activities are set out in each region's regional economic strategy and will differ according to the needs, opportunities and priorities for economic growth in each region.

The following funding has been provided by RDAs to trade unions as requested in the question.

| RDA | Trade union | Project | Grant (£000) |
|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | Unity Trade Union | Work force development project, ensuring individuals subject to redundancy were aware of skills in demand in their local area | 333 |
| YF | National Farmers Union | Research on rural development project | 38 |

The following funding has also been provided by RDAs to the Trades Union Congress as requested in the question.

| RDA | Project | Grants (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| AWM | Improving workplace skills across the West Midlands region | 307 |
| EEDA | Raising basic skills in the workplace | 189 |
| LDA | Trade union participation in regional economic development. Strengthening London trade unions capacity for more effective input to the design and delivery of economic policy and programmes | 225 |
| LDA | Adult Learners Week Fund, LDA/Union Learn/SERTUC partnership to stimulate learning in workplaces with trade union representation where union learning representatives recruit and support learners | 289 |
| NWDA | Capacity and effectiveness of trade union learning representatives. Research-based project commissioned by UCLAN to look at capacity and effectiveness of trade union learn representatives across the region | 68 |
| ONE | TUC and ONE "Working Together" project. Helping local businesses raise their profile | 191 |
| SWRDA | Trade unions working for the South West | 427 |

| RDA | Project | Grants (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| SWRDA | TUC Learning Services | 8 |
| SWRDA | Equalities South West | 78 |

## South East England Development Agency: Expenditure

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will give a breakdown of the South East England Development Agency's expenditure by main budget heading for each of the last five years. [186797]

**Mr. McFadden:** The expenditure figures provided in the following tables are based on SEED A's Annual Reports and Accounts. The main budget headings relate to SEED A's Corporate Plans 2005-08 and 2002-05. The expenditure headings for the two plans were not the same.

| Programme expenditure | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | £000 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business and international | 46,987 | 49,478 | — | — | — |
| Learning and skills | 25,641 | 23,667 | — | — | — |
| Development and infrastructure | 54,743 | 33,931 | — | — | — |
| Strategy and sustainability | 9,323 | 9,266 | — | — | — |
| Resources | 8,150 | 10,301 | — | — | — |
| DCLG (ODPM)—community fund | 4,331 | 7,395 | — | — | — |
| Coalfields | 991 | 257 | — | — | — |
| European funds | 7,260 | 6,416 | — | — | — |
| Subsidiary companies | 14 | 22 | — | — | — |
| Sub-total | 157,440 | 140,733 | — | — | — |
| Staff and admin expenditure | 24,339 | 22,340 | — | — | — |
| Assets expenditure | 13,630 | 18,427 | — | — | — |
| Total | 195,409 | 181,500 | — | — | — |

| Programme expenditure | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | £000 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business and international | — | — | 10,534 | 8,823 | 7,359 |
| Learning, skills and work force, wired region and social inclusion | — | — | 12,612 | 12,974 | 9,402 |
| Community renaissance and infrastructure | — | — | 65,232 | 58,874 | 45,040 |
| Strategy and corporate services | — | — | 899 | 1,242 | 1,970 |
| ODPM—community fund | — | — | 9,398 | 916 | — |
| European funds | — | — | 3,110 | 2,860 | — |
| Sub-total | — | — | 101,785 | 85,689 | 63,771 |
| Non grant expenditure | — | — | 6,349 | 4,826 | 2,730 |
| Coalfield expenditure | — | — | 210 | 3,817 | 88 |
| Staff and admin expenditure | — | — | 21,131 | 20,047 | 15,070 |
| Assets expenditure | — | — | 34,595 | 10,632 | 11,194 |
| Total | — | — | 164,070 | 125,011 | 92,853 |

## Tourism: Expenditure

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on tourism in each of the last three years. [187170]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following figures refer to spending by RDAs on core tourism and leisure objectives.

| RDAs | Expenditure on tourism (£ million)[1] 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 2.2 | 2.3 | 3.8 |
| EEDA[2] | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| EMDA | 3 | 4.5 | 5.3 |
| LDA[3] | 23.7 | 23.8 | 23.9 |
| NWDA | 4 | 5 | 6.1 |

| RDAs | Expenditure on tourism (£ million)[1] 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ONE[4] | 3.3 | 7.1 | 10.8 |
| SEEDA | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| SWRDA | 1.5 | 3 | 3.2 |
| YF | 1.7 | 2.2 | 3.9 |

[1] RDAs have also spent on activities related to tourism initiatives (such as general marketing of a region; specific regeneration projects; or human resource development) but this money has not been allocated from core tourism budgets.
[2] EEDA's business model for tourism changed significantly over this three year period, resulting in the increased level of investment for 2006-07.
[3] LDA figures include core funding to VisitLondon.
[4] ONE took over the delivery of tourism in 2004-05, which is delivered from within the agency.

### Unfair Practices: Sales

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on unfair practices: sales, what guidance his Department has published on whether the Directive will apply to the purchase of a trade union membership subscription itself, where that trade union provides legal advice, or special deals for meals and training, as part of the substantive union product itself. [186186]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Unfair Commercial Practices Directive is unlikely to apply to a person purchasing a trade union membership subscription itself. This is because such a person is unlikely to be acting as a consumer for the purposes of the directive.

The OFT will shortly be publishing Guidance on the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 illustrating how the regulations may apply in practice. The guidance is principally intended to help traders to comply with the regulations. It will also be of use to enforcers and consumer advisers in understanding what conduct is prohibited.

## TRANSPORT

### A14

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the contract to Costain-Skanska JV for the A14 Ellington and Fen Ditton scheme was let for. [186495]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Costain-Skanska JV have been awarded an early contractor involvement (ECI) contract to design the whole of the proposed A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement. Subject to statutory procedures and the meeting of performance levels stated in the contract, Costain-Skanska JV will construct the Fen Drayton to Histon section of the scheme. The contract value for this section is £314.5 million.

The construction of the Ellington to Fen Drayton and Histon to Fen Ditton sections of the scheme will be subject to separate tendering and contract award procedures upon completion of the statutory processes.

### Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of noise according to the findings of the most recent Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) report would create the same level of community annoyance as 57dBA was reported to have created in the 1986 ANASE report. [171803]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** While the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) study indicates that it is highly probable that annoyance with a particular level of aircraft noise is higher than found in the 1985 Aircraft Noise Index Study, the ANASE study shows no evidence of a threshold at which people become very much more annoyed.

In terms of making quantitative comparisons between the results from ANASE and the earlier ANIS study, expert peer reviewers of the ANASE study advised that

> "reliance on the detailed outcome of ANASE would be misplaced"

and that they would

> "counsel against using the detailed results and conclusions from ANASE in the development of Government policy".

Although the report does not provide evidence for increasing or reducing the figure of 57 dBA Leq (16 hours) as the onset of significant community annoyance we believe it is right that we retain this as a safeguard for those who are most affected by aircraft noise. In the 'Future of Air' Transport White Paper the Government gave a commitment that further development of Heathrow could only be considered if it resulted in no net increase in the total area of the 57 dBA noise contour compared with summer 2002, a contour area of 127 sq km. That commitment stands and the ability to meet it is a key consideration in the current consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow.

Additionally, as we announced when the ANASE study was released, pending the availability of a better alternative we will apply existing valuation for road and rail noise when assessing the economic impact of noise in the cost-benefit analysis of future aviation projects. We have taken this approach in the case of Heathrow consultation.

The findings from ANASE suggest that further work would be useful in a number of areas. As a first step the Department has recently chaired a meeting of the Air Noise Monitoring Committee (ANMAC) whose role is to advise the Department on policy relating to aircraft noise. The Department is working with the committee to prioritise further research and produce a programme or work.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account she plans to take of her Department's Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources study on aircraft noise in formulating policy. [170694]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) study provided a better understanding of the complex issues surrounding aircraft noise although as the peer

reviewers made clear it does not give sufficiently robust figures on which it would be safe to change policy. The Department for Transport is in the course of evaluating and considering the recommendations made for further research.

The study makes clear that there is no particular threshold of noise at which people become very much more annoyed. In addition, the report does not provide evidence for increasing or reducing the figure of 57 dBA Leq (16 hours) as the onset of significant community annoyance. However we believe it is right that we retain this as a safeguard for those who are most affected by aircraft noise. In the 'Future of Air' Transport White Paper the Government gave a commitment that further development of Heathrow could only be considered if it resulted in no net increase in the total area of the 57 dBA noise contour compared with summer 2002, a contour area of 127 sq km. That commitment stands and the ability to meet it is a key consideration in the current consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow.

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The findings from ANASE suggest that further work would be useful in a number of areas. As a first step the Department has recently chaired a meeting of the Air Noise Monitoring Committee (ANMAC) whose role is to advise the Department on policy relating to aircraft noise. The Department is working with the committee to prioritise further research and produce a programme or work.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has included the result of the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England in the assumptions underlying data shown in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [173110]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** While the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) study indicates that it is highly probable that annoyance with a particular level of aircraft noise is higher than found in the 1985 Aircraft Noise Index Study, the ANASE study shows no evidence of a threshold at which people become very much more annoyed.

In addition, the report does not provide evidence for increasing or reducing the figure of 57 dBA Leq (16 hours) as the approximate onset of significant community annoyance. However we believe it is right that we retain this as a safeguard for those who are most affected by aircraft noise. In the 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper the Government gave a commitment that further development of Heathrow could only be considered if it resulted in no net increase in the total area of the 57 dBA noise contour compared with summer 2002, a contour area of 127 sq km. That commitment stands and the ability to meet it is a key consideration in the current consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow.

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The findings from ANASE suggest that further work would be useful in a number of areas. As a first step the Department has recently chaired a meeting of the Air Noise Monitoring Committee (ANMAC) whose role is to advise the Department on policy relating to aircraft noise. The Department is working with the committee to prioritise further research and produce a programme of work.

### Aviation: Emissions Trading

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* research and *(b)* discussion has been conducted or is planned by her Department on the role of emissions trading within the aviation industry; and what representations have been received by her Department on this matter. [181616]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Government support for emissions trading for the aviation industry was outlined in the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper. Since then, policy development has continued to be informed by further research and discussion. The Department has engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including the aviation industry, on emissions trading and its evidence base, and we will continue to do so both in Europe and in our work in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

### Aviation: Noise

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which authorities are responsible for *(a)* measuring and *(b)* enforcing limits on aircraft noise. [185036]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department has overall responsibility for aircraft noise policy. The 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper set out our key aim to limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

Prior to entry into service, the noise levels generated by any aircraft design are measured by the applicant/manufacturer and then approved by a certificating authority. With regard to the UK, the approving authority is the European Aviation Safety Organisation (EASA), except for light propeller aircraft and microlights where the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) retains responsibility. Certification noise limits are set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the most recent 'Chapter 4' noise limits for large aircraft were introduced on the 1 January 2006.

The Department is responsible for specific noise mitigation measures at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. At other airports, noise restrictions may be imposed voluntarily by the airport operator or by local planning conditions/agreements. However the Civil Aviation Act 2006 introduced explicit statutory

powers for non-designated airports to make noise control schemes and to impose penalties for non-compliance.

In terms of measuring noise, aircraft noise contours for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted using the Leq metric are produced annually for the Department by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Under the European Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC, all major airports have been required to produce noise maps for 2006, based on the Lden metric. These maps were published on the website of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 18 December 2007. Responsibility for implementation of the directive in England falls to DEFRA.

As far as aircraft noise is concerned away from the vicinity of airports, I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to his question of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 140-41W. This sets out the process for deciding on any airspace changes.

**Bicycles: Safety Measures**

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken following the review in 2001-02 of the regulations dealing with safety standards for pedal cycles; and if she will make a statement. [187017]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A public consultation on bicycle safety standards took place in 2001-02. Following this review the Department for Transport introduced The Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations 2003 (Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1101) and revoked the previous Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations.

**British Transport Police: Expenditure**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the British Transport police spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186422]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

**Departmental Data Protection**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what audits her Department and its agencies carried out of their data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176648]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Audits are principally carried out independently of line management by Internal Audit functions at the Department for Transport (DfT) and its agencies. Line management also performs audits and other checks, including those performed as part of systems accreditation processes.

Since the DfT came into being in May 2002 its Internal Audit group has performed over 100 audits that have included evaluations and tests of management's systems of internal control over data and IT equipment. These internal audits form part of annual Internal Audit plans which are subject to the approval of the DfT and Agency Audit Committees. Internal audits typically focus on areas of greatest risk or on ensuring compliance with appropriate standards and controls. The results of internal audits are communicated to line management and reported to the DfT and agency Audit Committees.

Records of internal audits performed are not maintained centrally but are kept locally by each of the Department's Internal Audit functions. Because of the decentralised nature of management responsibility for data and IT equipment within Agencies, specific record-keeping arrangements for management audits and checks vary between Agencies and are not maintained centrally.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations which have been asked to protect sensitive data on behalf of her Department and its agencies, met the SAS 70 or equivalent standard prior to receiving the information. [176935]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 70 is an auditing standard issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. It contains the professional standards for auditors to report on the controls of a service organisation.

A SAS 70 report is primarily an auditor-to-auditor communication and is designed to provide information and assurance to the auditors of the financial statements of user organisations to enable those auditors to obtain an understanding of the service organisation's internal control.

Organisations do not, therefore, "meet" the standard, although reports issued under the standard contain the auditor's opinion on control objectives and activities. The standard is not specifically designed as a data privacy or security audit mechanism, although it has applicability in these areas. The standard is recognised in Europe.

Although SAS 70 audits may have been performed at the Department's external contractors, the Standard does not specify a pre-determined set of control objectives and activities that service organisations must achieve. HMG has its own detailed manuals and guidelines for controlling data security, and the data exchanged with the Department's contractors should have been subject to those control standards.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who in her Department is responsible for ensuring that all issues which are categorised by data security audits as requiring attention are managed quickly and effectively. [176936]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The relevant Accounting Officer is ultimately responsible for addressing audit issues. Individual issues are typically assigned to a named individual or relevant manager who will be responsible for ensuring that issues are managed in accordance with appropriate action plans and due dates included in audit reports.

The Department's Internal Audit group has follow-up procedures where appropriate to confirm that issues have been addressed. Audit Committees maintain oversight of Internal Audit follow-up procedures.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department and its agencies retain a list of issues arising out of each data security audit. [176937]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Issues identified during internal audits are reported to management responsible for the business area subject to the audit. Line managers are responsible for implementing actions to address recommendations arising from the audit, and should maintain lists of issues to enable them to do so. Because these responsibilities are decentralised across the Department and its Agencies, a standard management process for the retention of lists of audit issues centrally has not been adopted. Audit reports retained by management may, however, effectively fulfil this purpose.

The Department's internal audit group maintains its own records of audit issues. Because the functions within the group are aligned to individual Agencies, standardised retention periods for lists of audit issues have not been adopted. Individual issues may be maintained on lists until the relevant issue has been cleared or may be retained longer dependent upon local custom and practice.

Lists of issues arising from audits and other checks performed by management, such as accreditations, may not be maintained if there is limited benefit to doing so once the issue has been resolved.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies her Department and its agencies have engaged to conduct audits of data security processes. [176940]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department's internal audit group has contractual arrangements with third party partners who are able to provide technical expertise to assist with data security audits. These partners are typically either recognised national or international auditing firms or smaller specialist auditing practices. Companies or firms who have provided resource in this capacity include Deloitte and Touche, Grant Thornton, Bentley Jennison, Insight Consulting, Hayes, and Square 1.

Other organisations employed by Department and agency line management to perform audits of data security processes include Fleet Support and Commissum.

## Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public information booklets were published by her Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185798]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department and executive agencies produce a range of guidance that is disseminated to the general public covering advice on issues such as road safety, taxation of vehicles, learning to drive and concessionary bus fares.

Information on the print run and cost of each individual item produced in 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority: Data Protection

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many parking enforcement companies received personal information from the Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority database after requesting a hard copy of this information in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [185687]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database does not record parking enforcement companies as a separate category supplied with hard copy data under reasonable cause provisions. This information is not therefore available.

## Driving Tests: Standards

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many times non-delegated driving examiners in the Driving Standards Agency were tested in 2007; [186688]

(2) how many delegated examiners there are working for the Driving Standards Agency; and how many delegated examiners were tested by the Driving Standards Agency in 2007; [186689]

(3) how many PSV/HGV tests were carried out by *(a)* delegated and *(b)* Driving Standards Agency examiners in 2007; and how many and what percentage of these resulted in the candidate passing in each category. [186690]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is in the following table.

*2007*

| | *Driving examiners employed by the Driving Standards Agency* | *Driving examiners employed by fire and police authorities and bus and coach operators* |
|---|---|---|
| Number of driving examiners | [1]1,989 | [2]265 |
| PCV tests conducted | 10,357 | 9,701 |
| PCV tests passed | 5,109 | 5,781 |
| Percentage pass rate | 49.3 | 59.5 |
| LGV tests conducted | 73,725 | 1,611 |
| LGV tests passed | 33,826 | 1,230 |
| Percentage pass rate | 45.9 | 76.3 |
| Number of supervised driving tests[3] | 13,815 | — |
| Number of examiners receiving supervisory visits | — | [4]45 |

[1] At 31 January 2008.
[2] Only 209 examiners conducted a test in 2007.
[3] Car, lorry, motorcycle and bus practical driving tests. Each examiner has several supervisory tests during a 12-month period.
[4] More than one supervised driving test may be conducted during the visit to each driving examiner and each supervised examiner may have received visits on more than one occasion.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the arrangements for quality assurance in relation to delegated examiners and driving examiners in the Driving Standards Agency will be merged. [186691]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** From 1 July 2008, all driving examiners employed by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and all driving examiners employed by fire and police authorities and bus and coach operators will be subject to a programme of a minimum six driving tests per year where the examiners performance will be observed and assessed by a more senior member of staff. There will be the provision for additional supervision where performance indicates a requirement.

Unsatisfactory performance will result in the examiner undergoing remedial training. In the case of continued unsatisfactory performance, the authority to conduct tests may be withdrawn (in line with DSA procedures).

Additionally, driving examiners, whether employed by DSA or the other organisations will receive independent quality assurance visits from members of the chief driving examiner's team.

### Freight: Industrial Health and Safety

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents resulting in fatalities caused by heavy goods vehicles carrying unstable loads of scrap metal occurred in each of the last five years. [187846]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not available.

### Itis Holdings

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments her Department and its agencies have made to Itis Holdings in the last 36 months. [184648]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport and its agencies have made payments totalling £3,472,125, including VAT, to Itis Holdings plc between 1 February 2005 and 31 January 2008.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many successful prosecutions the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency secured against motorists failing to pay vehicle excise duty in each of the last 10 years. [184958]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of successful prosecutions in magistrates courts for unlicensed vehicle excise duty offences (section 29) for each financial year is as follows:

| *April to March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 204,606 |
| 2000-01 | 203,773 |
| 2001-02 | 223,047 |
| 2002-03 | 229,846 |
| 2003-04 | 234,924 |
| 2004-05 | 189,441 |
| 2005-06 | 142,055 |
| 2006-07 | 103,108 |

The total number of prosecutions for the first 10 months of 2007-08 is currently 69,847.

Section 29 vehicle excise duty offences are identified by police and local authorities. Since the introduction of continuous registration (CR) enforcement from the record in March 2004, these reports have gradually decreased. Since 2004-05, in addition to the achieved prosecutions in the table, the following number of evasion cases have been successfully settled out of court:

| *April to March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 317,482 |
| 2005-06 | 425,698 |
| 2006-07 | 391,708 |

The total number for the first 10 months of 2007-08 is currently 381,980.

### Motorcycles: Parks

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place restricting motorbike use in public parks. [187363]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Use of motorcycles on roads in public parks which are designated public highways will be subject to the road traffic Acts as set out in The Highway Code. Use of motorcycles on other roads, or elsewhere within a public park, may be subject to park regulations, which will be a matter for the relevant local authority.

### Motorcycles: Public Footpaths

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the use of motorbikes on public pathways. [187362]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Rule 145 of The Highway Code makes it clear that it is illegal to drive or ride any vehicle on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway, except to gain lawful access to property, or in the case of an emergency. Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints were made on the improper use of public pathways by motorbike users in the last 12 months. [187364]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** None.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidents were reported due to the improper use of public pathways by motorbike users in the last five years; [187365]

(2) how many accidents have occurred within the last 12 months due to improper use of public pathways by motorbikers. [187366]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No information is available on accidents off the public highway.

The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one motorcycle in Great Britain in 2002 to 2006, by vehicle location on the public highway are shown in the table.

*Number of accidents*

| *Vehicle location* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| On main carriageway | 28,478 | 28,389 | 25,711 | 24,781 | 23,377 |
| Footway (pavement) | 151 | 141 | 154 | 202 | 160 |
| Tram rail track or bus lane/way[1] | 129 | 126 | 141 | 142 | 113 |
| Cycleway[1] | 27 | 34 | 56 | 45 | 42 |
| Lay-by or hard shoulder | 38 | 28 | 37 | 37 | 42 |

[1] Only when the lane is on the public highway

These data show the number of accidents involving at least one motorcycle and at least one casualty. They do not indicate the cause of the accident, including whether or not the location of the motorcycle was a contributory factor.

## Roads: Accidents

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries occurred on roads in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in the most recent year for which data is available, broken down by age. [187173]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in 2006 by age of casualty are shown in the table.

*Number of casualties*

| | *Cornwall* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age of casualty* | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] |
| 0-4 | 1 | 21 | 25 | 2,809 |
| 5-7 | 0 | 31 | 12 | 3,212 |
| 8-11 | 0 | 53 | 29 | 6,423 |
| 12-15 | 1 | 101 | 68 | 9,650 |
| 16-19 | 8 | 438 | 348 | 29,224 |
| 20-29 | 8 | 509 | 624 | 52,791 |
| 30-39 | 6 | 375 | 415 | 40,637 |
| 40-49 | 10 | 339 | 340 | 32,290 |
| 50-59 | 5 | 271 | 240 | 20,368 |
| 60-69 | 3 | 152 | 166 | 11,229 |
| 70-79 | 1 | 108 | 196 | 6,977 |
| 80+ | 7 | 57 | 223 | 3,957 |
| Total[2] | 50 | 2,640 | 2,695 | 225,882 |

[1] Slightly or seriously injured
[2] Includes cases where age of casualty is not reported

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the accident cluster sites are in *(a)* the St Edmundsbury Borough Council area and *(b)* the Mid Suffolk District Council area. [187605]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There is no standard definition for an accident cluster site. The assessment of local accident cluster sites is a matter for the relevant local highway authorities.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities occurred on the A14 in Suffolk between the hours of 8pm and 8am in each year since 1997; and how many road traffic (i) accidents and (ii) fatalities occurred in Suffolk between the hours of 8pm and 8am in each year since 1997. [187612]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents and the resulting fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk, and in Suffolk, between the hours of 8 pm and 8 am in each year from 1997 to 2006 are given in the table.

| | *A14 in Suffolk* | | *Suffolk* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 29 | 3 | 519 | 15 |
| 1998 | 23 | 1 | 526 | 4 |
| 1999 | 26 | 1 | 518 | 22 |
| 2000 | 33 | 4 | 502 | 21 |
| 2001 | 39 | 5 | 553 | 18 |
| 2002 | 50 | 3 | 543 | 19 |
| 2003 | 36 | 1 | 566 | 20 |
| 2004 | 37 | 3 | 518 | 16 |
| 2005 | 42 | 2 | 530 | 19 |
| 2006 | 37 | 2 | 484 | 19 |

## Roads: Finance

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road building projects will be *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed due to the budget overrun at the Highways Agency; and if she will make a statement. [186152]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Highways Agency (HA) is currently re-estimating the costs of its roads programme following the recommendations of the Nichols Review. The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are also studying the scope for more advanced traffic management solutions.

We will consider the national element of the HA major roads programme up to 2014 once this work is completed, and an announcement will be made in the spring. Until then it is not possible to say what the implications will be for particular schemes.

Regional HA major roads schemes and their timings are considered within the regional funding allocation process.

## Rolling Stock

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Written Statement of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 18-20WS, on rolling stock, how many of the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, will be *(a)* new rolling stock and *(b)* a re-deployment of existing rolling stock. [184194]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* There will be a net increase of 1,300 new train carriages. The rolling stock plan, published on 30 January details indicative figures for the number of additional carriages each train operating company will receive. Some of these train carriages will be new; some will be freed up from other train operating companies (TOCs). Some TOCs will order more trains so that they can move some of their existing carriages to other TOCs. The table at appendix B of the Rolling Stock Plan shows how many extra carriages each TOC will receive as a result of these moves.

The final mix between new and cascaded stock will be determined after detailed discussions with individual TOCs.

### Shipping: Equality

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Government to respond to its recent consultation on proposals to amend Section 9 of the Race Relations Act 1976. [187214]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A summary of the responses to the consultation has been published on the Department for Transport website and has been placed in the Libraries of the House. During the course of the consultation, further issues for consideration were raised. We will be in a position to announce the Government position and timetable for amendment as soon as we have analysed the options in the light of these new points.

### Transport

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had or plans to have on the causal processes and mechanisms responsible for *(a)* past and *(b)* potential future modal shifts between air transport and other modes of transport for (i) passengers and (ii) freight on (A) domestic and (B) international flights; and what representations have been received on this matter. [181617]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport regularly has discussions with and receives representations from stakeholders on matters relating to air transport. The Department also examines a range of evidence to inform its policymaking, and it is aware of a number of reports of particular relevance to modal shift between air transport and other modes, including:

"To shift or not to shift, that's the question: the environmental performance of the principal modes of freight and passenger transport in the policy-making context", a report produced for the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and the Environment by CE, Delft, March 2003

"A Comparative Study of the Environmental Effects of Rail and Short-haul Air Travel", a report produced for the Commission for Integrated Transport by AEA Technology and the Civil Aviation Authority, September 2001

"High Speed Line Study", an appraisal conducted for the Strategic Rail Authority by WS Atkins, October 2004.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Pay

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Leader of the House which Back-Bench Members receive pay and emoluments from the Members' vote in addition to their basic salary. [188087]

**Helen Goodman:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Leader of the House on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2144W. A total of 65 hon. and right hon. Members are currently paid an additional salary from within the Members estimate. This total comprises 31 select committee chairmen, 31 members of the Chairmen's Panel (a reduction of one from the figure applicable at the time of the answer of 24 January) and three Deputy Speakers. (The total excludes Members in receipt of a salary under the Ministers and Other Salaries Act 1975.)

### Members: Training

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will make it her policy to make available to hon. Members training in correlation, significance and statistical analysis. [186955]

**Helen Goodman:** Members may use their Incidental Expenses Provision to pay for appropriate training. Members are responsible for setting up and organising such training, and may submit claims accordingly.

A procurement exercise is currently being undertaken to re-let the contract for this service, which has to date been provided by WWP Training Ltd.

No such training is currently provided, although if there were sufficient demand it would be possible to investigate provision of such training under the terms of the contract.

### Parliamentary Questions: Members Interests

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals for a mechanism by which oral and written parliamentary questions can be asked and answered in relation to the rules on the declaration and registration of hon. Members' interests; and if she will make a statement. [186858]

**Helen Goodman:** I have no plans to do so. Within the overall framework set by the House, the content and interpretation of the rules relating to the declaration and registration of hon. Members' interests are matters for the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the total volume of carbon emissions from his Department's estate in each year since 2005. [185464]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development has made the following estimates of carbon emissions from the UK estate since 2005:

| | Carbon emissions $CO_2$ (tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4,072 |
| 2006-07 | 4,082 |

### Fairtrade Foundation: Finance

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department gave to the *(a)* Fairtrade Foundation and *(b)* the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation in each of the last three years; how much funding he plans to allocate to these organisations in the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [184483]

**Mr. Thomas:** Over the last five years DFID has committed nearly £1 million to the Fairtrade Foundation (FTF). The annual breakdown is shown as follows:

| | Commitment to the Fairtrade Foundation (£) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 264,169 |
| 2006-07 | 296,795 |
| 2007-08 | 413,103 |

We have not provided any funding directly to the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO).

We are currently discussing future funding with the FTF and FLO as the international umbrella organisation for fair trade labelling. We remain committed to expanding the fair trade sector and will consider favourably proposals that arise as a result of the strategic review.

### Nicaragua: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK gave in *(a)* bilateral aid and *(b)* contributions to EU aid to Nicaragua in each of the last three yeas; and how much is planned to be given in the next three years. [187135]

**Mr. Malik:** Information on UK aid to Nicaragua is available in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development 2007". This publication is available online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables.

*Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) on development to Nicaragua: 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| | Total GPEX (£000) |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 7,582 |
| 2005-06 | 4,160 |
| 2006-07 | 5,098 |

*Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2003 to 2005*

£000

| | EC | UN | World Bank | Other multilateral | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 5,845 | 373 | 15,668 | 1,392 | 23,278 |
| 2004 | 5,862 | 466 | 3,053 | 460 | 9,841 |
| 2005 | 4,682 | 481 | 4,822 | -185 | 9,800 |

Although Nicaragua will be classed a middle income country in 2008, we will maintain our programme at £4 million per year, switching from funding to the Government to providing support through other channels, including civil society.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines have been issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each such year. [183358]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) currently uses five vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1015W, with respect to these vehicles.

DFID has used one other vehicle for official purposes which was in use until 6 December 2007. This vehicle has not incurred any fixed penalty tickets in the last 10 years.

We do not keep central records of vehicles used by our overseas offices and could not provide information on them without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Timor Leste: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much international aid and development funding was given to East Timor in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [187937]

**Mr. Malik:** The forum for international aid reporting is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) which publishes official development assistance (ODA) figures on a calendar year basis. The international aid figures for East Timor for 2006 are shown in the following table:

*Official development assistance for 2006*

| | East Timor (£ million) |
|---|---|
| UK ODA | 2.29 |
| Other bilateral donors ODA | 92.42 |
| Multilateral donors ODA | 19.26 |
| Total ODA | 113.97 |

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Mineral Water

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Prime Minister's Office has spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187670]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

This information is not separately identified in the Cabinet Office accounts and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## V

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget of v has been in each year since its establishment; and how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* whole-time equivalent staff are employed by v. [186804]

**Phil Hope:** The amounts budgeted for v by the Office of the Third Sector since its launch in May 2006 are given in the following table:

£

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|
| Grant funding | 18,143,000 | 39,077,100 |
| Match funding | 7,500,000 | 8,029,358 |
| Total | 25,643,000 | 46,907,792 |

At the end of January 2008 v had 30 staff, the full-time equivalent of 29.2 staff.

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of under 18 year olds who have volunteered on a regular basis in each of the last five years. [186805]

**Phil Hope:** The last full year figures for number of 16 to 17-year-olds who have volunteered on a regular basis (at least once a month in the previous year) is in the following table:

*England, 2001, 2003, 2005: Regular volunteering—at least once a month*

*Percentage*

| | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Formal volunteering | 29 | 30 | 33 |
| Informal volunteering | 37 | 53 | 47 |
| All volunteering | n/a | n/a | 60 |

*Source:*
Citizenship Survey

In the 2003 Citizenship Survey results also showed that 63 per cent. of 11 to 15-year-olds in England and Wales had given help (not regular volunteering) to clubs, groups or organisations in the previous year.

## TREASURY

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the data disc was sent by HM Revenue and Customs to Standard Life containing details of personal pension contributions; when it was discovered to be lost; and when this loss was reported to Ministers. [171492]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The CD containing information for Standard Life left HMRC's office on 25 September 2007. Standard Life should have received the disc by 27 September but reported that it had not arrived. The courier confirmed to HMRC that the CD was lost on 15 October. A submission on the incident was sent to the Financial Secretary on the same day.

HMRC then informed the Information Commissioner and wrote, with Standard Life, to all customers affected.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Office of Government Commerce measures the cost effectiveness of departmental websites and online services. [187014]

**Angela Eagle:** OGC monitors the effectiveness of its own website and online activities through regular review and analysis of usage statistics, which informs OGC's ongoing activity in this area. OGC does not have responsibility for monitoring the cost-effectiveness of other Departments' websites or online services.

The Central Office of Information is leading work to standardise the collection of audited figures for departmental website usage. This is to be followed by a second phase of work to standardise the way in which website costs are calculated. Taken together, these two pieces of work will enable departments to assess the cost effectiveness of websites and online services for which they are responsible.

### Departmental Surveys

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the results of this year's HM Treasury staff survey will be published; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [187183]

**Angela Eagle:** We can confirm that the results from the 2007-08 HM Treasury's staff survey will be published on its website in due course.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was generated by each *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone code used for customer enquiry lines by his Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [183954]

**Angela Eagle:** The UK Debt Management Office (DMO), HM Treasury's only agency, has generated no revenue from the operation of 0845 or 0870 telephone codes in the last five years. The DMO uses some 0845 telephone numbers but not for income generation purposes.

### Tax Allowances: Voluntary Organisations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact which the 10,000 mile 40 pence a mile tax ceiling for volunteer car drivers has on the voluntary sector. [188016]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor keeps the statutory tax free mileage allowance rates for employees under review and considers changes and their impact on all drivers in the context of the Budget and pre-Budget report statements.

As I explained on 12 November 2007 in my reply to my hon. Friend's earlier question on this subject, there

is no upper ceiling on mileage payments for volunteer car drivers. HMRC allows volunteers to use the approved mileage allowance payment (AMAP) rate for convenience, but it is not mandatory and volunteer drivers can claim tax relief for the full cost of motoring by completing a return, if they wish to do so.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cemeteries

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the Health and Safety Executive last provided guidance to local authorities on health and safety with regards to gravestones and memorials. [184699]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive has provided advice and guidance on health and safety with regards to gravestones and memorials in a number of forms over the years. The last was on 8 March 2007 when Sir Bill Callaghan, former chair of the Health and Safety Commission, was co-signatory to a letter to all chief executives of District and London borough councils and Unitary Authorities, Clerks of Town and Parish Councils and Clerks of Joint Burial Authorities. The purpose of this letter was to remind authorities of the duties they have to manage the risks associated with unstable memorials, but in doing so, to adopt a proportionate approach which reflects the actual risk.

### Child Support Agency: Dismissal

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who worked for the Child Support Agency have been fired for gross incompetence since the agency was established. [172985]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who worked for the Child Support Agency have been fired for gross incompetence since the agency was established. [172985]

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. The information provided in the table below reflects data recorded on that system for the number of staff dismissed because of their attendance record on grounds of sickness and gross misconduct. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007. The Department has never used a category of gross incompetence although it does have one that would relate to unsatisfactory work. However, there are no recorded dismissals in this latter category since the new system was introduced.

| *Dismissal reason* | *April 2007 to December 2007* |
|---|---|
| Gross misconduct | 6 |
| Unsatisfactory attendance | 103 |
| Total | 109 |

There were 10,010 people employed by the Agency as at the end of December 2007. I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Support Agency: Repayments

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the constituent of the hon. Member for Eccles (CSA Ref. 321022527924) will receive the refund and consolatory payment which the hon. Member was informed would be paid by 14 December 2007; and whether the level of consolatory payment will acknowledge the continuing delay in progressing the case. [183906]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions when the constituent of the hon. Member for Eccles (CSA Ref. 312022527924) will receive the refund and consolatory payment which the hon. Member was informed would be paid by 14 December 2007; and whether the level of consolatory payment will acknowledge the continuing delay in progressing the case. [183906]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

I hope you find the answer helpful.

### Children: Maintenance

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to strengthen the obligation on absent parents to notify the Child Support Agency of a change of circumstances including a salary increase; [187344]

(2) what obligation exists on absent parents to notify the Child Support Agency of a change of circumstances including a salary increase. [187345]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** At present there is no obligation for a non-resident parent to notify the Secretary of State of a change of circumstances unless a Deduction from Earnings Order (DEO) is in place. In these cases the non-resident parent is required to notify the Secretary of State if there has been a change of their employer. We are considering changes that would require the non-resident parent in those circumstances also to inform the Secretary of State of any new employer and salary details.

For the future scheme, we intend largely to base the assessment process for statutory child maintenance arrangements on the latest available gross income data from HM Revenue and Custom (HMRC) with annual reviews to keep maintenance liabilities up-to-date. Either parent will be able to ask for maintenance to be adjusted if the non-resident parent's income has increased or decreased by 25 per cent. or more compared to the HMRC figure on which the assessment is based. There are no plans to require non-resident parents to report changes in salary other than where there is a DEO in force.

However, subject to parliamentary approval of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, non-resident parents will in future be required to notify the

Commission of a change of address. The Commission will not need to make a specific request to the non-resident parent for this information—the requirement will be ongoing. Failure to co-operate will be an offence, punishable upon summary conviction by a fine of up to £1,000.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on child poverty of the requirement placed on lone parents to meet child care and travel costs in full under the jobseeker's allowance regime to be introduced for lone parents whose youngest child is 12 years of age. [187028]

**Mr. Timms:** There has been no specific assessment of the requirement placed on lone parents to meet child care and travel costs in full under the jobseeker's allowance regime. A full impact assessment of the changes, including impacts on child poverty, announced in Ready for Work was published in "Ready for work: full employment in our generation—impact assessment" in December 2007 which is in the Library.

However, lone parents who have genuine reasons, or good cause, for not complying with their obligations to look for, or take up, work will not be penalised. Good cause could include a variety of reasons depending on the circumstances of the individual. For example, problems with child care, illness of themselves or their children or their child care support, transport difficulties, unforeseen family circumstances, domestic violence or relationship breakdown could all be considered as a good cause. However, this will not be a general 'opt-out' for those who would prefer to be on benefits.

### Community Care Grants: Homelessness

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the mode length of time in respect of each *(a)* benefit delivery centre and *(b)* other processing site, for the processing of Social Fund community care grant applications to the (i) initial decision, (ii) internal review, (iii) application and (iv) final decision stage was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181518]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what the mode length of time was for each benefit delivery centre and processing site for the processing of Social Fund Community Care Grant applications to the initial decision, internal review, application and final decision stage in the most recent period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is available only for initial decisions.

The most common clearance times (mode) for Community Care Grant applications in November 2007 are given in the table.

| *Social Fund benefit delivery centre by region* | *Most common (modal) length of time for clearing Community Care Grant applications in November 2007 (working days)* |
|---|---|
| East of England | |
| Essex | Not available |
| Norwich BDC | 1 |
| East Midlands | |
| East Midlands North | 7 |
| South East Midlands | 7 |
| London | |
| Balham[1] | 10 and 11 |
| Ilford | 5 |
| North East | |
| Northumbria | 6 |
| South Tyneside and Wear Valley | 2 |
| Tees Valley | 5 |
| North West | |
| Greater Liverpool | 10 |
| Chorlton BDC | 8 |
| Scotland | |
| Inverness BDC | 11 |
| Springburn BDC | 12 |
| South East | |
| Milton Keynes BDC | 25 |
| South West | |
| South West Central | 6 |
| Wales | |
| Llanelli BDC | 14 |
| South East Wales | 8 |
| West Midlands | |
| West Midlands SF | 5 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | |
| Y and H Bradford[1] | 3 and 4 |
| Y and H Sheffield | 2 |

[1] The two figures given are the most common clearance times (the same number of Community Care Grant applications were cleared in each number of working days).

*Notes:*

1. Insufficient data are available for Essex for Community Care Grants. This is because of a limitation of the Management Information System.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in November 2007, not on applications received during that month.

*Key:*

BDC = Benefit Delivery Centre
SF = Social Fund
Y and H = Yorkshire and Humberside

*Source:*

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Freedom of Information requests his Department has received in each year since 2005; and how many of those requests have been refused. [183797]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Government have published two annual reports that contain statistical information about how many requests have been received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) and how many have been refused.

These reports can be found at the following address:
http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

Data are currently being collated across monitored bodies in order to produce the 2007 Annual report and Q4 Monitoring report, however, Q1-Q3 Monitoring reports of 2007 can be found at the following address:
http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

### Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons payment of the £60 per week in-work credit for lone parents was deemed to be incompatible with the employment retention and advancement pilot operating in north east London. [183620]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The north east London district was one of the six Jobcentre Plus districts that participated in the Employment Retention and Advancement Demonstration project (ERA), which operated between October 2003 and November 2007.

ERA was evaluated using a random assignment research method and customers in the six districts were allocated on a voluntary basis to either a group that received the ERA service, or to a control group that did not. The impact of the programme was determined by comparing the subsequent behaviour and outcomes of both groups. It was not possible to offer the in-work credit to customers in the districts participating in ERA until the programme was complete without invalidating the evaluation.

Retention payments were a key component of the support offered to ERA customers, together with other financial and non-financial support. If customers had been eligible to receive the in-work credit payment in addition to ERA, it would not have been possible to identify which effects resulted from receiving ERA, and which resulted from receiving the IWC. This form of evaluation is dependent on the two groups being identical in every aspect other than receiving the programme being tested, so it was not possible to offer the IWC to the control group alone.

The in-work credit was made available in the north east London district from January 2008.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183848]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In line with Government policy, the Department is committed to fair trade and ethical supply routes.

The Department's Facilities Management partner, Land Securities Trillium (LST) provides in house catering services where premises allow. Ethical procurement practices are a key factor in the contract.

Where practicable, LST purchases sustainable produce for sale on departmental premises. Fair trade tea and coffee is standard for official receptions and meetings.

LST is actively working with the Fairtrade Foundation to develop its fair trade product offer and support the marketing of fairtrade products.

### Gases: Industrial Health and Safety

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the Health and Safety Executive records the names of those killed by *(a)* carbon monoxide and *(b)* other gas poisoning. [186698]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This information arises from data on gas related carbon monoxide poisoning incidents collected by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995, which contribute to HSE's published annual statistics. The use of names prevents double counting where information on the same incident is inadvertently provided from two sources.

### Industrial Health and Safety: Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on industrial health and safety: influenza, what obligations there would be on employers under health and safety legislation in the event of an influenza pandemic. [184220]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In any such event, employers will continue to have the obligations required of them under health and safety legislation.

### Jobcentre Plus

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on Jobcentre Plus staff resources of the introduction of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* the jobseeker's allowance regime for lone parents whose youngest child is 12 years of age. [187027]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the impact on Jobcentre Plus staff resources of the introduction of (a) Employment and Support Allowance and (b) the Jobseeker's Allowance regime for lone parents whose youngest child is 12 years of age. This is

something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The resource requirements for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) have been assessed in order to inform post filling and learning and development plans. Based on this assessment of the net effect of replacing existing processes with ESA processes, there will be no need for an increase in staff resource. Following implementation the impact on resource will be evaluated further.

The introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance regime for lone parents whose youngest child is 12 will involve some very minor changes in the total resource required to deal with this group. These will be taken into account, alongside other business changes, in the overall resource planning for 2008/09.

I hope this is helpful.

### Jobcentre Plus: Chard

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions were held with Somerset county council before the announcement of the closure of Chard Jobcentre; if he will publish all the responses to the consultation on the future of Chard Jobcentre; and if he will make a statement; [181774]

(2) what meetings his officials held with representatives of Somerset county council on Chard Jobcentre before its closure was announced; and if he will make a statement. [182546]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what discussions were held, and what meetings his officials have had, with Somerset county council before the announcement of the closure of Chard Jobcentre Plus, and if he will publish all responses to the consultation on the future of Chard Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There have been no formal meetings on this issue with the county council prior to the closure announcement.

The District Manager for Dorset and Somerset wrote to Somerset county council on 17 May 2007 regarding the proposed changes to the Jobcentre Plus network in Dorset and Somerset. The letter invited comments on the proposal.

The District Manager received no direct response from the county council. However, on 28 June 2007 the council wrote to the Personal Adviser Manager, Yeovil Jobcentre Plus, expressing their opposition to the proposed closure of both Burnham-on-Sea and Chard Jobcentre Plus offices.

In their letter the county council did not request a meeting for discussions and did not include any proposals. Their letter was included in the submission to the Minister.

During the consultation period, the Somerset Jobcentre Plus Partnership Manager, attended a number of meetings also attended by Somerset county council, where the issue was raised on an ad hoc basis. No formal discussions have taken place and the Partnership Manager encouraged comments to be made formally, so they were contained in the submission to the Minister.

During a local area agreement meeting on 15 January 2008, Somerset county council stated if the outcome of the review was to close Chard Jobcentre Plus Office they would give consideration to working with Jobcentre Plus to promote flexible service delivery. Nothing formal has been received from Somerset county council.

The District Manager wrote again on 17 January 2008 informing the county council of the decision to close the Chard office and deliver our services from our larger Taunton site. This included an invitation to the county council to provide any other solutions following the closure of the Chard office.

We are currently working with partner organisations to establish flexible service delivery in the form of a job point and customer access phone in Chard town, as well as an appointment led work focused advisory service on a demand led basis. We will continue to promote the use of e-channels to access Jobcentre Plus services. The Jobcentre Plus Partnership Manager is planning to meet with the county council shortly.

I have attached a copy of all the responses received in the consultation on the future of the Chard Jobcentre Plus office copies will be placed in the House of Commons Library. I have deleted the names and address of the correspondents in accordance with data protection guidelines.

I hope this is helpful.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Appeals

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicants for jobseeker's allowance have received payments reduced by 20 per cent. while undertaking appeals; and if he will estimate the effect on the public purse of these reductions. [185014]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Where a person claims jobseeker's allowance (JSA) while they have an ongoing appeal against the removal of incapacity benefit, JSA is paid at the full personal allowance rate, no benefit penalty is applied, but they will not receive any disability premiums unless they qualify for them on alternative grounds.

If they claim income support while they have an ongoing appeal against the removal of incapacity benefit, a 20 per cent. benefit penalty is applied to the personal allowance.

If on appeal the decision is overturned, benefit will be restored in full from the appropriate date.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on lone parent families of the sanctioning and hardship regime applicable to jobseeker's allowance claimants. [187030]

**Mr. Timms:** There are already a number of lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) rather than income support who are able to meet the conditions for receipt of JSA and make use of the help available to get back to work.

We believe the JSA framework is sufficiently flexible to ensure that sanctions will only apply where absolutely necessary and we will ensure that Jobcentre Plus advisers use that flexibility to support lone parents as they make the transition to JSA.

At the start of their claim, lone parents will establish a jobseeker's agreement setting out what they will do to get work tailored to their circumstances. Any restrictions agreed between the jobseeker and their adviser on availability and actively seeking work will be included in the jobseeker's

agreement. Advisers will also ensure claimants are treated sympathetically when they experience difficult circumstances, for example, lone parents who claim benefit for the first time because of a break-up of a relationship or bereavement.

In "Ready for work: full employment in our generation" we announced that we would amend regulations to increase Jobcentre Plus adviser discretion so that a lone parent who is claiming jobseeker's allowance will not be penalised if they leave a job, or fail to take up a job, because appropriate affordable child care is not available. We will also ensure that at least one attempt is made to contact all parents by telephone it they do not attend their fortnightly jobsearch review. If contact is not made by the customer, a letter will be sent to their home address telling them that if they do not contact Jobcentre Plus within five working days their entitlement to benefit will end or a sanction will be imposed.

We are currently reviewing the hardship regime as it applies to parents in receipt of JSA to ensure that it is appropriate for them and supports the Government's objectives to reduce child poverty.

**Members: Correspondence**

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer the letter to his predecessor dated 21 December 2007, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms N. Mubarak. [185054]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued my right hon. Friend on 5 February 2008.

**National Insurance: Bedfordshire**

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers have been issued to people in *(a)* Bedfordshire and *(b)* South West Bedfordshire constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [184027]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* Information on the total number of new national insurance numbers issued is not available at the levels requested.

**North East**

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed by his Department in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* the North East region in each year since 2000. [183720]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 bringing together the former Department of Social Security and Employment Service. Information on the number of full-time equivalent Civil Servants employed by the Department in *(a)* Sunderland *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* the North East region at 31 March each year following its formation is in the following table. The figures are also included as at 31 December 2007, the latest available.

| | *Sunderland* | *Tyne and Wear* | *North East Region* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31 March 2002 | 585 | 11,018 | 14,051 |
| 31 March 2003 | 604 | 11,586 | 14,928 |
| 31 March 2004 | 585 | 10,239 | 13,671 |
| 31 March 2005 | 549 | 9,515 | 12,722 |
| 31 March 2006 | 533 | 9,146 | 12,275 |
| 31 March 2007 | 607 | n/a | 11,566 |
| 31 December 2007 | 658 | n/a | 11,314 |

n/a = not available
Figures have been rounded to nearest whole number

**Pensioners: Personal Income**

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England and Wales receive an income of £217.80 per week or less. [178614]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** This Government's policies have been highly effective in tackling pensioner poverty.

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 the proportion of pensioners in relative income poverty has fallen by over a third, with over one million older people being lifted out of relative income poverty.

Relative income poverty is measured as household income net of taxes and housing costs below 60 per cent. contemporary median income. In 2005-06 this stood at the equivalent of £108 for a single pensioner. This is a widely recognised, longstanding definition used for understanding low income pensioners.

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 the proportion of pensioners living in absolute income poverty has fallen by around three quarters, with more than 2 million older people lifted out of absolute poverty. Absolute income poverty is measured as household income net of taxes and housing costs below 60 per cent. contemporary median income in 1998-99. In 2005-06 this stood at the equivalent of £88 per week for a single pensioner. This is also a widely recognised, longstanding definition used for understanding low income pensioners.

£217.80 is not an appropriate benchmark to indicate the numbers of pensioners living in low income poverty.

The following table shows the number of pensioner units with income below £217.80 (deflated to the respective year's prices) based on both gross income and net income (before taking into account housing costs).

The number of pensioners receiving an income of £217.80 per week or less in Milton Keynes is not available. The closest available information is for pensioner units in the south east region, based on combining three year's data from 2003-04 to 2005-06.

*Pensioner units with income below £217.80 (deflated to respective year's prices), averaged over the years 2003-04 to 2005-06*

| | *Gross income* | *Net income* |
|---|---|---|
| South East | 300,000 | 400,000 |
| England and Wales | 2,400,000 | 3,000,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit, including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home.
3. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
4. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
5. Due to the small sample sizes involved, three year's data have been combined and the threshold has been deflated to the appropriate year's prices.
6. A pensioner unit is either a single person over pension age or a couple in which at least one person is over pension age.

For reference, on average over the three year period there were 1,100,000 pensioner units in the south east and 7,100,000 in England and Wales.

### Social Security Benefits

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many backdating claims on the grounds of good cause were awarded for periods longer than three months for *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* pension credit in each of the last five years, broken down by region; what proportion of total claims for each benefit they represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [184451]

(2) what the *(a)* total cost to his Department and *(b)* average payment to claimants was of backdating claims on grounds of good cause that were awarded for periods longer than three months for (i) housing benefit, (ii) council tax benefit and (iii) pension credit in each of the last five years. [184452]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

Pension credit does not use a good cause rule when determining if a person was eligible from an earlier point in time to the date of claim.

Prior to April 2007, no information was collected from local authorities on the amount of backdating paid out to housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants.

Following the introduction of a new data source this information will become available in the future. However, currently there is insufficient data to be able to estimate the amount spent on backdating.

### Social Security Benefits: Employment

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the better off in work credit to be piloted by Jobcentre Plus is planned to take account of the cost of school meals in determining whether a claimant is better off in work. [187029]

**Mr. Timms:** The introduction of our new better off in work credit (BWC) will allow us to assure qualifying customers that if they move into full-time employment their income from work, including in-work benefits, will be at least £25 a week more than the income they received from out of work benefits.

No additional costs incurred by the movement into work, including the cost of school meals, will be taken into account in calculating whether a customer qualifies for the BWC.

### Social Security Benefits: Marriage

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants received benefits for more than one wife in the latest period for which figures are available. [187263]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reviews he has conducted of the payment of benefits to claimants in polygamous marriages; what guidelines have been issued in respect of payment of benefits and polygamous marriage; what benefits are payable; what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of individuals affected and *(b)* the cost of payments; what consultations have been carried out, including consultations with other Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [185245]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The current rules for paying benefits to people in polygamous marriages have been in place since 1988. In November 2006 we asked officials to look at the social security benefit rules in place for the treatment of valid polygamous marriages and consider whether any changes were needed. As part of that process the Department consulted other Departments with an interest, such as the Home Office, Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the then Department for Constitutional Affairs. The conclusion was that the current arrangements were the best possible.

Contributory benefits are generally not payable where the claimant has more than one spouse. In the income related benefits, subject to entitlement conditions being met, the claimant is entitled to receive the couple rate of benefit for themselves and one spouse, and the difference between the couple and single rate for each additional spouse.

In Great Britain, polygamy is only recognised as valid in law in circumstances where the marriage ceremony has been performed in a country whose laws permit polygamy and the parties to the marriage were domiciled there at the time. In addition, immigration rules have generally prevented the formation of polygamous households in this country since 1988.

We do not collect data on the number of people in a valid polygamous marriage claiming a social security benefit. Information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Winter Fuel Payments: North West Region

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the winter fuel allowance in light of increasing fuel prices; and if he will make a statement. [181494]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* Fuel prices rise and fall in response to market conditions. Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 pensioners' incomes increased by 29 per cent. in real terms, compared with a 15 per cent. real terms increase in utility bills between 1996-97 and 2006.

The winter fuel payment is worth £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over. Winter fuel bills account for around 60 per cent. of the annual fuel bill. The winter fuel payment provides a significant contribution towards the higher cost of winter heating bills covering around half of the average older person's winter fuel bill.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Dentistry: Training

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average number of hours of clinical training received by dental students was in each of the last 10 years. [183826]

**Bill Rammell:** Since 1990 dental students have been required to undertake four years clinical training each comprising a minimum of 46 weeks per annum. Information on the hours of training that the students received is not held centrally.

### Departmental Publicity

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost has been of re-branding his Department following the change in name from the Department for Education and Skills. [162103]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* We have used the in-house expertise of our Executive agency the Intellectual Property Office for advice on creating a visual identity for DIUS as a new Department. Where necessary (for specific design work) they have used a specialist agency already on their roster, the cost of which was £12,041 excluding VAT.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171334]

**Mr. Lammy:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the ministerial code.

### English Language

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177435]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department does not provide or fund English language classes for staff.

The Department has signed and is committed to the Government Skills Pledge to encourage and support all staff to achieve at least a full level 2 qualification. Some element of this support may in a few cases include supporting the attainment of basic literacy. This is provided via local colleges and incurs no direct cost to the Department.

### Erasmus

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which UK universities *(a)* have bid for and *(b)* hold Erasmus University Charters. [181083]

**Bill Rammell:** All UK universities, except the University of Buckingham, Edge Hill University and the University of Northampton, possess an Erasmus University Charter. The University of Buckingham and the University of Northampton have now applied to the European Commission for a Charter.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to higher education institutions on keeping places available for those students waiting for their A-level papers to be re-marked. [163550]

**Bill Rammell:** Admissions are a matter for individual higher education institutions (HEIs) who, as independent bodies, have discretion over their own admission policies and procedures. The Department does not therefore issue guidance in this area.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) have told us that HEIs which are members of the UCAS scheme will keep a place open for an applicant, in the event of a missing or queried exam result, up to 31 August unless an earlier date has been agreed.

Latest published figures on the number of inquiries about results and appeals are available on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority website at: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_10312.aspx The Department does not collect information on the number of HE admissions affected by those inquiries and appeals.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance he has issued on inclusion of information about the university experience of their parents by applicants to universities. [173381]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The inclusion of an optional question relating to parental education on the UCAS application form was the result of a decision taken by the UCAS Board, which the Government do not sit on. That decision followed the independent Schwartz review of fair admissions to higher education, which found that it was fair and appropriate to consider contextual factors as well as formal educational achievement, given the variation in learners' opportunities and circumstances. We fully support the move to provide more contextual information to admissions officers and believe such information may help HEIs monitor the effectiveness of their widening participation initiatives. The Government have not issued any guidance on this matter.

### Higher Education: Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of changes made by universities in their provision of careers guidance following Sir Martin Harris's review in 2001. [170437]

**Bill Rammell:** The primary responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the Harris Report lies with the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services. However the Government take a keen interest in this area and in the progress made. I was pleased to note that a recent survey[1] found that three and a half years after graduation 85 per cent. of respondents reported being satisfied with their career to date.

[1] The first longitudinal Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) (published November 2007)

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to reply to the letter of 27 September from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163948]

**Bill Rammell:** I replied to the hon. Member's letter of 27 September on 23 October.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 26 November 2007 on a constituent. [178323]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* I replied to my hon. Friend's letter of 26 November on 11 January.

### New Local Government Network: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments have the *(a)* Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* Learning Skills network made to the New Local Government Network in the last 24 months. [176675]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council has contracted for payments of £56,417 to the New Local Government Network within the last 24 months.

The Learning and Skills Network is an independent not-for-profit organisation. Information on the payments that it makes is not held centrally.

### Science: Admissions

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students were admitted to a UK university to study an undergraduate course in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology, *(d)* engineering and *(e)* computer science in each of the last 10 years. [168298]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information for students entering full and part-time courses is given in the first two tables. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002/03 and so figures from 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

Recent figures for students obtaining places on full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS are shown in the third table.

*Undergraduate entrants by subject of study—UK Higher Education Institutions [1]—academic years 1996/97 to 2001/02*

| | Subject of study | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Physics* | *Chemistry* | *Biology* | *Engineering[2]* | *Computer Science* |
| 1996/97 | 3,375 | 5,750 | 7,250 | 37,220 | 27,245 |
| 1997/98 | 3,535 | 5,775 | 7,190 | 37,810 | 29,220 |
| 1998/99 | 3,340 | 5,540 | 6,960 | 36,250 | 32,145 |
| 1999/2000 | 3,075 | 4,890 | 6,530 | 34,985 | 34,255 |
| 2000/01 | 2,845 | 4,260 | 6,315 | 34,390 | 38,570 |
| 2001/02 | 2,835 | 4,145 | 6,180 | 35,175 | 40,975 |

[1] Students from the Open University are excluded from the analysis.
[2] Engineering includes—General Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Naval Architecture, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Production and Manufacture Engineering, Chemical, Process and Energy Engineering, Others in Engineering and Balanced Combinations.
*Notes:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

*Undergraduate entrants by subject of study—UK Higher Education Institutions[1]—Academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06*

| | Subject of study | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Physics* | *Chemistry* | *Biology* | *Engineering [2]* | *Computer Science* |
| 2002/03 | 3,140 | 4,710 | 6,985 | 32,765 | 34,600 |

*Undergraduate entrants by subject of study—UK Higher Education Institutions[1]—Academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06*

| | Subject of study | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Physics* | *Chemistry* | *Biology* | *Engineering [2]* | *Computer Science* |
| 2003/04 | 3,210 | 4,480 | 7,415 | 31,465 | 27,600 |
| 2004/05 | 3,105 | 4,205 | 7,455 | 32,235 | 22,335 |
| 2005/06 | 3,210 | 4,440 | 7,905 | 31,940 | 21,675 |

[1] Students from the Open University are excluded from the analysis.
[2] Engineering includes—General Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Naval Architecture, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Production and Manufacture Engineering, Chemical, Process and Energy Engineering, Others in Engineering and Balanced Combinations.
*Notes:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses—year of entry 2005 to 2007*

| | Year of entry [1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Subject* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Physics | 2,933 | 2,919 | 3,219 |
| Chemistry | 3,463 | 3,581 | 3,895 |
| Biology | 4,900 | 4,288 | 4,429 |
| Engineering | 21,405 | 19,889 | 20,713 |
| Computer Science | 10,753 | 9,936 | 9,905 |

[1] Figures as at October 17 in each year.
*Source:*
UCAS

### Student Wastage

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the drop-out rate amongst students in England studying for a first degree was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [161942]

**Bill Rammell:** The performance indicators in higher education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), include an indicator of projected non-completion. The proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who were projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution, was 13.8 per cent. in 2004/05. This is the latest available figure and is the lowest value this indicator has taken since the performance indicators were introduced.

The 2005/06 figure will become available in 2008.

According to figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is amongst the highest in the OECD countries.

### Students: Autism

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to assist young people with autism and Asperger's syndrome to gain access to higher education. [180094]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government provide support for disabled people applying to higher education (HE) and while they are in HE, this will include young people who are on the autistic spectrum. The Aimhigher Programme, for which the Government have recently announced a continuation of funding for a further three years, provides outreach activities aimed at increasing participation among under-represented groups, including disabled people.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides funding to institutions to support disabled students through the mainstream disability funding stream—£12.9 million in 2006/07. We also provide funding directly to students through disabled students' allowances (DSAs), which can help to remove the obstacles that prevent disabled students and students with specific learning difficulties from entering and completing higher education courses. In 2005/06, we provided approximately £78.8 million to 35,600 students. In July 2007, we announced that from 2008/09 the maximum amounts of the non-medical helpers' allowance (for undergraduates) and the postgraduate allowance will be increased by around 60 per cent.

These increases will mean that:

The maximum amount of the DSA for non-medical helpers will increase from £12,420 in 2007/08 to £20,000 in 2008/09 for full-time students and from £9,315 in 2007/08 to £15,000 in 2008/09 for part-time students.

The maximum amount of the DSA for postgraduate students will increase from £5,915 in 2007/08 to £10,000 in 2008/09

DSAs are provided to students in addition to the standard student support package. They are not means tested and also do not have to be repaid.

### Students: Science

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to increase the numbers of students studying science based degrees. [164037]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Government's policy is to increase the number of people leaving schools and colleges with the appropriate qualifications to enable them to take a science-based degree. This includes Government support for activities that help enthuse young people about science and scientific careers. For example the Department funds the Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme, run by STEMNET, through which individuals work with teachers in schools and colleges.

There are some encouraging signs that the Government's overall policy is starting to work. According to the most recent UCAS figures for 2007 entry published on 17 October 2007, there have been increases in acceptances for first degrees at UK universities as follows: physics (+10.3 per cent.), chemistry (+8.8 per cent.), biology (+3.3 per cent.), maths (+9.2 per cent.); combined maths/

computer science (+16.5 per cent.); combined medical/biological/agricultural sciences (+10.0 per cent.); chemical engineering (+12.3 per cent.), civil engineering (+9.9 per cent.) and mechanical engineering (+4.3 per cent.). These figures include EU and international students.

### University Lecturers: Women

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to recruit more women as university lecturers since 1997. [164038]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The responsibility for recruiting staff lies with higher education institutions (HEIs), as the employers. However, we have instituted a number of measures to support higher education institutions (HEIs) in this area. Through the Rewarding and Developing Staff initiative, we have supported HEIs in developing their human resource capability—recruitment and retention, and equal opportunities were two of the six priority areas.

We launched the Athena SWAN Charter in 2005 to address the low representation of women within science, engineering and technology (SET) in HEIs. The charter is funded by the Equality Challenge Unit (which is responsible for supporting HEIs to help them improve their equality practice) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills through the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC). The charter encourages universities and research institutions in the recruitment, retention and progression of women lecturers and researchers within SET. 26 universities have signed up to the charter and this year saw the first gold award made—to the chemistry department, university of York—to recognise that institution's high achievements in this area.

There has been a rising trend in the number of women academics working in higher education. In 2005/06, 41.9 per cent. of academics in UK HE institutions were female, compared to 32.9 per cent. in 1996/97.

### Teachers: Science

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding is available for qualified secondary school teachers to study undergraduate courses in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* biology and *(d)* mathematics; and how many people (i) applied for and (ii) received such funding in each of the last five years. [175256]

**Mr. Lammy:** There will be more opportunities for qualified secondary school teachers in higher education as a result of the 2 per cent. a year real terms increase in funding for HE over the next three years. While we will be progressively redistributing about £100 million of institutional funding away from those studying second degrees and other HE qualifications at an equivalent or lower level in order to support more first time entrants to HE, subjects like chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics will continue to attract institutional funding when taken as a second undergraduate degree. This will allow Universities and Colleges to continue charging home fee rates for these subjects.

Qualified secondary school teachers who hold an honours degree are not eligible for fee and living costs support under the Student Support Regulations for a second undergraduate degree in chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics. However, qualified secondary school teachers who do not hold an honours degree may be eligible for fee and living costs support for an undergraduate degree in these subjects. Information is not available on the numbers of qualified secondary school teachers applying for and receiving student support specifically for chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics undergraduate courses in each of the last five years.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 20 February 2008*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Homicide

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children who were killed at the hands of parents or carers in the last 12 months. [186824]

**Mr. McNulty:** I have been asked to reply.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales as at 12 November 2007, and the requested information was published in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08, page 14 and table 1.04).

During 2006-07 there were 33 homicides recorded where the victim was aged under 16 and the relationship to the principal suspect was 'son/daughter' (which includes step- and adoptive-children, and children of the suspect's cohabitant or lover). Cases with a relationship category of 'carer' cannot be identified.

### Class Sizes

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of *(a)* five, *(b)* six and *(c)* seven years of age were taught in classes of more than 30 children in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [187306]

**Jim Knight:** The available information covers pupils at key stage 1 and is given in the table.

*Number and percentage of key stage 1 pupils in classes of 31 or more taught by one teacher in: maintained primary schools in England*

| | *1997* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Number of pupils | 476,820 | 23,210 |
| Percentage of all pupils | 29.0 | 1.7 |

*Source:*
School Census

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Implementation Review Unit to report on the work of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [187189]

**Jim Knight:** The Implementation Review Unit issue an Annual Report each year and have done so since they were established in 2003. Their most recent report, for 2007, can be found on their website at:

www.iru.org.uk

### Education: Families

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage schools to provide more opportunities for family learning. [165034]

**Beverley Hughes:** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Family learning programmes strengthen families, promote community cohesion and support our commitment to embedding a culture of learning across all levels of society. The wide-ranging consultation on Informal Adult Learning announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, on 15 January, will help ensure that these popular and high quality programmes can be further developed and strengthened to meet the needs of the whole community.

We are working with colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families to enable more adults and children to access extended schools facilities. Schools provide language, literacy and numeracy support as well as other activities that can help engage adults in learning, especially those from marginalised communities and others who need particular help in taking a first step on the progression ladder.

It is for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to encourage schools to provide more opportunities for family learning, and parents, carers and other adults will benefit from those facilities being made more widely available. The Children's Plan published in December 2007 committed an additional £30 million over the next three years to provide more family learning.

### Faith Schools: Islam

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families regarding how many Muslim schools OFSTED has raised concerns with his Department in the last five years. [185398]

**Ed Balls:** Maintained and independent schools, including those designated as Muslim schools, are inspected by OFSTED on a regular basis. There are currently nine Muslim schools open in the maintained sector. Since 2005, when the three year cycle of inspections was introduced, six have been inspected and all judged by OFSTED to be satisfactory or better in terms of their overall effectiveness. The other three were opened since September 2006 and will be inspected, as usual, in the second year of operation. In the independent sector there are 115 Muslim schools of which 83 have been inspected since 2003, with inspections at a further 18 schools scheduled this school term. The remaining schools were all opened since September 2003 and were inspected against independent schools standards before opening and will be inspected again in due course, as part of the three-year cycle of inspections which OFSTED will commence in the summer term. Inspection reports,

which are published on OFSTED's website, provide an overview of provision in all inspected schools, detail of whether or not the statutory standards for independent schools are met where appropriate and include recommendations for improvement.

On one occasion OFSTED referred a specific concern raised with it about a Muslim school to the Department. The case was investigated and found to have no substance.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements are in place for the inspection of independent Muslim schools. [185401]

**Ed Balls:** All independent Muslim schools are currently inspected by OFSTED against standards set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended. These cover the quality of the curriculum and teaching; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; and their health, safety and welfare. Reports of independent school inspections are published on the OFSTED website.

The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate (BSI) has recently been approved in principle to undertake inspection of around 110 independent schools affiliated to the Christian Schools Trust (CST) and the Association of Muslim Schools UK (AMSUK). BSI inspections will assess schools against the same statutory criteria as OFSTED and its inspectors will also assess the religious ethos of CST and AMSUK schools. Any inspection work BSI carries out will be monitored by OFSTED, which will produce a published annual report on its performance.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children in schools of fewer than 500 pupils gained five A* to C GCSE grades in the latest period for which figures are available; [188019]

(2) what percentage of children in schools of between 500 and 999 pupils gained five A* to C GCSE grades in the latest period for which figures are available; [188020]

(3) what percentage of children in schools of fewer than 1,000 pupils gained five A* to C GCSE grades in the latest period for which figures are available; [188021]

(4) what percentage of children gained five A* - C GCSE grades in schools that had (a) up to 1,000, (b) between 1,000 and 1,999 and (c) over 2,000 pupils in 2006-07 [188579]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides data on the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to C at GSCE for schools:

*(a)* With fewer than 500 pupils

*(b)* Between 500 and 999 pupils

*(c)* With 1,000 or more pupils

*(d)* With fewer than 1,000 pupils

*Percentage of pupils achieving 5A*-C in GCSE and Equivalents in 2007*

| *Number of pupils*[1] | *Number of schools* | *Percentage of 5A*-C* |
|---|---|---|
| Fewer than 500 | 158 | 49.4 |
| 500 to 999 | 1,391 | 57.1 |
| 1,000 or more fewer than 1,000 | 1,563 | 63.8 |
| All Schools[2] | 3,112 | 61.0 |

[1] Number of day pupils on roll.
[2] Includes Maintained Mainstream schools, CTCs and Academies.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Nottingham

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in Nottingham left school with five A*-C grade GCSEs in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [187307]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the following table.

*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades, 1997, 1998 and 2007*

| | *1997* | *[1]1998* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England[2] | 45.1 | 46.3 | 60.8 |
| Nottinghamshire Local Authority (1997) | 37.6 | n/a | n/a |
| Nottingham City Local Authority (1998-) | n/a | 26.2 | 53.2 |
| Nottinghamshire Local Authority (1998-) | n/a | 42.3 | 54.6 |

n/a = not available
[1] Due to local government reorganisations, figures have also been given for 1998 to allow comparisons to be made to the latest year.
[2] includes all schools, not only those in the maintained sector.

Figures are published annually in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England'. The latest figures, for 2007, are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

### Home Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were home educated in each year since 1997. [187167]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

### Primary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have been asked to submit their primary school strategies for change before June; and what deadlines apply in each case. [185335]

**Jim Knight:** To date, the Department has not invited any authorities to submit primary strategies for change before the 16 June deadline.

**Pupils: Disadvantaged**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children *(a)* entitled and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals obtained (i) five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C and (ii) five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [187141]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the following table.

*Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE by free school meal status, 2002 to 2007*[1]

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All pupils*[2] | | | | | | |
| Number | 591,391 | 576,084 | 591,774 | 584,259 | 594,417 | 600,968 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C | 49.0 | 50.7 | 51.9 | 54.9 | 56.9 | 59.3 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics | n/a | n/a | n/a | 42.5 | 43.8 | 45.4 |
| *Eligible for free school meals* | | | | | | |
| Number | 80,626 | 81,278 | 82,738 | 79,839 | 78,179 | 76,641 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C | 23.0 | 24.4 | 26.1 | 29.9 | 32.6 | 35.5 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics | n/a | n/a | n/a | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.1 |
| *Not eligible for free school meals* | | | | | | |
| Number | 477,798 | 493,336 | 508,060 | 501,857 | 514,779 | 522,088 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C | 53.7 | 55.2 | 56.1 | 58.9 | 60.7 | 62.8 |
| Percentage achieving 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics | n/a | n/a | n/a | 46.4 | 47.5 | 49.0 |

n/a = not available.

[1] Figures for 2002 to 2004 are based upon pupils aged 15 whereas figures from 2005 onwards are based upon pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Includes pupils with unclassified Free School Meal status.

The percentage achieving 5 A*-C grades including English and Mathematics has only been published since 2005.

Figures have been taken from the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England' which has been published annually by the Department since 2002. The latest figures, for 2007, are at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml.

Figures for earlier years are not available split by free school meal status as this was first collected at pupil level on the School Census in 2002.

**Pupils: Per Capita Costs**

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his Department's Green "Paper Raising Expectations", what he expects the additional expenditure per pupil to be on education after 2013. [184025]

**Jim Knight:** Per pupil expenditure figures for 2013 will not be available until the next spending review announcement. Total per pupil funding has more than doubled from under £2,500 in 1997-98 to £5,600 in 2007-08. The next three years will see per pupil funding rise by almost 20 per cent. in cash terms to over £6,600 by 2010-11.

**Schools: Bureaucracy**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set to reduce the burden of administration in schools; what progress his Department has made against those targets; and if he will make a statement. [187190]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not set any specific targets to reduce bureaucracy in schools. However, we have said in our 2007 Simplification Plan (published December 2007), that we will work towards the Government's target to reduce our administrative burdens by 25 per cent.

**Schools: Milton Keynes**

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes have been made to the capital programme for *(a)* new schools and *(b)* extensions to existing schools within Milton Keynes unitary authority area since 30 October 2007, broken down by (i) school and (ii) expected completion date. [187179]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates capital funding to local authorities and schools, and relies on them to prioritise how this should be spent. It expects local authorities and schools to prepare their own asset management plans which set out how resources from the Department, and other resources available locally, should be used. It does not maintain central records of changes made to Milton Keynes or other authorities' asset management plans.

**Science**

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his

Department is taking to monitor the number of students regularly attending the 250 pilot science and engineering clubs; [187355]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assess the impact of science and engineering clubs on pupil *(a)* interest and *(b)* achievement in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. [187356]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has commissioned Sheffield Hallam University to undertake an evaluation of the clubs. An interim report is due to be published in the next few weeks and a full report is due in autumn 2008.

We propose to monitor pupils' progress, attainment and subject choice in future years.

**Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained secondary schools entered one or more students for separate science GCSEs in each year since 2001. [187209]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16-year-olds in maintained secondary schools were entered for GCSE, dual award science, in each year since 2001. [187210]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| | *Number of 15-year-olds in maintained secondary schools entered for science dual award* | *Percentage of 15-year-olds in maintained secondary schools entered for science dual award* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 406,021 | 69.9 |
| 2005/06 | 414,291 | 72.2 |
| 2004/05 | 423,496 | 72.6 |
| 2003/04 | 455,918 | 77.3 |
| 2002/03 | 451,665 | 79.0 |
| 2001/02 | 446,769 | 77.1 |
| 2000/01 | 445,487 | 77.3 |

Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August).

**Special Needs Education**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many appeals against a refusal on the part of a local authority to issue a statement of special needs there were in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [187188]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The number of appeals made in the last five years, against the decision of a local authority to refuse to issue of statement of special educational needs, are presented in the following table, broken down by local authority.

| | *Appeals made on refusal to statement* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *Total* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 6 |
| Barnet | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Barnsley | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 4 |
| Bexley | — | 2 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 32 |
| Birmingham | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 16 |
| Blackburn | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bolton | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 3 |
| Bournemouth | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 3 |
| Bradford | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Brent | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Bridgend | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Brighton and Hove | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Bristol City | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 15 |
| Bromley | 3 | 1 | — | 9 | 7 | 20 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | — | 10 |
| Calderdale | — | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Camden | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Cheshire | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 23 |
| Cornwall | 12 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 28 |
| Coventry | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Croydon | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Cumbria | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 5 |
| Darlington | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Derby City | — | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | — | 11 |
| Devon | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 |

| | Appeals made on refusal to statement | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *Total* |
| Doncaster | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 8 | 12 |
| Dorset | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Dudley | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | 4 |
| Durham | 9 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 38 |
| Ealing | 1 | — | 5 | 1 | — | 7 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| East Sussex | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 31 |
| Enfield | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Essex | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 19 |
| Gateshead | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Greenwich | — | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 5 |
| Gwynedd | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hackney | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | — | 9 |
| Halton | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 26 |
| Haringey | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Harrow | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| Havering | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Herefordshire | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 17 |
| Hillingdon | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Hounslow | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Isle of Wight | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Islington | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | 6 |
| Kent | 8 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 50 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull, City | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Kirklees | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 |
| Knowsley | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Lambeth | 5 | 1 | — | 3 | — | 9 |
| Lancashire | 10 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 33 |
| Leeds | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | 9 |
| Leicester City | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 13 |
| Leicestershire | 5 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 39 |
| Lewisham | — | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| Liverpool | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 20 |
| Manchester | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | 6 |
| Medway | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | 9 |
| Merton | 2 | — | 2 | — | 5 | 9 |
| Middlesbrough | — | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Milton Keynes | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Newham | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Norfolk | 1 | — | 1 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 3 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| North Lincolnshire | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | — | 12 |
| North Somerset | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| North Tyneside | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | — | 6 |
| North Yorkshire | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 15 |
| Northamptonshire | 3 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 5 |
| Northumberland | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | 3 |
| Nottingham City | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Oldham | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | 4 |
| Oxfordshire | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Pembrokeshire | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |

| Local authority | Appeals made on refusal to statement 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peterborough | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | 4 |
| Plymouth | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Poole | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Portsmouth | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | 7 |
| Powys | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Reading | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Redbridge | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Rochdale | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Rotherham | — | 2 | — | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Salford | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Sandwell | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | 11 |
| Sefton | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Sheffield | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 18 |
| Shropshire | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 22 |
| Slough | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Solihull | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Somerset | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 17 |
| South Gloucestershire | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 6 |
| South Tyneside | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Southampton | — | — | — | 4 | — | 4 |
| Southend | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| Southwark | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| Staffordshire | 10 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 24 |
| Stockport | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Suffolk | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Sunderland | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Surrey | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 29 |
| Sutton | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Swindon | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 3 |
| Tameside | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1 | 5 | — | 3 | — | 9 |
| Thurrock | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Torbay | — | 7 | 1 | — | — | 8 |
| Tower Hamlets | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Trafford | 2 | — | 5 | 3 | — | 10 |
| Wakefield | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Walsall | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 |
| Waltham Forest | 1 | — | 5 | 1 | — | 7 |
| Wandsworth | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | — | 7 |
| Warrington | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 3 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | 8 |
| West Sussex | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 16 |
| Westminster | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Wigan | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 15 |
| Wiltshire | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 28 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 5 |
| Wirral | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| Wokingham | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | 4 |
| Wolverhampton | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Worcestershire | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| York City | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total | 230 | 256 | 209 | 268 | 233 | 1,194 |

## Vocational Guidance: Science

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of school careers advisers have educational backgrounds in *(a)* science, *(b)* technology, *(c)* engineering and *(d)* mathematics. [187347]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### GCE A-level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of students who lost their place at university due to their exam papers having to be re-marked in the latest period for which figures are available. [163558]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

Admissions are a matter for individual higher education institutions (HEIs) who, as independent bodies, have discretion over their own admission policies and procedures. The Department does not therefore issue guidance in this area.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) have told us that HEIs which are members of the UCAS scheme will keep a place open for an applicant, in the event of a missing or queried exam result, up to 31 August unless an earlier date has been agreed.

Latest published figures on the number of inquiries about results and appeals are available on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority website at: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_10312.aspx The Department does not collect information on the number of HE admissions affected by those inquiries and appeals.

## JUSTICE

### Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been under the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [187187]

**Maria Eagle:** The Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 came into force on 20 February 2007. We do not yet have prosecution figures covering 2007. We would expect the number of prosecutions to be small. Any act involving violence against emergency workers would be covered by the general law on assault and the new offence is limited to obstruction only.

### Debt Collection: Standards

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the findings of the consultation Regulation of Enforcement Agents (CP 02/07); and if he will make a statement. [187006]

**Maria Eagle:** The analysis of the responses to the Regulation of Enforcement Agents consultation is now complete and will be published in March 2008.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185792]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. The public information booklets which it has published since then, together with print runs and costs, are listed in the following table.

Lists of the public information booklets published by the Ministry of Justice's five agencies (National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service; Office of the Public Guardian, Tribunals Service, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform) will be placed in the Library of the House.

*Ministry of Justice Information Booklets 2007-08*

| *Title of booklet* | *Print run* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Legal Services Bill | 100 | [1]0 |
| Legal Services Act 2007 | 200 | [1]0 |
| Claims Management Regulation: What you need to know | 2,000 | [1]0 |
| Your Jury Service in the Coroners Court | 12,000 | 3,000 |
| Work of the Coroner | 10,500 | 1,500 |
| When Sudden Death Occurs | 20,500 | 3,000 |
| War Memorials in England and Wales: Guidance for Custodians | 2,000 | 1,000 |
| Step Up to a Judicial Career | 4,500 | 4,400 |
| You Don't Have to Live in Fear (Domestic Violence) | 42,000 | 33,900 |
| You Don't Have to Live in Fear (Domestic Violence) (Welsh) | 2,000 | 2,100 |
| Making Sense of Human Rights (booklet and DVD) | 24,600 | 20,000 |
| Human Rights Act explanatory booklet | 5,000 | 7,900 |
| Human Rights, Human Lives (handbook for public authorities) | 7,500 | 9,100 |
| Magistrates Recruitment Pack | 15,000 | 39,500 |
| Magistrates information booklet | 10,000 | 1,800 |

[1] Printed in-house

### HM Prison Service's Race Equality Action Plan

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place a copy of HM Prison Service's Race Equality Action Plan in the Library; what steps have been taken to implement it; and what has been the cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* implementing the plan. [186256]

**Maria Eagle:** The HM Prison Service Race Equality Action Plan (REAP) is updated approximately monthly, the most recent of which has been placed in the Library.

The REAP is a detailed and comprehensive plan that sets out all the high-level actions that the public sector Prison Service is taking on race equality. Its production involved contributions from a range of individuals and groups across the Prison Service, and its implementation

involves actions by a range of headquarters policy groups and in prison establishments. It is therefore not possible to give an estimate of the cost of producing or implementing the plan.

### Knutsford Crown Court

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the potential use of Knutsford Crown Court for magistrates hearings. [185756]

**Maria Eagle:** Her Majesty's Courts Service in Cheshire-Merseyside has developed an estates strategy that aims to identify opportunities to maximise the utilisation of all its buildings. The option to utilise Knutsford Crown Court as a magistrates court does not presently form part of the strategy, although cases are occasionally listed at Knutsford magistrates court from both Macclesfield and Vale Royal magistrates courts. Dates on which such cases are currently listed are as follows:

| *Date* | *Local justice area* |
|---|---|
| 12 February 2008 | Macclesfield |
| 13 February 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 14 February 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 25 February 2008 | Macclesfield |
| 26 February 2008 | Macclesfield |
| 27 February 2008 | Macclesfield |
| 28 February 2008 | Macclesfield |
| 4 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 5 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 6 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 7 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 17 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 18 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 19 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 31 March 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 1 April 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 2 April 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 3 April 2008 | Vale Royal |
| 4 April 2008 | Vale Royal |

A feasibility study to improve and/or replace Macclesfield magistrates court and a potential integration scheme with Macclesfield county court is under consideration and the Ministry of Justice Building Review Group will shortly receive a bid in this respect.

### Legal Aid Scheme

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were eligible for legal aid in each of the last 10 years. [179599]

**Maria Eagle:** Legal aid covers a number of different areas of justice, and the extent to which applicants' financial circumstances are taken into account in granting legal aid varies considerably across these areas. It is therefore not possible to give figures for the number of people eligible for legal aid as a whole. However, some estimates of the likely number that would be eligible are available for certain areas.

In criminal cases, all those arrested in England and Wales are eligible to receive free advice and assistance at the police station. Defendants are financially eligible for representation in the Crown Court, subject to judicial discretion to recover costs. We estimate that around half the population of England and Wales would be financially eligible to receive legal aid in magistrates courts cases following the introduction of the means test in October 2006.

Prior to April 2001 there was a legal aid contribution scheme in operation for criminal cases. The court decided the level of contributions according to the defendant's means. Estimates of eligibility levels under this scheme would be available only at disproportionate cost.

The following table provides estimates of the proportion of the population of England and Wales that were in principle financially eligible for civil legal aid in those categories for which financial circumstances are taken into account in each of the past 10 years where figures are available. However, decisions on granting of legal aid also depend on the merits of the case, while some areas of civil law are not now covered by legal aid. The decline over recent years in the proportion of the population eligible for civil legal aid is likely to reflect increases in general levels of prosperity, changes to the structure of the benefits system, demographic changes, and also the Government's drive to focus legal aid support on the most vulnerable people in society and to achieve the more effective delivery of civil legal aid.

More effective delivery is evidenced by the number of acts of assistance of civil legal aid not declining in parallel with eligibility over the last 10 years and increasing significantly from 856,000 in 2004-05 to 1,137,000 in 2006-07. Moreover, cash expenditure on civil legal aid (excluding immigration and asylum legal help whose costs reflect the volume of people arriving), rose from £615 million in 2001-02 to £730 million in 2006-07.

| | *Estimated proportion of the population of England and Wales eligible for civil representation (%)* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 52 |
| 1999 | 51 |
| 2000 | 50 |
| 2001 | 46 |
| 2005 | 41 |
| 2007 | 29 |

### Legal Aid: Expenditure

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid where the case had been brought against a political party in each of the last five years. [184499]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not readily available. In order to extract this information a manual inspection of all legal aid certificates issued in the past five years would be required. To do so would be of disproportionate cost.

### Legal Aid: Negligence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legally aided clinical negligence cases were closed in 2007 which proceeded beyond the investigation stage; and how many of these cases resulted in an award of damages or settlement involving an agreement to pay damages or compensation. [187348]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures covering the whole of 2007 will not be available until after the end of the current financial year. However, during 2006-07, 2,415 cases are known to have progressed beyond the investigation stage to the issue of proceedings. These included 300 cases that resulted in an award of damages and 1,240 settled cases that involved an agreement to pay damages or compensation.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legally aided clinical negligence cases were closed in 2007 which did not proceed beyond the investigation stage; and how many of these cases resulted in a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages or compensation. [187349]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures covering the whole of 2007 will not be available until after the end of the current financial year. However, during 2006-07, 3,009 cases were closed at the investigation stage, before the issue of proceedings. Of these, 468 cases had resulted in a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages or compensation.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make a statement on plans to repatriate Libyan prisoners detained in prisons in this country; what estimate he has made of how many prisoners will be affected; and what decisions have been made on the status of Mohammed Al Megrahi; [186707]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the prisoner transfer agreement between the UK and Libya. [186708]

**Mr. Straw:** On 28 May 2007, the then Prime Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Libyan Prime Minister which stated that negotiations would take place on four agreements in the field of judicial co-operation. These agreements were: Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance, Civil and Commercial Law, and Prisoner Transfer.

The prisoner transfer agreement, which has not yet been finalised, will provide for British nationals imprisoned in Libya, and Libyan nationals imprisoned in the United Kingdom, to serve their sentences in their own country. Transfer will only take place if both Governments give their consent in respect of each individual applicant prisoner. At 31 December 2007, 16 Libyan nationals were imprisoned in England and Wales. On the same date no British nationals were detained in prison in Libya.

Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi is serving a life sentence in Scotland for his part in the bombing of Pan American Flight 103 on 21 December 1988. As a prisoner detained in Scotland the decision on whether or not he can be transferred from Scotland to a prison in Libya would be a matter for Scottish Ministers. The Government have not entered into any arrangement for the transfer of Mr. al-Megrahi to Libya.

In accordance with the Ponsonby Rules a copy of the Prisoner Transfer Agreement between the UK and Libya will be laid before Parliament once it has been signed.

### Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Ronnie Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offending behaviour programmes were undertaken in prisons in England and Wales in the period 1997 to 2007; and what measures were used to judge their effectiveness; [186330]

(2) how many offending behaviour programmes in prisons in England and Wales over the period 1997 to 2007 were subject to randomised controlled trials to assess their effectiveness; [186331]

(3) how many prisoners in England and Wales participated in offending behaviour programmes during the period 1997 to 2007; [186332]

(4) what the cost of offending behaviour programmes in prisons in England and Wales was in each year from 1997 to 2007. [186333]

**Maria Eagle:** In 1997 the Prison Service offered a range of six accredited offending behaviour programmes, and by 2007 the repertoire of accredited offending behaviour programmes had increased to 15.

Various measures have been used in the evaluation of the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes in England and Wales. Predominantly quasi-experimental and non-experimental research designs have been used, many examining the reconviction rates of those who have completed programmes compared to those who have not. Other measures used to judge effectiveness include pre to post-examines treatment psychometric data which short term treatment impact, as well as gathering audit and qualitative information on programme participants and the delivery of programmes.

During this period, one randomised control trial has been conducted on the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes. The Treatment Change Project (TCP) is an evaluation of HM Prison Service accredited Enhanced Thinking Skills (ETS) programme which aims to examine the impact of ETS courses on impulsivity in adult male offenders over the age of 18, and to investigate whether changes in levels of impulsivity were reflected in changes in prison behaviour.

The TCP was conducted as a randomised control trial (RCT), and as such is the first large-scale RCT evaluating the impact of ETS in prisons.

The draft report is at the peer review stage, with publication scheduled for April 2008.

From 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007 the number of accredited offending behaviour programmes completed by prisoners was 65,233. Some prisoners will have completed more than one programme.

The funding for the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes is part of establishment baselines, therefore it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work. The Prison Service is currently working on developing a costing process to provide more accurate costs for regime activities and interventions.

Additional funding was provided by the Government to expand the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes as shown in the following table:

£ million

| | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Comprehensive Spending Review | 7.3 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 |
| Crime Reduction Programme | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | — | — |
| Spending Review 2000 | — | — | — | 3.6 | 11.6 |

Based on an estimated average cost per programme completion and the number of completions in 2006-07, we estimate that the cost of delivering accredited offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 to be approximately £25 million.

### Prisons: Community Engagement Implementation Guide

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to HM Prison Service was of producing *(a)* the Community Engagement Implementation Guide and *(b)* community engagement events held in the last 12 months; and if he will place a copy of the Guide in the Library. [186208]

**Maria Eagle:** The Community Engagement Implementation Guide was produced by a member of the Race Equality Action Group (REAG): the senior executive officer (whose annual salary was about £35,000) spent approximately 10 per cent. of her time developing the document, which formed part of the revised Prison Service Race Equality Order (PSO 2800). The order is available on the Prison Service website and in the parliamentary Library. A copy of the Implementation Guide has been placed in the Library.

At a national level the Prison Service spent £5,000 on undertaking and publicising community engagement events in the last 12 months. Local community engagement events are held in prisons across the estate and details are not held centrally, so it is not possible to give a figure for the cost of such events.

### Prisons: Race Equality Action Team Training

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are employed in HM Prison Service's race equality action group; and what the cost of the group is in 2007-08. [186207]

**Maria Eagle:** 24 members of staff are employed in HM Prison Service's Race Equality Action Group (REAG). The group's annual budget (including pay and non-pay) for 2007-08 is £1.475 million.

### Prisons: Traveller Day

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have held a Traveller Day in the last three years; and what the cost was of such events. [186262]

**Maria Eagle:** Traveller Days are local initiatives held by prisons: they are dependent on establishments having recognised groups of prisoners from Traveller background. The Prison Service considers it best practice for establishment to hold such events.

Information is not held centrally on events such as Traveller Days held in prisons. To collect the information requested would require contacting all 125 public sector prisons in England and Wales individually and for each establishment to conduct a manual check of their local records. It is not therefore possible to provide figures for the number of such events in the last three years or their costs.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department keeps records of the number of young men who have taken anabolic steroids for non-medical reasons in each year since 1997. [186317]

**Mr. McNulty:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) collects information on the illicit use of anabolic steroids. As the following table shows, the proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years using anabolic steroids not prescribed by a doctor has remained at less than 0.5 per cent. since such questions were included in the survey in 1996.

Due to the small number of anabolic steroid users in the BCS sample it is not possible to provide a separate breakdown for men and women.

*Proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting use of anabolic steroids in the last year, 1996 to 2006-07*

| | Anabolic steroids | Unweighted base |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 0.5 | 1,412 |
| 1998 | 0.5 | 1,233 |
| 2000 | 0.1 | 1,455 |
| 2001-02 | 0.2 | 3,984 |
| 2002-03 | 0.1 | 4,209 |
| 2003-04 | 0.4 | 5,327 |
| 2004-05 | 0.4 | 6,182 |
| 2005-06 | 0.3 | 5,876 |
| 2006-07 | 0.2 | 5,687 |

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to children in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age; [186769]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders issued to children were breached in each of the last five years; [186770]

(3) how many children were sent to prison as a result of breaking an antisocial behaviour order in each of the last five years; [186771]

(4) how many children have been subject to more than one antisocial behaviour order in each of the last five years. [186772]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data showing the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to juveniles aged 10 to 17, by gender, can be found in the following table. Of the total number of ASBOs issued to juveniles aged 10 to 17 since inception, 2,293 were proven to have been breached at least once by the end of 2005. Such data, further broken down by year, are not available. The data held by the Department do not identify whether multiple ASBOs have been issued to the same person.

Data on the type of sentence received for breach of an ASBO will be published later this year.

*Number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders issued to persons aged ID-17 at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by sex, in England and Wales, 2001-05*

*England and Wales*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 187 | 237 | 573 | 1,195 | 1,424 |
| Females | 6 | 13 | 52 | 125 | 134 |
| All aged 10 to 17 | 193 | 250 | 625 | 1,320 | 1,558 |

*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Asylum

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 951W, how many of the 72,550 asylum seekers removed from the UK have subsequently reapplied for asylum in the UK. [180110]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

## Asylum and Immigration Act 1996

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of enforcing section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in each year since 1997. [185086]

**Jacqui Smith:** Operational activity within local enforcement offices includes staff resources involved in illegal working operations. The cost of enforcing section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 (illegal working), is not separately identifiable from the overall budgets allocated to local enforcement offices.

## Asylum: Social Security Benefits

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers had their benefits withdrawn under section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 in each year since it came into force. [185087]

**Jacqui Smith:** The use of section 9 was introduced by way of a pilot scheme which ran from December 2004 to December 2005. During this time asylum support was withdrawn from 26 families. Six of these families are on support again, having become eligible during 2007.

## Crime

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records her Department holds for crime statistics at more local levels than that of basic command units; whether such records are publicly available; and if she will make it her policy to set out a timetable for the publication of such statistics at ward level. [186466]

**Mr. McNulty:** The recorded crime data returned to the Home Office by police forces are at police force, basic command unit and crime and disorder reduction partnerships levels. Data are not routinely submitted to the Home Office at smaller geographic levels. A pilot collection of recorded crime data at middle super output area level has been released by the Home Office on the Neighbourhood Statistics website. The data were provided on a voluntary basis by a number of forces and are available for years 2003-04 to 2005-06 for selected offences:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/datasetList.do?JSAllowed=true&Function=&percent24ph=60&CurrentPageId=60&step=1&CurrentTreeIndex=-1&searchString=&datasetFamilyId=904&Next.x=8&Next.y=9

As part of the broader agenda to enhance responsiveness, accountability and public engagement with policing and community safety, the Home Office are working with ACPO, the APA and practitioners from police forces, authorities and local partnerships on the provision of crime information at a level that would make sense to the public locally. The aim of the project is to make local data and information on policing, crime and community safety available on a monthly and consistent basis from July 2008 onwards by local agencies, such as police authorities, police forces and local authorities.

## Crime: Firearms

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded by the police in which deactivated or reactivated firearms were used in the last five years. [182364]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on deactivated or reactivated firearms has been centrally separately collected since 2004-05. Available data from 2004-05 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table.

*Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which reactivated and deactivated firearms were used, England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| | | | Number of offences |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Weapon type* | *2004-05*[1] | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Reactivated handgun | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Deactivated imitation firearm | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Other reactivated firearm | — | 2 | 1 |

[1] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

## Driving Under Influence: Drugs

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for drug-driving resulted in a custodial sentence *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [186025]

**Mr. Coaker:** The data on arrests collected by the Ministry of Justice do not include information on the outcomes in court of those arrests.

Information is available on convictions and custodial sentences for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs by police force area from 1997 to 2005. This is provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available later this year.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences.

*Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs*[1] *by police force area, 1997 to 2005*

| | | | | | | Number of offences |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | | *1998* | | *1999* | |
| *Police force area* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody*[2] | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody*[2] | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody*[2] |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,812 | 163 | 2,566 | 157 | 2,728 | 165 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,146 | 119 | 1,060 | 96 | 869 | 87 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,092 | 56 | 1,060 | 62 | 941 | 43 |
| Cheshire | 1,969 | 97 | 1,903 | 119 | 1,827 | 133 |
| Cleveland | 926 | 61 | 870 | 63 | 811 | 57 |
| Cumbria | 931 | 49 | 856 | 51 | 871 | 37 |
| Derbyshire | 1,612 | 147 | 1,547 | 202 | 1,463 | 181 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,342 | 91 | 2,265 | 127 | 2,277 | 112 |
| Dorset | 1,214 | 93 | 1,186 | 88 | 1,120 | 96 |
| Durham | 1,044 | 66 | 1,035 | 53 | 1,137 | 81 |
| Essex | 2,736 | 228 | 2,438 | 233 | 2,528 | 261 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,067 | 48 | 985 | 36 | 889 | 51 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,806 | 440 | 4,715 | 453 | 4,850 | 464 |
| Hampshire | 3,774 | 243 | 3,597 | 231 | 3,725 | 213 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,670 | 90 | 1,672 | 91 | 1,679 | 90 |
| Humberside | 1,274 | 76 | 1,358 | 87 | 1,323 | 97 |
| Kent | 2,321 | 97 | 2,627 | 155 | 2,633 | 133 |
| Lancashire | 3,389 | 224 | 2,945 | 178 | 3,010 | 184 |
| Leicestershire | 1,648 | 183 | 1,485 | 140 | 1,624 | 188 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,088 | 47 | 979 | 36 | 941 | 44 |
| London, City of | 436 | 8 | 301 | 9 | 236 | 5 |
| Merseyside | 2,719 | 304 | 2,451 | 326 | 2,137 | 296 |
| Metropolitan Police | 16,165 | 1,270 | 13,889 | 1,050 | 12,414 | 838 |
| Norfolk | 1,116 | 49 | 1,118 | 43 | 1,010 | 64 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,107 | 109 | 1,062 | 73 | 1,058 | 91 |
| Northumbria | 2,625 | 184 | 2,457 | 194 | 2,463 | 229 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,365 | 77 | 1,205 | 77 | 1,124 | 60 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,031 | 255 | 1,804 | 247 | 1,802 | 262 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,296 | 204 | 2,002 | 178 | 1,927 | 149 |
| Staffordshire[3] | 2,036 | 132 | 1,955 | 140 | 1,711 | 143 |
| Suffolk | 1,050 | 53 | 1,042 | 60 | 1,089 | 71 |
| Surrey | 1,380 | 64 | 1,328 | 58 | 1,417 | 47 |
| Sussex | 2,373 | 110 | 2,113 | 113 | 2,224 | 120 |
| Thames Valley | 4,070 | 215 | 3,896 | 195 | 3,725 | 216 |
| Warwickshire | 837 | 44 | 784 | 53 | 856 | 38 |
| West Mercia | 1,947 | 87 | 1,794 | 97 | 1,847 | 114 |
| West Midlands | 6,351 | 598 | 5,582 | 532 | 4,775 | 532 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,953 | 394 | 3,669 | 329 | 3,597 | 358 |
| Wiltshire | 1,043 | 27 | 1,108 | 39 | 1,009 | 45 |
| England | 93,761 | 6,802 | 86,709 | 6,471 | 83,567 | 6,395 |

*Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by police force area, 1997 to 2005*

*Number of offences*

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* |
| Dyfed Powys | 1,029 | 44 | 995 | 38 | 944 | 48 |
| Gwent | 1,166 | 61 | 1,203 | 84 | 1,079 | 78 |
| North Wales | 1,354 | 96 | 1,306 | 95 | 1,248 | 94 |
| South Wales | 2,892 | 257 | 2,903 | 239 | 2,526 | 282 |
| Wales | 6,441 | 458 | 6,407 | 456 | 5,797 | 502 |
| England and Wales | 100,202 | 7,260 | 93,116 | 6,927 | 89,364 | 6,897 |

*Number of offences*

| | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* | *Findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody[2]* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,462 | 152 | 2,197 | 129 | 2,401 | 124 |
| Bedfordshire | 797 | 89 | 914 | 79 | 955 | 82 |
| Cambridgeshire | 793 | 41 | 813 | 51 | 852 | 41 |
| Cheshire | 1,652 | 122 | 1,529 | 96 | 1,993 | 103 |
| Cleveland | 777 | 56 | 887 | 77 | 921 | 71 |
| Cumbria | 806 | 50 | 761 | 51 | 768 | 37 |
| Derbyshire | 1,417 | 126 | 1,411 | 140 | 1,465 | 164 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,199 | 104 | 2,369 | 128 | 2,441 | 95 |
| Dorset | 1,115 | 84 | 1,150 | 91 | 1,199 | 83 |
| Durham | 1,124 | 76 | 1,097 | 86 | 1,136 | 68 |
| Essex | 2,462 | 237 | 2,456 | 264 | 2,522 | 267 |
| Gloucestershire | 804 | 37 | 865 | 39 | 926 | 44 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,801 | 428 | 4,715 | 454 | 4,720 | 474 |
| Hampshire | 3,472 | 244 | 3,464 | 235 | 3,846 | 243 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,552 | 98 | 1,666 | 94 | 1,894 | 90 |
| Humberside | 1,371 | 128 | 1,259 | 126 | 1,395 | 113 |
| Kent | 2,592 | 134 | 2,575 | 165 | 2,745 | 152 |
| Lancashire | 2,584 | 163 | 2,304 | 148 | 2,599 | 159 |
| Leicestershire | 1,531 | 152 | 1,546 | 140 | 1,659 | 140 |
| Lincolnshire | 816 | 48 | 877 | 60 | 847 | 56 |
| London, City of | 162 | 4 | 162 | 10 | 221 | 12 |
| Merseyside | 2,128 | 286 | 2,195 | 217 | 2,293 | 216 |
| Metropolitan Police | 11,801 | 891 | 11,260 | 928 | 12,905 | 927 |
| Norfolk | 935 | 45 | 1,143 | 75 | 1,220 | 55 |
| Northamptonshire | 782 | 90 | 399 | 65 | 236 | 35 |
| Northumbria | 2,621 | 215 | 2,529 | 217 | 2,588 | 188 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,073 | 67 | 1,066 | 55 | 1,119 | 63 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,722 | 210 | 1,598 | 187 | 1,420 | 129 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,122 | 170 | 2,020 | 159 | 1,945 | 165 |
| Staffordshire[3] | n/a | n/a | 1,513 | 136 | 1,704 | 143 |
| Suffolk | 902 | 74 | 920 | 43 | 1,105 | 79 |
| Surrey | 1,539 | 61 | 1,592 | 65 | 1,614 | 68 |
| Sussex | 2,112 | 136 | 2,358 | 128 | 2,306 | 149 |
| Thames Valley | 3,496 | 212 | 3,275 | 210 | 4,317 | 219 |
| Warwickshire | 786 | 42 | 880 | 33 | 841 | 40 |
| West Mercia | 1,631 | 101 | 1,740 | 91 | 1,719 | 93 |
| West Midlands | 4,559 | 451 | 4,914 | 471 | 5,050 | 438 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,375 | 287 | 3,220 | 331 | 3,564 | 268 |
| Wiltshire | 930 | 28 | 1,045 | 53 | 1,005 | 54 |
| England | 79,671 | 6,076 | 78,684 | 6,127 | 84,456 | 5,947 |
| Dyfed Powys | 858 | 45 | 867 | 36 | 927 | 47 |
| Gwent | 1,211 | 99 | 1,152 | 76 | 1,074 | 74 |
| North Wales | 1,332 | 92 | 1,227 | 87 | 1,270 | 71 |
| South Wales | 2,757 | 255 | 2,812 | 295 | 2,761 | 236 |
| Wales | 6,158 | 491 | 6,058 | 494 | 6,032 | 428 |
| England and Wales | 85,829 | 6,567 | 84,742 | 6,621 | 90,488 | 6,375 |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[2] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[2] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[2] |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,666 | 167 | 2,692 | 145 | 2,595 | 127 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,072 | 72 | 1,028 | 65 | 1,050 | 81 |
| Cambridgeshire | 933 | 56 | 1,083 | 52 | 1,214 | 65 |
| Cheshire | 1,905 | 110 | 2,128 | 106 | 1,709 | 113 |
| Cleveland | 981 | 61 | 1,071 | 60 | 959 | 44 |
| Cumbria | 843 | 37 | 907 | 50 | 853 | 54 |
| Derbyshire | 1,617 | 168 | 1,874 | 143 | 1,645 | 118 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,667 | 121 | 2,560 | 120 | 2,446 | 102 |
| Dorset | 1,264 | 73 | 1,239 | 52 | 1,207 | 63 |
| Durham | 1,170 | 77 | 1,277 | 80 | 1,168 | 56 |
| Essex | 2,622 | 311 | 2,853 | 349 | 2,549 | 262 |
| Gloucestershire | 890 | 37 | 913 | 38 | 834 | 29 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,743 | 437 | 4,811 | 379 | 4,653 | 317 |
| Hampshire | 3,663 | 234 | 3,743 | 199 | 3,372 | 189 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,904 | 78 | 1,881 | 94 | 1,836 | 87 |
| Humberside | 1,445 | 150 | 1,623 | 112 | 1,592 | 117 |
| Kent | 2,811 | 179 | 3,010 | 155 | 2,907 | 157 |
| Lancashire | 2,652 | 146 | 2,706 | 125 | 2,723 | 136 |
| Leicestershire | 1,725 | 143 | 1,754 | 145 | 1,631 | 122 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,111 | 42 | 1,209 | 46 | 1,176 | 36 |
| London, City of | 230 | 4 | 169 | 5 | 184 | 4 |
| Merseyside | 2,687 | 215 | 2,849 | 261 | 2,964 | 252 |
| Metropolitan Police | 12,621 | 922 | 13,227 | 832 | 12,887 | 766 |
| Norfolk | 1,274 | 59 | 1,240 | 64 | 1,265 | 50 |
| Northamptonshire | 799 | 65 | 922 | 73 | 853 | 67 |
| Northumbria | 2,747 | 187 | 2,675 | 183 | 2,561 | 107 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,194 | 51 | 1,131 | 40 | 1,244 | 51 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,644 | 149 | 1,669 | 111 | 1,626 | 112 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,089 | 125 | 2,224 | 140 | 2,220 | 124 |
| Staffordshire (3) | 1,733 | 141 | 1,733 | 124 | 1,718 | 111 |
| Suffolk | 1,213 | 66 | 1,332 | 89 | 1,103 | 59 |
| Surrey | 1,464 | 44 | 1,425 | 51 | 1,503 | 53 |
| Sussex | 2,430 | 120 | 2,368 | 104 | 2,375 | 108 |
| Thames Valley | 3,884 | 159 | 3,539 | 190 | 3,474 | 181 |
| Warwickshire | 918 | 33 | 845 | 23 | 871 | 28 |
| West Mercia | 1,797 | 100 | 1,689 | 103 | 1,917 | 96 |
| West Midlands | 5,233 | 420 | 5,584 | 423 | 5,693 | 347 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,720 | 260 | 3,897 | 276 | 3,863 | 163 |
| Wiltshire | 1,031 | 62 | 1,024 | 39 | 1,038 | 41 |
| England | 87,392 | 5,881 | 89,904 | 5,646 | 87,482 | 4,995 |
| Dyfed Powys | 995 | 46 | 986 | 47 | 932 | 36 |
| Gwent | 1,149 | 94 | 1,188 | 69 | 1,129 | 74 |
| North Wales | 1,326 | 76 | 1,349 | 75 | 1,364 | 68 |
| South Wales | 2,840 | 211 | 2,811 | 222 | 2,811 | 199 |
| Wales | 6,310 | 427 | 6,334 | 413 | 6,236 | 377 |
| England and Wales | 93,702 | 6,308 | 96,238 | 6,059 | 93,718 | 5,372 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

[2] Immediate Custody includes sentences of Secure Training Order, Detention & Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

*Notes:*

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

### Drunkenness: Crime Prevention

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what maximum levy may be imposed on a licensed premises in an alcohol disorder zone; and whether the revenue is ring-fenced; [176710]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of alcohol disorder zones that will be implemented by local authorities in the first full year of operation of the legislation. [176717]

**Mr. Coaker:** Alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) are designed to tackle the problem of alcohol-related crime and disorder in the worst affected parts of town and city centres through a focus on the public space and/or the management of certain licensed premises. There will be no maximum levy that may be imposed on licensed premises, but the purposes to which the money raised can be put will be regulated, and the money raised will have to be spent on additional enforcement services which are over and above the baseline levels already in place.

The regulatory impact assessment for ADZs estimates that in the first year of ADZ being in force, approximately 30 areas may move to the action planning phase of the ADZ. However, it is unlikely that all areas which move to the action planning phase will continue to implement the full ADZ, as it is expected that as progress is made towards reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder, a significant proportion of ADZs will not proceed further than the action planning phase.

### Human Trafficking: Children

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who gave authorisation for television cameras to film the Metropolitan and Thames Valley Police raids in Slough on 24 January 2008 in which 11 suspected child victims of human trafficking were taken into the care of social services. [183951]

**Jacqui Smith:** Following a series of meetings involving all partners in the operation to discuss media strategy, the decision was taken by the Metropolitan Police Service Gold Commander for Operation Caddy.

### Identity Cards

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to her Department of conferences relating to the national identity scheme in the last two years. [185287]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Identity and Passport Service held the National Identity Scheme Strategic Suppliers Group Framework procurement bidders' conference in September 2007. The bidders' conference was part of the procurement process rather than a conventional conference and the venue and associated costs amounted to £4,028.

### Immigration: Biometrics

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what biometric information will be held on biometric immigration documents. [182355]

**Jacqui Smith:** We are planning for our new identity cards for foreign nationals, who are subject to immigration control, to contain biometric data in the form of two of the holder's fingerprints and a digital facial image. Biographical and other important information will also be included on the cards, such as the holder's name, date and place of birth, nationality, and whether the person is entitled to employment and access to public funds in the United Kingdom.

### Internet: Crime

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost of cybercrime to the UK economy in the last five years. [185056]

**Jacqui Smith:** This information is not held centrally.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff her Department employs to deal with cybercrime. [185057]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Government criminalise acts based on the offence committed and not the medium used; therefore many Home Office teams make policy on crimes which can be committed over the internet. Teams specifically dealing with cybercrime (for all or some of their time) employ six full-time and one part-time members of staff.

### Migration

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what voting arrangements in the Council of Ministers will apply to decisions relating to EU policy on legal migration once the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force. [180180]

**Jacqui Smith:** The voting procedure in the Council of Ministers for EU policy on legal migration will be Qualified Majority Voting.

The UK position remains unchanged. We will opt into EU asylum and immigration measures where it is in the national interest to do so and consistent with our policy of retaining frontier controls.

### Muslim Media Issues

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has appointed a specialist to deal with Muslim media issues. [178886]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office press office has had, since June 2006, one post whose work includes engagement with black and minority ethnic media. Some of this work naturally includes work with Muslim media.

### National Identity Register

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Government officials who will be permitted to access the national identity register. [185288]

**Jacqui Smith:** It is too soon to give the precise number of Government officials who will be permitted to access the national identity register. However, only a small number of strictly vetted officials will be permitted to manage information held on the register under the provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

### Opium Crops

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 869W, on opium crops, how many hectares were grown in each location in the UK in 2007. [173742]

**Mr. Coaker:** During 2007 a total of 2,744.98 hectares of opium poppy crop were grown in 67 locations in the UK. The size of individual sites ranged from four to 229.25 hectares with a mean average location size of 40.96 hectares.

### Police

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list by English police authority *(a)* the population covered by that authority, *(b)* the authorised police establishment for that authority, *(c)* the actual police establishment for that authority, *(d)* the total arrests made in that authority, *(e)* the number of arrests made per actual police officer, *(f)* the total number of reported crimes, *(g)* the number of crimes per officer, *(h)* the total number of crimes per 1,000 population and *(i)* the total number of reported crimes unsolved per 1,000 population for the last 10 years for which figures are available. [177566]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The available data, based on mid year estimates from the Office for National Statistics, are given in Table 1 placed in the House Libraries.

*(b), (c)* Authorised establishments were abolished by the Police and Magistrates' Courts Act 1994. It is a matter for each chief constable in consultation with the police authority to determine the number of police officers a force would have. Information on police service strength is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" and details for officers are given in Table 2 placed in the House Libraries.

*(d)* The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. The available information is given in the Table 3, placed in the House Libraries, by police force area, from 1999-2000 (previous years data are unreliable) to 2005-06 (latest available).

*(e)* Information on arrests rates is not collected centrally and, from the information available centrally, arrests rates cannot be computed with any accuracy. Numbers of arrests are only collected by the Ministry of Justice on a recorded crime (notifiable offences) basis and from the Home Office data on numbers of police officers; one does not know the duties to which they have been assigned.

*(f), (g), (h), (i)* The available data are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6, placed in the House Libraries.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of service of police officers is in *(a)* Sussex, *(b)* Kent, *(c)* Surrey and *(d)* the Metropolitan police; and if she will make a statement. [186355]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The information requested cannot be calculated from the centrally collected data within the police personnel statistics series. Length of service data are only collected in a number of fixed time bands and are set out in the following table.

*Length of Service for Police Officers for 2006-07*

| | *Up to 5 years* | *5-10 years* | *10-15 years* | *15-20 years* | *20-25 years* | *26-30 years* | *30-35 years*[1] | *Percentage 35 years and over*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent | 29 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Metropolitan police | 29 | 18 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Surrey[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | 32 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| England and Wales | 28 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 0 |

[1] Police officers are eligible for retirement after 30 years service.
[2] Data for Surrey are not available.

### Police: Manpower

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what statistics her Department gathers on transfers of police officers between forces; and how many police officers have transferred *(a)* from Sussex police to the Metropolitan police and *(b)* from the Metropolitan police to Sussex police in the latest period for which figures are available. [186352]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Home Office centrally collects statistics on the total number of police officers transferring in to each force, and separately collects the total number of police officers transferring out from each force. The data do not identify the force to or from which the transfer occurred. In 2006-07 (the latest period for which figures are available), 40 full-time equivalent police officers transferred out from Sussex police to other forces, and 24 officers transferred in to Sussex police from other forces.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Expenditure

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious Organised Crime Agency spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186419]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency, which was established on 1 April 2006, has the aim of reducing the harm caused to the UK through serious organised crime. It does not have a function to provide border security. At any given time, SOCA officers may be engaged, to a greater or lesser extent, in activity which bears on border security and enforcement.

### Staffordshire Police Authority: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much the precept set by Staffordshire Police Authority is for 2008-09; and at what rate it will be levied on local householders; [186786]

(2) how much Staffordshire Police Authority has received from central funds in each of the last 10 years. [186785]

**Mr. McNulty:** Government grants since 1997-98 to Staffordshire police authority are set out in the following table.

Staffordshire police authority has increased its police precept for 2008-09 by 3.75 per cent.

*Staffordshire police authority central funding since 1997-98*

| | *Government grant[1] (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 96.15 |
| 1998-99 | 95.09 |
| 1999-2000 | 96.27 |
| 2000-01 | 100.13 |
| 2001-02 | 105.23 |
| 2002-03 | 106.36 |
| 2003-04 | 112.87 |
| 2004-05 | 117.62 |
| 2005-06[2] | 122.43 |
| 2006-07[3] | 122.05 |
| 2007-08 | 126.77 |

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] In 2005-06 figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.
[3] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.
*Source:*
DCLG

### Terrorism

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Islamic scholars are employed by her Department to advise on the Prevent strand of Project Contest. [178898]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office does not employ any Islamic scholars. Expert advice on Islam and other religions is obtained from independent experts as and when required.

### Treaty establishing the European Communities

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which measures the UK has decided to participate in through the opt-in arrangements under Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Communities. [180187]

**Jacqui Smith:** The measures the UK has decided to participate in through the opt-in arrangements under Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Communities are in the table, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women more than 24 weeks pregnant received abortions in clinics overseas paid for in whole or in part from public funds in each of the last three years for which figures are available; how many such abortions took place in each such country; what recent representations he has received on public funding for abortions overseas; and if he will make a statement. [186243]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not available.

The Department has received no representations on the public funding of abortions overseas.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women are known to have died within one month of operations for termination of pregnancy notified under the abortion regulations in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age group. [186397]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Maternal deaths associated with termination of pregnancy that were reported to the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths for the period 1994 to 2005, are set out in the following table. The data for 2006 to 2007 are not yet available.

*Maternal deaths associated with termination of pregnancy: United Kingdom 1994-2005*

| *Triennium* | *Number of deaths from termination of pregnancy* |
|---|---|
| 2003-05 | 2 |
| 2000-02 | 5 |
| 1997-99 | 2 |
| 1994-96 | 1 |

*Notes:*
1. There were around 500,000 abortions in the UK in each three year period and hence the number of deaths represent less than 0.0001 per cent. of all abortions carried out.
2. Direct deaths (occurring during pregnancy and up to and including 42 days inclusive after termination).
3. The numbers are too small to be broken down by age group.
*Source:*
Figures are from the reports of the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the UK for the relevant triennium.

### Abortion in Clinics Overseas

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) number of and (ii) reasons for UK women over 24 weeks gestation receiving abortions in clinics overseas; when the last such evaluation took place; whether it drew upon research undertaken in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [186373]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has neither commissioned nor evaluated research on the number or causes of United Kingdom women over 24 weeks gestation undergoing abortions in clinics overseas. Such data would be difficult or impossible to collect reliably.

### Abortion: Private Sector

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation regulates advertising by private abortion clinics; what changes have been made to each since enactment; whether further revision is planned; and if he will make a statement. [186249]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There is no legislation on advertising by private abortion clinics specifically. However advertisements must comply with the law in general as well as the advertising codes.

### Adverse Drug Reactions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many adverse drug reaction reports were received through the yellow card reporting system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in each of the last five years; and how many prescriptions there were for each such type of drug in each year; [186015]

(2) how many people in each age cohort experienced an adverse drug reaction in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region, *(c)* each strategic health authority and *(d)* each primary care trust area in each year since 2003; and how many such reactions in each category were fatal; [186042]

(3) how many people aged between *(a)* 50 and 64-years-old, *(b)* 65 and 74-years-old and *(c)* over 75-years-old (i) died and (ii) were injured by adverse drug reactions in each year since 2003. [186043]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Commission for Human Medicines through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the yellow card scheme.

Table 1 shows the number of suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA in the specified time periods where an anti-psychotic drug was listed by the reporter as being suspect. The total number of ADR reports for all antipsychotics is not equal to the sum of both atypical and traditional antipsychotics since an individual ADR report may provide more than one drug as suspect.

*Table 1: Number of suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 2003 and 2007 inclusive for antipsychotic drugs*

| | *All antipsychotics* | *Atypical antipsychotics* | *Traditional antipsychotics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 1,812 | 1,694 | 140 |
| 2004 | 2,060 | 1,963 | 105 |
| 2005 | 2,614 | 2,473 | 160 |
| 2006 | 2,127 | 1,920 | 226 |
| 2007 | 2,327 | 2,172 | 173 |

The numbers of antipsychotic prescription items from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) database are shown in table 2.

*Table 2: Numbers of prescriptions showing numbers of antipsychotic prescription items[1] (in thousands from the PCA database) between 2002 and 2006*

| | *All antipsychotics* | *Atypical antipsychotics* | *Traditional antipsychotics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 5,167.0 | 2,471.6 | 2,695.3 |
| 2003 | 5,513.2 | 3,088.7 | 2,424.4 |
| 2004 | 5,687.8 | 3,333.9 | 2,353.8 |
| 2005 | 5,872.9 | 3,597.7 | 2,275.2 |
| 2006 | 6,196.1 | 4,049.1 | 2,147.0 |

[1] Prescriptions items—prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

Table 3 gives the numbers of suspected adverse reaction reports received for the three age cohorts each year since 2003. Reports of suspected ADRs do not always specify the original reporter's address; therefore data on ADRs cannot be provided by region, strategic health authority or primary care trust area.

*Table 3: Number of suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA from all sources in each of the last 5 years broken down by three age groups*

| | *Age group* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *50-64* | *65-74* | *75+* |
| 2003 | 3,832 | 2,633 | 2,595 |
| 2004 | 4,242 | 2,904 | 2,503 |
| 2005 | 4,280 | 2,896 | 2,585 |
| 2006 | 4,414 | 2,919 | 2,374 |
| 2007 | 4,692 | 2,693 | 1,998 |

The number of suspected adverse reaction reports associated with a fatal outcome each year for the last five years is shown in table 4. It is important to note that the submission of a suspected ADR report does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the patient's underlying disease.

*Table 4: The number of fatal reports that have been received by the MHRA within the specified time periods broken down by three age groups*

| | *Age group* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *50-64* | *65-74* | *75+* |
| 2003 | 139 | 117 | 172 |
| 2004 | 180 | 146 | 196 |
| 2005 | 242 | 174 | 186 |
| 2006 | 201 | 191 | 160 |
| 2007 | 220 | 177 | 184 |

### Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on establishing *(a)* telephone helplines, *(b)* interactive websites and *(c)* support groups under the National Alcohol Strategy to assist people who want to drink less. [181681]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A number of resources are already in place:

Drinkline, which is funded by the Department, assists people who want to drink sensibly, providing them with advice over the phone and, if required, signposting them to the appropriate services. Advice is also available from NHS Direct.

Advice on alcohol consumption from several interactive websites:

the new Drinkaware website;

the Know Your Limits campaign site; and

from NHS Choices.

Many local providers have established support groups as one aspect of their broader alcohol harm reduction service.

The forthcoming campaign to raise awareness of units and encourage people to drink within the sensible drinking guidelines is due to launch in May and will strengthen the available support. It will include a website that will provide information designed to help people reduce their drinking and will signpost potentially harmful drinkers to telephone, web and paper-based materials as required.

The Department is conducting social marketing research to identify the best ways to help people to choose healthier lifestyles, including help lines, websites and support groups. New information and advice, targeted towards people who drink at harmful levels, their families and friends, will be available from the summer.

### Ambulance Services: Cornwall

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* ambulances and *(b)* rapid response vehicles there are in the north Cornwall area; and how many are on duty at any one time. [187256]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information requested is not held centrally.

The Department expects ambulance trusts to plan their resources to ensure that there is an appropriate provision of ambulance coverage for the communities they serve.

Therefore, this is a local matter for the South Western Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust, and the hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of the trust for this information.

### Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department records the number of people treated by GPs for conditions caused by the abuse of anabolic steroids. [185328]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department records the number of people admitted to hospital for conditions caused by the abuse of anabolic steroids. [185329]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on finished hospital admissions episodes are not recorded against a specific definition of conditions caused by the abuse of anabolic steroids.

However, data are collected on the number of finished hospital admissions episodes where there was a diagnosis, in any primary or secondary field of poisoning by androgens and anabolic congeners. This is recorded under the code T38.7.

Based on this code the number of finished hospital admissions episodes in 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available, is 68.

*Note:*

As these data are for admissions to hospital where it is identified that the patient had a condition of poisoning by androgens and anabolic congeners they do not represent any information about the longer term conditions of the effects of abuse of anabolic steroids.

*Source:*

Hospital episodes Statistics—The Information Centre for health and social care.

### Autism

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults are diagnosed as having autism. [187265]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

### British Pregnancy Advisory Service

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports his Department has made on the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [186242]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department published "An investigation into the British Pregnancy Advisory Service response to requests for late abortions: A report by the chief medical officer" in 2005. No other reports on the organisation have been produced by the Department.

### British Pregnancy Advisory Service: Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the National Health Service paid to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in each region to undertake abortions in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [186250]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Cherry Knowle Hospital

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the Cherry Knowle hospital, Ryhope, Sunderland. [187074]

**Ann Keen:** Part of the Cherry Knowle hospital site is included in a portfolio of properties that it was agreed would transfer from the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health to English Partnerships to assist the Government's Sustainable Communities programme. It will be for English Partnerships, in consultation with the local planning authority, to determine the future development of this part of the site. The remainder of the site is intended to be developed by the national health service locally to provide new health care facilities.

## Dental Services: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were *(a)* seeking to be registered with and *(b)* on waiting lists for an NHS dentist in Essex in each of the last five years. [185316]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to determine how best to manage patients seeking NHS dental services.

Under the old contractual arrangements, which were in place until 31 March 2006, patients had to register with an individual dentist. Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care.

## Dental Services: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* issue guidance and *(b)* propose regulations on tooth whitening (i) procedures and (ii) practitioner professional standards; and if he will make a statement. [184326]

**Ann Keen:** In 2001, as a result of action by the manufacturer and distributor of a tooth whitening product, the House of Lords made a judgment that the Government had the right to consider tooth whitening products as falling under the EC Directive on Cosmetic Products(76/768/EEC) and therefore within the terms of the Cosmetics (Safety) Regulations.

Currently the Schedules to the Cosmetics (Safety) Regulations restrict the permitted percentage of hydrogen peroxide present or released in cosmetic products used in the mouth to 0.1 per cent. but we understand that the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products has given its opinion to the European Commission that the permitted limit may, subject to prescribed conditions, be increased to 6 per cent. We are awaiting the Commission's response to this advice.

The General Dental Council (GDC), which is independent of Government, is responsible for the professional standards of dentists and dental care professionals. We understand that the GDC considers that tooth whitening constitutes the practice of dentistry. Any registrant who undertakes work for which they are not sufficiently competent risks fitness to practice proceedings.

## Diabetes: Children

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with *(a)* type 2 diabetes and *(b)* non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in each year since 1997. [184524]

**Ann Keen:** Data on the numbers of children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes are not available in the format requested. Estimates of the number of children with Type 2 diabetes vary, but in the United Kingdom it has been suggested that it may be around 1,000.

Data are not available on the numbers of children diagnosed with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The following table gives the number of patients, aged 0 to 17, admitted to hospital in each year since 1997 with a diagnosis of non-alcoholic fatty liver.

*All Diagnoses: Non-alcoholic fatty liver count of patients ages 0-17, NHS hospitals 1997-08 to 2006-07 in England*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997-08 | 4 |
| 1998-09 | 7 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 |
| 2000-01 | 21 |
| 2001-02 | 44 |
| 2002-03 | 44 |
| 2003-04 | 45 |
| 2004-05 | 46 |
| 2005-06 | 72 |
| 2006-07 | 81 |

*Note:*
Diagnosis code: K76.0 -fatty (change of) liver, not elsewhere classified.
*Source:*
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) 1997-2007, Information Centre for Health and Social Care Information Centre. These figures represent a count of all patients with finished consultant episodes (FCEs) within each HES data year, where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 diagnosis positions (seven prior to 2002-03). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.

## Dietary Supplements

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutritional support products were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997. [185574]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on prescription items dispensed in the community in England and classified by the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority as for intravenous or oral nutrition, is in the following table. This excludes minerals or vitamins prescribed on the national health service.

| | *Prescription items dispensed for intravenous and oral nutrition (thousand)* | *Net ingredient cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,689.2 | 84,500.9 |
| 1998 | 2,851.3 | 93,642.6 |
| 1999 | 3,005.7 | 103,839.6 |
| 2000 | 3,100.5 | 111,418.5 |
| 2001 | 3,315.2 | 125,089.0 |
| 2002 | 3,453.3 | 135,403.6 |
| 2003 | 3,671.8 | 148,647.1 |
| 2004 | 3,950.2 | 163,426.6 |
| 2005 | 4,207.0 | 177,217.7 |
| 2006 | 4,673.0 | 200,774.9 |

## Drugs: Advisory Services

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed full-time at the national drugs helpline in the most recent period for which figures are available. [186684]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Drugs Helpline ceased in England in March 2003 and was replaced by the FRANK helpline in April 2003.

No staff are employed exclusively to FRANK on a full-time basis. The Central Office of Information advise that a total of 74 trained advisors are shared across other helpline services relating to alcohol and drugs abuse and sexual health services. This equates to 37.5 full-time equivalent advisors given the shift patterns the service is required to fill.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the national drugs helpline's call capacity is. [186787]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Drugs Helpline ceased in England in March 2003 and was replaced by the FRANK helpline in April 2003.

The Central Office of Information advise that FRANK can handle an average of 63 telephone calls per hour.

### Electricity: Health Hazards

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he and his Ministerial colleagues have to hold discussions with stakeholders on the implementation of the Health Protection Agency's advice to Government on the SAGE First Interim Assessment on power lines and property, wiring in homes and electrical equipment in homes; [185059]

(2) what steps have been taken since 27 November 2007 to implement the Health Protection Agency's guidance to Government on the SAGE First Interim Assessment on power lines and property, wiring in homes and electrical equipment in homes; and if he will make a statement; [185060]

(3) what the timing of the current round of consultation on the SAGE First Interim Assessment on power lines and property, wiring in homes, and electrical equipment in homes is; and if he will make a statement; [185072]

(4) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts there have been between officials from his Department and other Departments and devolved Administrations on the implementation of the Health Protection Agency's guidance to Government on the SAGE First Interim Assessment on power lines and property, wiring in homes, and electrical equipment in homes; [185090]

(5) if he will take steps to reduce the exposure of children to electromagnetic radiation. [185500]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advice to Government on the "Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAGE) on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (ELF EMF) Precautionary approaches to ELF EMFs First Interim Assessment Power Lines and Property, Wiring in Homes And Electrical Equipment in Homes" is available in the Library and also on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/hpa_response__statement_sage.htm

The HPA advice supports precautionary measures that have a convincing evidence base to show that they will be successful in reducing exposure, are effective in providing reassurance to the public, and where the overall benefits outweigh the fiscal and social costs.

Since November, officials in the key Government Departments have been in contact with agencies, industry and trade associations to seek initial views on the practicalities of implementing the SAGE recommendations in the light of HPA advice. After exchanges of correspondence, some exploratory meetings have taken place. When these initial soundings have been completed, a work plan will be drawn up for detailed consideration and discussion will be held with officials in the devolved Administrations.

### Fats: Health Hazards

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the result has been of the Food Standards Agency's review of health impacts of trans fats; and if he will make a statement. [186349]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At its meeting in December 2007, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) board agreed that voluntary measures taken by the United Kingdom food industry to reduce levels of trans fats in foods have been successful in reducing consumer's average dietary intakes. Legislation would be therefore unlikely to deliver any further significant health benefit.

In his response to the FSA in January 2008 the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) supported the agency's priority to reduce saturated fat intakes while maintaining the current position on trans fats.

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health upon what criteria the recently announced funds for consultation on fluoridation of the public water supply will be allocated between health authorities. [185936]

**Ann Keen:** The central funds to be managed by the Department are for the capital costs of setting up a fluoridation scheme. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) would meet the costs of any consultations from their core allocations. Guidance issued by the Chief Dental Officer on 5 February advises that an SHA should take account of the oral health needs of the population it serves and the technical feasibility of fluoridating its water supply before preparing for a consultation.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which strategic health authorities have applied to his Department for support for plans to fluoridate local water supplies. [186055]

**Ann Keen:** None so far. The funds are for the capital cost of setting up the plant for a fluoridation scheme. Strategic health authorities would not therefore apply for funds until they had consulted on proposals for a fluoridation scheme and demonstrated that it was supported by the local population that would be affected.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish all recent research he has commissioned on the impact of fluoridation on children's dental health. [186482]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has commissioned three completed research studies on fluoridation and health, "A Systematic Review of Water Fluoridation" published by the University of York in 2000, "Water Fluoridation and Health" published by the Medical Research Council in 2002 and the "Bioavailability of Fluoride in Drinking Water: a Human Experimental Study in 2005" published by the University of Newcastle in 2004. The Department is also funding a further project on the use of fluorescent imaging to develop objective and quantitative measures of enamel fluorosis, which is currently in progress.

### Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of foetal alcohol syndrome were diagnosed in *(a)* England and *(b)* each English region in each of the last five years. [186444]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Food: Allergies

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will revise the guidance given in the Food Standards Agency publication, "The Provision of Allergen Information for Non-Pre-Packed Foods", to extend the distribution of such information beyond those consumers who request it. [185980]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The guidance on the provision of allergen information in foods sold non-prepacked was introduced because eating out is recognised to be a high-risk situation for allergic consumers. The aim of the guidance is to increase awareness of food allergy issues in food businesses so that, should they be asked, they can provide accurate information on the allergens in the foods they sell, both deliberate ingredients and from the potential for accidental cross-contamination. By raising awareness of allergy issues it is hoped that businesses, such as caterers, will be able to provide this information pro-actively to customers.

The guidance was issued as best practice to reflect the practical issues, raised during the public consultation, for small businesses in this part of the food sector in providing this information on a statutory basis. The European Union has recently issued a proposal on food labelling following a review of the existing legislation, that includes strengthening the requirements to provide allergen information in this sector. There will be a full public consultation on this proposal prior to negotiations.

### Food: Labelling

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency is taking to monitor compliance with the voluntary guidance on the provision of information on food allergens on non-prepacked food for the purposes of improving consumer confidence. [186624]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Due to the voluntary nature of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) guidance, compliance will not be monitored. However, the FSA will be monitoring the awareness and uptake of the guidance package by food business operators.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the standards of labelling of food allergens in food imported from non-EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [186632]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No discussions have been held on the standards of allergen labelling on foods imported from outside the European Union (EU). All food products imported from non-EU countries are required to comply with the requirements of the European labelling legislation, including the provisions on the labelling of allergenic ingredients. These provisions are implemented through the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 as amended.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Food Standards Agency guidance on cross-contamination of foodstuffs contained in the provision of allergens information for non pre-packed foods. [186633]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the cross-contamination information contained within the guidance because the main aim of the Food Standards Agency guidance is to raise awareness of allergens in the non pre-packed foods sector. The guidance focuses on deliberate ingredients as these present the greatest risk for allergic consumers. However, cross-contamination is highlighted in the guidance as an additional factor to consider when answering queries from allergic consumers.

### General Practitioners: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average remuneration per general practitioner was in City of York constituency in *(a)* the most recent period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the previous 10 years. [187186]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Data on average general practitioner (GP) pay by individual primary care trusts and at national level are not available in the format requested.

Information on average GP net profits was determined at United Kingdom level only until 2001-02. However, since 2002-03 information on average GP pay has been available on a country basis (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) as well as at Great Britain/UK level.

The following table provides the latest available average GP net profit from 1997 to 2005-06 as agreed with the Technical Steering Committee which is a UK-wide committee incorporating representatives from all UK Health Departments, the NHS Confederation and the British Medical Association.

*Average GP pay since 1997*

| | *Amount (£)* | *Increase over previous year (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 46,031 | 3.5 |
| 1998-99 | 48,037 | 4.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 52,606 | 9.5 |
| 2000-01 | 54,219 | 3.1 |
| 2001-02 | 56,510 | 4.2 |
| 2002-03 | 72,716 | [1]— |

*Average GP pay since 1997*

| | *Amount (£)* | *Increase over previous year (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 81,566 | 12.2 |
| 2004-05 | 100,170 | 22.8 |
| 2005-06 | 110,004 | 9.8 |

[1] Not applicable as a new data series started this year

*Notes:*

1. Figures for 1997-98 to 2001-02 inclusive are for national health service income only in Great Britain (GB).
2. Figures for 2002-03 onwards are for all sources of income, including private, but for 2002-03 is for GB and for 2003-04 onwards are for the UK. The figures do not include earnings of those doctors working as salaried employees.

*Source:*

Information Centre for health and social care.

### Health Services: Private Sector

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role his Department has in *(a)* monitoring and regulating and *(b)* securing patients' interests in takeovers of NHS services by private health care companies. [186935]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Department's role in relation to the involvement of private health care companies in providing national health service services is to establish the conditions and rules to ensure that such involvement is in the interests of patients, the public and taxpayers. The Department does not directly regulate or monitor private companies' involvement in specific local services.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs), the local leaders of the NHS, to commission an appropriate range of high-quality health care services to meet the needs of their population. In circumstances where existing services are not of the required quality, or where new services are needed, PCTs may decide to procure alternatives from other NHS organisations or from the private sector or the third sector. Strategic health authorities ensure that PCTs carry out their commissioning role effectively, and in line with the principles and rules for competition established by the Department.

The Healthcare Commission is responsible for regulating independent sector providers and assessing NHS providers.

### Hospitals: Food

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to improve the quality and nutritional value of hospital food for children. [186738]

**Ann Keen:** The Department produced, in 2003, a guidance document entitled 'Catering Services for Children and Young Adults', which was designed to assist national health service trusts in providing appropriate catering services for these groups of patients. Decisions relating to the implementation of the guidance, or any parts of it, are a matter for individual trusts. A copy of the guidance document has been placed in the Library.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue guidance to primary care trusts on *(a)* the delivery of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccinations and *(b)* the consent required for administering the HPV vaccination; whether he plans to recommend a school-based delivery programme; and if he will make a statement. [185342]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidance on the implementation of the human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation programme will be issued to the national health service and others through various information channels such as the Chief Medical Officer Letters, Chief Executives Bulletin, the guide "Immunisation against infectious disease" (the 'Green Book'), websites and a range of NHS immunisation leaflets when all the appropriate information becomes available. A national conference for primary care trusts (PCTs) was held in October on the HPV vaccination programme. A second conference is planned, and a range of supporting resources is being made available on the www.immunisation.nhs.uk website as they are developed.

The principles for consent for HPV vaccination are the same as those for other childhood vaccination, and are covered in Chapter 2 of the "Immunisation against Infectious Disease".

Introduction of a HPV immunisation programme to routinely vaccinate girls aged 12 to 13 years of age against cervical cancer will start in September 2008 and a two-year catch up campaign will start in autumn 2009, for girls up to 18 years. PCTs will plan how to deliver the vaccination programme locally, and the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that HPV vaccination would be most efficiently delivered through schools.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether parental consent will be necessary for the administration of the human papilloma virus vaccine to children; and what guidance his Department has given on the steps to be taken should a child request the vaccine and the parent withhold consent. [186124]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The principles for consent for human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination are the same as those for other childhood vaccination, and are covered in chapter 2 of the "Immunisation against Infectious Disease". A copy of the document has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079917

A range of information materials to support the HPV vaccination programme are being prepared and will be distributed in due course.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with officials at the *(a)* Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* Office of Fair Trading on the implications of reducing reimbursement prices for stoma and incontinence products to below cost; [185698]

(2) if he will issue guidance to dispensing appliance contractors on how to prioritise those patients who should receive a stoma customisation service in the event of a volume cap being placed on this service. [185702]

**Dawn Primarolo:** During the course of this review there have been meetings with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—formerly the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Lord Sainsbury represented the DTI. These covered all aspects of the review, including reimbursement for items.

There have been no discussions with the Office of Fair Trading specifically about the potential impact of the proposed reimbursement for items, although it is aware of the review taking place.

It is premature to decide if any guidance should be issued to dispensing appliance contractors regarding any aspect of the proposed service provision, as the review is ongoing.

### Infant Foods: Fluoride

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2209W, on infant foods: fluoride, whether his Department has completed its evaluation of advice issued by the American Dental Association that fluoridated water should not be used to make up powdered infant formula because of the risk of dental fluorosis; and if he will publish that evaluation; [185732]

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

(2) what proportion of the population have dental fluorosis; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population likely to have dental fluorosis in areas where the public water supply is fluoridated. [185937]

**Ann Keen:** Dental fluorosis is a cosmetic effect with no implications for systemic (general) health. It may nevertheless, in a small minority of cases, give people concerns about the appearance of their teeth. A research project reported in the British Dental Journal (volume 189 No 4 August 26 2000) on the prevalence of fluorosis of children who had been continuous residents in fluoridated Newcastle or non-fluoridated Northumberland found that 54 per cent. of children in water fluoridated areas had fluorosis and 23 per cent. in the fluoride deficient areas. In response to the advice from the American Dental Association, we are to investigate the aesthetic impact of fluorosis. We are funding a research project involving the use of intra-oral cameras and automated software to obtain consistent readings in surveys of levels of dental fluorosis. If, as we expect, the project is successful, the researchers will use the photographs to obtain the views of a representative sample of people on the appearance of teeth with fluorosis at different levels of severity.

### Macular Degeneration: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of macular degeneration in Wirral West constituency has been in the last five years; and what plans he has to screen those over 60 for the disease. [185850]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. There are no plans to introduce screening at this time.

### Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust: Pay

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what powers he has to *(a)* prevent and *(b)* limit the payment of severance pay to the former Chief Executive of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust; and whether his Department has prevented or limited the severance payment to the former Chief Executive of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust; [181830]

(2) on what grounds he determined that the severance payment to the former Chief Executive of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust should not be made. [183905]

**Ann Keen:** The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for local NHS boards. Secretaries of State have power to give directions to NHS trusts about their exercise of any functions, which may include the making of payments to staff. This power could still be relevant to any matters outstanding regarding severance payments.

In the case of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells we asked the NHS trust to withhold any severance payment to the former chief executive prior to considering legal advice on the matter. We understand that the trust has since taken legal advice on this matter, and following that advice, has issued a statement that the former chief executive will be paid her legal entitlement of six months salary.

### Maternity Services

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to improve maternity services since 1997. [183842]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1390W. Also on 25 January 2008, we announced extra funding for maternity services for each of the next three years, totalling £330 million. This will ensure that mothers will get the best possible care and will be guaranteed a full range of choices. Trusts will have access to this additional money from April.

### Mental Health Services: Training

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when all frontline staff in mental health and learning disability services will have received Promoting Safer and Therapeutic Services training in conflict resolution. [185019]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Security Management Service organises conflict resolution training for national health service staff. Within this training programme, the Promoting Safer and Therapeutic Services syllabus has been specifically designed for staff working in mental health and learning disability settings. The aim is for all staff to have received training by 31 March 2008.

## Midwives: Training

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places there were in each English region in each of the last five academic years. [184901]

**Ann Keen:** A table which shows how many midwifery training places there were in each strategic health authorities in each of the last five academic years has been placed in the Library.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department of training student midwives was in each year since 2004-05. [186952]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The total estimated cost of training student midwives for each year since 2004-05 is set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Total cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 79.4 |
| 2005-06 | 82.2 |

*Notes:*
(i) 2004-05 and 2005-06 are forecasts. No data are available for 2006-07 onwards.
(ii) Data in the above time series are not strictly comparable due to changes in the way data were collected.
(iii) Average bursary costs for nurses and midwives have been added to tuition costs from 2004-05 onwards.

## Neurology

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neurosurgeons qualified in each of the past 10 years [178726]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not hold the numbers of neurosurgeons who qualified each year because the annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify the number of consultants specialising in neurosurgery who qualify each year.

The number of consultants specialising in neurosurgery employed in the NHS in each year from 1996 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

*Hospital and Community Health Services : Medical staff showing consultants and doctors in training and equivalents working in neurosurgery: England at 30 September each year*

*Numbers*

| | *All staff, of which:* | *Consultants* | *Doctors in training and equivalents* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 367 | 124 | 236 |
| 1997 | 358 | 127 | 218 |
| 1998 | 371 | 130 | 231 |
| 1999 | 368 | 136 | 222 |
| 2000 | 407 | 139 | 252 |
| 2001 | 427 | 152 | 252 |
| 2002 | 466 | 161 | 280 |
| 2003 | 491 | 168 | 311 |
| 2004 | 534 | 180 | 345 |
| 2005 | 561 | 190 | 352 |
| 2006 | 553 | 187 | 358 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## NHS: Contracts

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on NHS trusts charging contractors for tenders. [187178]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Guidance on this matter is not issued centrally.

National health service trusts are responsible for their own good financial management. This will include looking closely at all opportunities to prevent or minimise any impact on services to patients.

Suppliers must decide for themselves whether to support a particular tender invitation after giving due consideration to the potential benefits and process savings that might be accrued from it.

## NHS: Drugs

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who have experienced *(a)* strokes and *(b)* heart attacks related to their use of the drug Vioxx. [185402]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data are not available on which to base a valid estimate of the number of heart attacks, strokes and other adverse effects that may have been caused by Vioxx and other COX-2 inhibitors. The underlying medical condition of many patients treated with COX-2 inhibitors means that they are already at higher risk of heart attack and stroke than the rest of the population, and the impact of the COX-2 inhibitor on this risk is not possible to calculate.

Since Vioxx was voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer in 2004, the safety of other COX-2 inhibitors and traditional anti-inflammatory drugs—non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)—has been under continual and intense assessment in the United Kingdom and Europe. The latest evidence suggests that both NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors might pose a small increased risk of heart attacks or strokes, although the exact level of risk may vary between medicines. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has widely communicated the latest information and advice for healthcare professionals in letters and bulletins, and other publications through liaison with the British National Formulary and National Prescribing Centre. In addition, product information (including patient information leaflets) has been updated in order to support informed decision-making in relation to the choice of anti-inflammatory medicine.

## NHS: Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what days the www.jobs.nhs.uk/terms.html webpage was updated in the last two months. [185599]

**Ann Keen:** The www.job.nhs.uk/terms.html webpage was last updated on 16 January 2008 as stated on the website. The terms and conditions of the National Health Service Jobs website are reviewed once a month by NHS employers and are updated when necessary. They were previously updated in 2006 as a result of changes from "Commissioning a Patient led NHS".

### Nurses: Uniforms

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any categories of clinical or nursing staff are exempt from the bare below the elbow rule. [185609]

**Ann Keen:** No categories of clinical or nursing staff are automatically exempt from the bare below the elbows dress code. In setting local uniform policy, national health service trusts need to take account of the Department's guidance and to decide when both clinical and nursing staff are in situations where it is applicable.

Clinical and nursing staff need to dress appropriately and professionally to enable them to carry out their duties. The new bare below the elbows dress code is a matter of patient safety, as it supports good hand cleaning practice and contributes to infection prevention and control.

### Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1396W, on nutrition, how many patients were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemia and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in 2006-07, per 1,000 patient admissions, broken down by NHS trust. [185563]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Tables showing the rates of finished in year admission episodes for malnutrition/nutrition anaemias and other nutritional deficiencies per 1,000 hospital admission episodes and the rate of in year discharge episodes for the specified diagnosis per 1,000 hospital discharge episodes, have been placed in the Library. This does not represent how many patients were admitted or discharged with these specified diagnosis as a person may have more than one admission/discharge episode within the year for a particular diagnosis. The figures are by per 1,000 hospital admission episodes rather than per 1,000 patient admissions.

Also, it is not possible to add the number of admission/discharge episodes in each of the three diagnosis categories (malnutrition, nutritional anaemia and other nutritional deficiencies) to obtain the total number of episodes with these diagnoses because it is possible that a patient could have more than one of the diagnoses recorded in their episode which means the same episode could appear in all three categories.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1396W, on nutrition, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend in the diagnoses of *(a)* malnutrition, *(b)* nutritional anaemias and *(c)* other nutritional deficiencies since 1997-98. [185572]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The trend of a greater number of discharge episodes than admission episodes does not imply that patients are becoming malnourished or developing nutritional anaemia/other nutritional deficiencies during their time in hospital. It is not possible to compare admissions and discharges in this way because there are a number of reasons why we would expect there to be more discharge episodes than admission episodes with these diagnoses.

For example, a patient showing signs/symptoms of malnutrition etc. would often undergo various tests to establish the cause of the symptoms; it may not be until later (e.g. the patient's last episode in a particular hospital—their discharge episode) that the results come back and a formal diagnosis of malnutrition can be made. Hence, waiting for test results could result in more diagnoses being recorded in the discharge episode.

Also, a diagnosis in the discharge episode will be the last diagnosis that a particular patient was being treated for. This does not mean that patients who have a discharge episode with a diagnosis of malnutrition/nutritional anaemia/other nutritional deficiencies were actually discharged from hospital still malnourished or with nutritional anaemia or other nutritional deficiencies.

It is not possible to add the number of admission/discharge episodes in each of the three diagnosis categories (malnutrition, nutritional anaemia and other nutritional deficiencies) to obtain the total number of episodes because it is possible that a patient could have more than one of the diagnoses recorded. This means the same episode could appear in all three categories.

The increase trend in finished in year admission and discharge episodes over time, is in part due to factors such as the improvements in quality/coverage of Hospital Episode Statistics data and clinical coding since 1997. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

### Obesity: Children

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children aged 11 to 16 years were considered *(a)* obese and *(b)* overweight in each year since 1997; [185247]

(2) how many children under the age of 11 years were considered *(a)* obese and *(b)* overweight in each year since 1997. [185254]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children aged two to 10 and aged 11 to 15 years, since 1995, can be found in the "Health Survey for England 2006 latest trends", published 31 January 2008. The data are presented in table 4 (obesity) of the "Children's trend tables 2006". A copy of the report and tables has been placed in the Library.

### Suicide

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the last suicide prevention campaign aimed at school students was launched; and how much his Department has spent on suicide prevention in schools in each of the last five years. [186791]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to improving safeguards for children. That is why they have introduced new legislation, new guidance, new structures and new policy initiatives to make children safer and to ensure that there is a proper focus on children at the very heart of Government. A national suicide prevention strategy for England was launched by the Department of Health in September 2002 with the aim of supporting the target to substantially reduce the mortality rate from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20 per cent. by 2010.

We are currently working with Papyrus on the prevention of young suicide and funding the expansion of their helpline called Hopeline UK. We are also putting £30 million into the NSPCC to expand and improve their services so that more children can be given advice and help. Action to tackle this complex problem also includes raising awareness of the potential dangers of suicide websites/chat rooms and working with Internet Service Providers to discourage them from hosting sites which may encourage suicide. The independent Byron review is looking into helping children and young people get the most from the internet whilst protecting them from inappropriate and potentially harmful material.

The Department does not collect data on how much schools spend on suicide prevention. However grant funding to local authorities for implementing the ten year programme of improvements for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) set out in the National Framework for Children and Young People and Maternity Services (NSF) has increased from £10 million in 1999-2000 to £91 million in each financial year from 2003-04 to 2007-08. The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme was created to develop all children and young people's social and emotional skills at school, which help to underpin emotional wellbeing. SEAL will be supported by an extra £13.7 million over four years, on top of the £7 million a year already confirmed, and the aim is that by 2010-11 SEAL will be available to all schools nationally. In addition from April we will invest an additional £60 million over three years to support schools to work with mental health practitioners and strengthen the provision of targeted mental health services for children and adolescents. We also announced plans in 2007 for an independent review of CAMHS.

## Sunbeds

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what options are being considered for regulation of the sunbed industry, as mentioned in the cancer reform strategy; [185407]

(2) with reference to the cancer reform strategy, in what manner the SunSmart campaign will expand; when the expansion will become effective; and what activities it will cover; [185437]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the provision of health-related information in *(a)* supervised and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons; [185439]

(4) what recent discussions his Department's *(a)* public health and *(b)* cancer teams have had on the regulation of (i) (A) supervised and (B) unsupervised sunbed salons and (ii) the usage of sunbeds by those under the age of 18; [185440]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the sunbed industry and *(b)* stakeholders in the health community on the health effects of sunbed usage; [185441]

(6) what estimate he has made of the level of usage of *(a)* supervised and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons by under 18 year olds in the latest period for which figures are available; [185443]

(7) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Health Organisation, *(b)* his counterparts in the European Union and *(c)* the Scottish Executive on the use of sunbeds by those under the age of 18; [185442]

(8) what steps his Department is taking to determine the number and distribution of *(a)* supervised and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons; and over what timescale; [185444]

(9) if he will bring forward regulations to require minimum standards of *(a)* clarity and *(b)* uniformity in respect of information provided in (i) sunbed salons and (ii) unsupervised sunbed salons. [186335]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is reviewing what options can be considered for the regulation of tanning salons with the help of stakeholders, both inside and outside of Government.

For example, we have met with representatives from the tanning industry and voluntary organisations with an interest in young people, and engaged with other Government Departments, the Scottish Executive and international organisations on the issue of sunbeds, both supervised and unsupervised.

The aim is to strike a balance between consumer safety and choice and to focus initially on the potential harm to young people under 18 years using sunbeds. As part of the review we are working with stakeholders to develop proposals to ascertain the extent of usage of sunbeds by minors and the distribution of sunbed outlets.

In the meantime, the Health and Safety Executive is shortly expected to publish for consultation on its website a revised version of leaflet INDG209 'Controlling health risks from the use of Ultraviolet tanning equipment'. This will include draft guidance for operators and information for customers.

SunSmart is the national prevention and sun protection campaign, run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments. The Cancer Reform Strategy is a five-year strategy and the details of implementing the many actions outlined in the strategy (including those relating to skin awareness) are currently being worked through.

## Tinnitus

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide funding for tinnitus research over the next three years. [186384]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS.

The usual practice of the NIHR (and of the Medical Research Council) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Details, including the scope of the programmes and the arrangements for making applications for support from them, are available on the NIHR website at:

www.nihr.ac.uk.

## Wines

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the Food Standards Agency is on the importation and sale of low alcohol wine. [185800]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The enforcement for wine sector regulations in the United Kingdom is carried out by the Food Standards Agency.

Wines from other member states may be brought into the UK provided they comply with European Community (EC) regulations on winemaking. Naturally lower alcohol wines can be produced and sold in member states. However, Council Regulation 1493/1999 does not allow the reduction of alcohol in a wine. There is, however, provision for member states to allow experimental winemaking practices but any wines produced can only be sold in the member state of production.

Wines from third countries imported into the EC are in general subject to the same rules on winemaking as wines produced in member states. The United States of America is one of a number of countries that has an agreement with the EC which allows wines from the USA which meet their domestic regulations to be imported into the EC. This agreement includes the use of alcohol reduction techniques.

The agency favours a regime that recognises there is no threat to consumer health by using alcohol reduction processes. However a new category for reduced alcohol wines is required to be included in to EC regulations, to avoid misleading description and potential confusion with mainstream wines.

The European Union wine regime is currently being reviewed and it is expected to introduce a fast track procedure for approval of novel winemaking processes such as spinning cone and reverse osmosis which can reduce the alcohol content of wine.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason British wine producers are restricted by EU rules in selling lower alcohol wines in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [186856]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Naturally lower alcohol wines can be produced and sold in the United Kingdom. Council Regulation 1493/1999 does not allow the reduction of alcohol in a wine. There is, however, provision in the regulations to allow experimental winemaking practices but any wines produced can only be sold in the member state of production.

The enforcement for wine sector regulations in the UK is carried out by the Food Standards Agency. The agency favours a more liberal regime, recognising the potential benefits to consumers of using alcohol reduction processes. However this would require an amendment to European Commission regulations which currently make this practice illegal, on the grounds that this would mislead consumers and there would be potential for confusion with mainstream wines.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 21 February 2008*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for offences related to alcohol abuse in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Essex in 2007. [186914]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not held centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, for example violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. However, from these data we are not able to identify specific offences related to alcohol.

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the Government's target of reducing antisocial behaviour. [187101]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2002-03, 21 per cent. of people responding to the British Crime Survey perceived high levels of antisocial behaviour (ASB) compared with 17 per cent. in the year up to September 2007. The Local Government User Satisfaction Survey which asked similar questions to the British Crime Survey in 2003-04 and again in 2006-07 showed a reduction in perception in 94 per cent. of areas. This reduction in perception has contributed to the Home Office meeting its PSA target on confidence and reassurance for 2005-08.

The Home Office's twin track approach of enforcement and support has been shown to be effective by the National Audit Office's 2006 report on antisocial Behaviour. The report concluded that the majority of people who received an ASB intervention did not re-engage in ASB.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle antisocial behaviour amongst young people. [187001]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office has always maintained that antisocial behaviour is not specifically a 'youth' issue—the vast majority of young people behave well and make a positive contribution to society.

There is a range of tools and powers that have been in place for some time which can be employed when young people engage in crime and antisocial behaviour. Warning letters, acceptable behaviour contracts and individual support orders alongside antisocial behaviour orders specifically tackle behaviour, while parenting orders and contracts prevent problems in their child's behaviour and steer them away from becoming involved in antisocial and offending behaviour.

The Government are putting even greater emphasis on ensuring that when young people engage in antisocial behaviour they receive the right balance of support, challenge and positive activities to help them change their behaviour and fulfil their potential, contribute to communities and avoid getting into further trouble. As part of this the work, the Youth Task Force will support the delivery of these services. This will be set out in the 'Youth Task Force Action Plan' to be published in March.

We are also developing a renewed cross-Government approach to youth crime with the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice. This work will result in a 'Youth Crime Action Plan' to deliver results across youth crime prevention, youth justice as well as cross-cutting themes on youth victimisation and serious youth violence.

### Boyhood to Manhood Foundation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to provide support for the From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation in order to prevent its closure. [176833]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is in regular contact with the From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation. Together with other parts of Government, we are working closely with the Foundation to resolve their present difficulties and strengthen their business and management capacity. We have agreed to provide funding to enable the organisation's day centre to remain open in the immediate future and will continue discussions on what support might be available in the longer term.

### Corruption

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was repatriated as a result of corruption investigations in the UK in each of the last five years for which there are records. [178824]

**Mr. Coaker:** There is no centrally held register at the Home Office. However, I am aware of two cases; one resulted in £3 million being repatriated in 2003 and another in which £1 million was returned in 2006.

### Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to implement the remaining provisions of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [184763]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are two unimplemented sections of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004:

Section 9—Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews

Section 12—Enabling courts to impose restraining orders on those convicted of any offence, and also on those who are acquitted for any offence.

The Home Office is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice to agree the estimated impact on local services of implementing these provisions. We will be implementing these measures when resources allow.

### Driving: Mobile Phones

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce the numbers of drivers using mobile telephones when driving in the last three years. [186293]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* From 1 December 2003 using a hand-held mobile phone while driving became a specific, non-endorsable, fixed-penalty offence. The fixed penalty was £30. If the case went to court, the maximum fine was £1,000. The Road Safety Act 2006, with effect from 27 February 2007, made the offence endorsable, with three penalty points and a £60 fixed penalty.

The latest figures, for 2005, show that the police took enforcement action against 129,700 drivers for the specific offence of driving while using a hand-held mobile phone. This is a 72 per cent. increase on the 2004 figure.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has publicised the offence since its introduction, to emphasise that it is dangerous and that offenders will be punished. DfT plan to spend some £1.5 million in 2007-08 on television, radio and cinema advertising. The current campaign started on 1 February. In addition DfT provides printed materials to local authority road safety officers who mount their own campaigns .

### Drugs: Misuse

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the street price of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine was in each of the last 10 years. [178111]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*UK Average Drug Prices 1997-2007*

£

| As at December. | Cocaine (per gram) | Heroin (per gram) |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 71 | 74 |
| 1998 | 77 | 74 |
| 1999 | 75 | 65 |
| 2000 | 65 | 70 |
| 2001 | 60 | 63 |
| 2002 | 56 | 61 |
| 2003 | 55 | 62 |
| 2004 | 51 | 55 |
| 2005 | 49 | 54 |
| 2006 | 49 | 50-55 |
| 2007 | 45 | 40-50 |

### Firearms

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many weapons seized *(a)* in England and Wales, *(b)* in the north-east and *(c)* in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland were reactivated firearms in each of the last 10 years; [179650]

(2) what percentage of recovered sub-machine guns were reactivated firearms in the latest period for which figures are available. [179651]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 271W.

### Genetics: Databases

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples are on the national DNA database. [181241]

**Meg Hillier:** 'DNA samples' refer to biological material, either taken from individuals, or from traces left at crime scenes. These samples are analysed to produce code numbers, known as profiles, which are stored on the national DNA database (NDNAD). On 21 January 2008, the NDNAD held 319,677 profiles from crime scenes, and profiles relating to 4,290,925 individuals, loaded by all United Kingdom police forces.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of DNA samples on the DNA database are from people who have not been convicted of any crimes; [181242]

(2) how many people who have never been convicted of a crime have a sample of their DNA on the national DNA database. [181243]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 761W.

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long the Government retain the DNA records of individuals who are not found guilty of committing an offence. [181946]

**Meg Hillier:** Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, the police have the power to take and retain DNA from anyone arrested for a recordable offence and detained in a police station.

PACE does not set a limit on retention. Instead, the police follow retention guidelines issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which state that records will normally be retained for 100 years from the person's date of birth, regardless of whether they are still alive.

ACPO also issued guidance to chief officers on the consideration of applications for removal at the end of January 2006. The ACPO guidelines envisage that DNA which has been taken lawfully will be removed only in exceptional cases, though discretion remains with the chief officer. The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), made a written ministerial statement announcing the issue of these ACPO guidelines, on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 117WS.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will add policing of trafficking of human beings as core police business included in performance indicators. [176126]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Human trafficking is core police business and all forces should now have the capacity to deal with trafficking problems in their area. We are currently working to develop performance measures on organised crime including human trafficking to be included in the new Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) system.

We are intending to introduce in APACS starting on 1 April 2008 a key diagnostic indicator which requires forces to measure the number of organised crime groups in their areas which have been disrupted, including human trafficking groups.

### Identity Cards: Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on external consultants for work relating to the identity cards programme. [180253]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to the response to his previous question, on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W.

### National Identity Database

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the likely error rate in the national identity database. [180402]

**Meg Hillier:** Until the national identity register is launched it is not possible to make an accurate prediction of the likelihood of an error occurring within the database.

The system will be fully security accredited before it can commence operation and its operation will be overseen by both the Information Commissioner and the national identity scheme commissioner to ensure that the integrity of the scheme is maintained.

### Police: Surveillance

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to the police on the use of photographs taken by surveillance cameras to (i) detect and (ii) prosecute those observed committing an offence under (A) section 14 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and (B) the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2003; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [186289]

**Mr. Coaker:** Enforcement of these offences is an operational matter for the police. The Home Office has issued no guidance on the use of photographs taken by surveillance cameras to detect those committing the offences and there are no plans to issue such guidance.

For certain motoring offences, the law specifically provides that evidence from a camera or other device is admissible in court if the device is of a type approved by the Secretary of State. For other motoring offences, including these, there is no such provision. Within the normal constraints of the law including on data protection and human rights it is for the police to decide on the evidence they need to put forward for a case to be considered for prosecution and how to obtain it.

The Home Office has had one recent representation on the issue, from a member of the public.

## WALES

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on mutual recognition for pensioners from Wales and from England in concessionary bus travel schemes on both sides of the border. [186259]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues affecting Wales.

There is provision within the current legislation for mutual recognition for concessionary bus travel. It will require secondary legislation to be put in place and at present the focus of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act (2007) is to ensure a successful introduction of the new England-wide concession when it comes into force on 1 April 2008.

Under the Act individual local authorities will be able to come to agreements with bus companies offering a cross border service to allow their residents to use their passes to travel between England and Wales.

### Departmental Stationery

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [187059]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Stationery is supplied under a general office supplies contract, and its cost within the total is not identified separately.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187797]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The average hourly rates paid for agency staff each year is as follows:

| | *Adecco* | *Acorn* | *Kelly* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 9.30 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | 9.80 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 9.80 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 10.29 | 8.81 | n/a |
| 2003 | 10.80 | 8.81 | n/a |

| | Adecco | Acorn | Kelly |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 12.07 | 10.35 | 11.28 |
| 2006 | n/a | 9.73 | 11.28 |
| 2006 | n/a | 9.18 | 11.28 |
| 2007 | n/a | 9.18 | n/a |

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what documents his Department translates into languages other than Welsh for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187992]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on translation services other than for translations into Welsh by his Department in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* to date in 2007-08. [187995]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Nil.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many journeys his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants made between London and Northern Ireland on official business in each month since May 2007. [187061]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My predecessor made one trip to Northern Ireland in his capacity as Secretary of State for Wales and was accompanied by one official.

### Electricity

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on electricity in each of the last five years. [187054]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office has spent the following amounts on electricity bills:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 14,440.37 |
| 2003-04 | 9,180.72 |
| 2004-05 | 4,368.05 |
| 2005-06 | 4,132.43 |
| 2006-07 | 5,054.06 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Balkans: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political and security situation in the Balkans. [186176]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** On 17 February the Kosovo Assembly passed a resolution declaring Kosovo to be independent. On 18 February my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary announced that the UK recognised Kosovo as a sovereign and independent state and would establish diplomatic relations in accordance with the Vienna Convention.

On 18 February the European General Affairs and External Relations Council called on Belgrade and Pristina to respect previous commitments to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the security situation. At a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) also reaffirmed that Kosovo Force (KFOR) will continue to ensure a safe and secure environment.

Since the Kosovo declaration of independence, there have been demonstrations in Belgrade and amongst the Serb communities in Kosovo. There was some damage to property caused by demonstrators outside the US and Slovenian embassies in Belgrade. There have been small explosions near the EU offices in North Mitrovica. There are no reported casualties.

The UK remains fully committed to safeguarding the region's security and contributes to KFOR, and the EU forces in Bosnia. We remain ready to fulfil our obligations to NATO's pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force (ORF), and we stand ready to send the UK ORF battalion, currently at highest readiness, if requested by the NATO Commander. The UK will also contribute approximately 80 personnel to the European Security and Defence Policy Police and Rule of Law mission currently deploying to Kosovo and the International Civilian Office overseeing settlement implementation.

We will continue to work intensively with our EU and NATO partners to deliver peaceful progress towards Euro and Euro-Atlantic integration for the whole Balkan region.

### British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions of the Bill of Rights 1689 apply to the United Kingdom's overseas territories; and if he will make a statement. [188070]

**Meg Munn:** The Bill of Rights 1688 (not 1689) is a UK Act of Parliament, which is not specifically stated to extend to the overseas territories. However, it is clear that the provisions relating to the succession of the Crown, in addition to England, France and Ireland, apply to the dominions, which include all territories under the sovereignty of the Crown.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department plans to make to Burmese authorities on the inclusion of opposition parties and ethnic minorities in the process of drafting a new Burmese constitution planned for May 2008. [187080]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have consistently called on the Burmese authorities to include opposition parties and ethnic representatives in the process of drafting a new Burmese constitution.

The regime's call for a referendum in May 2008, and elections in 2010, was made without consulting the opposition and ethnic representatives. For the process and any timeline to have credibility and for it to lead to genuine national reconciliation, it must include all political and ethnic groups.

On 12 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated our demand that the Burmese regime immediately release Aung San Suu Kyi so that she can participate fully in the drafting of a new constitution. He also called for the immediate return of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Burma, Professor Gambari, to the country to help facilitate the process of inclusive decision making and political transition. We shall continue to press the regime to recognise the need for an inclusive and transparent process. For the road map to lead to a stable, sustainable and peaceful democracy, all interested parties must have faith in its mechanisms.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182193]

**Meg Munn:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

### Equatorial Guinea: Prisoners

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the imprisonment and treatment of Simon Mann; and if he will make a statement. [187341]

**Meg Munn:** Simon Mann is currently detained in Black Beach prison in Equatorial Guinea. Our deputy high commission in Lagos provides consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea. Our consul in Lagos travelled to Malabo and visited Mr. Mann in prison on 12 February 2008 when his welfare was discussed. We have made clear to the Equatorial Guinean authorities that we expect Mr. Mann to be treated in line with international standards.

We have received assurances from the Equatorial Guinean authorities that Mr. Mann will be treated well while in detention.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings officials in his Department have held on the case of Simon Mann; and if he will make a statement. [187342]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is aware of Mr. Mann's case and providing consular assistance to him. Officials have met with representatives from the Equatorial Guinean authorities in London and Malabo to discuss the case.

### European Council: European Commission

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the proposed relationship between the President of the European Council and officials of the European Commission. [185538]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Heads of State and Government, supported by Foreign Ministers, reached agreement on all the key institutional issues in the Lisbon treaty, including the role of full-time President of the European Council, at the 2007 June European Council.

The treaty makes clear that the President of the European Council

> "shall ensure the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council in co-operation with the President of the Commission, and on the basis of the work of the General Affairs Council".

The Commission President provides political guidance for the Commissioners and is the Commission's principal representative in dealings with other EU institutions and with external bodies. Significant decisions by the Commission are taken collectively by the College of Commissioners.

### European External Action Service

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the European External Action Service will have overseas posts; and if he will make a statement. [186716]

**David Miliband:** The treaty of Lisbon provides for a European External Action Service (EEAS), whose role will be to support the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The European Commission currently has a network of over 120 delegations in third countries and international organisations. Under the Lisbon treaty, these will be placed under the authority of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The High Representative will be accountable to the member states of the Council.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on nuclear disarmament, what the specific parameters are of the independent International Institute of Strategic Studies in-depth study to help determine the requirements for the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. [187926]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded a workshop in November 2007 on the technical challenges of complete nuclear disarmament. The study itself, however, is independent and the scope and parameters are therefore for the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) to decide. The hon. Member may wish to refer to the IISS for any further information.

## Pakistan: Press Freedom

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the level of restrictions on the press in Pakistan expected in relation to the general election of 18 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [186711]

**David Miliband:** I called on the Government of Pakistan to ensure that all media outlets were free to cover all aspects of the elections process so that voters could make an informed choice. Media freedom in Pakistan is approaching levels similar to those before imposition of the State of Emergency in November 2007, although the amendments to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority ordinances and the new code of conduct remain in force. All private media broadcasters are back on air. We continue to monitor the situation closely, including through the EU Election Observer Mission, which will be reporting on the conduct of the elections.

## Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will provide financial and technical assistance to countries with available helicopters and related materials and personnel to assist with full deployment of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. [187766]

**Meg Munn:** We will consider assisting countries that may provide helicopters and other capabilities to the UN-African Union hybrid force in Darfur. We would discuss this on a case-by-case basis directly with the country concerned and in co-ordination with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other potential donors.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the delay in the full implementation of the UNAMID mission to Darfur on *(a)* the security of and *(b)* the provision of humanitarian aid to the civilian population in the region. [187768]

**Meg Munn:** Planning for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) envisaged full deployment by mid-2008. Delays generating and deploying the mission, as well as obstacles in Sudan, have restricted UNAMID's capabilities. We are pressing the Government of Sudan and rebel groups to allow UNAMID full access and freedom of movement to improve security for humanitarian relief. UNAMID is starting to improve security with renewed firewood and other patrols.

UNAMID's deployment to Darfur is one of the most complex and logistically difficult that the UN has ever undertaken. We are working closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union to achieve full deployment as soon as practicable.

## Sudan: Sanctions

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the implementation of further targeted sanctions against the Sudanese Government by the *(a)* European Union, *(b)* United Nations Security Council and *(c)* UK. [187767]

**Meg Munn:** We will pursue further targeted sanctions against any party, including the Government of Sudan, rebels and militia, that undermines resolution of the crisis in Darfur.

We believe that UN sanctions are more effective than EU or UK measures. The prospect of further UN sanctions, as advocated by the UK, combined with persuasion by the UN Secretary-General and others, played a part in the Government of Sudan agreeing to the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur in 2007. Currently, the UN Security Council is not actively considering sanctions but rather is focused on securing successful implementation of resolution 1769 on Darfur. But we continue to advocate in the Council that we must combine pressure and persuasion on all parties to make rapid progress in resolving the crisis. We are also making this point bilaterally, as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister did with Chinese Premier Wen in January.

## Tristan da Cunha: Fires

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent fire at the fish-processing factory on Tristan da Cunha; what steps he has taken to relieve hardship and protect the islanders' economy; and if he will make a statement. [187808]

**Meg Munn:** I can confirm that a fire destroyed Tristan da Cunha's fish-processing factory on 13 February 2008. The generators that provided the island's power were also destroyed. The cause of the fire has not been identified. Power is now being supplied from a back-up generator, until a new generator can be delivered to the island in March 2008. The hospital has 24 hour power.

Tristan da Cunha's financial self-sufficiency depends on revenue from its fishing industry. Tristan's fishing season is ending so the immediate impact on the island's economy is minimal. But the island's Administrator is working with Ovenstone, the company that runs the lobster fishing concession, supplies the island's electricity and owns the factory, to minimise the economic impact of the fire. The main concern is to maintain the revenue that the industry generates for the island and to minimise potential loss of earnings for those employed in the sector. Ovenstone are preparing contingency plans for the next fishing season, which begins in July 2008. Ovenstone has insurance cover in the event of fire and is already making plans to replace the island's power plant and build a new lobster-processing factory.

In addition, the Department for International Development has recently commissioned a review of options for Tristan to diversify its economy and increase its revenue.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental ICT

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in the Government Equalities Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181370]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have been asked to reply.

Neither the Government Equalities Office nor its predecessor the Women and Equality Unit have provided any departmental personal digital assistant (PDA) equipment for its members of staff since 2001.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff work in her Office's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174948]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government Equalities Office does not have a parliamentary branch. It is currently supported in this function by the Department of Work and Pensions. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions my hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire) on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1229W, which provides full details about the parliamentary branch in DWP. The Parliamentary Branch does not deal with correspondence from Members or Peers.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many overseas visits have been made by staff of the Government Equalities Office since it was established; which countries were visited; and what the cost was of the visits. [181458]

**Barbara Follett:** Since the Government Equalities Offices was established on 26 July 2007, a total of six overseas visits have been made by official staff. The countries visited were Belgium, Portugal, Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden and Slovenia. The total cost of travel and of expenses claimed to date for these visits was £2,479.13.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) what steps the Government have taken to increase funding for organisations supporting those affected by domestic violence; [186845]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to provide support to those affected by domestic violence. [186846]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence, on which I sit, monitors action on the National Domestic Violence Plan, which includes the delivery of support to victims and their families.

A lot has been done to increase the support available for families affected by domestic violence:

Last year, the Home Office allocated just under £6 million to tackle domestic violence including £2 million to support and improve local delivery on domestic violence for victims and their children. It also funded improved public protection arrangements for domestic violence victims and a matrix of help lines to provide advice and support to victims and their families.

The Ministry of Justice allocated £3 million for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers whose aim is the safety and support of victims and their children. This is in addition to annual court business costs.

The Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme aims to improve the welfare of all children by putting in place arrangements for earlier and more effective assessment and intervention for vulnerable children, such as those affected by domestic violence.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has developed a range of accommodation options for victims including Sanctuary Scheme guidance, and 61 million of Supporting People funds were used by local authorities in 2006-07 to provide housing related support for victims of domestic violence and their families. Guidance for Jobcentre Plus staff provides advice about domestic violence and its potential impact on victims, explains the sorts of support they may need and provides advice on taking account of their particular circumstances when dealing with a benefit application. The guidance also has contact details of a range of organisations which provide advice and support to domestic violence victims.

Financial support in respect of children, such as child benefit and child tax credits, is paid to the person who is responsible for those children and is often already paid directly to mothers. Where there is any family breakdown, the benefits will, where necessary, normally be transferred to the person with whom the children are living.

Domestic violence tears apart families and always affects children. The Government recognise the strong links between child protection concerns and domestic violence. Victims leaving a violent relationship will often need a range of financial and practical support for themselves and their children. The Inter-departmental Ministerial Group will continue to monitor this aspect of delivery.

### Females

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* the Deputy Minister for Women has had with ministerial colleagues on women's issues in each of the last six months. [181933]

**Barbara Follett:** Both I and the deputy Minister for Women and Equality have had meetings with ministerial colleagues on a range of women's issues. Discussions are ongoing.

### Human Trafficking: EC Action

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government intend to ratify the Council of Europe convention against trafficking in human beings. [173794]

**Barbara Follett:** This Government are determined to prioritise efforts to tackle this horrific crime. That is why we intend to ratify the convention before the end of this year, subject to achieving necessary changes to domestic legislation in all parts of the UK.

## OLYMPICS

### Humanitarian Aid

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff are employed on domestic humanitarian assistance; and what the total cost was of employing such staff in each of the last three years. [187334]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The Humanitarian Assistance Unit currently has six staff. It also has a number of volunteers from elsewhere in the Department who support its work. The total staff costs for the Humanitarian Assistance Unit is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 (not a full year) | 113,000 |
| 2006-07 | 294,000 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 232,000 |

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international incidents she has dealt with as lead Minister for domestic humanitarian assistance. [187335]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The Humanitarian Assistance Unit was formally established in 2005 after the London bombings. Since then it has been involved in supporting those affected by the following incidents:

*2005*

*Domestic*

London bombings
Failed London bombings
Stockwell tube shooting

*International*

Terrorist attacks in:
Kusadasi, Turkey;
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt;
Bali

*2006*

*International*

The Bahrain Dhow disaster;
Shooting incident in Jordan;
Terrorist attacks in:
Dahab, Egypt;
Marmaris, Turkey;
Hat Yai, Thailand;
Bangkok, Thailand

Prior to the establishment of the unit in 2005, I as then Secretary of State and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was involved with providing humanitarian assistance following the following incidents:

| | *Incident* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 9/11, USA |
| 2002 | Bali bombings |
| 2004 | Indian Ocean tsunami |

### Olympic Games 2012: Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on advertising relating to *(a)* bidding for and *(b)* hosting the Olympic Games in 2012 in each relevant year; and what percentage of the Government's budget in relation to the 2012 Olympic Games was spent on advertising. [183006]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Bid Company obtained all of its promotional advertising from value-in-kind sponsorship and that there was no additional expenditure in this area.

As a part of LOCOG's responsibility for staging the games, they have assumed the Bid Company's previous role in undertaking all promotional advertising activity for the games. LOCOG is registered as a private company and its budget of £2 billion, which includes any advertising costs, will be almost entirely met from private sources. To release details of current advertising expenditure would be likely to prejudice ongoing commercial negotiations between LOCOG and its suppliers. However, as a private company, LOCOG submits a record of its accounts to Companies House on an annual basis. These are publicly available.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Ministers: Redundancy Pay

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Ministers received a severance payment on leaving office in each year for which figures are available, broken down by government department; and what the cost of those payments was in each year. [187637]

**Mr. Watson:** Information on Ministers leaving office is a matter of public record. Under the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991, severance pay of three months salary is payable to recipients of salaries on leaving office.

Information on ministerial salaries is available in the Library of the House.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he will answer question 178710 on ministerial salaries, tabled by the hon. Member for Taunton on 24 January 2008. [187638]

**Mr. Watson:** Question 178710 was answered on 19 February 2008.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crimes of Violence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent sectarian incidents were reported in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [185669]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI has only recorded these statistics since 2005. In 2005-06 there were 700 recorded violent crimes with a sectarian motivation compared to 542 in 2006-07.

This is a marked and welcome reduction in what are mindless and despicable crimes which have no place in today's Northern Ireland society. There is a level of co-operation developing across Northern Ireland by the public with the police, which is dramatically different from what we've seen in the past.

### Historical Inquiries Team: Finance

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget of the historical inquiries team investigating in Northern Ireland is in 2007-08. [187832]

**Paul Goggins:** The total HET project budget for 2007-08 is £8.5 million. The budget is split between HET PSNI, Office of the Police Ombudsman NI, Public Prosecution Service and Forensic Science NI.

### Homicide

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many unsolved murders there have been in Northern Ireland over the last 30 years. [185677]

**Paul Goggins:** The PSNI has advised that for the period 1970 to 2004 the number of cases of murder which remain open and under investigation is 3,951.

### Life Expectancy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what life expectancy is in Northern Ireland. [185675]

**Mr. Woodward:** The latest figures published by the Office of National Statistics, based on the interim life tables for 2004 to 2006, show life expectancy in Northern Ireland as set out in the following table.

| | Years | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Males* | *Females* |
| At birth | 76.1 | 81.0 |
| At age 65 | 16.6 | 19.5 |

### Personation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to tackle identity fraud in Northern Ireland. [185679]

**Paul Goggins:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland, through the Organised Crime Task Force, lead on tackling the various forms of identity fraud in Northern Ireland. There is close co-operation with colleagues across the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland to tackle this problem.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Driving Offences

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many serving police officers within the Police Service of Northern Ireland have committed driving offences within the last 12 months. [186159]

**Paul Goggins:** Within the last 12 months 43 serving police officers were detected for motoring offences. The offences include:

Excess speed;

Excess alcohol;

Careless driving;

Road traffic collisions, where as yet no offence has been identified.

### Unemployment

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the level of unemployment was in Northern Ireland in each of the last eight years. [185681]

**Mr. Woodward:** Following the restoration of devolution on 8 May 2007 Northern Ireland Ministers became responsible for the running of the Northern Ireland Departments. The information requested is set out in the following table which has been provided by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland (DETI).

Unemployment estimates are sourced to the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey and the latest estimates relate to the period October to December 2007. DETI advise that annual estimates are not available for the full period requested, so estimates for the last quarter of each year have been provided for comparison purposes.

*Unemployment in Northern Ireland, final quarter, 2000 to 2007*

| *Period (October to December each year)* | *Unemployment level* | *Unemployment rate (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 34,000 | 4.2 |
| 2006 | 34,000 | 4.2 |
| 2005 | 35,000 | 4.5 |
| 2004 | 36,000 | 4.6 |
| 2003 | 48,000 | 6.2 |
| 2002 | 43,000 | 5.5 |
| 2001 | 44,000 | 5.9 |
| 2000 | 45,000 | 6.1 |

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Fireworks Act 2003

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to monitor the effectiveness of the Fireworks Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [184632]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Fireworks Act 2003 and other related legislation is kept under review. In particular the effectiveness of the legislation will be examined during the implementation of the European Directive on the placing on the market of pyrotechnic articles, which must be implemented by 10 January 2010.

### Fireworks: Noise

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints about firework noise have been received by his Department; and what statistics his Department has collected on complaints regarding firework noise received by other public bodies in each month from 1 January 2003 to 31st December 2007. [184830]

**Mr. Thomas:** Complaints about noise from fireworks are not collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to provide greater accessibility of employment dispute resolution procedures since 1997. [187484]

**Mr. McFadden:** In December 2006, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced an independent review of Government support for resolving disputes in the workplace which considered the options for simplifying and improving all aspects of employment dispute resolution. The review concluded in March 2007 and recommended complete repeal of the statutory dispute resolution procedures. The Government sought views on the way forward through its March 2007 consultation 'Resolving disputes in the workplace'.

The Government laid the Employment Bill before Parliament in December 2007 to give effect to the main legislative changes needed to reform employment dispute resolution and pave the way for a simpler and more efficient system for employers and employees. The key reforms within the Bill are:

Repeal of the statutory dispute resolution procedures and associated legislation relating to the role of procedure in unfair dismissal.

Introduction of a new principles based statutory ACAS Code of Practice which will be accompanied by fuller non-statutory guidance to provide practical help for employers and employees.

Employment tribunals will take account of the statutory Code in making determinations and have discretionary powers to adjust awards by up to 25 per cent. If either party acts unreasonably.

Removal of time restrictions on ACAS' duty to conciliate after an employment tribunal claim has been made.

Additionally, the Government announced on 6 February 2007 that they were making up to £37 million available to help prevent workplace disputes unnecessarily going to employment tribunals. This extra funding over three years, will allow ACAS to boost its helpline and advice services so that they may help at any stage of a dispute ensuring it is never too late for employers and employees to reach an informal resolution. The money will support increased availability of ACAS conciliation before an employment tribunal claim has been made, enabling the quicker, informal resolution of more disputes.

Other non-legislative measures to improve and simplify employment dispute resolution will be outlined in the Government's response to the consultation which will be published in due course.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to speed up employment dispute resolution procedures. [187486]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Tribunals Service has in recent years developed processes for dealing expeditiously with claims in certain jurisdictions. The Government propose to build on this existing good practice by extending the number of jurisdictions which will routinely be listed and determined quickly. The proposals are set out in my answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W, to the hon. Member for Calder Valley (Chris McCafferty). The Government have also announced that additional resources will be invested in ACAS conciliation for cases which are likely to become the subject of an employment tribunal claim, but have not yet done so. This will enable more cases to be resolved quickly and informally.

### Overseas Trade: Finance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of UK overseas regional trade offices in the last period for which figures are available. [180653]

**Mr. McFadden:** The English Regional Development Agencies maintain representation overseas for the purpose of attracting inward investment, which in the financial year 2006-07 cost a total of £2.3 million.

Please note overseas trade activity by Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter.

### Post Office Card Account

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what basis charges are levied on accessing a post office card account or a girocheque. [184016]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I have been asked to reply.

Customers are not charged when they use their Post Office card account or cash a DWP cheque at the Post Office. However, the contracts for these two services come at considerable cost to the taxpayer. The Post Office card account contract, for example, will cost up to £1 billion over its lifetime. Each payment into a Post Office card account costs around 80p and each cheque cashed around £1.79. This compares to approximately 1p for each payment into a bank or building society account.

### Post Offices: Essex

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform further to the letter of 26 January sent by Lord Hanningfield to his Department, what assessment he has made of whether steps taken by Essex County Council constitute a serious expression of

interest to financially support post offices; and whether such steps require Post Office Ltd to delay physical closure of existing branches in Essex to allow *(a)* funding and *(b)* a contract to be put in place. [186108]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: I have spoken to both Post Office Ltd. and to Essex county council about this issue and encouraged dialogue, but it is for Post Office Ltd. and any interested local authority to work through the details of any proposal for councils to fund post office branches scheduled for closure under the network change programme.

### Tribunals: Employment

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the Government has for a role for lay people in employment tribunals. [187485]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government's position on the role of lay members in employment tribunals is set out in my answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W, to the hon. Member for Calder Valley (Chris McCafferty).

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Private Finance Initiative

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many private finance schemes have been signed under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what the *(a)* contractor and *(b)* length of contract is in each case. [187166]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently 13 signed PFI deals as a result of the BSF programme. Details regarding the contractor and the contract length are included in the following table:

| *LA PFI scheme* | *Contractor* | *Contract length (years)* |
|---|---|---|
| Bradford | Integrated Bradford | 25 |
| Bristol | Skanska Education Partnerships | 25 |
| Lancashire phase 1 | Catalyst Land Lease | 25 |
| Lancashire phase 2 | Catalyst Land Lease | 25 |
| Leeds phase 1 | Environments for Learning (E4L) | 25 |
| Newcastle phase 1 | Aura | 25 |
| Solihull | BAM PPP | 25 |
| Waltham Forest | Bouygues Partnership for Education and the Community | 25 |
| South Tyneside and Gateshead phase 1 | Inspired Spaces | 25 |
| Leicester City phase 1 | Miller Consortium | 25 |
| Knowsley | Transform Schools | 25 |
| Lewisham phase 1 | Learning 21 | 25 |
| Sheffield | Paradigm | 25 |

### Children: Autism

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to provide support for parents with autistic children during school holidays since 1997. [187483]

**Kevin Brennan:** Breaks from looking after their children are an important element of support for the parents of disabled children, including autistic children.

The Good Practice Guidance on autistic spectrum disorders which the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health published in 2002, included pointers to good practice on family support and encouraged schools and local authorities to ensure that there were suitable arrangements to support children and families out-of-school hours and during the school holidays.

The Government have made a commitment that all schools will be providing access to extended services and activities by 2010, and we have set out a core offer of activities that we want all children to be able to access through schools by that time. The Government have published guidance which makes clear that children with disabilities and special educational needs must be able to access all the services. We have also been working with the Council for Disabled Children to review access to and inclusion in extended schools, and in children's centres, for disabled children and their families.

A report of this work will be published shortly, to help schools and children's centres identify effective practice in including disabled children and young people in the services and activities they provide, including services provided in the school holidays.

The Government recently announced the start of a three-year transformation in short break services for disabled children. 21 local areas will launch the first wave of £370 million investment for local authorities that will extend to all of England from 2009. This will provide many more disabled children, including those with autism, with enjoyable and valuable experiences away from their parents and carers, in turn providing them with the opportunity to take a break from caring.

### Children: Day Care

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps children and learners teams working in Government offices for the regions have taken to implement child care strategies in their areas; and what assessment he has made of the impact of regional teams on child care providers. [187236]

**Beverley Hughes:** Children and learners teams in the Government offices for the regions work with local authorities to provide challenge and support as local authorities implement the Government's 10 year child care strategy and Children's Plan in their areas. Practical measures taken have included child care discussions as part of the negotiation of local area agreements, and the establishment of child care regional networks, with Government offices working with local authorities on their child care sufficiency

assessments and helping them prepare for their new duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents from 1 April 2008.

This Government office work is enabling local authorities to work more effectively with child care providers, shaping and supporting local child care markets which will ensure that sufficient child care is available.

### Children's Centres

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the occupancy rate in nursery facilities provided in Sure Start children centres. [187235]

**Beverley Hughes:** Sure Start children's centres serving the most disadvantaged communities in England must provide integrated early learning and full day care as part of their core services. Centres serving less disadvantaged communities may provide integrated early learning and day care places where local demand is not being met by existing, good quality providers. Information on the occupancy rate in nursery facilities in Sure Start children's centres is not collected centrally by my Department.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey, conducted when the first Sure Start children's centres were at an early stage in setting up their integrated early learning and child care services, estimated that there were 37,700 registered full day care places provided in centres in England, an average of 55 places per centre and 6,600 vacancies, an average of 12 vacancies per centre.

### Children's Centres: Labour Turnover

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of Sure Start children's centres in each local authority area have *(a)* child care staff vacancies, *(b)* manager and/or administrator vacancies, *(c)* outreach staff vacancies and *(d)* speech and language therapist vacancies; and if he will make a statement; [187093]

(2) what assessment he has made of levels of recruitment and retention in Sure Start children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [187094]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on the workforce in Sure Start children's centres workforce is not collected centrally. The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that 31 per cent. of full day care providers based in children's centres in England were actively recruiting staff. This snapshot is based on a sample survey of providers and an estimate of the number of full day care providers based in children's centres who had staff vacancies is not available. Data are not available at a local authority level.

Sure Start children's centres offer a range of integrated services for young children and families, delivered by statutory, private and voluntary and independent sector agencies working together. Recruitment and retention of children's centre staff is a matter for local management by children's centres, local authorities and their partner agencies. By 2010 Sure Start children's centres will be serving all communities across the country providing universal, mainstream and permanent services for children under five and their families. Last summer we advised local authorities of their children's centres funding allocations for the next three financial years (2008 to 2011) to encourage longer-term planning and to increase stability in recruitment and retention of staff.

### Creative Partnerships Initiative

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools in my constituency *(a)* were working with creative partnerships in 2007 and *(b)* are planning to work with creative partnerships in 2008. [187266]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Seven schools in the Bassetlaw constituency worked with Creative Partnerships in 2007.

Creative Partnerships has continued to work with six of these schools this year and expects to work with a number of new schools in Bassetlaw in the next financial year. Final decisions on this will be made shortly in consultation with Nottinghamshire county council.

### Disabled: Transport

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money was allocated to local authorities to be spent on educational transport for wheelchair-bound people *(a)* under 18, *(b)* under 25 and *(c)* aged 25 and over in each of the last five years. [181775]

**Jim Knight:** The Department is unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. However, the following table shows the budgeted expenditure of transport for pupils with special educational needs:

| | *2005-06*[1] | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £ |
| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted SEN transport expenditure*[1,3] | *Budgeted SEN transport expenditure*[1,3] | *Budgeted SEN transport expenditure*[1,3] |
| England | 499,592,723 | 528,476,833 | 554,914,361 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,242,012 | 1,926,000 | 2,176,649 |
| Barnet | 4,793,528 | 5,211,047 | 5,770,867 |
| Barnsley | 1,314,910 | 1,277,692 | 1,363,650 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 2,035,212 | 2,280,577 | 2,494,785 |
| Bedfordshire | 4,278,447 | 4,984,020 | 5,400,646 |

| Local authority name | 2005-06[1] Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] £ | 2006-07 Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] £ | 2007-08[2] Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley | 3,211,000 | 2,534,000 | 2,625,000 |
| Birmingham | 13,410,558 | 13,188,243 | 12,375,713 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 2,025,783 | 1,502,446 | 1,477,805 |
| Blackpool | 980,188 | 1,335,606 | 1,301,683 |
| Bolton | 2,546,218 | 2,455,433 | 2,542,690 |
| Bournemouth | 1,024,622 | 951,260 | 952,774 |
| Bracknell Forest | 1,413,602 | 1,370,106 | 1,379,509 |
| Bradford | 4,835,652 | 7,619,716 | 7,963,958 |
| Brent | 228,000 | 3,435,000 | 3,764,000 |
| Brighton and Hove | 2,604,995 | 2,745,599 | 3,140,800 |
| Bristol City of | 3,690,377 | 5,344,331 | 5,420,114 |
| Bromley | 3,247,796 | 3,406,340 | 3,536,069 |
| Buckinghamshire | 7,265,839 | 6,687,368 | 9,211,629 |
| Bury | 1,069,800 | 1,597,500 | 1,904,900 |
| Calderdale | 1,666,947 | 1,686,998 | 1,691,900 |
| Cambridgeshire | 5,377,674 | 5,591,033 | 5,827,965 |
| Camden | 1,913,183 | 2,343,149 | 2,690,915 |
| Cheshire | 7,532,516 | 7,723,286 | 8,188,581 |
| City of London | 47,800 | 41,800 | 5,400 |
| Cornwall | 1,930,045 | 1,981,265 | 2,158,915 |
| Coventry | 2,641,075 | 2,577,016 | 2,972,184 |
| Croydon | 4,146,027 | 5,274,945 | 5,314,215 |
| Cumbria | 3,451,647 | 3,478,907 | 4,173,164 |
| Darlington | 604,267 | 551,335 | 616,973 |
| Derby | 2,245,241 | 2,243,925 | 2,301,235 |
| Derbyshire | 5,385,094 | 6,275,718 | 6,909,393 |
| Devon | 1,104,000 | 2,198,130 | 2,229,641 |
| Doncaster | 2,789,174 | 3,418,459 | 3,669,209 |
| Dorset | 3,013,221 | 4,953,509 | 5,319,916 |
| Dudley | 2,021,960 | 1,823,425 | 2,363,191 |
| Durham | 5,160,384 | 4,781,398 | 4,332,815 |
| Ealing | 5,005,000 | 4,797,200 | 4,999,756 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 3,735,851 | 3,799,159 | 3,958,640 |
| East Sussex | 8,399,051 | 8,416,982 | 6,790,684 |
| Enfield | 4,451,461 | 4,165,211 | 4,375,647 |
| Essex | 13,450,194 | 13,753,166 | 14,086,532 |
| Gateshead | 1,041,523 | 1,404,394 | 1,392,821 |
| Gloucestershire | 4,030,437 | 3,843,035 | 4,420,249 |
| Greenwich | 2,977,581 | 2,998,840 | 2,867,970 |
| Hackney | 3,283,892 | 3,204,961 | 3,132,762 |
| Halton | 1,163,740 | 1,173,810 | 1,198,946 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,046,498 | 2,148,823 | 2,226,900 |
| Hampshire | 13,580,000 | 13,900,000 | 14,487,932 |
| Haringey | 3,681,807 | 3,797,556 | 3,789,425 |
| Harrow | 2,796,349 | 2,659,873 | 3,667,547 |
| Hartlepool | 1,029,206 | 1,200,232 | 1,099,354 |
| Havering | 1,326,640 | 1,481,800 | 1,830,897 |
| Herefordshire | 1,776,000 | 1,430,125 | 1,346,521 |
| Hertfordshire | 12,572,428 | 12,507,112 | 12,595,617 |
| Hillingdon | 3,496,740 | 3,812,012 | 3,909,041 |
| Hounslow | 2,489,641 | 2,515,382 | 2,793,417 |
| Isle of Wight | 326,664 | 325,112 | 339,178 |
| Isles Of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Islington | 2,106,192 | 1,991,886 | 1,965,644 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,220,170 | 1,266,052 | 1,702,997 |
| Kent | 15,624,793 | 17,595,889 | 16,652,610 |
| Kingston upon Hull City of | 2,660,521 | 2,420,062 | 2,516,937 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2,012,537 | 2,089,210 | 2,194,334 |
| Kirklees | 3,277,800 | 3,336,300 | 3,400,200 |
| Knowsley | 1,528,505 | 1,590,046 | 1,490,035 |
| Lambeth | 3,775,000 | 3,463,970 | 3,284,989 |
| Lancashire | 13,156,306 | 8,796,768 | 14,472,153 |

| Local authority name | 2005-06[1] Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] | 2006-07 Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] | 2007-08[2] £ Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[1,3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds | 5,934,170 | 6,855,830 | 7,128,430 |
| Leicester | 3,082,099 | 3,707,306 | 3,883,960 |
| Leicestershire | 6,006,348 | 6,002,982 | 5,748,370 |
| Lewisham | 3,562,281 | 4,102,844 | 3,672,403 |
| Lincolnshire | 9,066,597 | 9,870,736 | 10,744,197 |
| Liverpool | 4,092,271 | 4,173,883 | 4,262,111 |
| Luton | 2,188,276 | 2,130,587 | 2,031,425 |
| Manchester | 6,574,967 | 4,955,332 | 6,786,111 |
| Medway | 2,800,225 | 2,948,105 | 3,279,758 |
| Merton | 1,558,490 | 2,105,440 | 2,138,650 |
| Middlesbrough | 1,515,487 | 1,731,348 | 1,953,869 |
| Milton Keynes | 1,662,081 | 1,769,505 | 1,633,537 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,743,121 | 1,754,430 | 2,074,210 |
| Newham | 3,062,494 | 3,144,200 | 3,455,500 |
| Norfolk | 8,130,431 | 9,190,100 | 9,769,424 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 938,902 | 1,767,000 | 1,954,798 |
| North Lincolnshire | 1,530,751 | 1,519,080 | 1,594,240 |
| North Somerset | 1,390,049 | 1,392,598 | 1,502,835 |
| North Tyneside | 1,286,433 | 1,363,436 | 1,352,237 |
| North Yorkshire | 3,910,978 | 4,260,055 | 5,583,483 |
| Northamptonshire | 5,178,660 | 5,835,200 | 6,407,810 |
| Northumberland | 2,673,000 | 2,626,590 | 2,888,420 |
| Nottingham | 1,773,700 | 1,706,154 | 1,746,104 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,800,722 | 5,122,900 | 5,343,312 |
| Oldham | 1,755,450 | 1,824,780 | 2,113,529 |
| Oxfordshire | 5,506,949 | 6,367,442 | 6,485,086 |
| Peterborough | 1,729,610 | 1,905,379 | 1,834,708 |
| Plymouth | 2,985,433 | 2,506,692 | 1,998,387 |
| Poole | 885,001 | 976,652 | 998,705 |
| Portsmouth | 1,439,992 | 1,492,991 | 1,582,410 |
| Reading | 1,266,519 | 1,252,210 | 1,196,451 |
| Redbridge | 3,111,720 | 2,772,180 | 2,805,008 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 888,081 | 1,145,134 | 1,085,126 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1,612,000 | 1,853,800 | 2,209,300 |
| Rochdale | 1,884,535 | 1,942,003 | 1,992,660 |
| Rotherham | 1,911,662 | 2,103,623 | 2,494,588 |
| Rutland | 275,810 | 298,925 | 272,160 |
| Salford | 2,504,545 | 2,077,061 | 2,592,910 |
| Sandwell | 2,185,800 | 2,475,300 | 2,551,900 |
| Sefton | 3,062,510 | 2,501,691 | 2,802,544 |
| Sheffield | 4,381,848 | 4,514,264 | 4,605,244 |
| Shropshire | 3,291,982 | 3,223,487 | 3,317,446 |
| Slough | 1,907,295 | 1,927,471 | 1,883,190 |
| Solihull | 2,007,600 | 2,050,969 | 2,159,230 |
| Somerset | 3,273,745 | 3,199,045 | 3,334,062 |
| South Gloucestershire | 2,260,000 | 2,507,000 | 2,684,000 |
| South Tyneside | 811,170 | 924,644 | 1,093,157 |
| Southampton | 1,548,500 | 1,637,171 | 1,684,382 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 2,042,646 | 1,854,656 | 1,836,235 |
| Southwark | 3,272,300 | 4,325,397 | 4,339,792 |
| St. Helens | 1,926,082 | 1,965,606 | 1,915,161 |
| Staffordshire | 6,390,550 | 7,246,490 | 7,0[illegible]550 |
| Stockport | 2,616,029 | 3,020,274 | 3,290,741 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 1,706,531 | 1,842,971 | 2,073,428 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 1,344,344 | 1,691,598 | 2,262,801 |
| Suffolk | 5,009,128 | 5,410,202 | 5,558,662 |
| Sunderland | 2,279,971 | 2,144,705 | 2,126,355 |
| Surrey | 14,221,959 | 16,494,879 | 15,775,204 |
| Sutton | 2,449,230 | 2,592,367 | 3,212,607 |
| Swindon | 1,404,303 | 1,272,792 | 1,393,488 |
| Tameside | 1,381,390 | 1,130,000 | 1,130,000 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1,520,597 | 1,705,759 | 1,778,343 |

| Local authority name | 2005-06[1] Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[2, 3] | 2006-07 Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[2, 3] | 2007-08[2] Budgeted SEN transport expenditure[2, 3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £ |
| Thurrock | 1,020,649 | 1,105,354 | 1,130,862 |
| Torbay | 1,012,678 | 1,273,475 | 1,381,273 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,382,931 | 3,473,230 | 3,507,801 |
| Trafford | 2,904,426 | 2,957,773 | 2,775,447 |
| Wakefield | 2,923,656 | 3,107,984 | 2,709,257 |
| Walsall | 2,321,770 | 2,272,683 | 2,454,698 |
| Waltham Forest | 2,978,994 | 3,252,937 | 3,411,268 |
| Wandsworth | 2,466,236 | 2,577,928 | 2,819,159 |
| Warrington | 1,879,406 | 2,742,869 | 2,598,513 |
| Warwickshire | 4,054,442 | 4,262,928 | 4,068,662 |
| West Berkshire | 1,686,742 | 1,796,497 | 1,974,354 |
| West Sussex | 12,075,930 | 13,335,293 | 13,422,074 |
| Westminster | 2,459,900 | 3,008,500 | 3,030,700 |
| Wigan | 2,910,872 | 3,094,565 | 3,132,493 |
| Wiltshire | 4,475,454 | 4,724,697 | 4,541,478 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 1,340,662 | 1,496,198 | 1,328,490 |
| Wirral | 3,852,600 | 3,878,400 | 3,923,400 |
| Wokingham | 1,563,828 | 1,562,502 | 1,676,516 |
| Wolverhampton | 2,534,000 | 3,017,600 | 2,907,700 |
| Worcestershire | 4,916,196 | 5,533,438 | 5,879,560 |
| York | 1,045,080 | 1,107,181 | 1,179,324 |

[1] Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 15 February 2008.
[2] Data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 1) submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES).
[3] SEN transport expenditure includes budgeted expenditure by local authorities in England on the cost of LA vehicles, public transport and contract hire for:
travel between home and mainstream schools, early years settings and special schools where
entitlement to assistance is agreed for reasons of SEN and/or disability
additional travel arrangements made during the school day to facilitate inclusion
additional travel arrangements made to support pupils with SEN and/ or disabilities to take part in extended school activities outside of normal school hours
travel to provision, other than a school, where it is made to meet a special educational need
the cost of those escorts provided to support travel for children with SEN and / or disabilities
travel between home and mainstream schools and special schools for young people over the age of 16 where entitlement to assistance is agreed for reasons of SEN and/or disability
any costs for home to college transport for special education needs pupils.
*Note:*
2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

## Extended Schools

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding he plans to make available to support extended schools in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; what estimate he has made of the number of (i) primary and (ii) secondary extended schools which charge parents who wish their children to attend activities outside regular school hours; and if he will make a statement; [187191]

(2) what the average weekly cost is of extended school provision in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools, which is payable by parents, in each local authority. [187211]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* In 2008-09 to 2010-11 a total of £1.3 billion of funding will be made available to support the development of extended schools. This is set out in the table:.

| Extended schools total funding 2008-11 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | £ million Total CSR period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Start Up | 165 | 172 | 71 | 408 |
| Sustainability | 40 | 100 | 155 | 295 |
| Extended schools subsidy scheme | 8.5 | 40 | 217 | 265.5 |
| Academic-focused study support | 0 | 84 | 83 | 167 |
| Total extended schools revenue | 213.5 | 396 | 526 | 1,135.5 |
| Total extended schools capital | 84 | 89 | 46 | 219 |
| Total extended schools revenue and capital | 297.5 | 485 | 572 | 1,354.5 |

The Department has announced the individual local authority allocations for the next three years for the start up, sustainability and capital funding streams outlined in the table.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of schools which charge parents for their children to attend extended activities, and what the levels of charges are. Schools have different systems and variable rates around charging parents for services and activities. A cost benefit analysis carried out as part of the evaluation of full service extended schools, published in June last year, showed that there is some variability in the method

of charging. It showed that with the exception of child care where schools made charges to cover costs, levels of charging tend to be ad hoc and small scale.

The Government have issued guidance to schools on charging through the "Planning and Funding Guidance: a guide for schools, local authorities and their partner organisations." This explains the law on charging and makes clear that school governing bodies must devise and publish a charging and fee remission policy in consultation with parents. It also explains how charging enables schools to enhance the quality and frequency of the extended opportunities they offer and to make these more sustainable and so more reliable for families in the long term.

Parents on lower incomes may be eligible for help with meeting the cost of child care, through the child care element of the working tax credit. We are also making £265.5 million of funding available, as part of the £1.3 billion total extended schools funding, to ensure that children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access high quality extended activities and are not prevented from doing so on grounds of cost.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each London local education authority area had fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five A* to C grade passes at GCSE, including mathematics and English, in each of the last eight years. [186475]

**Jim Knight:** The information for 2001/02 onwards can be found in the achievement and attainment tables and the 2005 English and maths pilot in the Library. Information for the other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Geography: Educational Visits

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007; [182812]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level *(a)* geography and *(b)* biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending (i) 2005 and (ii) 2007; [182813]

(3) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level *(a)* geography and *(b)* biology students who (i) did not and (ii) had the opportunity to conduct course-related field-work in the school year ending (A) 2006 and (B) 2007; [182814]

(4) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE science students who took a residential field trip in the school year ending *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006; and what percentage he expects to do so in 2008; [182818]

(5) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 2006; [182819]

(6) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 2006; [182820]

(7) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 2005; [182821]

(8) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-Level geography students who did not have the opportunity conduct course-related fieldwork in the school year ending 2006; [182822]

(9) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2005; [182823]

(10) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who did not have the opportunity to conduct course-related fieldwork in the school year ending 2005; [182824]

(11) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2006; [182825]

(12) what percentage of GCSE science students had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2005; [182827]

(13) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE science students who took a residential field trip in the school year ending 2005; [182828]

(14) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2006; [182829]

(15) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who will have the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2008; [182831]

(16) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-Level geography students who will have the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 2008; [182860]

(17) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-Level geography students who will not have the opportunity to conduct course related fieldwork in the school year ending 2008; [182861]

(18) what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* biology GCSE and *(b)* geography students who will have the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 2008; [182862]

(19) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-Level biology students who *(a)* will and *(b)* will not have the opportunity to participate in a course related field trip in the school year ending 2008; [182869]

(20) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-Level biology students who will have the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 2008; [182870]

(21) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE students who *(a)* will have the opportunity to participate in a course related field trip in the school year ending 2008 and *(b)* had the opportunity in the school year ending in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2006. [182872]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information broken down by subject and qualification. However, research carried out by the Scouts Association and the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2005 found that 86 per cent. of primary schools and 99 per cent. of secondary schools offer pupils at least one residential education opportunity, outdoor education being by far the most popular type.

Research into Education Outside the Classroom published by NFER in November 2006 also found that there has been little evidence of a decline in numbers of school trips in recent years.

Fieldwork is and will remain a compulsory part of the geography curriculum in secondary schools, both at key stage 3 (ages 11 to 14) and in GCSE syllabuses. Fieldwork is not currently compulsory in A level geography courses but will be a specific requirement in the A level criteria from September 2008.

The new key stage 3 science curriculum says that pupils should be offered the opportunity to experience science outside the school environment, including in the workplace, where possible.

**Pre-School Education**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of participation rates in early years education, broken down by social class; and if he will make a statement. [187145]

**Beverley Hughes:** Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Figures for January 2007 show that virtually all four-year-old children receive some form of free entitlement. The figure for three-year-olds is 96 per cent.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

The 2007 Parents' Childcare Survey collected information about take-up of the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds to 12.5 hours of formal child care per week, by child and family characteristics, enabling an estimate of the proportion of three to four-year-olds who had taken-up this entitlement by social class, using the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) to be made. The findings from the 2007 survey are planned to be published shortly.

Comparable estimates are not available for earlier years as specific questions about the take-up of the free entitlement to early years education for three and four-year-olds were not asked in previous surveys. The 2004 survey showed that take up of any early years provision (which would include the free entitlement, as well as other early years education) was lower among more disadvantaged groups. For example, 80 per cent. of three and four-year-olds in families with an annual income of below £10,000 used any early years provision, compared with 95 per cent. of those in families with income above £32,000.

**Primary Education**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have been given early warning of specific issues to be addressed in their primary school strategy for change, as indicated in paragraph 42 of the guidance issued to local authorities on 6 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [185336]

**Jim Knight:** None to date. We are reviewing how best to manage this commitment and will notify local authorities in due course.

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage the awareness of Key Stage 2 pupils of the world of work. [186119]

**Jim Knight:** Over the next three years we plan to extend the range of enterprise education activity in primary schools, building on our success in secondary schools. In particular, we will encourage and support more secondary schools to work with feeder primary schools on enterprise projects, building on schools' expertise.

We have appointed Sir Jim Rose to lead an independent root and branch review of the primary curriculum. He will make recommendations on all aspects of the primary curriculum by April 2009. The review of the primary curriculum will ensure that children receive a strong foundation in the key areas of learning and begin to develop and understand the essential skills they will need to progress in learning and the workplace.

**Primary Education: Free School Milk**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in primary schools received free school milk in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187241]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information.

**Schools**

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools there were in (A) Cornwall, (B) the south west and (C) England in each year since 1999. [186623]

**Jim Knight:** The numbers of *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in (A) Cornwall, (B) the south west and (C) England as at February 2008 as shown in the following tables. To provide the information requested for previous years would require the manipulation of large volumes of data which could be undertaken only at a disproportionate cost.

| | *Primary* | | *Secondary* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | *Urban* | *Rural* | *Urban* | *Rural* | *Total* |
| (A) Cornwall | 59 | 178 | 16 | 15 | 268 |
| (B) The south west | 937 | 980 | 227 | 94 | 2,238 |
| (C) England | 11,958 | 5,248 | 2,744 | 552 | 19,502 |

## Schools: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what spare capacity there is in schools maintained within Milton Keynes unitary authority area, broken down by *(a)* year group and *(b)* school. [187180]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The Department collects data on surplus school places broken down by school via an annual survey. The most recent data available relate to 2007. The Department does not collect data on surplus school places broken down by year group.

The tables show the number of surplus places in primary and secondary schools in Milton Keynes as at 1 January 2007.

*Primary schools*

| *School name* | *Surplus school places* |
|---|---|
| Abbeys Primary School | 146 |
| Ashbrook School | 0 |
| Bishop Parker Catholic School | 3 |
| Bow Brickhill C/E Primary School | 12 |
| Bradwell Village School | 66 |
| Brooksward School | 70 |
| Broughton Fields Primary School | 169 |
| Bushfield School | 65 |
| Caroline Haslett School | 0 |
| Castlethorpe First School | 6 |
| Cedars Combined School | 94 |
| Chestnuts Primary School | 76 |
| Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School (VA) | 108 |
| Cold Harbour CE School | 9 |
| Downs Barn First School | 11 |
| Drayton Park School | 60 |
| Eaton Mill Primary School | 5 |
| Emberton School | 11 |
| Emerson Valley School | 60 |
| Falconhurst School | 0 |
| Germander Park School | 5 |
| Giffard Park Primary School | 97 |
| Gilesbrook Primary School | 3 |
| Glastonbury Thorn School | 0 |

*Primary schools*

| *School name* | *Surplus school places* |
|---|---|
| Great Linford Primary School | 77 |
| Green Park School | 0 |
| Greenleys First School | 1 |
| Greenleys Junior School | 14 |
| Hanslope Primary School | 52 |
| Haversham Village School | 26 |
| Heelands School | 21 |
| Heronsgate School | 19 |
| Heronshaw School | 0 |
| Holmwood school | 40 |
| Holne Chase Primary School | 20 |
| Howe Park School | 13 |
| Kents Hill School | 11 |
| Knowles Infant School | 56 |
| Knowles Junior School | 42 |
| Langland Community School | 83 |
| Lavendon School | 23 |
| Long Meadow School | 2 |
| Loughton Manor First School | 0 |
| Loughton School | 0 |
| Meadfurlong School | 17 |
| Merebrook Infant School | 14 |
| Middleton Primary School | 80 |
| MKC Water Hall Primary School | 145 |
| Monkston Primary School | 1 |
| Moorland Infant School | 13 |
| New Bradwell School | 116 |
| New Chapter Combined School | 105 |
| Newton Blossomville CE School | 5 |
| North Crawley CE School | 23 |
| Oldbrook First School | 21 |
| Olney Infant School | 55 |
| Olney Middle School | 6 |
| Orchard School | 44 |
| Oxley Park Primary | 145 |
| Penwith School | 18 |
| Pepper Hill First School | 34 |
| Portfields Combined School | 129 |
| Priory Common School | 13 |
| Queen Eleanor Primary School | 65 |
| Rickley Junior School | 91 |
| Rivers Infant School | 12 |
| Russell Street School | 14 |
| Shepherdswell School | 38 |
| Sherington CE | 19 |
| Simpson School | 82 |
| Southwood School | 77 |
| St. Andrew's CE Infant | 24 |
| St. Bernadette's | 259 |
| St. Mary and St. Giles CE Junior School | 27 |
| St. Mary's Wavendon CE Primary | 22 |
| St. Thomas Aquinas RC Primary School | 0 |
| St. Mary Magdalene School | 0 |
| St. Monica's Catholic Primary | 0 |
| Stanton School | 53 |
| Stoke Goldington First School | 25 |
| Summerfield School | 34 |
| The Willows School and Early Years Centre | 11 |
| Tickford Park Primary | 57 |
| Two Mile Ash School | 0 |

*Primary schools*

| *School name* | *Surplus school places* |
|---|---|
| Wavendon Gate School | 43 |
| Wellsmead Infant School | 78 |
| Wellsmead Junior School | 60 |
| Willen Primary School | 0 |
| Wood End First School | 0 |
| Wyvern School | 42 |
| Total | 3,693 |

*Secondary schools*

| *School name* | *Surplus school places* |
|---|---|
| St. Paul's Catholic School | 0 |
| Denbigh School | 0 |
| Stantonbury Campus | 0 |
| Lord Grey School | 14 |
| Walton High | 20 |
| Ousedale School | 24 |
| Leon School and Sports College | 78 |
| Shenley Brook End Secondary | 128 |
| The Radcliffe School | 241 |
| Sir Frank Markham Community | 330 |
| Hazeley Secondary School | 524 |
| Oakgrove School | 615 |
| Total | 1,974 |

*Source:*
2007 Surplus Places Survey

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if he will make a statement. [187162]

**Beverley Hughes:** No recent discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, officials in both Departments continue to work closely together, building on the positive progress already made in implementing the convention and preparing for the UK's periodic oral examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is due to take place in Geneva this autumn.

### Young People: Carers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* schools identify young carers amongst their students and *(b)* that they liaise with carers' organisations and local authorities in order to meet the needs of those students. [187824]

**Kevin Brennan:** Schools have a key role in supporting young carers. They have responsibilities to all their pupils including a new duty for maintained schools to promote the well-being of their pupils under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. We look to schools to create a supportive environment that responds flexibly to each child's personal circumstances. Within this context, the Government have made a commitment to improving the awareness of young carers' circumstances among teachers and others working in schools. For example, this year we are supporting the development of good practice guidance for those working with young carers and their families, which will include a section on what schools can do to identify and support them. Also, we are making sure that the particular needs of young carers are taken account of in our guidance for schools, such as that on behaviour, attendance and bullying.

The cross-Government review of carers now under way is a welcome opportunity to re-assess the support available to young carers. Young carers have been consulted, and stakeholder bodies with knowledge of the issues are fully engaged.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the number of young carers in *(a)* schools and *(b)* further education. [187826]

**Kevin Brennan:** This information is not collected centrally.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### National Skills Academy

9. **Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the establishment of a national skills academy for the process industry. [187376]

**Mr. Lammy:** I launched the National Skills Academy for the Process Industries on 24 January. It has a vital role in raising skills across a sector which employs 420,000 people and contributes £22 billion to the economy.

### Small Business

11. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to assist the development of leadership and management skills in small businesses. [187378]

**Mr. Denham:** We have increased our commitment to our Leadership and Management programme through Train to Gain from £4 million this year to £30 million per year. This aims to develop the capacity of small business managers to understand the skills needs of their business, and to make use of the publicly funded Train to Gain programme. We expect to support around 42,000 companies with between 10 and 250 employees and some 60,000 individual managers over the next three years. We anticipate that this will result in around 150,000 learners from those companies using Train to Gain.

### Animals in Research

12. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to identify alternatives to the use of animals in research. [187379]

**Ian Pearson:** DIUS is spending close to £5.5 million this year on research into the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research via the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

and the Medical Research Council (MRC). Of this £2.4 million goes to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research NC3Rs.

### Innovation

13. **Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps he has taken to stimulate innovation in the public and private sector. [187380]

**Ian Pearson:** Considerable progress has been made in implementing the Government's 10 Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework.

The Technology Strategy Board will coordinate £1 billion of spending over the next three years to support R and D and innovation. We have established the Energy Technologies Institute and we are providing increased support through the Higher Education Innovation Fund.

In addition, we are working with other Government Departments and public bodies to promote innovation in the public sector. A further series of proposals will be set out in our forthcoming Science and Innovation Strategy.

### Science Degrees

14. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of applications for science degree courses at universities. [187382]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government are committed to increasing numbers of young people studying science, technology, engineering and maths at all levels. As well as our close coordination with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department funds STEMNET, (the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network), to raise awareness of these subjects among young people. Their Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme has already enabled over 18,000 specialists to work directly with schools and colleges, alerting students to the opportunities offered by studying these subjects.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) also provides £75 million additional funding from 2007-08 for three years for high cost strategic science subjects at undergraduate level, including chemistry, physics and chemical engineering.

### Apprenticeships

15. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the advice on apprenticeships available to young people. [187383]

**Mr. Lammy:** My RHF, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has announced a range of steps in his "Children's Plan" to improve the quality of advice to young people. In addition, "World-Class Apprenticeships" contains measures specifically focused on apprenticeships, including plans to legislate to require schools to provide comprehensive information on apprenticeships to all their pupils.

16. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage small businesses in Denton and Reddish constituency to provide apprenticeships. [187384]

**Mr. Lammy:** As I explained in an earlier answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Calder Valley (Chris McCafferty), the report of the apprenticeship review sets out a wide range of measures to expand apprenticeships. Small business will particularly benefit from our plans to extend wage subsidies to them so that they can more easily recruit apprentices.

22. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the drop-out rate was from Government-sponsored apprenticeships in each of the last three years. [187390]

**Mr. Lammy:** The proportion of those who complete the Apprenticeship Framework has grown dramatically over the last three years. In 2004/05 the figure was 40 per cent.; in 2005/06 it was 53 per cent. and in 2006/07 it had risen to 63 per cent. This shows the ongoing improving status and quality of apprenticeships. The proportion who do not complete the apprenticeship is at an all-time low, and continues to fall.

24. **Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage employers to participate in the apprenticeship programme. [187392]

**Mr. Lammy:** "World-Class Apprenticeships" sets out a range of measures to encourage many more employers to expand their apprenticeship numbers and to join the programme. These include new financial incentives; a national matching service; and new flexibilities so that employers can bring their own qualifications into apprenticeship frameworks.

**Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government is taking to increase the number of adult apprenticeships. [187381]

**Mr. Lammy:** We recently announced that for the first time, funding will be targeted specifically at expanding apprenticeships for adults aged over 25. This will mean 30,000 such apprenticeships costing £90 million over the next three years.

### Skills Training

17. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase employer awareness of the benefits of skills training for employees. [187385]

**Mr. Denham:** It is vital that employers are aware of the benefits skills training can unlock for both employers and their employees. Through "Train to Gain" more than 70,000 employers have been engaged since its

launch in April 2006. We launched the "Skills Pledge" in June 2007 and now have more than 950 employers committed. And through our skills marketing campaign, 'our future, its in our hands', we are further raising awareness.

### Supported Apprenticeships

18. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for supported apprenticeships for people with learning difficulties or disabilities. [187386]

**Mr. Lammy:** As we said in "World-class Apprenticeships', more needs to be done to help those with disadvantages to access apprenticeships. It will be a priority for the National Apprenticeship Service to implement a range of measures for disadvantaged groups.

### Adult Learning

19. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support his Department provides for informal adult learning. [187387]

**Mr. Denham:** We have safeguarded an annual budget of £210 million to 2010/11 to provide personal and community development learning, to widen participation in informal learning and to ensure that people who live in pockets of deprivation do not lose out.

The consultation that I launched last month, "Informal Adult Learning: Shaping the Way Ahead", re-affirms our commitment to this kind of learning and its importance in meeting the basic human need for creativity and stimulation—as well as improving health and well-being in our communities.

I have been greatly encouraged by the tremendous response of our partners, stakeholders and learners in taking this important consultation forward.

### NEETs

20. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training. [187388]

**Mr. Lammy:** Although responsibility for 16 to 17-year-olds is a matter for the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and is a shared responsibility for 18-year-olds, the Government are tackling vigorously the important issue of young people not in education, employment or training.

The UK has a dynamic and flexible labour market with one of the highest employment rates in the G7. Youth unemployment has fallen since 1997 and the proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds not engaged in full-time education or employment is down to 18.0 per cent. in 2007 from 19.4 per cent. in 1997. We have seen an increase of 501,000 in the number of 18 to 24-year-olds in full-time education, a rise from 22.7 per cent. to 28.3 per cent.

### Nanotechnology Research

21. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Health and Safety Executive on health and safety standards in nanotechnology research development. [187389]

**Ian Pearson:** Nanotechnologies offer potentially huge benefits to society, industry, the environment and health. They can help us improve our quality of life and respond to key issues, such as climate change, potentially contributing to improved energy storage and efficiency, better diagnosis and treatment of disease, faster computer systems, and remediation of polluted air, soil and water.

The Government are committed to understanding any potential risks of nanotechnologies and to managing them within a proportionate regulatory framework.

We have established a ministerial cross-departmental group that co-ordinates the UK's programme of research into the health, safety and environmental implications of nanotechnologies. I chair this group which brings together Ministers from DEFRA, DH, DWP and BERR.

DIUS has provided sponsorship for research into "Health and Safety Exposure Assessment in the Workplace Relating to Nanotechnologies". HSE representatives have endorsed this project. It is envisaged that this research will form the basis of a new standard in research development. DIUS is also funding research into the health effects of nanotechnology.

The development of standards is very important to enable both the development and the regulation of nanotechnologies. Recently, the British Standards Institution has published a number of UK standards that will help to frame the development of international and European standards, including the Guide to Safe Handling and Disposal of Manufactured Nanomaterials (PD 6699-2)[1]. This provides advice on good practice to those working in laboratories where research on new materials and applications is being undertaken, as this is where exposure to engineered free nanoscale materials is most likely to occur at present.

I will be making a statement about Government activities on nanotechnologies next Thursday. This will cover the development and commercialisation, as well as the potential risks and regulation of nanotechnologies.

[1] http://www.bsi-global.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/Industry-Sectors/Nanotechnologies/PD-6699-2/Download-PD6699-2-2007/

### Science Project Funding

23. **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for high level science projects involving Liverpool University and Daresbury Laboratory; and if he will make a statement. [187391]

**Ian Pearson:** The Science Budget allocations for CSR07, which were presented on the 11 December 2007, showed an average real terms increase for science of 2.7 per cent. per annum rising from £3,382 million in 2007/08

to £3,970 million in 2010/11. Over 85 per cent. of this budget is provided as funding to the research councils. The councils themselves decide within their respective budget allocations how much of their funding they spend on each of their programmes, and that determines which universities benefit from their expenditure. As announced in Budget 2006, the Government have designated the Science and Technology Facility Council's Daresbury Laboratory as a Science and Innovation Campus. The broader strategic role for Daresbury and its importance to the North West and its relationship with NW universities will be addressed as part of the Manchester Independent Economic Review to be chaired by Sir Tom McKillop which will specifically include Daresbury's contribution to the NW's scientific and economic base. The Government remain fully committed to developing Daresbury as a Science and Innovation Campus.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166563]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has no imminent plans to move any of its offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. However, we do regularly review our sites strategy and a large proportion of the staff employed by the Department and its agencies are already located outside of London and the South East.

### Dentistry: Class Sizes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the student to teacher ratio was in each dental school in the UK in each of the last 10 years; what the Department's recommended student to teacher ratio is; and if he will make a statement; [183734]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of increased student numbers on the clinical time included in dental students' training; [183827]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the dental academic workforce; and what plans his Department has to increase the number of dental academic posts in the UK's dental schools. [183733]

**Bill Rammell:** Although we have not specified a student teacher ratio, we are aware from surveys conducted by the Council of Heads and Deans of Dental Schools of a decrease in the number of clinical academic dentists. In order to address this challenge, in the context of the increase in student numbers, the Department of Health has allocated additional funds building to £29 million by 2010/11 for the clinical training of dental students. With the development of outreach training in dentistry, more students are receiving part of their training in general dental practices where suitable trained and experienced dental practitioners provide clinical training.

### Departmental Email

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails printed by officials in his Department. [179466]

**Mr. Lammy:** I am conscious of the need to minimise the printing of emails. Staff in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are generally aware of, and anxious to support, sustainability issues. We have recently reduced the number of printers in the Department, we encourage double-sided printing, and we have also issued all staff with encrypted laptops, which they are encouraged to use flexibly, for example, by taking them to meetings to reduce the need to print off hard copies of agendas or minutes.

### Departmental ICT

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is of each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180571]

**Mr. Lammy:** As far as we are aware, the following lists the projects currently being undertaken.

| *Projects* | *Start date* | *Original planned completion date* | *Current expected completion date* | *Planned cost (£)* | *Current estimated cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DIUS UnITE Project (ICT Services Contract) | September 2007 | February 2008 | February 2008 | 1.7 million | 1.7 million |
| Managing Information across Partners | 2006 | 2010-11 | 2010-11 | 45 million | 45 million |
| Patents Electronic case file System | July 2007 | April 2008 | April 2008 | 801,000 | 801,000 |
| Patent Electronic Filing | October 2007 | March 2008 | March 2008 | 178,000 | 178,000 |
| Fast Track Trade Mark Application | September 2007 | April 2008 | April 2008 | 290,000 | 290,000 |
| Search Engine | September 2007 | January 2008 | January 2008 | 253,000 | 253,000 |
| Website Re-Design | November 2007 | September 2008 | September 2008 | tbc | tbc |
| Office/Exchange 2007 | December 2007 | December 2008 | December 2008 | 960,000 | 960,000 |
| Register Maintenance | December 2007 | November 2008 | November 2008 | tbc | tbc |
| Trade Marks Journal | January 2008 | November 2008 | November 2008 | tbc | tbc |
| Customer First Programme | FY 2006-07 | FY 2011-12 | FY 2011-12 | 39 million (to FY 2010-11) | 39 million (to FY 2010-11) |

| Projects | Start date | Original planned completion date | Current expected completion date | Planned cost (£) | Current estimated cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Loan Repayment for Overseas Borrowers | August 2006 | April 2009 | April 2009 | 1 million | 1 million |
| Student Finance Implementation Programme 2008/09 | October 2007 | October 2008 | October 2008 | 900,000 | 900,000 |

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department has employed since its establishment. [182516]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007 as a result of the machinery of Government changes.

It currently employs 13 full-time press officers. It does not currently have a 'communication officer grade' within its communications function.

The 'White Book' of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for DIUS and is updated twice yearly.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178478]

**Mr. Lammy:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179377]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* Comprehensive information about 0845 and similar numbers is not readily available centrally and to respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, using a variety of information and data sources, I can confirm that the following numbers are in use:

| Telephone numbers | Access services |
|---|---|
| 0845 603 4599 | The UK Intellectual Property Office |
| 0845 922 2250 | The UK Intellectual Property Office |
| 0845 950 0505 | The UK Intellectual Property Office |
| 0870 191 0111 | Biotech Support |
| 0870 191 0112 | Information Society Support |
| 0870 191 0113 | NMP Helpline |
| 0870 191 0114 | IST in Manufacturing |
| 0870 191 0115 | SME Helpline |
| 0870 191 0116 | Beta Technology (Research and Innovation Support). No longer promoted and routes to 0870 600 6080 |
| 0870 606 1515 | National IST Programme Helpline. No longer promoted and routes to 0870 600 6080 |
| 0870 240 5927 | FP7UK Helpline (Textphone) |
| 0870 240 5929 | FP7UK Helpline (Fax) |
| 0870 600 6080 | FP7UK Helpline |
| 0870 191 0117 | Transport (including Aeronautics) Helpline |
| 0870 191 0118 | Space Helpline |

### Graduates

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his estimate is of the number of graduates who will leave university in each year between 2007-08 and 2017-18. [173208]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The Government do not make projections about the number of students graduating from higher education. But increasing and widening participation in HE is a priority for social and economic reasons. To achieve a world-class skills profile for the UK, we will need to deliver higher-level skills training to adults already in the workforce, as well as continuing to take action to meet our existing commitment to make progress towards a 50 per cent. HE participation rate for people aged 18-30. We will aim for at least 36% of adults to be qualified to at least Level 4 by 2014, up from 29 per cent. in 2005 and 40 per cent. by 2020. We are on target to achieve this.

### Higher Education Funding Council for England: Circulars

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many circulars were sent out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each month since January 2002. [185694]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table contains details of the number of circulars sent out by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) in each month since January 2002. The figures represent numbered HEFCE publications and circular letters sent to vice-chancellors and principals.

| | Numbered publications, print | Numbered publications, web | Circular letters |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2002* | | | |
| January | 4 | — | 1 |
| February | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| March | 8 | — | 2 |
| April | 8 | 1 | 1 |

| | Numbered publications, print | Numbered publications, web | Circular letters |
|---|---|---|---|
| May | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| June | 4 | — | 5 |
| July | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| August | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| September | 4 | — | 1 |
| October | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| November | 5 | — | 2 |
| December | 2 | — | 2 |
| | 48 | 7 | 27 |
| *2003* | | | |
| January | 3 | — | 3 |
| February | 4 | — | 2 |
| March | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| April | 5 | — | 2 |
| May | 3 | — | 4 |
| June | 3 | — | 1 |
| July | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| August | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| September | 3 | — | 1 |
| October | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| November | — | — | 3 |
| December | 6 | 1 | — |
| | 46 | 9 | 27 |
| *2004* | | | |
| January | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| February | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| March | — | — | 3 |
| April | 2 | — | 1 |
| May | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| June | 2 | — | 2 |
| July | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| August | 1 | — | 3 |
| September | — | 2 | 1 |
| October | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| November | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| December | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | 33 | 15 | 21 |
| *2005* | | | |
| January | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| February | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| March | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| April | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| May | — | 1 | 5 |
| June | — | 3 | 2 |
| July | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| August | — | 1 | 4 |
| September | 3 | — | — |
| October | 3 | — | 4 |
| November | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| December | — | 3 | 4 |
| | 29 | 20 | 33 |
| *2006* | | | |
| January | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| February | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| March | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| April | 1 | — | — |
| May | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| June | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| July | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| August | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| September | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| October | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| November | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| December | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 26 | 20 | 25 |
| *2007* | | | |
| January | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| February | 1 | — | 3 |
| March | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| April | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| May | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| June | — | 1 | 2 |
| July | 3 | — | 3 |
| August | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| September | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| October | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| November | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| December | 1 | 2 | — |
| | 22 | 19 | 31 |
| *2008* | | | |
| January | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| | 4 | 0 | 2 |

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of part-time first degree students expected to enrol on a higher education course in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [186621]

**Bill Rammell:** The January 2008 Grant Letter to HEFCE set out our expectations for growth in student numbers. As a result of the 2 per cent. real terms increase in funding for HE we are making available over the next three years, and our decision to redistribute grant away from students doing second degrees or other HE qualifications at an equivalent or lower level in order to fund more first degree students, there is scope overall to fund significant growth. We expect a growth in core-fundable students of 20,000 new places in 2008-09, 35,000 new places in 2009-10 and about 60,000 new places in 2010-11 (on a full-time equivalent basis). The exact number of places to be filled by part-time first degree students will depend on student demand and the mixture of provision that institutions deliver, but our plans allow for a significant increase in employer co-funded provision where many students will want to study on a part-time basis.

### Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in increasing the number of lecturers of black and minority ethnic origin in universities. [177069]

**Bill Rammell:** The responsibility for recruiting staff lies with higher education institutions (HEIs), as the employers. The Government have encouraged the sector to ensure that its work force is representative of the communities it serves and we have also instituted a number of measures to support HEIs in this area. The Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000) places a duty on higher education institutions to promote equality of opportunity. Through the Rewarding and Developing Staff initiative, we have supported HEIs in developing their human resource capability—recruitment and retention, and equal opportunities were two of the six priority areas.

There has been a rising trend in the numbers of black and minority academics working in higher education, although from a low starting point. In 2005-06, 8.4 per cent. of academics in UK HE institutions were from a black and minority ethnic background, compared to 6.0 per cent. in 1996-97.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England monitors the number of black and minority ethnic staff in higher education through its annual data reports—see

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/07_36/

and its Higher Education Workforce Framework, at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2006/06_21/

The Equality Challenge Unit, a sector body which provides advice on equality issues, also supports HEIs to help them improve their equality practice.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether funding for equivalent learning qualifications will be provided to those seeking second degrees or higher education qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [175716]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The progressive re-distribution of institutional funding away from students doing equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQs) to ones they already hold will enable us to widen Higher Education participation and support more of the millions of people of all ages without a first Higher Education qualification. Nobody has challenged that priority as a matter of principle or on grounds of fairness or social justice. In addition, the analysis in the Lord Leitch's report and comparative data from the OECD all support the conclusion that we are not producing enough graduates for our economic well-being. The ELQ policy sharpens the incentives in the system for HEIs to produce more of them to match our economic competitors. An extra 5 million people will need to go through university by 2020 if we are to be even on the edge of the premier league for world-class skills, with 40 per cent. of the work force with a first HE qualification. All of the £100 million affected by this policy will be redistributed to support this goal.

However, there will be transitional protection for existing ELQ students until they complete their courses and there will also be opportunities in future for students to pursue such qualifications through foundation degrees and employer co-funded provision. There will also be a review mechanism each year starting in December 2008 to look at individual subjects of particular economic or social importance. We are sure it would be wrong for us to rush into making special arrangements for any subjects, other than those which had already been identified, before any changes to ELQs, as requiring support in the public interest (such as medicine, initial teacher training teaching, science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, area-based studies, and modern foreign languages). But we are asking the Funding Council each year to look at levels of demand both for exempt or protected subjects and at any other subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance and advise us on the best way forward.

### Higher Education: Part-Time Education

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students studying for an equivalent or lower qualification are part-time students. [178119]

**Bill Rammell:** HEFCE estimate that the some 37,000 part-time students (in full-time equivalent terms) were studying equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQ) in 2005/06. We have always made clear that there will be no change in the existing institutional funding arrangements for all students currently studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications until they have completed their courses.

### Higher Education: Qualification

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which 10 universities awarded the highest number of first-class degrees as a proportion of entrants in 2007; [178125]

(2) in which 10 subjects the highest proportion of grades awarded to undergraduates were firsts in 2007. [178126]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is given in the tables. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in January 2009.

(1) Top 10 higher education institutions that awarded the highest proportion of firsts is as follows:

*Number and proportion[1] of first degree graduates awarded first class degrees, English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07*

| | | Of which: those awarded firsts | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution* | *Number of Graduates* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Royal Academy of Music | 85 | 30 | 38 |
| Royal College of Music | 95 | 30 | 33 |
| University of Cambridge | 3,005 | 880 | 29 |
| Royal Veterinary College | 70 | 20 | 28 |

*Number and proportion[1] of first degree graduates awarded first class degrees, English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07*

| Institution | Number of Graduates | Of which: those awarded firsts | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 1,790 | 480 | 27 |
| University of Oxford | 3,115 | 810 | 26 |
| University of Bath | 1,835 | 440 | 24 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 200 | 45 | 22 |
| Royal Northern College of Music | 85 | 20 | 22 |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | 120 | 25 | 22 |

(2) Top 10 subjects with highest proportion of firsts is as follows:

*Number and proportion[1] of first degree graduates awarded first class degrees, English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07*

| Subject | Number of Graduates | Of which: those awarded firsts | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| Veterinary science | 35 | 10 | 30 |
| Mathematical sciences | 4,750 | 1,375 | 29 |
| Engineering and technology | 15,295 | 3,175 | 21 |
| Medicine and dentistry | 1,225 | 245 | 20 |
| Physical sciences | 9,975 | 1,955 | 20 |
| Computer science | 13,375 | 1,945 | 15 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 21,540 | 2,935 | 14 |
| Languages | 16,580 | 2,240 | 14 |
| Historical and philosophical studies | 13,055 | 1,755 | 13 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 1,720 | 225 | 13 |

[1] Based on students whose degree was given a classification. Certain qualifications obtained at first degree level are not subject to classification of the award, notably medical and general degrees. These, together with ordinary degrees have been excluded from the calculation.

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Intellectual Property: Ministerial Duties

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Minister in his Department is responsible for policy on intellectual property. [182417]

**Mr. Lammy:** Baroness Morgan of Drefelin took over responsibility for policy on intellectual property on 24 January 2008.

### Jean Monnet Action

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Jean Monnet programmes are in operation in the UK. [181035]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information available from the European Commission shows that there are currently 178 Jean Monnet projects in operation in the UK. These include 14 Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence in the Universities of Bath, Birmingham, Cambridge, Essex, Glasgow, Hull, Kent, Leeds, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sussex and Wales (Aberystwyth) and funding for courses throughout the UK in community law, European economic integration, European political integration and the history of the European construction process.

### Literacy: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of functionally illiterate adults living in London over the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [186659]

**Mr. Lammy:** We define "functionally literate" as having literacy skills at Level 1 or above and our public service agreement target for adult literacy from the comprehensive spending review contains a performance indicator for 597,000 people of working age to achieve a first Level 1 or above literacy qualification by 2011 towards our ambition of ensuring 95 per cent. of adults have a minimum of entry Level 3 numeracy and Level 1 literacy by 2020. Since the launch of the Skills for Life strategy in 2001, 1.759 million adults have improved their literacy, language or numeracy skills. The Skills for Life Survey in 2003 found that 19 per cent. of adults aged 16 to 65 in London region were below Level 1 literacy (approximately 190,000 people), compared to an average of 16 per cent. for England. We are currently planning to update the survey.

### Lord Triesman

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who will undertake the Ministerial responsibilities of Lord Triesman when he leaves the Government. [182061]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Baroness Morgan of Drefelin took over these ministerial responsibilities on 24 January.

### Medicine: Higher Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of pupils applying to study medicine at university were entitled to free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [186230]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on the number of applicants who are entitled to free school meals is not held centrally.

### Ministers of Religion: Training

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications of changes in the funding of equivalent or lower qualifications for the training of ordinands in the Church of England. [186794]

**Bill Rammell:** The progressive re-distribution of institutional funding away from students doing equivalent or lower level qualifications will enable us to widen Higher Education participation and support more of the millions of people of all ages without a first Higher Education qualification, some of whom may wish to train as ordinands. However, we asked HEFCE to lead discussions with interested parties on this issue including, for example, the options of Foundation Degrees or employer co-funded courses relevant to positions of religious and spiritual leadership and respond within two months.

### Research

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed research excellence framework on *(a)* the development of knowledge transfer partnerships, *(b)* research funding for university engineering departments, *(c)* management education and *(d)* the supply of experienced managers entering management teaching. [187437]

**Bill Rammell:** The objective of our proposed reform of research assessment is to develop a simpler, less bureaucratic system for identifying and funding excellent research wherever it is not however intended to achieve a significantly different distribution of funding. The HEFCE consultation on the next stage in the development of the research excellence framework (REF) closed last week and the detailed results are currently being analysed. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills plans to meet Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive of HEFCE, shortly to discuss the responses and next steps.

### Sector Skills Councils: Finance

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much public money has been advanced to sector skills councils; how much has been repaid; and what arrangements have been made for repayment of outstanding loans. [186120]

**Mr. Lammy:** Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) receive public money from a range of sources. This normally takes the form of grant funding for the delivery of specific projects, mainly relating to occupational standards and qualification reform delivery. The schedule shows the forecast amount contracted with SSCs by the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) during 2005/06 and 2007/08 financial years (1 April to 31 March). Information about other public money paid to SSCs is not available centrally.

In addition to contracting with SSCs for this project activity, the Sector Skills Development Agency provides core funding to SSCs to support delivery of their agreed business plans. Core funding contracts are normally of three years duration and most SSCs are now on their second contract. The overall contract values range between £4 million and £7.2 million for the three year period and the payment profiles vary, by individual agreement with each SSC. Such grant funding is tied to the delivery of agreed contractual outputs and outcomes. The SSDA does not loan money to SSCs.

*SSDA funding to SSCS*

*£000*

| | *Forecast 2007/08*[1] | | | *Actual 2005/06* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Core funding* | *Other funding* | *Total* | *Core funding* | *Other funding* | *Total* |
| Asset Skills | 1,463 | 2,647 | 4,110 | 1,388 | 743 | 2,131 |
| Automotive Skills | 424 | 314 | 738 | 1,320 | 370 | 1,690 |
| Cogent | 1,645 | 665 | 2,310 | 1,428 | 495 | 1,922 |
| ConstructionSkills | 1,883 | 2,659 | 4,542 | 1,420 | 489 | 1,908 |
| Creative and Cultural Skills | 730 | 832 | 1,562 | 1,378 | 815 | 2,193 |
| Energy and Utility Skills | 1,665 | 1,242 | 2,907 | 1,445 | 434 | 1,879 |
| e-skills UK | 2,405 | 2,506 | 4,911 | 1,250 | 4,801 | 6,051 |
| Financial Services Skills Council | 1,528 | 1,083 | 2,611 | 1,663 | 370 | 2,033 |
| GoSkills | 1,100 | 1,172 | 2,272 | 1,325 | 733 | 2,058 |
| Government Skills | 1,426 | 940 | 2,366 | 128 | 173 | 301 |
| Improve Ltd | 1,283 | 1,108 | 2,392 | 1,475 | 546 | 2,021 |
| Institute of Motor Industry | 1,274 | 1,396 | 2,670 | — | — | — |
| Lantra | 1,822 | 2,362 | 4,184 | 1,300 | 547 | 1,847 |
| Lifelong Learning UK | 1,096 | 606 | 1,702 | 1,575 | 588 | 2,163 |
| People 1st | 1,931 | 707 | 2,638 | 1,492 | 418 | 1,910 |
| Proskills UK | 1,145 | 976 | 2,121 | 1,141 | 1,055 | 2,195 |
| SEMTA | 1,727 | 1,728 | 3,455 | 1,405 | 793 | 2,198 |
| Skillfast-UK | 1,866 | 1,739 | 3,604 | 1,319 | 729 | 2,048 |
| Skills for Care and Development | 1,168 | 820 | 1,988 | 1,488 | 855 | 2,342 |
| Skills for Health | 1,770 | 1,704 | 3,474 | 1,438 | 354 | 1,792 |
| Skills for Justice | 1,571 | 1,459 | 3,030 | 1,488 | 639 | 2,127 |
| Skills for Logistics | 1,702 | 1,402 | 3,103 | 1,519 | 751 | 2,270 |
| SkillsActive | 1,803 | 1,141 | 2,944 | 1,325 | 874 | 2,199 |
| Skillset | 1,756 | 1,831 | 3,587 | 1,716 | 435 | 2,151 |
| Skillsmart Retail | 1,273 | 1,277 | 2,549 | 1,393 | 260 | 1,653 |
| SummitSkills | 1,751 | 757 | 2,508 | 1,381 | 228 | 1,608 |
| Total funding | 39,207 | 35,071 | 74,278 | 34,195 | 18,496 | 52,691 |

[1] Forecast for period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 based on information at 31 December 2007.

## Skilled Workers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on re-skilling the existing workforce. [178121]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government are committed to improving the skills of the workforce, and to delivering the world class skills ambition recommended by Lord Leitch in his independent review of our nation's skills. In 'World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England', published in July last year, the Government set out how it will work with employers, trade unions and individuals to deliver its world class skills ambition. As World Class Skills makes clear, this will require a significant increase in the number of people already in the workforce who improve their skills, re-skill and gain new qualifications each year. 70 per cent. of the 2020 workforce is already beyond the age of compulsory education.

Working in partnership with employers is vital to the delivery of the Government's skills ambitions. Through the measures set out in 'World Class Skills', the Government are giving employers the opportunity to exert real leverage and decision making over both the content and delivery of skills and employment programmes. The new UK Commission for Employment and Skills will strengthen the employer voice at the heart of the system. Reformed and re-licensed sector skills councils will be sharply focussed on raising employer investment, articulating the future skills needs of their sector and ensuring that the supply of skills and qualifications is driven by employers.

The Skills Pledge offers employers the opportunity to publicly demonstrate their commitment to investing in the skills of their employees and over 850 employers, covering over 2.3 million employees have already done this. To help employers of all sizes and in all sectors to identify and address their skills needs, the Government are expanding and improving the Train to Gain service, and expect to increase their investment through Train to Gain to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

## Student Wastage

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students under 22 years old withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001; [186609]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time mature students withdrew from and did not complete their higher education course in each year since 2001. [186611]

**Bill Rammell:** The information available on non-continuation of higher education students is shown in tables 1 and 2. The figures are taken from the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 1 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England, who do not continue in higher education after their first year table 2 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time other undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England, who do not continue in higher education after their first year. Both tables 1 and 2 are broken down by young (under 21) and mature (21 and over) students.

*Table 1: Percentage of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| Academic year | Young (under 21) | Mature (21 and over) |
|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 7.0 | 14.8 |
| 2002/03 | 7.3 | 15.1 |
| 2003/04 | 7.2 | 15.4 |
| 2004/05 | 6.8 | 14.0 |

*Source:*
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

*Table 2: Percentage of UK-domiciled full-time other undergraduate entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| Academic year | Young (under 21) | Mature (21 and over) |
|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 16.3 | 15.8 |
| 2002/03 | 16.1 | 14.5 |
| 2003/04 | 17.5 | 14.3 |
| 2004/05 | 16.6 | 14.8 |

*Source:*
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Figures for 2005/06 will become available later this year. HESA do not publish figures on the percentage of part-time students not continuing in higher education after their first year.

According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries.

## Students: Insolvency

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students have entered into individual voluntary arrangements since their introduction; [161930]

(2) how many students *(a)* were declared bankrupt in each of the last 15 years and *(b)* took out individual voluntary arrangements since their introduction. [161937]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government's student finance package is designed to ensure that finance should not be a barrier to a higher education course. Student loans from the Government are not like commercial loans: interest is paid at the rate of inflation, so in real terms students only pay back what they borrowed. For income contingent loans available since 1998, repayment is linked to earnings and borrowers only repay if their earnings are over £15,000; from April 2012 they will be able to take up to five years' 'Repayment Holiday' and those taking out a student loan from 2006 have their debt cancelled after 25 years.

During the passage of the Enterprise Act in 2002 there was a growing awareness about student loan borrowers declaring themselves bankrupt. There was a rise in the number of bankruptcies/Individual Voluntary Agreements (IVAs) notified in 2003. In addition, one of the effects of the Enterprise Act itself was to reduce the period of discharge from bankruptcy from three years to one.

Provisions were therefore included in the Higher Education Act 2004 to prevent student loans being written off on bankruptcy. Currently student loans are not exempt from IVAs.

The increase in student loan borrowers with bankruptcies and IVAs should be seen in the context of the increases in the general population. Figures from the Insolvency Service show that between 2002 and 2006 the number of individual bankruptcies in England and Wales more than doubled; the number of IVAs increased seven-fold.

Until 2004 IVAs and bankruptcies were not recorded separately in SLC data. After the change in legislation, only IVAs are recorded, as student loans are excluded from bankruptcy debts and are not written off on discharge from bankruptcy.

Available data are shown in the tables.

*English domiciled borrowers with publicly-owned student loans who notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their bankruptcy or Individual Voluntary Agreement (IVA)[1]—Calendar year of bankruptcy or IVA 1997 to 2004*

| Calendar year | Borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA | Percentage of all borrowers UK[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 70 | n/a |
| 1998 | 90 | n/a |
| 1999 | 120 | n/a |
| 2000 | 130 | 0.017 |
| 2001 | 230 | 0.023 |
| 2002 | 270 | 0.027 |
| 2003 | 800 | 0.057 |
| 2004 | 1,170 | 0.072 |

n/a = not available

[1] Bankruptcies and IVAs are not separately identified in the data. There may be delays between borrowers becoming bankrupt/taking an IVA and notifying SLC, therefore figures can increase overtime, particularly for the most recent years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] UK Borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA in the calendar year as a percentage of all UK borrowers in the March of each year.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

*English domiciled borrowers with publicly-owned student loans who notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their Individual Voluntary Agreement (IVA) [1]— Calendar year of IVA 2005 and 2006*

| Calendar year | Borrowers with IVAs | Percentage of all borrowers England[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2005[3] | 820 | 0.039 |
| 2006[3] | 1,060 | 0.047 |

[1] There may be delays between borrowers taking IVAs and notifying SLC, therefore figures can increase over time, particularly for the most recent years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] English domiciled borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA in the calendar year as a percentage of all English domiciled borrowers in the March of each year.

[3] provisional

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

Early indications suggest the numbers of IVAs are reducing after 2006.

### Students: Public Participation

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent letter sent to university authorities regarding student juries. [186393]

**Bill Rammell:** A letter inviting students to take part in the Student Juries was produced by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and circulated to all universities by GuildHE and Universities UK in December 2007. I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library.

### Training: British Nationality

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether eligibility for the new training places announced on 16 November are restricted to British citizens. [173170]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities 2008-11 and the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families published on 16 November set out the Government's funding strategy for learning and skills over the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

The funding strategy reaffirms the Government's commitment to up-skilling British people to provide them with the skills required in a more competitive labour market, to get them off benefits and into jobs and to help them to advance from low skilled to higher skilled jobs. We will continue to help those who need to improve their skills—the overwhelming majority of whom, but not all, are British.

The eligibility rules apply to any learner wanting to access the LSC funded learning places the Government announced on 16 November. For example, British citizens who have been ordinarily resident in the UK for the three years prior to the start of their course will be eligible for funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In addition, a national of any European country (or the spouse, civil partner or child of an EU national) who has been ordinarily resident in the European economic area (EEA) for the three years prior to the start of their course, will also be eligible for LSC funding.

Other categories of learners, including EEA migrant workers, nationals of non-EU countries, refugees and asylum seekers may also be eligible for LSC funding. The full set of eligibility criteria for access to LSC funded provision is set out in full in the LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance 2007/08. This can be found at www.lsc.gov.uk

### Video Games: Qualifications

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of employees in the computer game development sector that have a qualification at degree level or vocational equivalent. [182947]

**Bill Rammell:** The Annual Population Survey (APS) collects information about occupation, industry and qualifications levels but employees in the computer game development sector cannot be specifically identified. Instead I am providing information about software professionals working in the computer related activities industry sector. Estimates from the 2006 APS indicate that 67 per cent. of employees in England

whose occupation was software professional and were working in the computer related activities industry sector were qualified to at least level 4 (degree level or vocational equivalent).

### Vocational Education: Standards

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether approved vocational qualifications must be based on National Occupational Standards. [187240]

**Bill Rammell:** All vocational qualifications which are approved must demonstrate that they relate as appropriate to relevant national occupational standards.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the unemployment rate of 18 to 24-year-olds who *(a)* have no post-16 qualifications, *(b)* have A-Levels, *(c)* have a higher educational qualification and *(d)* have a further educational qualification (i) is and (ii) was in each year since 1995. [166886]

**Bill Rammell:** The exact information requested could not be derived as a time series. Instead, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was used to produce a time series with a slightly different qualification categories to those requested. The following table shows the estimates of unemployment rates by qualification held for adults aged 18-24 in England, using the LFS spring quarter (March to May) results between 1995 and 2005 and Quarter 2 results (April to June) for 2006 and 2007. The fact that there was a change in the reporting period of the LFS results means that the figures for 2006 and 2007 and not strictly comparable with those for earlier years as these estimates are subject to seasonality. However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) does publish on its website a seasonally adjusted time series of the unemployment rate for 18 to 24-year-olds in the UK. This shows for example, that the rate fell from 13.1 per cent. in spring 1997 to 12.0 per cent. in the last quarter of 2007.

Our preferred measure of graduate unemployment is provided by the annual "Destination of Leavers from HE survey (DLHE)" which is available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

*Unemployment rate[1] for 18 to 24-year-olds by educational attainment, England*

*Percentage*

| | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[6]* | *2007[6]* | *Average 1995-2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Higher education qualifications[2] | [3]9.9 | 10.2 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 6.7 | 6.4 |
| One or more A-levels[4] | 13.4 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 8.6 | 6.9 | 6.2 | 9.0 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 11.9 | 9.6 | 8.9 |
| A-level equivalents including apprenticeships[5] | 9.9 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 6.5 |
| One or more GCSE A*-C or equiv/other | 14.2 | 14.0 | 12.8 | 12.2 | 11.7 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 14.4 | 16.3 | 12.7 |
| No qualifications | 34.2 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 29.9 | 31.2 | 27.6 | 24.8 | 22.6 | 26.2 | 25.2 | 26.6 | 27.9 | 27.7 | 28.5 |
| All | 14.5 | 13.7 | 12.0 | 11.1 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 9.9 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 11.0 |

[1] The unemployment rate is defined as the unemployed (those actively seeking work in the last four weeks and available to start within two weeks) expressed as a percentage of the economically active (the unemployed plus the employed).
[2] The 18-24 age range is not very suitable for measuring unemployment of graduates, since most of them are in full-time study for around half this period.
[3] The confidence intervals due to sample error for cells in the table do vary, but are at least plus or minus 1.0 per cent.
[4] The "A levels" category includes all 'A' levels attained at all institutions (including further education institutions).
[5] "Further Education qualifications" can be attained at a variety of levels. In this analysis the "A level equivalents" category largely consists of vocational level 3 qualifications, but will also include some with AS-levels and also apprenticeships which may be at level 2. Vocational level 3 qualifications are often but not always obtained at FE colleges.
[6] These figures are for Q2 (April to June); figures for earlier years are spring (March to May).

## TRANSPORT

### British Railway Board: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual budget of BRB (Residuary) Ltd. was for each year since 1997; and what functions it discharges. [180259]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) was formally created in February 2001 when the assets and liabilities of the British Railways Board (BRB) were transferred to the Strategic Rail Authority. Prior to 2001, the functions of BRBR were discharged by BRB and details of the budget and financial results during this period can be found in BRB's historic accounts. Between 2001 and 2005 BRBR was a subsidiary of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and details of its income and expenditure budget are published in the SRA's annual report and accounts, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

In October 2005, ownership of BRBR formally transferred from the SRA to the Secretary of State pursuant to a Transfer Scheme under the 2005 Railways Act. The latest results for the company which include its budget are available on BRBR's website at:

www.brbr.gov.uk

The function of the company is to manage and discharge the residual rights and liabilities of BRB. Full details are available on BRBR's website.

### Cycling England: Expenditure

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on Cycling England in the period during which this programme

object had a comparability factor of zero per cent. for the purposes of the application of the Barnett Formula. [186866]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Expenditure previously recorded under The Cycling England programme is now carried within the local transport group of programmes. Annex C of the October 2007 edition of 'Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy (SFP)' shows this area of spending to be comparable in Wales. The SFP gives details of all comparability factors. For the period covered by the 2004 spending review, the comparability factors are published in the 2004 version of the Statement of Funding Policy and there was no separate Cycling England programme.

### Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many consultation documents on the expansion of Heathrow airport have been sent by post to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* residents in wards in each London borough. [187002]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1412-13W, to the question from the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening). This described the approach we have adopted for distributing the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation documents. In view of the number of ways in which consultation documents have been made available, it is not possible to determine precisely the split between documents sent to businesses and residents and the number sent to wards in each London borough.

### Local Government Finance: Cheshire

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been allocated by her Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental bodies to *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Cheshire in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the funding was in each case. [185589]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The following tables set out the funding allocated by the Department for Transport to Cheshire county council and Warrington borough council from 1997-98 to 2007-08 by purpose.

*Cheshire*

*£000*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital Highway Maintenance | 5,184 | 3,912 | 5,630 | 8,956 | 11,535 | 13,204 | 10,786 | 12,572 | 9,893 | 8,781 | 14,636 |
| Capital Integrated Transport | 3,725 | 935 | 2,316 | 2,800 | 7,300 | 7,479 | 9,224 | 10,164 | 8,507 | 8,111 | 8,301 |
| Major Schemes | 6,833 | 7,100 | 3,200 | — | 100 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Links to School | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 180 | — | — | 117.5 |
| School Travel Plan co-ordinator | — | — | — | — | 30 | 30 | 30 | — | — | — | — |
| Workplace travel plan coordinator | — | — | — | — | 30 | 30 | 30 | — | — | — | — |
| Rural bus subsidy grant | — | 612 | 612 | 612 | 782 | 895 | 914 | 947 | 985 | 1,009 | 1,033 |
| Rural bus challenge | — | 16 | 632 | — | 945 | 620 | 552 | — | — | — | — |
| Urban bus challenge | — | — | — | — | — | — | 399 | — | — | — | — |
| Kickstart (Bus Services) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 998 | — | — |
| Mixed Priority Route Road Safety Demonstration Project | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,000 | 1,000 | — | — | — |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,762 |
| Cheshire Safety Camera Partnership | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,821 | 2,116 | 1,896 | — | — |
| Digital breath testing screening equipment | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 33 |

*Cheshire*

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £000 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detrunked Roads (Resource) | — | — | — | — | — | 1,652 | 1,831 | 1,877 | 2,013 | 2,158 | 2,212 |
| Detrunked Roads (Capital) | — | — | — | — | — | 2,099 | 131 | 3,500 | 3,750 | 3,245 | 3,695 |
| Total funding | 15,742 | 12,575 | 12,390 | 12,368 | 20,722 | 26,009 | 26,719 | 32,356 | 28,042 | 23,304 | 31,789.5 |

*Warrington*

| | 1997-98[2] | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £000 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital Highway Maintenance | — | 1,312 | 1,474 | 1,755 | 2,357 | 2,474 | 2,837 | 2,991 | 2,729 | 2,649 | 3,493 |
| Capital Integrated Transport | — | 222 | 704 | 900 | 2,000 | 2,168 | 2,177 | 2,952 | 2,000 | 1,920 | 2,064 |
| Major Schemes | — | 1,534 | — | — | 345 | 993 | 1,683 | 1,973 | 1,162 | — | — |
| Cycle Projects Fund | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Local Authority Cycle Training Grants | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 33 |
| Rural bus subsidy grant | — | 60 | 60 | 60 | 76 | 87 | 89 | 108 | 112 | 115 | 118 |
| Rural bus challenge | — | 5 | 60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Specific Road Safety Grant | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 392 |
| Detrunked Roads (Resource) | — | — | — | — | — | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| Detrunked Roads (Capital) | — | — | — | — | — | 827 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total funding | — | 3,133 | 2,298 | 2,715 | 4,778 | 6,563 | 6,801 | 8,038 | 6,018 | 4,699 | 6,118 |

[1] To be published shortly
[2] Cheshire county council was the local highway authority for Warrington (and Halton) up to and including 1997-98

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

## M3

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency has made of the capacity of junction 6 of the M3 to deal with predicted traffic levels (i) up to and (ii) beyond 2011. [188007]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency, Hampshire county council and Basingstoke and Deane borough council have agreed in principle that improvements to M3 J6/Black Dam roundabout would be needed for development envisaged in the Basingstoke local plan to proceed.

Hampshire and Basingstoke councils are developing a transport model for Basingstoke which will be used to test development options and identify impacts on transport infrastructure for inclusion in the new Local Development Framework documents. This model will identify likely future traffic flows at M3 Junction 6. The Highways Agency is working in partnership with the two councils to look at appropriate improvement options for the junction.

## Minibuses: Tachographs

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to exempt volunteer drivers of minibuses used for voluntary work from the requirement to use a tachograph. [188329]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The EU Regulation on drivers' hours (Regulation (EC) No 561/2006), which requires the use of tachographs, provides a national exemption for vehicles with between 10 and 17 seats used exclusively for the non-commercial carriage of passengers. This was implemented in Great Britain by means of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1819).

This exemption would apply to minibuses used by the voluntary sector provided the operation as a whole

is carried out without a view to profit nor incidentally to an activity which is itself carried out with a view to profit.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were wrongly impounded under the Vehicle Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 1996 in each of the last three years. [186937]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is in the following table.

| | *2005-07* | *2007-08*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Vehicles wrongly impounded | 158 | 253 |
| Percentage of the total number of vehicles wheelclamped/impounded | 0.17 | 0.24 |

[1] To January

### Railway Stations: Safety Measures

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made by the Office of Rail Regulation with train operating companies on reducing the number of accidents on station platforms. [187225]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) undertakes inspection programmes with mainline train operating companies which, where appropriate, include assessing the company's health and safety arrangements for managing the risk on station platforms.

Recently ORR has also worked with some of the major owning groups on strategies to reduce accidents. Industry statistics show signs of a reduction in the number of accidents at stations.

### Railways: Safety

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken with train operating companies to improve passenger safety on late-night services. [187224]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Over a third of the 2,500 stations on the network now have CCTV, as do an increasing number of trains. Over 600 stations are accredited under the Secure Stations scheme which was launched in 1998 to improve security at overground and underground stations for both passengers and staff.

More remains to be done, but the most recent National Passenger Survey showed only 8 per cent. of passengers dissatisfied about their personal security while at the station and 6 per cent. dissatisfied about their security while on the train.

### Railways: Watford

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* groups, *(b)* companies and *(c)* individuals have been consulted on the decision to terminate railway services between Brighton and Watford at Clapham Junction. [187085]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Southern, the train operating company responsible for the operation of the Brighton to Watford services, issued a consultation document in October 2007. The circulation list for this consultation included passenger representative bodies and local authorities.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were in (i) the Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each year since 1997; [187610]

(2) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were involving drivers under the age of 21 in (i) the Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each year since 1997. [187611]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents, the number involving drivers under the age of 21, and the resulting fatalities in (i) the parliamentary constituency of Bury St. Edmunds and (ii) Suffolk in 1997 to 2006 are given in the following tables:

*Accidents and fatalities in the parliamentary constituency of Bury St. Edmunds and Suffolk: 1997 to 2006*

| | *(i) Bury St. Edmunds*[1] | | *(ii) Suffolk* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 332 | 8 | 2,224 | 43 |
| 1998 | 326 | 3 | 2,251 | 23 |
| 1999 | 285 | 8 | 2,298 | 48 |
| 2000 | 352 | 10 | 2,312 | 56 |
| 2001 | 321 | 6 | 2,356 | 53 |
| 2002 | 299 | 7 | 2,300 | 43 |
| 2003 | 333 | 8 | 2,341 | 60 |
| 2004 | 301 | 5 | 2,220 | 42 |
| 2005 | 296 | 7 | 2,237 | 36 |
| 2006 | 282 | 4 | 2,087 | 47 |

[1] Based on the 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries

*Accidents and fatalities involving drivers aged under 21 in the parliamentary constituency of Bury St. Edmunds and Suffolk: 1997 to 2006*

| | *(i) Bury St Edmunds*[1] | | *(ii) Suffolk* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 98 | 2 | 589 | 9 |
| 1998 | 95 | 1 | 590 | 3 |
| 1999 | 76 | 1 | 623 | 6 |
| 2000 | 92 | 4 | 584 | 15 |
| 2001 | 84 | 0 | 589 | 9 |
| 2002 | 75 | 1 | 573 | 7 |
| 2003 | 99 | 0 | 620 | 11 |
| 2004 | 73 | 1 | 594 | 9 |
| 2005 | 90 | 1 | 645 | 7 |
| 2006 | 79 | 0 | 582 | 18 |

[1] Based on the 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred *(a)* on the A14 in Suffolk and *(b)* in Suffolk in each year since 1997, broken down by the day of the week on which the accident occurred. [187613]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents on the A14 in Suffolk, and in Suffolk, by day of the week, in 1997 to 2006 are given in the tables.

*Reported personal injury road accidents, by day of week: A14 in Suffolk 1997-2006*

*Number of accidents*

| | Day of week | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Sunday* |
| 1997 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 20 | 20 |
| 1998 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 11 | 22 | 18 | 18 |
| 1999 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 16 |
| 2000 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 11 |
| 2001 | 17 | 17 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 16 |
| 2002 | 26 | 28 | 20 | 20 | 27 | 21 | 15 |
| 2003 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 11 | 13 |
| 2004 | 17 | 20 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 17 |
| 2005 | 18 | 23 | 33 | 16 | 28 | 15 | 17 |
| 2006 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 12 | 20 | 11 | 9 |

*Reported personal injury road accidents, by day of week: Suffolk 1997-2006*

*Number of accidents*

| | Day of week | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Sunday* |
| 1997 | 308 | 328 | 357 | 323 | 385 | 295 | 228 |
| 1998 | 328 | 337 | 331 | 310 | 374 | 330 | 241 |
| 1999 | 339 | 340 | 327 | 327 | 362 | 314 | 289 |
| 2000 | 309 | 319 | 334 | 355 | 427 | 327 | 241 |
| 2001 | 382 | 348 | 338 | 328 | 386 | 332 | 242 |
| 2002 | 335 | 328 | 314 | 375 | 380 | 321 | 247 |
| 2003 | 356 | 343 | 308 | 356 | 393 | 298 | 287 |
| 2004 | 289 | 310 | 349 | 374 | 353 | 301 | 244 |
| 2005 | 337 | 319 | 361 | 325 | 377 | 283 | 235 |
| 2006 | 313 | 283 | 306 | 313 | 390 | 265 | 217 |

### Silverlink: Compensation

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what compensation was made available to season ticket holders as a result of the October/November 2007 strike action that affected Silverlink services. [188012]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** As the strike days were under the old Silverlink franchise, the entitlement to compensation for season ticket holders was determined by the Silverlink Passenger's Charter. This did not contain any obligation on Silverlink to provide compensation under these circumstances. Any compensation provided by Silverlink would have been at its own discretion and not a matter for the Department.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purposes the eight SPECS cameras in the Saltash Tunnel are used. [187323]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** SPECS cameras are installed throughout the length of the Saltash tunnel to support any police enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit that is in place for safety reasons.

### Vehicle Inspectorate: Expenditure

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Vehicle Inspectorate spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186416]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The amount spent by The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years is nil, as VOSA are not a statutory border agency and VOSA's enforcement work is not carried out at the border.

## DEFENCE

### Annual Army Abstract 2007

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Annual Army Abstract 2007. [185719]

**Derek Twigg:** The Defence Analytical Services Agency has not produced an Annual Army Abstract since April 2005, due to the majority of the statistics already produced in other more timely publications such as the monthly manning report and the tri-service publications.

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme: World War II

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest delay in payment was to those entitled to payment under the compensation scheme for former civilian prisoners of the Japanese in the Second World War between authorisation of payment by the Veterans Agency and payment over the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [186104]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, we have manually tracked five payments made since October 2007; the manual processing time was five days, although one payment took 12 days to process.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) are not aware of any claimant reporting a payment failing to arrive or reporting undue delays in payment.

### Armed Forces: Apprentices

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to offer *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Royal Air Force recruits apprenticeships appropriate to their trade or profession; and whether any changes are planned to apprenticeships that are in place in each service. [187273]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The armed forces are one of the UK's largest employers of apprentices. Training is delivered 'in-house', with specific apprenticeship requirements being interwoven with the training needs of the operational environment. In the vast majority of cases, apprenticeship programmes directly relate to specific service professions and have significant portability when personnel return to civilian life. In the last financial year the armed forces recorded over 7,300 funded apprentice completions. In order to meet their business needs, the armed forces continue to expand the variety of apprenticeship schemes available to their personnel. No changes are planned to apprenticeship schemes that are currently in place.

### Armed Forces: Archives

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the attestation papers of Irish regiments disbanded in 1922 are deposited; and if he will make a statement. [187261]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* Many records did not survive due to the destruction of the Army Records Centre during the Blitz. If they have survived, attestation papers for non-commissioned ranks whose service ended before circa 1 Jan 1921 will be found at The National Archives, in classes WO 363 and WO 364 or in earlier-dated classes if discharged prior to the outbreak of the first world war. For those whose service ended in 1921 or later and whose attestation papers have survived, the papers will be among the British Army service records now held by TNT Archive Services on behalf of MOD.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department in each of the last six years on providing private rented accommodation for service personnel and their families. [170453]

**Derek Twigg:** In 1996, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) sold its service families accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL). Under the sale agreement the SFA is leased back to the MOD until the Department no longer has a use for it.

MOD is required to accommodate entitled personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with the permission of their service commander). Where no suitable SFA can be found, substitute SFA (SSFA) is offered within the appropriate distance from a duty station.

The expenditure in the last six years is shown in the following table. Information in respect of 2001-02 SSFA is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*£ million*

| | *AHL rent* | *UK SSFA* | *Cyprus SSFA* | *Gibraltar SSFA* | *Germany SSFA* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 117.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 124.7 | 8.9 | 0.6 | — | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 130.3 | 9.1 | 0.6 | — | 30.0 |
| 2004-05 | 130.9 | 11.0 | 0.6 | — | 30.0 |
| 2005-06 | 136.7 | 13.0 | 0.5 | — | 31.0 |
| 2006-07 | 141.8 | 15.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 31.0 |

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of ex-spouses who have overstayed the 90 days notice to vacate period as a result of the breakdown of an armed forces marriage; how many of these who overstayed had children; and how many have subsequently been evicted. [172558]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of infantry recruits did not complete their training at Infantry Training Centre, Catterick in each of the last five years. [185004]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The percentage of Infantry recruits who did not complete their infantry training at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Catterick is as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Percentage not completing the course* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 26.4 |
| 2004-05 | 30.5 |
| 2005-06 | 30.6 |
| 2006-07 | 32.0 |

| Financial year | Percentage not completing the course |
|---|---|
| 2007-08[1] | 34.6 |

[1] To 31 December 2007.

*Notes:*

1. The training year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Figures relate to those courses which finish in each training year.
2. The figures shown include discharges (those leaving the Army) and reallocations (those who transfer to another Arm or Corps).

### Army Training and Recruiting Agency

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's latest *(a)* ATRA trainee strength by UIN and *(b)* ATRA trained soldier gains by Arms/Corps. [185720]

**Derek Twigg:** I am withholding the ATRA trainee strength by UIN analysis because it would disclose personal information, either directly or by combination with other published data.

The latest version of the ATRA trained soldier gains by Arms/Corps was as at 1 March 2007. Copies of this publication will be placed in the Library in due course.

### Defence Estates

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for re-powering consented projects submitted to the Defence Estates using his Department's developers pro forma have been objected to since its introduction. [184417]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, as soon as it becomes apparent that a proposal is for re-powering of an existing scheme (as opposed to a proposal for an entirely new development) that is taken into account when deciding whether or not to raise a concern.

Recent examples where developers have addressed our concerns in regard to re-powering wind farm proposals include cases at Goonhilly, Cornwall and Blyth Harbour, Northumberland. Consequently, in those cases, the Ministry of Defence will not be objecting to the planning applications.

### Defence Estates: Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the efficiency savings target is for Defence Estates in 2007-08. [183514]

**Derek Twigg:** Under the spending review 2004 efficiency programme, the MOD is required to achieve £2.83 billion of cumulative input and output efficiency savings by the end of 2007-08. We are on course to overachieve against our overall efficiency programme target. Defence Estates is expected to contribute at least £95 million of this target.

As part of the 2007 financial planning round, a further efficiency savings target of £2 million was agreed with Defence Estates for 2007-08.

Efficiency savings across the Department are reinvested to fund high priority areas of expenditure, such as support to operations and our personnel, including through sustained investment in accommodation.

### Defence: Lobbying

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials had meetings with lobbyists representing the interests of defence contractors over the last 12 months. [174789]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 702W, for a list of events organised by the Defence Manufacturers Association which MOD Ministers have attended in the last 12 months.

Records show that no MOD Ministers have met other independent lobbyists representing the interests of defence contractors over the past 12 months. Records for meetings held by MOD officials are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total carbon emissions from his Department's estate in each year since 2005; and what estimate he has made of the total carbon emissions from military establishments *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each year since 2005. [185462]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence's total carbon emissions, including those from military establishments in the UK and overseas, for 2005-06 are:

*Emissions in CO2: 2005-06*

| | Thousand tonnes |
|---|---|
| UK Defence Estate | 469.9 |
| Overseas Defence Estate | 54.9 |
| Total | 524.8 |

Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available but will be published later this year in the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government Report 2006-07 and will be available on their website at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182207]

**Des Browne:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

## Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187129]

**Derek Twigg:** There are currently 16 serving Ministry of Defence senior civil servants who have received honours during the past five-year period, starting from the New Year Honours List 2003 to the New Year Honours List 2008 (inclusive). Data is not routinely kept on those officials awarded honours before joining the Department or those officials who are awarded honours in recognition of activities outside the departmental duties.

## Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Fast Jet upgrade and repair was undertaken by the Royal Air Force in each of the last 10 years. [186780]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Civilian contractors have always been employed on certain aspects of the repair and upgrade of RAF aircraft. Since 2004, the depth maintenance of Fast Jets has increasingly been performed by joint RAF/civilian teams. Contracts for aircraft maintenance are output-based and the number of civilian personnel required to achieve the output is decided by the contractor rather than the Ministry of Defence.

Information on the relative numbers of RAF and civilian personnel engaged in Fast Jet upgrade and repair in each of the last 10 years is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Military Bases: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has contracted a private security firm to provide security at Colchester Garrison; how many private security employees have been engaged; when the decision to involve a private security firm was made; what competitive tendering procedure was undertaken; what the *(a)* value and *(b)* period of the contract is; and if he will make a statement. [183468]

**Derek Twigg:** During the deployment of 16 Air Assault Brigade on Op Herrick, as announced on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 68-70WS, the Department has contracted a private security firm to provide unarmed guarding during the period of the Brigade's absence at Colchester Garrison. In order to deliver this service, the contractor engaged a total of 18 security personnel.

The decision to contract a local security firm was made in September 2007 following a full investment appraisal. There was a full competitive tendering process in accordance with Ministry of Defence contracts manual and EC public procurement regulations.

The value of the contract is £652,000 and the duration is 10 months to cover the deployment of the brigade, pre deployment training and post tour leave.

## Parachuting: Injuries

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many parachute-related *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths there were in each of the last 10 years in (i) the Army, (ii) the Royal Navy and (iii) the Royal Air Force. [187004]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD introduced the Central Health and Safety project (CHASP) database in 1997 to collect health and safety incident data in the Department, mostly on duty or on MOD property. Although 65 parachute-related incidents have been recorded for the 10-year period 1997 to 2006 (data for 2007 are not currently available), difficulties with CHASP data collection suggest these are likely to represent an undercount of the true figure and details are unreliable. I am therefore unable to provide a detailed breakdown of these figures, and the instance of parachute related injuries over the last decade.

Details on annual parachute-related deaths in the UK regular armed forces for each year during the 10-year period 1997-2006, are listed in the following table.

*Table 1: Parachute related deaths in the UK regular armed forces, by service (number), 1997 to 2006*

| | All | Naval service[1] | Army | RAF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 10 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2001 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2004 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2005 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Royal Navy and Royal Marines

## RAF Pershore

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the presence of any radioactive contamination at the former RAF Pershore airfield at Throckmorton as a result of its use as a Vulcan bomber dispersal site. [184059]

**Derek Twigg:** A land quality assessment was undertaken in 1999, on the part of the former RAF Pershore airfield at Throckmorton used by Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. QinetiQ, to whom the site was later transferred, carried out an additional assessment in 2001.

There are no records of radioactive contamination as a result of use of the site for Vulcan bomber disposals.

## Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184687]

**Derek Twigg:** Statistics for complaints made by MOD civil servants prior to April 2007 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Complaints of harassment are raised through the MOD's harassment complaints procedures. Complaints of discrimination are raised using the Department's grievance procedures. The figures for formal complaints of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination raised from April 2007 onwards are as follows:

*Table 1: Number of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination complaints in the MOD civil service (April 2007-January 2008)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Sexual harassment | 1 |
| Sexual discrimination | 2 |

The following table summarises the figures for sexual harassment and discrimination complaints in the armed forces for the most recent available year from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007. These figures are for formal complaints only where the complaint has been made through the service complaints procedures.

*Table 2: Number of sexual harassment and discrimination complaints in the Armed Forces (October 2006-September 2007)*

| | IRN | Army | RAF | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sexual harassment | 11 | 11 | 10 | 32 |
| Sexual discrimination | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 |

Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated within the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces. Revised harassment complaints procedures were published in January 2007. All Service personnel have the right to raise a complaint if they feel they have been treated unfairly whilst in service. This is part of their statutory right of complaint under single-Service redress procedures.

## Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with trade union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179856]

**Derek Twigg:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

## Wind Power

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time taken by his Department was to respond to the receipt of a wind farm developer's application using the Department's developers pro forma in each of the last five years; and what the target response time is for such applications. [184410]

**Derek Twigg:** The average time taken to provide an initial response to completed wind energy pre-planning consultation pro forma, in each of the past five years is:

| | Response time (days) | Number of pre-planning applications |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | [1]56 | 913 |
| 2004 | [1]65 | 714 |
| 2005 | 110 | 738 |
| 2006 | 95 | 806 |
| 2007 | 70 | 906 |

[1] Note:
The figures for 2003 and 2004 are estimates based on the paper records kept at that time.

Although we have no formal target, we aim to provide an initial response within 56 days. This aspiration was based on the response times in 2003-04, but the complexity of applications since then has meant that the response time has regrettably been longer than we wish. We have, however, reduced the time taken in each of the last two years and aim to further reduce the time taken in future years.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings his Department has had with wind farm *(a)* companies, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* associations to discuss objections to wind farm applications on the grounds of radar clutter in the last 12 months; and what the outcome was of such meetings. [184411]

**Derek Twigg:** Many meetings take place with wind farm stakeholders covering numerous issues, including radar clutter. The Ministry of Defence has a number of concerns with turbines over and above effects on radar; for example, low flying and seismometers. Moreover, wind turbines have a number of effects on radar of which clutter is only one.

The information requested is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests for meetings the Department or Defence Estates has received from wind farm developers to discuss objections to wind farm applications on the grounds of radar clutter were declined in each of the last three years; and what the reasons were for the requests being declined. [184412]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many wind farm projects submitted to the Defence Estates using his Department's developers pro forma were rejected in each of the last three years; and what percentage of projects this represented in each of the years concerned. [184416]

**Derek Twigg:** At the pre-planning stage, Defence Estates does not reject applications, but makes developers aware of concerns which the Ministry of Defence would wish addressed before a formal planning application is submitted. In each of the past three years, the number of wind energy pre-planning consultations received by Defence Estates with which it raised concerns is:

| | Number of wind energy pre-planning consultations to which the MOD raised concerns | Percentage of total wind energy pre-planning consultations received by MOD |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 303 | 41 |
| 2006 | 387 | 48 |
| 2007 | 251 | 28 |

These figures include both offshore and onshore applications.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings the Department has held with wind farm *(a)* developers and *(b)* consultants to consider allowing on site his Department's technical and operational staff to discuss with the developers technical issues for specific sites; how many requests for such meetings with developers have been rejected by his Department; and whether it is his policy to allow such meetings to take place in normal circumstances. [184418]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is always willing to do what is practicable to engage with developers and their consultants to address concerns with proposed wind turbines.

In some cases a meeting will be appropriate to discuss issues, including any mitigation being proposed. In such instances the MOD personnel participating in those meetings will be decided according to the requirements of the case to be discussed.

However, the Department has held no meetings, with either wind farm developers or wind farm consultants, with the specific purpose of considering whether to allow MOD personnel from affected sites to discuss with developers technical issues for those sites. Neither has the MOD declined requests for such meetings.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pre-application enquiries to his Department or Defence Estates for onshore wind turbines received an objection from his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the overall number of pre-application enquiries received. [184431]

**Derek Twigg:** The total numbers of onshore wind energy pre-planning consultations received by the MOD with which the MOD raised concerns in each of the past three years are:

| | Number of onshore wind energy preplanning consultations to which the MOD raised concerns | Percentage of total wind energy preplanning consultations received by MOD |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 302 | 41 |
| 2006 | 386 | 48 |
| 2007 | 250 | 28 |

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning applications for onshore wind turbines have received an objection from the Department in each of the last three years; at what stage of the planning process these objections were lodged; and what percentage this represented of the overall number of onshore wind farm applications to which his Department had been invited to respond. [184432]

**Derek Twigg:** In each of the last three years, the number of onshore wind energy planning applications to which this Department objected is:

| | Total number of planning applications received | Number of onshore wind energy planning applications to which the MOD objected | Percentage of total number of objections raised to wind energy planning applications |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 74 | 10 | 13 |
| 2006 | 78 | 12 | 15 |
| 2007 | 70 | 9 | 13 |

Records show that on only one occasion was a Ministry of Defence (MOD) objection lodged after the application was considered by the appropriate consenting authority. In that case planning permission had been refused and the developer lodged an appeal. The planning Inspectorate granted the MOD permission to participate in the inquiry, which has been postponed to allow further discussion regarding the MOD's objections.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning applications for onshore wind turbines the Department did not initially object to but objected to during a public inquiry in the last three years; and what the reason was for the objection in each case. [184433]

**Derek Twigg:** There has been no occasion on which the Ministry of Defence objected to a planning application for an onshore wind farm development during a public inquiry after previously not raising an objection.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Aggregates: Environment Protection

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the environmental effects of extraction of primary aggregates. [185220]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department has not assessed the environmental impact caused by the extraction of primary aggregates.

DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund has funded research on some of the impacts of extraction through its allocations to CLG, the Mineral Industry Research Organisation (MIRO) and English Heritage. A series of benchmark reports identifying the latest developments in good practice in managing these impacts is due to be launched by MIRO and English Heritage on 12 March 2008. A consultation is currently under way on the priorities for the ALSF from 2008 to 2011 including proposals on research covering the environmental costs of primary aggregates.

### Aggregates: Recycling

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* encourage the use of recycled and secondary aggregates and (b) reduce the use of primary aggregates. [185216]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department is responsible for Minerals Policy Statement 1, 'Planning and Minerals', which sets out the policy which mineral planning authorities have to have regard in drawing up their mineral plans. The policy statement promotes a hierarchical approach to minerals supply, aiming first to reduce as far as practicable the quantity of material used, then to use as much recycled and secondary material as possible, before finally securing the remainder of material needed from primary extraction.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of aggregates from demolished buildings was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [185226]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In England there are three sources of supply of construction aggregates: land won sand and gravel and crushed rock; marine dredged sand and gravel; and aggregates recycled from construction, demolition and excavation waste (CDEW). Of the 202 million tonnes total consumption of aggregates in 2005 aggregates from CDEW contributed about 50 million tonnes.

In managing aggregates supply my Department collects biennially high level data of the contribution CDEW makes to national aggregates supply which is published as the 'Survey of Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates in England.' The last survey was for 2005 and the survey report is available for download from the Department's website

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/surveyconstruction2005

However we do not disaggregate the data to distinguish the amount of material arising from the demolition of buildings separately from other sources.

### Central Manchester Development Corporation: Archives

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where the archives of the Central Manchester Development Corporation are kept. [187693]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold the records of the Central Manchester Development Corporation centrally. However some of the records are archived within the registry at Government office for the north-west.

### Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in the Peterborough City Council area were in each council tax band in each year since 1997. [187244]

**John Healey:** Details of the number of dwellings in each council tax band in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table.

*Number of dwellings*

| *Valuation band ranges* | *Band A Under £40,000* | *Band B 40,001 to £52,000* | *Band C £52,001 to £68,000* | *Band D £68,001 to £88,000* | *Band E £88,001 to £120,000* | *Band F £120,001 to £160,000* | *Band G £160,001 to £320,000* | *Band H Over £320,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ratio to band D*[1] | *6/9* | *7/9* | *8/9* | *1* | *11/9* | *13/9* | *15/9* | *2* | |
| 1997 | 31,615 | 15,682 | 10,539 | 4,582 | 2,600 | 1,309 | 662 | 54 | 67,043 |
| 1998 | 31,744 | 15,766 | 10,532 | 4,671 | 2,715 | 1,318 | 683 | 55 | 67,484 |
| 1999 | 31,852 | 15,907 | 10,704 | 4,797 | 2,848 | 1,345 | 695 | 56 | 68,204 |
| 2000 | 31,880 | 15,981 | 10,708 | 4,982 | 2,930 | 1,367 | 706 | 55 | 68,609 |
| 2001 | 31,965 | 16,070 | 10,844 | 5,121 | 3,082 | 1,444 | 732 | 55 | 69,313 |
| 20002 | 31,979 | 16,145 | 10,994 | 5,300 | 3,197 | 1,516 | 746 | 55 | 69,932 |
| 2003 | 31,991 | 16,338 | 11,145 | 5,463 | 3,354 | 1,534 | 751 | 55 | 70,631 |
| 2004 | 32,057 | 16,448 | 11,324 | 5,684 | 3,465 | 1,599 | 772 | 56 | 71,405 |
| 2005 | 32,215 | 16,482 | 11,443 | 5,792 | 3,589 | 1,569 | 779 | 55 | 71,924 |
| 2006 | 32,572 | 16,778 | 11,586 | 6,039 | 3,706 | 1,606 | 798 | 58 | 73,143 |
| 2007 | 32,691 | 17,166 | 11,681 | 6,242 | 3,795 | 1,661 | 808 | 59 | 74,103 |

[1] Within an authority, the council tax for each valuation band is a fixed ratio to that for Band D. For example, a Band A dwelling will pay 6/9 the Band D amount, and a Band H dwelling w ill pay twice the Band D amount.

The data are provided by the Valuation Office Agency and relate to a particular date in the autumn of each year.

### Employment: Discrimination

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any local authorities have had legal action brought against them on the basis of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. [187254]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Fire Services: Retirement

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes

have been made to provisions for ill-health retirement for firefighters since the Fire Service circular of September 2006. [187412]

**Mr. Dhanda:** No changes have been made to provisions in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992.

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 came into force on 25 January 2007 and gave effect to the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006. Firefighters who have joined the Fire and Rescue Service in England on or after 6 April 2006 are members of this scheme unless they opt out. The ill-health retirement arrangements in this scheme are similar to those in the 1992 scheme and no changes have been made to them since it came into operation.

### Fire Services: Safety Measures

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the rest of Cheshire received home safety advice from Cheshire Fire Service in 2007. [187962]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information required is available only for the period January to September 2007, which is provided in the following table:

| *Period* | *Activity* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|
| January to September 2007 | Home fire risk checks | 29,928 |
| January to September 2007 | Smoke alarms installed | 35,173 |

Information on the number of home fire risk checks and smoke alarm installations undertaken by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service for the period October 2007 to March 2008 is not yet available. Similarly, information on the number of home fire risk checks and smoke alarm installations undertaken by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service for the Warrington area is not held centrally.

Communities and Local Government has made a total of £26.4 million available to all English fire and rescue services up to 2008, to undertake home fire risk checks and to support further fire prevention work.

### Fires

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires there were reported to the Fire Service in each year since 1978. [187629]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Information on the number of primary fires in England is shown in Table 1 as follows, however statistics on the total number of primary fires in England is only available from 1981 onwards. Prior to this, information on the number of primary fires, in England, is limited to subcategories of primary fire.

*Table 1: Primary fires by location, England, 1978 to 2006[1, 2] England*

*Thousand*

| | *Primary fires[3]* | | | | | *Secondary fires* | *Chimney fires[3]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Outdoor* | | | |
| | *Total* | *Dwellings* | *Other buildings* | *Road vehicles* | *Other* | | |
| 1978[4] | n/a | 39.6 | 35.1 | 21.6 | n/a | 113.4 | 49.3 |
| 1979 | n/a | 48.4 | 33.9 | 25.4 | n/a | 133.7 | 44.9 |
| 1980[4] | n/a | 42.2 | 36.6 | 25.1 | n/a | 123.9 | 43.8 |
| 1981 | 113.0 | 44.4 | 31.8 | 28.3 | 8.5 | 112.9 | 44.1 |
| 1982 | 118.8 | 44.2 | 32.5 | 32.6 | 9.4 | 126.2 | 30.7 |
| 1983 | 122.4 | 45.0 | 32.9 | 34.1 | 10.5 | 132.6 | 32.4 |
| 1984 | 129.1 | 45.6 | 34.7 | 37.2 | 11.6 | 169.8 | 34.3 |
| 1985 | 131.0 | 48.5 | 34.6 | 38.0 | 10.0 | 125.6 | 42.1 |
| 1986 | 134.1 | 49.1 | 34.5 | 40.4 | 10.1 | 122.5 | 35.2 |
| 1987 | 135.0 | 49.4 | 33.6 | 42.4 | 9.6 | 102.9 | 30.7 |
| 1988 | 135.7 | 50.0 | 35.0 | 41.7 | 8.9 | 118.2 | 25.2 |
| 1989 | 144.5 | 50.1 | 37.9 | 44.2 | 12.3 | 194.0 | 22.1 |
| 1990 | 146.0 | 48.7 | 37.3 | 48.3 | 11.6 | 210.7 | 18.9 |
| 1991 | 155.8 | 49.4 | 35.5 | 60.8 | 10.0 | 156.3 | 22.5 |
| 1992 | 162.5 | 50.2 | 35.2 | 67.1 | 10.0 | 148.8 | 20.1 |
| 1993 | 160.2 | 50.7 | 35.6 | 64.1 | 9.8 | 168.6 | 19.6 |
| 1994[3] | 159.4 | 52.0 | 38.6 | 57.6 | 11.2 | 195.8 | 16.6 |
| 1995 | 161.3 | 52.2 | 38.7 | 58.8 | 11.6 | 300.2 | 14.4 |
| 1996 | 168.6 | 56.6 | 38.9 | 61.9 | 11.2 | 226.7 | 16.5 |
| 1997 | 164.5 | 57.6 | 36.9 | 60.1 | 9.9 | 189.5 | 12.6 |
| 1998 | 163.4 | 56.5 | 34.6 | 63.1 | 9.2 | 146.3 | 10.7 |
| 1999 | 178.8 | 57.5 | 36.3 | 74.8 | 10.2 | 180.0 | 9.6 |
| 2000 | 180.0 | 56.2 | 34.4 | 79.6 | 9.8 | 179.8 | 8.9 |
| 2001 | 188.4 | 54.8 | 36.0 | 86.7 | 10.9 | 229.5 | 9.3 |
| 2002[3] | 182.6 | 51.6 | 34.0 | 86.0 | 11.0 | 225.9 | 7.1 |
| 2003[3] | 176.8 | 51.1 | 34.8 | 79.0 | 11.8 | 308.5 | 7.0 |
| 2004 | 150.9 | 48.1 | 31.4 | 61.7 | 9.7 | 192.3 | 6.2 |
| 2005 | 140.3 | 46.6 | 29.4 | 55.0 | 9.3 | 195.1 | 6.4 |

*Table 1: Primary fires by location, England, 1978 to 2006[1, 2] England*

Thousand

| | Primary fires[3] | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Outdoor | | | |
| | Total | Dwellings | Other buildings | Road vehicles | Other | Secondary fires | Chimney fires[4] |
| 2006[5, 6] | 131.1 | 44.8 | 27.4 | 49.1 | 9.8 | 201.9 | 6.8 |

[1] Provisional
[2] Data collection methods have varied so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.
[3] Figures for primary fires from 1994 are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals. They include 'late' call and heat and smoke damage only incidents, which were not recorded prior to 1994.
[4] Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in 1977, 1978 and 1980 during industrial action.
[5] Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action.
[6] Data for 2006 is provisional and subject to change
*Note:*
Figures for 1974 and 1975 are estimates

## Government Offices of the Regions: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was of each of the government offices of the regions in 2007-08; and what the planned budget is of each in each of the next four years. [187336]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The running cost budget for each of the Government offices in 2007-08 is set out in the following table. The provisional budget for 2008-09 has also been included in the table.

£

| Government office | Budget in 2007-08 | Provisional budget in 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 11,973,230 | 9,356,870 |
| North West | 16,194,170 | 12,221,110 |
| Yorks and Humber | 13,920,590 | 9,102,090 |
| West Midlands | 15,090,000 | 10,236,170 |
| East Midlands | 11,001,300 | 9,082,880 |
| East | 11,567,320 | 9,815,630 |
| South East | 13,212,200 | 11,408,960 |
| South West | 13,795,370 | 10,847,880 |
| London | 16,296,590 | 12,133,810 |

The budgets in 2008-09 have been reduced to reflect the CSR07 savings required. They have also been reduced further as the GO estates budgets are to be managed centrally in the coming year.

Budgets have not as yet been set for 2009-10 or beyond, though further spending review savings will have to be made in future years.

## Homelessness

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1028-9W, on homelessness, what evidence Chorley borough council received on levels of rough sleeping in Chorley from local organisations working on homelessness before carrying out its rough sleeper count. [187754]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Chorley borough council consulted with all key local partners prior to the November 2007 rough sleeper count with a view to identifying which areas should be covered on the count, in accordance with the guidance for local authorities published by Communities and Local Government. The consultation was carried out via the Chorley Homeless Prevention Partnership Group and identified a number of possible sites where rough sleepers may be bedded down in the area. All sites were included on the count route.

## Homelessness: Social Services

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what measures the Government have introduced to provide services and support for homeless people since 1997; [185503]

(2) what support the Government provide for homeless young people; and if she will make a statement. [185504]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Tackling homelessness is a key priority for this Government and we have made major progress, reducing rough sleeping by 73 per cent. since 1998 and ending the long-term use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families with children under the homelessness legislation.

We strengthened the statutory protection through the Homelessness Act 2002, providing one of the strongest statutory safety nets in the world for homeless families with children and vulnerable people. This includes a requirement for local authorities to have a strategy in place for tackling and preventing homelessness and ensuring that accommodation and support is available to people in their district who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Under the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002, we widened the categories of people who have a priority need for accommodation under the homelessness legislation to include, among others, 16 and 17-year-olds and young people aged 18 to 20 previously in care at any time between the ages of 16 and 18.

Since 2003, we have seen a year on year reduction (over 45 per cent.) in the number of households accepted under the homelessness legislation. The number of households in temporary accommodation is also reducing and local authorities are on course to meet the target of halving the number of households in temporary accommodation to 50,500 by 2010.

We have provided significant investment for homelessness prevention. This includes our recent announcement of £200 million homelessness grant funding for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next three years. This represents the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services and demonstrates the commitment that reducing homelessness remains a top priority for this Government.

We have also invested £90 million capital funding in 2005-08, to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers so they can move into education and employment and make the transition from the street to a settled home. A further £70 million capital funding is being made available in 2008-11 to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

We fund the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) which is a partnership between Citizens Advice and Shelter, to ensure high quality advice on homelessness prevention through the network of participating Citizens Advice bureaux and other voluntary agencies across England.

The Supporting People Programme launched in 2003 has been helping the most vulnerable in society, including young people and people at risk of homelessness, to live independently by providing accommodation and support to help them make the transition to economic and social independence. Since 2003, we have invested Supporting People funding of over £8.7 billion in local authorities to spend on the areas where they have identified need. To date, around £1.3 billion has been allocated to clients who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

In November 2006, we announced measures to further prevent and tackle youth homelessness. This includes a commitment that by 2010, no 16 or 17-year-olds should be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by a local authority under the homelessness legislation, except in an emergency. The number of 16 and 17-year-olds in bed and breakfast accommodation has fallen by almost one-third from September 2006, when there were approximately 1,000 young people in bed and breakfast accommodation, to around 700 young people at the end of June 2007.

We are also working to improve access to homelessness mediation across the country (including family mediation for young people), so that there is a universal expectation of such services and we are promoting the use of supported lodgings schemes and other supported housing provision to ensure appropriate accommodation, advice and support is available for young people who can no longer stay in the family home.

## Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members of the senior civil service in her Department have received an honour. [187131]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Since Communities and Local Government was created in May 2006, six members of staff in the senior civil service have been awarded an honour, of whom three are still serving in the Department.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the total capital receipts under the right to buy; what the effect of these in public sector borrowing has been; when the revenue received was spent; and what plans she has for the treatment of further revenues.[1] [186841]

1. *[Official Report, 19 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 7MC.]*

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table answers my hon. Friend's question for the years since 1995-96. Information before that year is available only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Housing capital investment supported by CLG* | *Right to Buy (RTB) Receipts* | *Set Asidel Pooling* | *£ million Investment greater than set-asidel pooling* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1995-1996 | [1]— | [1]— | 860 | [1]— |
| 1996-1997 | [1]— | [1]— | 637 | [1]— |
| 1997-1998 | 1,894 | 890 | 943 | 951 |
| 1998-1999 | 2,098 | 911 | 1,085 | 1,013 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,173 | 1,374 | 1,477 | 696 |
| 2000-2001 | 2,866 | 1,426 | 1,626 | 1,240 |
| 2001-2002 | 3,312 | 1,566 | 1,382 | 1,930 |
| 2002-2003 | 3,598 | 2,210 | 1,626 | 1,972 |
| 2003-2004 | 4,685 | 2,936 | No data | n/a |
| 2004-2005 | 4,767 | 2,575 | 1,694 | 3,073 |
| 2005-2006 | 5,106 | 1,544 | 1,067 | 4,039 |
| 2006-2007 | 5,194 | 1,145 | 843 | 4,351 |
| 2007-2008 | [2]5,597 | No data | [3]770 | No data |

[1] Information available at only disproportionate cost
[2] Programmed expenditure
[3] Estimated pooled housing capital receipts

The table shows the total capital receipts from RTB sales of local authority dwellings in England. The figures are net of discount and are as reported by local authorities.

The table also shows the value of capital receipts set-aside from 1997-98 to 2003-04 (the last year in which the set-aside regime existed). Under this regime, with-debt local authorities were required to set-aside a proportion of the capital receipt generated by the disposal of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset, for the repayment of housing debt. When set-aside exceeds RTB receipts, it is because set-aside includes a proportion of receipts from not only RTB, but also whole-stock transfers, non-RTB dwelling sales, and sales of other HRA assets such as housing land.

When capital receipts from the sale of a Government-owned asset are received, the sales reduce public sector net borrowing in a manner such that the amount of sales is equal to the amount of the reduction. To the extent that a proportion of these receipts are retained and spent by the local authorities through pooling or set-aside, then that spending will offset the initial reduction.

Under the set-aside regime, with-debt authorities were free to use the proportion of their housing receipts that had not been set aside for any capital purpose they saw fit. Debt-free authorities were free to use the whole of their housing receipts for any capital purpose. The Department does not record when authorities actually spent these receipts.

From 1 April 2004 set-aside no longer applied to most housing receipts. All local authorities, both with-debt and debt-free, paid over or "pooled" the same amounts to the Secretary of State which would have formerly been set aside. Until the introduction of

the pooling regime, set-aside was the mechanism that allowed a proportion of housing capital receipts to be redistributed for investment elsewhere.

When an authority set aside an amount, the need for central Government revenue support for that amount of borrowing through HRA subsidy disappeared, thereby enabling central to provide support for borrowing elsewhere.

RTB sales reduce public sector net borrowing and since receipts are cash and therefore interchangeable with all other capital receipts, they are not hypothecated to any particular spending at any particular time. However, the table shows that the Government have consistently invested more in housing than they have received in receipts. In 2005-06, the amount paid to Government from all housing receipts is estimated to have been nearly £1.1 billion. The amount invested in housing was nearly £5.2 billion, i.e. almost five times the amount received in receipts.

The process of pooling is currently being reviewed as part of the wider review of housing finance.

### Housing: Waiting Lists

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Cornwall were on waiting lists for homes in each year since 1997. [186630]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Tamworth were on housing waiting lists in each year since 1997. [187755]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W.

### Local Authorities: Public Participation

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to monitor the expenditure of local authorities on LINks; what restrictions there are on the ways in which such local authority money can be spent; and how compliance with such restrictions is monitored by her Department. [183806]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

The level of the local authority contribution to the local involvement network (LINk) is a matter for individual councils. Government funding for local authorities' responsibilities in this area has been added into Area Based Grant.

As part of its annual reporting to the Secretary of State, a LINk will be asked to declare the amount of funding made available to it in order that it might carry out its activities as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

### Local Authorities: Sustainable Development

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to incentivise councils to promote environmental sustainability with economic growth. [186967]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department has taken a wide range of steps to incentivise councils to promote environmental sustainability with economic growth as set out in a range of documents including the Local Government White Paper and Planning White Paper.

In December 2007, we published, as a package, the annex to Planning Policy Statement 1 on Climate Change and draft Planning Policy Statement 4 on Sustainable Economic Development. When PPS4 is published in its final form these national statements of policy will be applied by councils to achieve sustainable development.

### Local Government Finance: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much cash was held in reserve by Tamworth borough council in each of the last 10 years. [187761]

**John Healey:** The amount of revenue reserves held by Tamworth borough council in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. Information for England has been published in Statistical Releases and editions of Local Government Financial Statistics.

*Level of revenue reserves*

£000

| | *Earmarked* | *Unallocated* |
|---|---|---|
| *At 1 April* | | |
| 1997 | 10,156 | 1,446 |
| 1998 | 8,972 | 2,718 |
| 1999 | 7,142 | 2,718 |
| 2000 | 7,305 | 1,914 |
| 2001 | 5,593 | 1,342 |
| 2002 | 4,772 | 503 |
| 2003 | 4,989 | 503 |
| 2004 | 5,018 | 503 |
| 2005 | 5,375 | 1,159 |
| 2006 | 5,433 | 3,179 |
| *At 31 March* | | |
| 2007 | 6,106 | 3,659 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are as supplied by the local authority to Communities and Local Government.
2. Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

*Source:*
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

### Local Government: Carers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities on taking into account the needs of carers when drawing up local area agreements. [187825]

**John Healey:** CLG has issued two sets of guidance on local area agreements (LAAs) as follows:

draft statutory guidance 'Creating Strong., Safe and Prosperous Communities', which was published for public consultation on 20 November covering the new legal framework for local area agreements; and

operational guidance 'Development of the new LA A framework' covering negotiations of LAAs for 2008-11.

This guidance describes the process for setting targets in local area agreements, drawn from the National Indicator Set (which contains an indicator, NI 135, which specifically addresses the needs of carers). It does not cover how to set individual targets to take into account the needs of carers, as this will be a matter for individual negotiation in each LAA.

### Planning: Public Participation

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding she intends to allocate to supporting community engagement when major infrastructure projects are initiated through proposed revised planning procedures; [187769]

(2) if she will ensure that communities affected by proposals for a major infrastructure project in the East Midlands will have access to the services of the East Midlands Planning Aid Service; [187770]

(3) when she expects to announce the funding settlement for the East Midlands Planning Aid Service for 2008-09; [187771]

(4) how many people were assisted by the Planning Aid Service over the past 12 months; and if she will make a statement on community engagement on planning issues; [187772]

(5) how many people were assisted by the East Midlands Planning Aid Service over the past 12 months. [187773]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As the Planning White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" made clear, the Government are committed to ensuring that members of the public get the advice and support they need to get involved in the new development consent process for major infrastructure projects proposed under the Planning Bill.

During the Second Reading of the Bill on 10 December 2007, the Secretary of State announced that we would therefore put an extra £1.5 million per annum into Planning Aid, an organisation that helps members of the public and particularly hard-to-reach groups engage in the planning process.

This extra money will ensure that affected individuals and communities are supported so that they can participate effectively in the new planning process for major infrastructure projects and make their views heard.

The Government are considering the precise details of future levels of funding for Planning Aid and will make an announcement soon.

For the 12-month period from December to January 2007, Planning Aid assisted 23,575 individuals and 1,428 community groups. For the same period, the East Midlands Planning Aid service assisted 1,496 individuals and 108 community groups.

### Quality of Life

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities make use of the Audit Commission's Quality of Life indicators. [187640]

**John Healey:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Lady directly.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her definition of quality of life is in relation to the well-being powers of the Local Government Act 2000; [187641]

(2) what assessment she has made of the use of well-being powers of the Local Government Act 2000. [187645]

**John Healey:** The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the 'promotion or improvement' of 'one or more' of the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. The only limitations on this power are that local authorities are nor enabled through the Act to raise additional funding, or undertake an action that is specifically prohibited elsewhere in law.

The Act did not attempt to set out a definition of 'quality of life'. Instead it required every local authority (in consultation with others) to draw up a strategy setting out how they intend to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their particular area over the long term.

The Government carried out an independent evaluation of the take-up and usage of the well-being power. The results are contained in "Formative Evaluation of the take-up and implementation of the well-being power" which can be found on the CLG website.

### Quarrying

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has commissioned on the relative costs of mineral extraction from *(a)* land and *(b)* marine sources in the last five years. [185231]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department has commissioned no direct work on the relative economic or environmental costs of minerals extraction from land and marine sources in the last five years.

However DEFRA is funding a study to investigate the feasibility of assessing the relative impacts of exploitation of marine and land sand and gravel reserves. The study is due to be completed in March 2008. The project is funded through the Marine Environment Protection Fund, and administered by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

### Quarrying: Planning Permission

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria she uses to assess planning applications on the extraction of aggregates. [185227]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that

> "if regard is to be had to the development plan, for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

This means that applications will be decided by mineral planning authorities, in accordance with their minerals development plan document, but taking into account other factors, such as Government policy set out in Minerals Policy Statement 1 "Planning and Minerals" and other relevant considerations.

### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [187683]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government are committed to assess the impact of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. My Department will carry out an initial evaluation during 2008 involving consultation with business, industry and the Fire and Rescue Service.

### Surveys

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where the first place survey pilots are to take place. [187643]

**John Healey:** The new Place Survey will gather the views of the public about the work of councils and their partners. The survey is being piloted in each of the following local authorities:

Wychavon District Council;

Buckinghamshire County Council;

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council; and

London Borough of Hackney.

These areas have been selected with the aim of ensuring that results from the pilot will be sensitive to differences between rural, urban, county and district level authorities so the pilot can inform successful delivery of the Place Survey across all areas of England.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a draft copy of the place survey. [187644]

**John Healey:** I have placed a copy of the New Place Survey consultation document in the Library of the House.

The consultation ended on 8 February and we are currently analysing the responses to the consultation.

### Vehicles: Pollution Control

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has given to local authorities on implementing the pollution prevention guidelines on vehicle washing and cleaning in policy planning guidance 13; and if she will make a statement. [187003]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport sets out the Government's overall policy on planning for transport. Its objectives are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level and to promote more sustainable transport choices both for carrying people and for moving freight. Planning Pollution Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control, and its Annex 1: Pollution Control, Air and Water Quality set out how the planning system can contribute to improvements in water quality. The policy expects local planning authorities to take into account the diffuse pollution that could be created by a proposed development and any measures the developer proposes to mitigate the impact. Neither documents provide specific advice on vehicle washing and cleaning.

The Environment Agency issued a revised Pollution Prevention Guideline 13 on vehicle washing and cleaning in October 2007. This is good practice guidance for all landowners and tenants to help prevent pollution from vehicle washing and cleaning using automatic wash systems, high pressure or steam cleaners and washing by hand. Local authorities should be aware of pollution prevention guidelines and implement them where it is appropriate to do so. The principal enforcement agencies for pollution prevention guidelines are the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Heritage Service for Northern Ireland and the water companies for pollution and trade effluent respectively. DEFRA is working with the Environment Agency to tackle non-agricultural diffuse water pollution as part of its work under both the water framework directive and 'Future Water', DEFRA's recently published Water strategy. In particular, DEFRA is considering the introduction of simple general binding rules, which will provide a new approach to regulating such activities along with proportionate forms of enforcement, such as fixed penalty notices. A DEFRA consultation on this issue is anticipated later this year.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agricultural Products: Smuggling

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters, *(c)* other advertising, *(d)* the branded mobile unit and *(e)* merchandising to support outreach activity on the risk from illegal imports of products of animal origin in each year since 2001. [185647]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following figures refer to money spent by DEFRA:

*Leaflets and posters (including printing and distribution)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 421,000 |
| 2004-05 | 37,991 |
| 2005-06 | 28,906 |
| 2006-07 | 28,013 |
| 2007-08 | 27,926 |

*Other advertising (including press, radio, television, internet and outdoor)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 334,189 |
| 2005-06 | 243,853 |
| 2006-07 | 361,521 |
| 2007-08 | 354,738 |

*Outreach activity and other community events (including production of the mobile unit plus mileage (although from 2007 '08 the branded mobile unit is no longer being used during the outreach activity) production of branding banners and printing of T-shirts for staff)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 76,286 |
| 2005-06 | 57,178 |
| 2006-07 | 70,538 |
| 2007-08 | 57,967 |

*Merchandising to support outreach activity (travel wallets, pens and toothbrush kits)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 17,010 |
| 2007-08 | 8,235 |

Since April 2003, HM Revenue and Customs has also undertaken a number of publicity activities as part of its Products Of Animal Origin (POAO) anti-smuggling responsibilities.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the amount of illegally imported meat entering the UK which was *(a)* contaminated with virus and *(b)* not detected in the last 12 months. [185709]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The endemic nature of exotic diseases in many countries around the world results in a continuous but low risk of infected meat reaching the country through illegal routes. This means that all such seizures are treated as an animal health risk and destroyed, by incineration, in the shortest possible time.

The risk of disease relates to the possibility that animals may consume infectious material in illegal imports. Very small amounts of infectious material may cause disease and are likely to form only a very small proportion of any illegal import. There is thus very little chance of finding infected material by testing samples. Discovering whether any individual seizure is infected is unlikely to contribute significantly to the way that the restrictions relating to imports are enforced.

It is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the amount of illegally imported meat entering the UK which was not detected in the last 12 months because they are illegal and, therefore, clandestine.

## Agriculture: Income

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of total income from farming resulted from *(a)* single farm payments, *(b)* agri-environment schemes, *(c)* diversified activity and *(d)* receipts from food production in each of the last three years. [186341]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The answer is given in the table shown as follows. 'Receipts from food production' is not available; the value of crop and livestock production has been included.

| | *2005* | | *2006* | | *2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£ million* | *Percentage of TIFF* | *£ million* | *Percentage of TIFF* | *£ million* | *Percentage of TIFF* |
| Single farm payment | 2,349 | 108 | 2,354 | 102 | 2,292 | 90 |
| Agri-environment schemes | 259 | 12 | 346 | 15 | 410 | 16 |
| Inseparable non-agricultural activities[1] | 674 | 31 | 710 | 31 | 771 | 30 |
| Total crop output | 4,998 | 230 | 5,147 | 223 | 5,791 | 228 |
| Total livestock output (meat, milk and eggs) | 6,544 | 301 | 7,246 | 315 | 7,699 | 303 |
| TIFF | 2,171 | 100 | 2,303 | 100 | 2,538 | 100 |

[1] The diversified activity which is included in TIFF is only that which is considered 'inseparable'. This includes activities such as 'tourist accommodation and catering' and 'farm retailing'.

## Agriculture: Standards

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulations were *(a)* implemented and *(b)* revoked by his Department in each year since 2001; and what estimate he has made of the cost to industry of complying with regulations implemented by his Department in each year since 2001. [185708]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has commissioned an independent project to review the stock, and establish a comprehensive ongoing record, of general Statutory Instruments introduced since 1 January 2001. The project includes categorising whether SIs are, for example, minor, technical, amending, or revocations. The Department will place in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament, no later than 31 March 2008, a short report on the outcomes of the project. Non-finalised data shows that, for general SIs, the breakdown is as follows:

| | *SIs introduced* | *SIs revoked* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 92 | 39 |

| | SIs introduced | SIs revoked |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 143 | 82 |
| 2002 | 115 | 60 |
| 2003 | 105 | 45 |
| 2004 | 133 | 45 |
| 2005 | 139 | 32 |
| 2006 | 144 | 18 |
| 2007 | 165 | 21 |

In 2005, together with other Government Departments, DEFRA embarked on a programme to reduce the administrative burden of regulation by a net 25 per cent., by 2010. At that time, DEFRA's pre-existing administrative burden (i.e. the total cost to business of form filling, dealing with inspections and providing statutory information to third parties) was estimated by PricewaterhouseCoopers at £527.8 million.

DEFRA has published Simplification Plans in each year since 2005. The Department's latest Simplification Plan, Cutting Red Tape, was published in December 2007. It shows that, taking account of new Regulations that have added additional administrative burdens, the overall burden the Department imposes on business should be no more than £395.8 million by 2010, a reduction of £132 million or 25 per cent.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Atkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many National Reserve applications Stage 1 and Stage 2 appeals were outstanding at the most recent date for which figures are available. [186693]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As of 8 February 2008, the Rural Payments Agency had six Single Payment Scheme (SPS) National Reserve Stage 1 Appeals and 33 SPS National Reserve Stage 2 Appeals ongoing.

### Animal Welfare

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to monitor the effect on animal welfare of the Hunting Act 2004 over the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [183311]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has no plans to institute new arrangements to monitor the welfare or population levels of the rural or urban fox, although it will retain an overview of these issues as part of its general animal welfare responsibilities.

### Bovine Tuberculosis

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases are before the courts on challenges to the accuracy of the test for bovine tuberculosis. [186485]

**Jonathan Shaw:** One farm business has issued legal proceedings against DEFRA, a date has yet to be set for the claim to be heard.

Their claim for judicial review disputes the validity of the results of gamma interferon TB tests within their herds. The claimant is challenging DEFRA's decision not to re-test (using the tuberculin skin test) cattle within their herd that have had a positive reaction to the gamma interferon test. DEFRA has been put on notice that three other farm businesses are intending to issue proceedings on the same basis, but has agreed with those farmers that their animals will not be slaughtered pending the outcome of the judicial review. It is expected that this case will determine the issues in respect of all four complaints.

### Cattle: Monitoring

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to introduce the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service cattle monitoring system in England. [186484]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I assume that my hon. Friend is referring to the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS), introduced by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. We have no plans to introduce such a system in England.

On 22 October 2003, the 10-year UK Veterinary Surveillance Strategy was launched. It stresses the importance of working in partnership to provide early warning and rapid detection of disease threats facing the UK. In putting the strategy into practice, the aim is to ensure that surveillance activities are prioritised openly and that a clear, well-defined international evidence base exists for all surveillance reports and recommendations. A further aim is to make best use of the surveillance information that we collect.

The strategy reflects an extensive consultation process across the UK, involving colleagues in Government and the veterinary, farming and wildlife sectors. It is an integral part of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy launched in June 2004.

### Crops: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* soya bean meal and its derivatives and *(b)* maize and its derivatives were imported into the UK from each supplying country for each year since 2001, separately identifying where appropriate any amounts which were from GM crops. [185618]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the volume of UK imports of soya bean meal, maize and derivatives from 2001 to November 2007 by country of despatch. It is not possible to separately identify commodities from GM crops in the official overseas trade statistics.

*UK imports of Soya bean meal, Maize and derivatives, by country, 2001 to November 2007*

*Tonnes*

| Short description | Country | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | [2]2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1]— | France | 1,143,881 | 1,226,021 | 1,178,052 | 1,049,825 | 1,164,396 | 900,435 | 784,875 |
| [1]— | Argentina | 233,180 | 205,310 | 191,814 | 161,063 | 47,358 | 154,833 | 179,582 |

*UK imports of Soya bean meal, Maize and derivatives, by country, 2001 to November 2007*

*Tonnes*

| *Short description* | *Country* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *[4]2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1]— | Irish Republic | 28,773 | 74,028 | 99,501 | 51,680 | 72,464 | 100,590 | 83,557 |
| [1]— | Brazil | 1 | 2 | 20,728 | 33,360 | 6 | 27 | 270,846 |
| [1]— | Belgium | 133,258 | 38,841 | 6,313 | 7,798 | 8,504 | 15,114 | 13,781 |
| [1]— | Spain | 12,647 | 21,265 | 17,443 | 13,349 | 106,639 | 26,240 | 17,041 |
| [1]— | Germany | 28,022 | 20,628 | 18,642 | 20,954 | 26,814 | 19,296 | 17,384 |
| [1]— | Netherlands | 28,945 | 17,354 | 10,374 | 11,414 | 18,449 | 19,447 | 22,101 |
| [1]— | U.S.A. | 15,670 | 13,286 | 8,270 | 18,532 | 6,916 | 7,661 | 7,448 |
| [1]— | Italy | 5,681 | 5,323 | 10,090 | 1,977 | 3,830 | 6,115 | 20,166 |
| [1]— | Canada | 6,605 | 5,010 | 2,473 | 2,585 | 2,966 | 2,783 | 2,047 |
| [1]— | Denmark | 567 | 4,839 | 972 | 1,131 | 1,235 | 2,586 | 1,440 |
| [1]— | South Africa | 1,103 | 1,552 | 1,245 | 1,445 | 1,981 | 2,452 | 2,270 |
| [1]— | Romania | — | — | 11 | — | — | 0 | 8,427 |
| [1]— | Finland | 820 | | 234 | 535 | 4,762 | 689 | 55 |
| [1]— | Other | 3,912 | 5,644 | 8,553 | 7,109 | 6,624 | 7,236 | 13,036 |
| [2]— | U.S.A. | 45,081 | 27,576 | 22,803 | 20,503 | 37,376 | 67,457 | 10,392 |
| [2]— | Irish Republic | 20,441 | 24,697 | 37,121 | 36,354 | 32,679 | 46,033 | 25,084 |
| [2]— | Netherlands | 24,808 | 26,121 | 40,866 | 36,175 | 6,081 | 6,858 | 4,649 |
| [2]— | France | 11,714 | 14,895 | 10,212 | 18,625 | 7,957 | 21,736 | 21,824 |
| [2]— | Spain | — | — | 1,161 | 1,343 | 4,664 | 31,693 | 6 |
| [2]— | Germany | 2,113 | 264 | 502 | 31 | 341 | 2,316 | 2,313 |
| [2]— | Belgium | 123 | 3 | 183 | 3,141 | 532 | 13 | 174 |
| [2]— | Italy | — | — | 994 | — | — | 238 | — |
| [2]— | South Africa | — | — | 100 | — | — | — | — |
| [2]— | Canada | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 66 |
| [2]— | Denmark | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| [2]— | Other | 6 | 1 | 30 | 1,999 | 170 | 688 | 851 |
| [3]— | Brazil | 933,020 | 921,417 | 1,078,338 | 911,632 | 861,645 | 698,952 | 520,987 |
| [3]— | Argentina | 80,784 | 133,005 | 250,711 | 233,968 | 178,620 | 702,193 | 1,002,172 |
| [3]— | Netherlands | 274,146 | 238,070 | 404,765 | 437,119 | 376,502 | 268,486 | 207,200 |
| [3]— | U.S.A. | 38,813 | 46,213 | 8,900 | 121 | 29,604 | 68,398 | 25,264 |
| [3]— | British Virgin Islands | — | — | — | 70,752 | 41,283 | 40,682 | 31,498 |
| [3]— | Germany | 24,901 | 22,373 | 11,511 | 650 | 17,700 | 18,115 | 37,294 |
| [3]— | Irish Republic | 13,901 | 16,701 | 23,053 | 17,652 | 18,375 | 16,006 | 10,746 |
| [3]— | Switzerland | — | — | 10,976 | 47,269 | 25,851 | — | 28,051 |
| [3]— | Belgium | 30,532 | 11,148 | 8,850 | 35,293 | 11,797 | 2,254 | 10,627 |
| [3]— | Uruguay | 7,403 | 29,757 | 7,687 | — | 31,517 | — | — |
| [3]— | China | 4 | 21 | 22 | 6 | 39,673 | 4,217 | 12,883 |
| [3]— | Malaysia | — | 1,074 | — | 19,082 | 10,989 | 5,317 | — |
| [3]— | Antigua and Barbuda | — | — | 10,500 | 1,025 | 10,664 | — | 1,204 |
| [3]— | Norway | 11,058 | 4,689 | — | — | — | 1 | 600 |
| [3]— | Canada | — | — | — | — | 58 | 1,634 | 6,075 |
| [3]— | Other | 2,020 | 473 | 5,517 | 2,488 | 5,319 | 7,795 | 1,138 |

[1] Maize (excluding Sweetcorn) for human consumption, including whole, rolled, flaked, hulled, pearled, clipped, sliced or kibbled; Flour, Groats and Meal of Maize; Seed Maize; prepared foods obtained form the swelling or roasting of maize.
[2] Maize feedingstuff for animals—residues of starch manufacture and similar residues from Maize; Bran; Sharps and residues of Maize.
[3] Soya bean meal: Oil—cake and other solid residues, resulting from the extraction of Soya-bean oil.
[4] January to November

*Source:*
H M Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA
2007 data is subject to amendments
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## Dairy Farming

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many holdings with dairy cows in each county in England there were in each year since 2001. [185648]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the number of registered holdings in England with dairy cows from 2001 to 2006 by county/unitary authority.

*Notes:*

1. Dairy cows are cows and heifers in the dairy herd which have calved.

2. Estimates have been made for holdings not responding or not selected for the survey.

*Source:*

June Agricultural Survey

*Holdings in England with dairy cows by county/unitary authority*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees | 17 | 14 | 14 | 14 | [1] | [1] |
| South Teesside | 35 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 24 |
| Darlington | 24 | 21 | [1] | 19 | [1] | 15 |
| Durham CC | 147 | 142 | 133 | 131 | 124 | 123 |
| Northumberland | 109 | 100 | 98 | 93 | 97 | 102 |
| Tyneside | [1] | [1] | [1] | 6 | [1] | [1] |
| Sunderland | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 |
| West Cumbria | 322 | 468 | 476 | 465 | 451 | 469 |
| East Cumbria | 695 | 869 | 875 | 855 | 835 | 809 |
| Halton and Warrington | 19 | [1] | 16 | 15 | [1] | [1] |
| Cheshire CC | 1,111 | 1,018 | 963 | 937 | 887 | 880 |
| Greater Manchester South | 34 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 24 |
| Greater Manchester North | 119 | 96 | 89 | 88 | 85 | 87 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 35 | 30 | [1] | 28 | [1] | 22 |
| Blackpool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| Lancashire CC | 1,081 | 952 | 914 | 880 | 847 | 849 |
| East Merseyside | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Liverpool | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 |
| Sefton | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Wirral | 19 | 18 | [1] | 16 | [1] | 15 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 111 | 98 | [1] | 96 | [1] | 87 |
| North and North East Lincolnshire | [1] | [1] | [1] | 12 | [1] | [1] |
| York | 24 | 21 | 19 | 19 | [1] | 18 |
| North Yorkshire CC | 1,207 | 1,121 | 1,070 | 1,012 | 977 | 965 |
| Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham | 116 | 105 | 100 | 100 | 94 | 92 |
| Sheffield | 49 | 42 | [1] | 37 | [1] | 34 |
| Bradford | 77 | 66 | [1] | 63 | [1] | 58 |
| Leeds | 40 | 36 | [1] | 31 | [1] | 31 |
| Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield | 171 | 145 | 133 | 125 | 125 | 130 |
| Derby | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| East Derbyshire | 125 | 112 | 106 | 104 | 106 | 96 |
| South and West Derbyshire | 682 | 602 | 562 | 549 | 543 | 529 |
| Nottingham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Nottinghamshire | 79 | 76 | 68 | 64 | 66 | 62 |
| South Nottinghamshire | [1] | [1] | [1] | 45 | [1] | 47 |
| Leicester | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Leicestershire CC and Rutland | 377 | 338 | 317 | 305 | 303 | 282 |
| Northamptonshire | 117 | 103 | 95 | 89 | 87 | 82 |
| Lincolnshire | 131 | 115 | 105 | 105 | 102 | 99 |
| Herefordshire, County of | 249 | 228 | [1] | 221 | [1] | 228 |
| Worcestershire | 237 | 221 | [1] | 199 | 187 | 177 |
| Warwickshire | 242 | 210 | 198 | 192 | 175 | 184 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 41 | 36 | [1] | 36 | [1] | 38 |
| Shropshire CC | 875 | 807 | 778 | 751 | 723 | 730 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 14 |
| Staffordshire CC | 1,088 | 998 | 945 | 921 | 896 | 869 |
| Birmingham | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Solihull | 19 | 18 | [1] | 16 | [1] | 17 |
| Coventry | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Dudley and Sandwell | 6 | [1] | [1] | 5 | [1] | 5 |
| Walsall and Wolverhampton | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 |
| Peterborough | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Cambridgeshire CC | 35 | 34 | 33 | 31 | 33 | 29 |
| Norfolk | 186 | 173 | 158 | 145 | 144 | 146 |
| Suffolk | 115 | 106 | 101 | 96 | 93 | 91 |
| Luton | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 |
| Bedfordshire CC | 37 | 31 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 25 |
| Hertfordshire | 55 | 50 | 41 | 40 | 39 | 38 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thurrock | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Essex CC | 91 | 74 | 67 | 63 | 60 | 56 |
| Inner London—West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner London—East | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |

*Holdings in England with dairy cows by county/unitary authority*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outer London—East and North East | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Outer London—South | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Outer London—West and North West | [1]— | 7 | [1]— | 7 | [1]— | 7 |
| Berkshire | 60 | 52 | 48 | 46 | 45 | 44 |
| Milton Keynes | 10 | [1]— | [1]— | 7 | [1]— | 8 |
| Buckinghamshire CC | 134 | 110 | 99 | 96 | 101 | 96 |
| Oxfordshire | 161 | 138 | 120 | 116 | 112 | 118 |
| Brighton and Hove | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| East Sussex CC | 162 | 138 | 125 | 124 | 119 | 113 |
| Surrey | 102 | 92 | 83 | 82 | 86 | 77 |
| West Sussex | 178 | 158 | 142 | 138 | 129 | 130 |
| Portsmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Southampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Hampshire CC | 269 | 242 | 227 | 221 | 199 | 198 |
| Isle of Wight | 61 | 53 | [1]— | 51 | [1]— | 44 |
| Medway | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 |
| Kent CC | 167 | 138 | 129 | 129 | 128 | 120 |
| Bristol, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| North and N E Somerset, South Gloucestershire | 357 | 328 | 310 | 306 | 288 | 279 |
| Gloucestershire | 410 | 394 | 380 | 371 | 335 | 321 |
| Swindon | 34 | 32 | [1]— | 28 | [1]— | 30 |
| Wiltshire CC | 554 | 498 | 466 | 438 | 412 | 401 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Dorset CC | 725 | 651 | 612 | 594 | 572 | 564 |
| Somerset | 1,190 | 1,075 | 1,019 | 978 | 941 | 918 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 1,222 | 1,101 | 1,029 | 1,019 | 971 | 956 |
| Plymouth | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 |
| Torbay | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Devon CC | 1,843 | 1,798 | 1,713 | 1,671 | 1,616 | 1,584 |
| England | 18,125 | 16,897 | 16,027 | 15,554 | 14,980 | 14,772 |

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

*Note:*

Automated and manual processing systems used for protecting the confidentiality of individual holdings lead to differing patterns of suppression across the years.

*Source:*

June Agricultural Survey

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176462]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's Internal Audit Division have not conducted any audits specifically focusing on personal data or IT equipment during the period. As departmental policy does not require business areas to undertake audits, information on any they may have carried out could not be collected without incurring disproportionate costs, but a thorough 'wall-to-wall' audit of IT equipment was carried out by IBM in October 2004 when ownership of DEFRA's IT equipment was transferred under the terms of the IT outsourcing contract.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176625]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department's IT services are provided mainly by IBM under an outsourcing arrangement. This contract includes provisions for DEFRA and its audit agents to have audit and access rights, including contractor premises, systems and records as may be required for the purposes of verifying the integrity, confidentiality and security of the Department's data and/or personal data.

There are also provisions which require IBM and its sub-contractors to comply with all applicable parts of the Data Protection Acts, specifically the seventh data protection principle, which concerns the unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

Other contracts awarded by DEFRA include standard terms and conditions which place obligations on contractors including requirements for access to audit and compliance with the Data Protection Acts as stated above.

### Departmental ICT

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department

were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181355]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff, where known, were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001.

| Date acquired | (a) Male | (b) Female | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000—26 January 2005[1] | 40 | 12 | 31 | 83 |
| 2005 (from 27 January 2005)[1] | 15 | 10 | 6 | 31 |
| 2006 | 27 | 25 | 7 | 59 |
| 2007 | 13 | 5 | 13 | 31 |
| Total | 95 | 52 | 57 | 204 |

[1] PDAs purchased prior to 27 January 2005 do not have a purchase date recorded against their entry within the asset management tool and have been given a default acquired date of 1 January 2000.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost was of each of the five largest IT contracts awarded in 2007 by his Department; and what the actual cost has been. [181961]

**Jonathan Shaw:** IT services and provision was outsourced to IBM in October 2004. IT projects that previously would have required the award of a contract are now, in the main, handled through these arrangements.

However, in March 2007 a new contract was awarded to Atos. The project started in April 2007 and relates to the Genesis application which handles environmental stewardship payments for land managers. The cost of this contract is £21 million over five years. Actual spend during the first year is £500,000 lower than forecast.

Details of IT contracts awarded by the Department's wider Network are not held centrally. Further information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185274]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following figures show the reported number of thefts/losses of personal digital assistants from April 2003 onwards:

| | Personal digital assistants including Blackberry devices |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 [1] | 1 |
| 2005-06 [1] | 1 |
| 2006-07 [1] | 8 |
| 2007-08 to date [1] | 1 |

[1] Following the outsourcing of IT services to IBM in October 2004, IT equipment is no longer classed as a departmental asset as it forms part of the overall contract for the provision of IT services. All IT equipment therefore belongs to IBM. However, in an effort to reduce the losses of portable IT equipment, advice and guidance on the security of portable IT equipment is made available to staff. There were no reported losses of any personal data.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each year since establishment. [182521]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of Press Officers in Core DEFRA is tabulated, with the census point for the number of Press Officers, taken as June for each year. The staffing numbers for the Press Office fluctuate during the course of any one year.

The figures in the table exclude numbers for ancillary or support staff, but numbers have varied, ranging from 3 to 7 during the review period.

| Staff numbers as at June | Press Officers |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 22 |
| 2002 | 22 |
| 2003 | 22 |
| 2004 | 18 |
| 2005 | 24 |
| 2006 | 24 |
| 2007 | 20 |

The DEFRA Press Office provides services for the Central Science Laboratory, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticide Safety Directorate, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The number of staff employed in the Press Offices of each of the remaining DEFRA agencies of CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences) and the Rural Payments Agency, in each year since 2001 is tabulated, with the number of ancillary support staff in brackets (The RPA did not have any ancillary staff associated with the Press Office).

| Agency | CEFAS | RPA |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 0.02 | 0.2 |
| 2002 | 0.03 | 0.2 |
| 2003 | 0.03 | 0.2 |
| 2004 | 0.68 | 0.2 |
| 2005 | 1.0 (0.16) | 0.2 |
| 2006 | 1.0 (0.24) | 1.0 |
| 2007 | 1.0 | 2.0 |

In addition to support from the DEFRA Press Office, Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) employs a Head of Communications and an External Communications Manager.

The "White Book" of contacts in Government departments and agencies contains listings for DEFRA and is updated twice yearly.

## Farms

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms there were in each county in England in each year since 2001. [185649]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the number of registered holdings at June each year for 2001 to 2006 by county/unitary authority.

*Holdings in England by county/unitary authority*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees | 285 | 301 | 297 | 297 | 293 | 302 |
| South Teesside | 241 | 254 | 261 | 268 | 276 | 284 |
| Darlington | 256 | 269 | 270 | 277 | 281 | 289 |
| Durham CC | 2,382 | 2,499 | 2,538 | 2,591 | 2,655 | 2,781 |
| Northumberland | 2,574 | 2,669 | 2,701 | 2,728 | 2,777 | 2,905 |
| Tyneside | 270 | 264 | 265 | 278 | 282 | 283 |
| Sunderland | 65 | 65 | 65 | 64 | 72 | 78 |
| West Cumbria | 2,372 | 2,455 | 2,493 | 2,549 | 2,572 | 2,802 |
| East Cumbria | 5,071 | 5,245 | 5,356 | 5,396 | 5,419 | 5,717 |
| Halton and Warrington | 265 | 276 | 280 | 280 | 285 | 282 |
| Cheshire CC | 4,803 | 5,135 | 5,216 | 5,226 | 5,265 | 5,351 |
| Greater Manchester South | 473 | 500 | 500 | 508 | 509 | 498 |
| Greater Manchester North | 1,196 | 1,257 | 1,253 | 1,241 | 1,254 | 1,257 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 263 | 288 | 299 | 297 | 297 | 312 |
| Blackpool | 39 | 42 | 46 | 44 | 46 | 46 |
| Lancashire CC | 6,076 | 6,420 | 6,437 | 6,507 | 6,531 | 6,631 |
| East Merseyside | 227 | 234 | 239 | 237 | 237 | 237 |
| Liverpool | 11 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Sefton | 123 | 131 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 143 |
| Wirral | 130 | 136 | 137 | 141 | 145 | 148 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 13 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 16 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 2,909 | 3,050 | 3,085 | 3,124 | 3,140 | 3,108 |
| North and North East Lincolnshire | 968 | 1,039 | 1,040 | 1,038 | 1,023 | 998 |
| York | 426 | 448 | 445 | 438 | 439 | 432 |
| North Yorkshire CC | 9,612 | 10,109 | 10,244 | 10,324 | 10,370 | 10,711 |
| Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham | 1,431 | 1,498 | 1,530 | 1,550 | 1,547 | 1,529 |
| Sheffield | 303 | 335 | 349 | 372 | 364 | 372 |
| Bradford | 884 | 968 | 979 | 997 | 1,002 | 1,002 |
| Leeds | 663 | 716 | 714 | 706 | 707 | 731 |
| Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield | 2,450 | 2,691 | 2,695 | 2,722 | 2,715 | 2,700 |
| Derby | 31 | 33 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 45 |
| East Derbyshire | 955 | 1,008 | 1,033 | 1,030 | 1,055 | 1,080 |
| South and West Derbyshire | 3,636 | 3,853 | 3,926 | 3,992 | 4,092 | 4,361 |
| Nottingham | 8 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 |
| North Nottinghamshire | 1,582 | 1,663 | 1,667 | 1,687 | 1,732 | 1,767 |
| South Nottinghamshire | 770 | 799 | 814 | 810 | 823 | 862 |
| Leicester | 12 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 19 | 22 |
| Leicestershire CC and Rutland | 3,362 | 3,548 | 3,589 | 3,638 | 3,661 | 3,880 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,406 | 2,529 | 2,537 | 2,577 | 2,659 | 2,800 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,335 | 6,571 | 6,553 | 6,565 | 6,615 | 6,742 |
| Herefordshire, County of | 4,303 | 4,574 | 4,631 | 4,704 | 4,825 | 5,066 |
| Worcestershire | 3,677 | 3,955 | 3,980 | 4,033 | 4,090 | 4,137 |
| Warwickshire | 2,804 | 2,950 | 2,971 | 3,037 | 3,070 | 3,074 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 340 | 364 | 377 | 386 | 401 | 395 |
| Shropshire CC | 5,840 | 6,205 | 6,274 | 6,349 | 6,524 | 6,544 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 73 | 82 | 80 | 85 | 87 | 104 |
| Staffordshire CC | 5,682 | 6,038 | 6,105 | 6,138 | 6,246 | 6,271 |
| Birmingham | 50 | 53 | 55 | 61 | 63 | 66 |
| Solihull | 258 | 270 | 270 | 282 | 284 | 287 |
| Coventry | 75 | 82 | 84 | 91 | 89 | 102 |
| Dudley and Sandwell | 56 | 63 | 63 | 74 | 82 | 70 |
| Walsall and Wolverhampton | 88 | 89 | 87 | 88 | 90 | 95 |
| Peterborough | 242 | 240 | 243 | 247 | 256 | 275 |
| Cambridgeshire CC | 3,307 | 3,345 | 3,414 | 3,403 | 3,471 | 3,459 |
| Norfolk | 6,293 | 6,511 | 6,589 | 6,751 | 6,783 | 6,658 |
| Suffolk | 4,490 | 4,610 | 4,764 | 4,862 | 4,975 | 4,954 |

*Holdings in England by county/unitary authority*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Luton | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Bedfordshire CC | 1,345 | 1,402 | 1,414 | 1,429 | 1,407 | 1,410 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,470 | 1,544 | 1,590 | 1,629 | 1,657 | 1,637 |
| Southend-on-Sea | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 5 |
| Thurrock | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 121 | [1]— | 121 |
| Essex CC | 3,886 | 4,100 | 4,161 | 4,175 | 4,232 | 4,151 |
| Inner London—West | 5 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 33 |
| Inner London—East | 10 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 15 | 20 |
| Outer London—East and North East | 148 | 161 | 160 | 164 | 164 | 164 |
| Outer London—South | 159 | 173 | 178 | 161 | 168 | 177 |
| Outer London—West and North West | 112 | 118 | 127 | 132 | 140 | 137 |
| Berkshire | 984 | 1,076 | 1,091 | 1,136 | 1,138 | 1,183 |
| Milton Keynes | 222 | 233 | 237 | 240 | 242 | 274 |
| Buckinghamshire CC | 1,993 | 2,094 | 2,134 | 2,164 | 2,205 | 2,312 |
| Oxfordshire | 2,511 | 2,614 | 2,634 | 2,662 | 2,783 | 2,910 |
| Brighton and Hove | 26 | 30 | 3,036 | 38 | 45 | |
| East Sussex CC | 2,857 | 3,048 | 3,078 | 3,158 | 3,288 | 3,363 |
| Surrey | 2,043 | 2,180 | 2,239 | 2,207 | 2,290 | 2,292 |
| West Sussex | 2,460 | 2,600 | 26,43 | 2,673 | 2,764 | 2,822 |
| Portsmouth | 6 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 12 |
| Southampton | 33 | 36 | 35 | 38 | 39 | 32 |
| Hampshire CC | 3,740 | 3,969 | 4,285 | 4,302 | 4,320 | 4,558 |
| Isle of Wight | 605 | 645 | 680 | 689 | 709 | 713 |
| Medway | 108 | 115 | 123 | 134 | 131 | 123 |
| Kent CC | 4,873 | 5,323 | 5,511 | 5,538 | 5,600 | 5,696 |
| Bristol, City of | 55 | 62 | 68 | 74 | 77 | 94 |
| North and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire | 2,592 | 2,789 | 2,841 | 2,865 | 2,929 | 3,007 |
| Gloucestershire | 4,483 | 4,797 | 4,829 | 4,874 | 4,982 | 5,068 |
| Swindon | 219 | 231 | 231 | 236 | 231 | 241 |
| Wiltshire CC | 3,633 | 3,839 | 3,864 | 3,909 | 3,960 | 4,059 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 38 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 44 | 46 |
| Dorset CC | 3,713 | 3,968 | 3,979 | 4,076 | 4,169 | 4,349 |
| Somerset | 7,516 | 8,016 | 8,212 | 8,312 | 8,551 | 8,869 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 8,393 | 8,842 | 8,956 | 8,997 | 9,066 | 9,208 |
| Plymouth | 38 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 46 | 48 |
| Torbay | 52 | 60 | 56 | 60 | 63 | 72 |
| Devon CC | 141,291 | 14,794 | 15,001 | 15,199 | 155,961 | 16,033 |
| England | 177,934 | 187,871 | 190,687 | 192,824 | 1959,081 | 200,381 |

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings in the East of England region.

*Source:*
June Agricultural Survey

## Floods

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a break down of funding allocated to implement the final recommendations of the Pitt Report; and how such figures were calculated. [188078]

**Mr. Woolas:** As I said to the DEFRA Committee on 6 February 2008, my intention with this provision was simply prudent planning to ensure we had a pot of money to implement Sir Michael's final report when it is available.

## Kent

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183056]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The funds made available in 2007-08 by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to these three councils are identified in the tables as follows.

*(a)* Revenue Payments

| *Description* | *Amount (£)* | *Council* |
|---|---|---|
| Animal Health Framework Agreement | 206,990 | Kent county council |
| Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant | 1,406,715 | Kent county council |

*(b)* Capital Grants

| *Description* | *Amount (£)* | *Council* |
|---|---|---|
| Kingsdown Beach Management Plan | 222,592 | Dover district council |
| Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant | 1,406,715 | Kent county council |

The revenue and capital funds made available under the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) represent an aggregate allocation for Kent county council and all the district councils in the Kent area. WPEG is linked to local area agreements in 2007-08 and allocations for all county and district councils are therefore paid as an aggregate sum for collective investment.

*(c)* No funds have been made available in the form of supported borrowing.

### Livestock

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department finalised its guidance on the new rules for sheep and goat identification. [186049]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Guidance was finalised towards the end of 2007. It could not be finalised sooner because the consultation on the double tagging of sheep and goats did not conclude until 20 November. Guidance was distributed to all sheep and goat keepers on 4 January.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the time provided for the sheep and goat industry to prepare for the implementation of the livestock movements, identification and tracing: sheep and goats scheme; and if he will make a statement. [186272]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The derogation from double tagging of sheep was lost because of a high rate of non-compliance with the derogated rules by livestock keepers. Had we not acted quickly to introduce double tagging, sheep keepers throughout the UK could have faced disallowance for failure to comply with the rules set out in EU legislation. The consultation period given was therefore the maximum that could reasonably have been permitted in the circumstances.

### Livestock: Disease Control

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on developing common policies on reduction of bovine tuberculosis. [186058]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Responsibility for bovine TB (bTB) is fully devolved and bTB policy in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly alone. However, both DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government, along with the Scottish Government, were signatories to the Government Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Control of bovine TB in GB. In the spirit of the framework officials in my Department are in regular contact with those in the Welsh Assembly Government on the issue.

### Meat Products: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of meat of each type was imported from each country of despatch into the UK in each of the last five years. [185978]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following tables show the volume of imports of meat to the United Kingdom from 2002 to November 2007 by country of despatch.

*Imports of beef and veal into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *January-November 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Irish Republic | 122.0 | 149.4 | 159.6 | 136.5 | 145.0 | 130.8 |
| Brazil | 19.1 | 32.1 | 34.6 | 32.2 | 28.4 | 24.5 |
| Netherlands | 13.9 | 20.2 | 17.1 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 13.9 |
| Germany | 6.7 | 10.9 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 11.0 | 11.9 |
| Argentina | 18.3 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 5.1 | 3.2 |
| Uruguay | 11.7 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 8.5 |
| Namibia | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| France | 4.5 | 12.3 | 6.8 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| Australia | 5.5 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 6.2 | 3.1 |
| Botswana | 5.5 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 3.8 |
| Italy | 3.8 | 3.1 | 9.1 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| Belgium | 3.6 | 2.7 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| Denmark | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| Poland | 0.3 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Spain | 1.0 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Other | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Total | 226.1 | 269.4 | 280.6 | 239.9 | 235.7 | 216.4 |

*Imports of beef products (including corned beef) into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

Thousand tonnes

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Irish Republic | 32.9 | 52.6 | 53.1 | 76.5 | 65.8 | 44.1 |
| Brazil | 52.6 | 53.5 | 58.7 | 53.2 | 50.3 | 55.5 |
| Argentina | 5.3 | 5.9 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 4.9 | 6.6 |
| Uruguay | 3.3 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 3.1 |
| Netherlands | 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Denmark | 1.7 | 1.7 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| France | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Belgium | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Germany | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.3 |
| Botswana | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Other | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Total | 104.5 | 126.0 | 136.7 | 153.9 | 140.1 | 122.7 |

*Imports of pork into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

Thousand tonnes

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 112.3 | 130.2 | 142.3 | 182.2 | 204.7 | 171.1 |
| Netherlands | 30.6 | 68.4 | 59.1 | 51.8 | 57.2 | 49.3 |
| Germany | 25.1 | 45.5 | 42.1 | 41.1 | 51.7 | 51.1 |
| Irish Republic | 46.6 | 42.9 | 36.7 | 38.9 | 34.6 | 33.5 |
| France | 30.2 | 41.7 | 40.8 | 43.8 | 35.4 | 32.9 |
| Belgium | 20.8 | 31.4 | 34.6 | 40.9 | 41.3 | 42.1 |
| Spain | 6.4 | 12.3 | 17.4 | 23.4 | 21.8 | 17.5 |
| U.S.A. | 1.7 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 3.1 |
| Poland | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 5.7 |
| Italy | 1.3 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| Other | 1.0 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 3.7 |
| Total | 275.9 | 380.5 | 383.5 | 432.0 | 458.8 | 412.7 |

*Imports of bacon and ham into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

Thousand tonnes

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Netherlands | 139.2 | 150.2 | 158.9 | 140.4 | 118.3 | 122.4 |
| Denmark | 115.5 | 114.2 | 97.9 | 95.7 | 91.3 | 77.9 |
| Germany | 2.5 | 4.4 | 9.5 | 17.6 | 29.6 | 29.5 |
| France | 21.0 | 16.5 | 15.4 | 10.9 | 7.4 | 6.2 |
| Italy | 4.3 | 6.9 | 10.8 | 9.8 | 10.6 | 7.9 |
| Irish Republic | 5.9 | 6.3 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.4 |
| Belgium | 2.7 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| Spain | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Poland | — | — | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Portugal | — | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Total | 291.6 | 303.2 | 301.7 | 283.4 | 264.0 | 249.7 |

*Imports of lamb and mutton into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

Thousand tonnes

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Zealand | 76.8 | 81.0 | 82.1 | 79.2 | 83.2 | 80.9 |
| Australia | 12.1 | 12.3 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 13.6 | 11.8 |
| Irish Republic | 2.4 | 4.5 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 6.5 | 7.0 |
| Spain | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Netherlands | 3.8 | 4.7 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| France | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 1.3 |
| Uruguay | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Argentina | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 |
| Germany | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Belgium | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Other | 0.5 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.8 |
| Total | 101.8 | 111.5 | 116.2 | 110.1 | 113.8 | 103.5 |

*Imports of poultrymeat (including poultry offal) into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Netherlands | 145.0 | 146.6 | 155.9 | 158.6 | 164.0 | 157.8 |
| France | 54.1 | 45.5 | 46.9 | 50.9 | 45.8 | 32.8 |
| Germany | 23.8 | 25.4 | 27.3 | 26.5 | 28.3 | 29.1 |
| Brazil | 15.5 | 18.8 | 39.9 | 51.2 | 19.7 | 11.2 |
| Belgium | 16.3 | 18.4 | 18.5 | 24.1 | 25.3 | 19.9 |
| Irish Republic | 13.8 | 16.3 | 22.8 | 19.7 | 22.5 | 25.4 |
| Poland | 1.0 | 5.9 | 16.2 | 22.5 | 23.7 | 27.7 |
| Denmark | 16.9 | 16.2 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 9.9 | 9.6 |
| Italy | 10.8 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 13.9 | 14.6 | 7.3 |
| Portugal | 0.2 | 12.3 | 22.8 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| Chile | 1.0 | 3.8 | 4.5 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 8.0 |
| Hungary | 2.4 | 5.4 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 4.9 |
| Spain | 7.8 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| Thailand | 7.1 | 11.3 | 2.6 | 0.0 | — | — |
| Argentina | 0.5 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 2.8 |
| Other | 0.7 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.5 |
| Total | 317.1 | 346.6 | 396.4 | 406.4 | 381.7 | 344.3 |

*Imports of poultry products into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thailand | 26.7 | 34.8 | 43.4 | 69.3 | 86.8 | 91.1 |
| Irish Republic | 28.1 | 39.1 | 37.5 | 37.1 | 35.6 | 38.4 |
| Netherlands | 18.5 | 17.3 | 19.6 | 27.1 | 28.2 | 27.1 |
| Brazil | 16.1 | 20.5 | 10.4 | 11.1 | 9.4 | 13.4 |
| Belgium | 9.5 | 10.0 | 10.9 | 12.4 | 12.1 | 10.3 |
| France | 9.3 | 9.4 | 12.9 | 9.6 | 11.8 | 9.1 |
| Germany | 5.6 | 9.3 | 11.5 | 13.3 | 10.1 | 7.3 |
| Hungary | 1.5 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 4.4 | 12.1 | 7.6 |
| Portugal | 0.0 | 1.1 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.7 |
| Italy | 0.8 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Poland | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 5.0 |
| Denmark | 1.1 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Croatia | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Sweden | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 2.1 |
| Chile | 1.4 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.4 |
| Total | 122.8 | 153.3 | 161.7 | 192.3 | 217.4 | 219.8 |

*Imports of edible offal into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Irish Republic | 6.8 | 25.4 | 20.4 | 24.3 | 20.9 | 14.4 |
| Denmark | 12.6 | 13.9 | 15.4 | 14.7 | 14.0 | 10.1 |
| New Zealand | 10.1 | 11.9 | 11.4 | 13.2 | 11.1 | 10.8 |
| Netherlands | 4.7 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| France | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Germany | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 1.2 |
| Australia | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Belgium | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Italy | 0.0 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Sweden | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Other | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| Total | 42.6 | 67.5 | 61.7 | 65.9 | 58.9 | 46.5 |

*Imports of sausages and related products into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Netherlands | 16.3 | 15.4 | 17.6 | 15.9 | 34.4 | 17.6 |
| Germany | 11.4 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 17.4 | 20.8 |

*Imports of sausages and related products into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 28.8 | 11.9 | | | 5.7 | 16.3 |
| Irish Republic | 6.1 | 6.8 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 12.8 | 13.1 |
| France | 15.2 | 6.9 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 4.8 |
| Denmark | 2.4 | 2.6 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.0 | 5.6 |
| Italy | 6.6 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Belgium | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.8 | 4.9 |
| Spain | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.7 |
| Poland | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 3.3 | 4.7 |
| Other | 10.3 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.4 |
| Total | 100.3 | 70.8 | 66.0 | 63.6 | 99.0 | 94.8 |

*Imports of other meat products into the UK 2002 to November 2007*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | January-November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 19.7 | 16.2 | 17.1 | 18.5 | 16.2 | 10.9 |
| Irish Republic | 11.2 | 10.9 | 16.6 | 13.0 | 15.5 | 13.5 |
| Netherlands | 8.0 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 4.6 |
| Germany | 2.0 | 3.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 7.2 |
| Belgium | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 5.0 |
| France | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| Poland | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 11.0 |
| Italy | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 5.8 |
| Sweden | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Thailand | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Other | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 3.1 |
| Total | 52.9 | 50.5 | 60.8 | 58.8 | 61.3 | 65.5 |

*Source:*
H M Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, 2007 data is subject to amendments.

### Pigeons: Licensing

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a licence is required to *(a)* breed and *(b)* keep racing pigeons. [185327]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA does not require the breeding and keeping of pigeons to be licensed. However, advice about biosecurity and preventing disease is available for all bird keepers on the DEFRA website or from local Animal Health Offices.

### Sheep: Ear Tagging

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on double-tagging upland sheep; and what estimate his Department has made of the likely financial effects on hill farmers of the double-tagging system. [186191]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In accordance with EU legislation, all sheep which are not intended for slaughter within 12 months of age must be double tagged. In England, the rules apply to sheep and goats born on or after 1 January 2008 and those not officially identified by that date.

An impact assessment on the introduction in England of double tagging of sheep and goats was prepared. This has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Sugar: Quotas

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce his decision on sugar quota levels. [185651]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We informed British Sugar on 6 February 2008 that the Rural Payments Agency has approved an application from the company for restructuring aid. This was based on the renunciation of 13.5 per cent. of its white sugar production quota, amounting to 165,000 tonnes, and the full dismantling of the York sugar factory.

### Wines

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what restrictions apply to the sale of lower alcohol wine *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* elsewhere in the EU produced (i) in the UK, (ii) elsewhere in the EU, (iii) in the USA and (iv) in other countries; and if he will make a statement; [186853]

(2) if he will review the restrictions on the sale of lower alcohol wines in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [186857]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The minimum permitted alcohol content for wine produced and marketed in the EU is laid down in the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for Wine (Council Regulation (EEC) 1493/99). The requirements vary according to the type of wine

and the region of production. Wines imported into the EU are, in general, subject to the same requirements, although a number of countries, including the US, have concluded bilateral agreements, which provide for wine produced in conformity with national standards to be imported and marketed in the EU.

The agreement reached in December 2007 on a new wine CMO will provide, in due course, for a streamlining of the process of adopting new wine making techniques in the EU. The UK will continue to press for the consideration and the adoption of internationally recognised alcohol reduction techniques, and thereby allow EU wine producers the ability to utilise these processes in the production and marketing of their wines in the EU.

### World War II: Medals

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps badges his Department expects to receive. [186150]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The enthusiasm for the badges has been high. We have currently received approximately 9,000 applications and expect this to increase significantly.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the design of the badge for Women in the Land Army to be finalised. [186151]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The design of the badge has now been finalised.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the design of the badge for Women in the Land Army cost; and how much was spent on the design for each of the previous three commissioned badges. [186782]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Women's Land Army badge cost £1,100. This is, and has been, the only badge awarded by DEFRA.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will answer Question 180776, tabled on 16 January by the hon. Member for Southend West; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; and if he will make a statement. [186426]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I regret the delay in answering the hon. Member for Southend West, this was due to an administrative oversight. The question was answered on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1341W.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the value of deposits in dormant bank accounts in the United Kingdom; and what steps his Department has taken to inform the public of the funds in these dormant bank accounts. [187219]

**Angela Eagle:** The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill is currently before Parliament. It broadly defines a dormant account as a bank or building society account where there has been no customer-initiated activity for a period of at least 15 years. On this basis, an assessment by banks and building societies suggests that between £250 million and £350 million lies currently unclaimed in banks, and up to £150 million unclaimed in the building society sector.

The Government have encouraged the sector to build on its pre-existing arrangements to reunite dormant account holders with their money. The Government welcome the response of the industry and in particular the publicised launch of "mylostaccount.org.uk" by the British Bankers' Association, Building Societies Association and National Savings and Investments in January. The Government also welcome the commitment of individual banks and building societies to undertake proactive search activity throughout 2008 and up to the introduction of the scheme.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fees were paid to private contractors for the operation and maintenance of his Department's buildings in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187595]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards road operates and is maintained under a PFI contract. The annual unitary payment made under that contract is £14.037 million at March 1999 prices. The Treasury building at Rosebery Court in Norwich operates and is maintained under an OGCbuying.solutions framework contract. Payments made under that contract in the 12 months from September 2006 totalled some £814,000.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press and communications officers were employed by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [187584]

**Angela Eagle:** The number of press officers employed within the Chancellor's Department continues to be 10 full-time equivalents (FTEs). Currently HMT employs nine full time press officers and will be recruiting to fill the vacancy.

The figure for the Office of Government Commerce is two FTEs.

### Dorneywood

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use civil servants in his Department have made of Dorneywood in the last 12 months. [176407]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1077W. Ministers and civil servants have used Dorneywood for official events over the past 12 months. Dorneywood is held in trust for use as an official residence, as has been the case under successive Administrations. It is the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and is also available to Ministers and their civil servants for official engagements. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such engagements.

### Food: Prices

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of recent increases in food prices on the stability of the economy. [187460]

**Angela Eagle:** Overall, CPI inflation has remained very close to its 2 per cent. target in recent months, despite the peak in food price inflation. The Government will publish their latest assessment of recent economic developments and prospects in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report" on 12 March, in the normal way.

### Inflation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1198W to Question 184207, on inflation, if he will calculate the likely effect on the overall rate of inflation of increasing the police force's net pay by *(a)* 2.5 per cent. and *(b)* 1.9 per cent. over the next two years. [186504]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

### Network Rail: Fines

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department received in fines levied on Network Rail in each year since its inception; and what his policy is on re-allocating such monies. [180958]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has imposed penalties totalling £2.65 million on Network Rail in the last three years.

When a private sector body is fined the receipt does not benefit the budget of the individual body that imposed the fine, instead it returns to the Consolidated Fund and benefits public sector finances.

### Pay: Public Sector

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Langley) of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1567-69W, on Pay: Public Sector, when he expects data for 2007 to be available. [185259]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on the average earnings index is publicly available from the Office of National Statistics at www.statistics.gov.uk. The average earnings index is found within the monthly release of the Labour Market Statistics. The most recent edition (January) of the Labour Market Statistics can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0108.pdf

### Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184096]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Treasury does not give grants to individual local authorities. Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

### Smuggling: Animal Products

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been allocated to tackle illegal imports of products of animal origin in each of the last five years. [185625]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government have significantly increased the amount of money available to tackle illegal imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO), plants and Plant Based Goods (PBG).

An extra £26 million was spent over the three years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. This money was split between DEFRA, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as shown as follows:

*£ million*

| | *HMRC*[1] | *FSA*[2] | *DEFRA*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 4 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 2004-05 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 7 | 2 | 1 |

[1] Enforcement and publicity
[2] Step change project with local/port health authorities
[3] Publicity and risk assessment

From 2006-07 HMRC has continued to fund its enforcement activities in line with public service agreement target commitments. Funding continues to be available for DEFRA to examine the risks and help increase public awareness (£500,000 in 2006-07 and £590,590 in 2007-08), and for the FSA for work on inland controls.

### Smuggling: Meat

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of illegal meat imported into the UK were made in each year since 2001, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* product type; and what the total weight seized in each year was. [185623]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

During the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002, the number of seizures of illegal meat was 1,242 and Weight (kg) was 18,955. Statistics by specific region are not available for that period.

Seizures of illegal meat for 2002 to 2007 are listed by region in the following table.

*1 April to 31 March each year*

| | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region ID* | *Region name* | *Number of seizures* | *Wgt (kg)* | *Number of seizures* | *Wgt (kg)* | *Number of seizures* | *Wgt (kg)* | *Number of seizures* | *Wgt (kg)* | *Number of times seized* | *Wgt (kg)* | *Vol (ltrs)* |
| 1 | Eastern Europe | 343 | 1,998 | 838 | 4,479 | 1,487 | 5,355 | 2,734 | 11,261 | 3,125 | 11,040.98 | 9,920 |
| 2 | Eastern Africa | 91 | 679 | 243 | 2,684 | 286 | 2,574 | 656 | 5,484 | 647 | 3,343.27 | 0 |
| 3 | North Africa | 10 | 14,119 | 53 | 361 | 113 | 617 | 263 | 1,179 | 394 | 1,225.29 | 1,200 |
| 4 | Central Africa | 14 | 148 | 61 | 550 | 78 | 573 | 97 | 511 | 130 | 730.54 | 2,000 |
| 5 | Southern Africa | 542 | 1,536 | 1,004 | 2,235 | 1,181 | 2,699 | 1,541 | 2,352 | 1,625 | 2,359.40 | 1,550 |
| 6 | Western Africa | 532 | 3,331 | 910 | 34,267 | 1,492 | 10,664 | 1,915 | 11,639 | 2,059 | 8,918.23 | 2,640 |
| 7 | North America | 124 | 298 | 402 | 2,706 | 720 | 2,333 | 693 | 1,647 | 656 | 1,427.28 | 256 |
| 8 | Caribbean | 237 | 826 | 279 | 1,617 | 451 | 2,171 | 567 | 2,320 | 722 | 2,215.70 | 0 |
| 9 | Central and South America | 43 | 183 | 102 | 346 | 132 | 544 | 175 | 2,037 | 252 | 2,799.13 | 0 |
| 10 | Eastern Asia | 549 | 5,182 | 1,486 | 9,664 | 2,807 | 23,662 | 3,471 | 41,618 | 5,795 | 18,735.59 | 2,380 |
| 11 | Southern Asia | 132 | 501 | 319 | 1,709 | 633 | 3,002 | 737 | 4,208 | 1,205 | 7,746.80 | 1 |
| 12 | South East Asia | 32 | 107 | 85 | 212 | 179 | 486 | 143 | 1,715 | 184 | 380.67 | 0 |
| 13 | Near and Middle East | 235 | 1,421 | 760 | 10,364 | 1,133 | 14,484 | 1,527 | 18,401 | 2,100 | 9,579.50 | 400 |
| 14 | Oceania | 31 | 503 | 127 | 326 | 131 | 411 | 124 | 453 | 80 | 17,698.86 | 0 |
| 15 | European | 19 | 52 | 60 | 714 | 8 | 7,943 | 7 | 30 | 14 | 65.84 | 0 |
| 16 | Unknown | 52 | 417 | 81 | 500 | 156 | 1,146 | 156 | 1,280 | 266 | 2,059.64 | 520 |
| Total | | 2,986 | 31,301 | 6,810 | 72,734 | 10,987 | 78,664 | 14,826 | 106,135 | 19,254 | 90,326.72 | 20,867 |

The following should be noted:

(a) The aforementioned table shows by specific region the number, weight and volume of seizures of meat made from non-EU countries by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at British points of entry (and by staff funded by DEFRA until 11 April 2003), those made by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) at points of entry in Northern Ireland and those made by inland local/port health authorities where they were able to establish that the illegal products came from non-EU countries. HMRC have been responsible for anti-smuggling controls on products of animal origin (POAO) into Britain since 11 April 2003.

On occasions more than one POAO product at a time will be seized (for example, meat, fish, dairy and honey). This is referred to as a 'multiple seizure'. Up until 31 March 2006, this was only recorded as one seizure against the product of highest weight although the weight of the other products seized was included in the weight recorded for that product. However, the number of seizures by product for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 reflect the number of times each product was seized including those from a 'multiple seizure'.

(b) Seizures of illegal meat imported into the United Kingdom (UK) are recorded by region rather than specific country. This is because in some cases it can be difficult to determine the precise country of origin for a particular product and people can often travel to the UK via another country (for example to catch a direct connecting flight to the UK). What is clear is that illegal imports of meat (and other products of animal origin) enter the UK from all over the world.

(c) Seizure figures are not recorded at the level of detail to determine the type of product (for example, chicken, pork etc.).

## HEALTH

### Agency Nurses: Pay

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the highest hourly rate paid to agency nurses by the NHS was in each of the last three years. [185456]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally as it is an operational matter for national health service trusts.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female binge drinkers, according to the definition of binge drinking used in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, there were in each year since 2004. [186172]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) general household survey provides an estimate of the percentage of men and women who drank more than twice the daily recommendations (three to four units per day for men, two to three units per day for women) on at least one day in the previous week, a measure of binge drinking.

On the method for estimating consumption formerly used by the ONS, in 2004, 22 per cent. of men and 9 per cent. of women drank more than twice the daily recommendations on at least one day in the previous week.

In 2005, 19 per cent. of men and 8 per cent. of women drank more than twice the daily recommendations. For 2006, this figure was 18 per cent. of men and 8 per cent. of women.

In December 2007, the ONS described improvements in the ONS method for estimating alcohol consumption. The improved method takes account of increases in the alcoholic strength of wine, the sizes of glass used and uses better estimates of the alcoholic strength of beers, lagers and ciders.

Using the improved methodology, in both 2005 and 2006, 23 per cent. of men and 15 per cent. of women drank more than twice the daily recommendations on at least one day in the previous week. The figures for 2004 have not been recalculated according to the new methodology.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related categories are in use for assessing accident and emergency admissions. [187479]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The individual diagnosis codes currently used by the Information Centre for health and social care to define 'alcohol related conditions' for hospital admissions are:

F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol

K70 Alcoholic liver disease

T51 Toxic effect of alcohol

Of these, the categories used by the Information Centre for health and social care to define 'admissions to hospital via accident and emergency' (A and E) are:

21 = Emergency: via A and E services, including the casualty department of the provider

28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider

*Notes:*

The Information Centre for health and social care cannot provide data on A and E attendances and when data is provided for 'admissions to hospital via A and E' it is explicitly for in-patient admissions to hospital when they are admitted from category 21 and category 28.

## Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 991W, on cancer, how many *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency bed days for cancer (i) in total and (ii) for each cancer type there were in 2006-07; what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trends in (A) elective and (B) emergency bed days for cancer since 1997-98; and what his latest estimate is of the average cost of (1) an elective and (2) an emergency admission for cancer (x) overall and (y) for each cancer type in the latest year for which figures are available. [184216]

**Ann Keen:** Information on elective and emergency bed days in 2006-07, broken down by cancer type is not currently available.

The latest year for which cost estimates are available for cancer admissions is 2005-06.

The following table provides the average cost of an elective and an emergency admission for all cancers and for each cancer type in the latest year for which figures are available. Note that this includes day cases, which are within the definition of an admission, but exclude regular day and regular night attenders which are not defined as admissions. Figures are in 2005-06 prices.

£

| *Cancer site* | *Average cost per elective admission* | *Average cost per non-elective admission* |
|---|---|---|
| Endocrine System | 1,022 | 2,855 |
| Gynaecology | 1,741 | 3,035 |
| Haematology | 1,139 | 3,342 |
| Head and neck | 753 | 3,233 |
| Lower gastrointestinal | 2,239 | 3,925 |
| Metastases | 1,170 | 4,286 |
| Multiple ICD10 codes | 1,063 | 3,259 |
| Musculoskeletal | 1,483 | 3,705 |
| Neurology | 1,701 | 3,127 |
| Other cancer | 2,860 | 4,409 |
| Skin | 1,254 | 4,024 |
| Thorax | 908 | 3,329 |
| Upper gastrointestinal | 1,053 | 3,400 |
| Urology | 1,209 | 3,626 |
| All cancers | 1,165 | 3,334 |

## Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women aged 25 to 35 years of age have attended a routine smear test in the last 12 months, broken down by primary care trust area. [183760]

**Ann Keen:** Cervical screening attendance data is collected in five-year age bands, starting at 20-24, we are therefore not able to say what percentage of women aged 25 to 35 have attended a routine screen in the last 12 months. However, the following table gives the percentage of women aged 25-34 and 35-39, broken down by primary care trust.

*Cervical screening programme: Coverage of age groups 25-34 and 35-39 by primary care organisation, 2006-07*

*Age at 31 March 2007*

| | | | 25-34 | | | 35-39 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* |
| | *England* | | 3,693,395 | 2,359,943 | 63.9 | 2,007,669 | 1,444,489 | 72.0 |
| *Q30* | *North East strategic health authority (SHA* | | 160,992 | 110,139 | 68.4 | 93,576 | 69,756 | 74.5 |
| | 5ND | County Durham PCT | 30,013 | 21,130 | 70.4 | 18,895 | 14,454 | 76.5 |
| | 5J9 | Darlington PCT | 6,503 | 4,503 | 69.2 | 3,708 | 2,834 | 76.4 |
| | 5KF | Gateshead PCT | 12,843 | 8,988 | 70.0 | 7,376 | 5,607 | 76.0 |
| | 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 5,479 | 3,578 | 65.3 | 3,377 | 2,417 | 71.6 |
| | 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 9,390 | 5,832 | 62.1 | 5,081 | 3,528 | 69.4 |
| | 5D7 | Newcastle PCT | 20,670 | 13,559 | 65.6 | 8,986 | 6,666 | 74.2 |
| | 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 11,533 | 7,893 | 68.4 | 6,904 | 5,173 | 74.9 |
| | 5D8 | North Tyneside PCT | 13,686 | 9,924 | 72.5 | 7,844 | 6,077 | 77.5 |
| | TAC | Northumberland Care Trust | 16,729 | 12,584 | 75.2 | 11,168 | 8,938 | 80.0 |
| | 5QR | Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 7,595 | 5,126 | 67.5 | 4,709 | 3,472 | 73.7 |
| | 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | 8,954 | 6,061 | 67.7 | 5,228 | 3,821 | 73.1 |
| | 5KL | Sunderland Teaching PCT | 17,597 | 10,961 | 62.3 | 10,300 | 6,769 | 65.7 |
| *Q31* | *North West SHA* | | 457,626 | 302,648 | 66.1 | 264,226 | 192,716 | 72.9 |
| | 5HG | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 19,417 | 13,999 | 72.1 | 12,172 | 9,285 | 76.3 |
| | 5CC | Blackburn With Darwen PCT | 10,909 | 6,777 | 62.1 | 6,026 | 4,339 | 72.0 |
| | 5HP | Blackpool PCT | 8,538 | 5,488 | 64.3 | 5,271 | 3,625 | 68.8 |
| | 5HQ | Bolton PCT | 18,598 | 12,336 | 66.3 | 10,603 | 7,993 | 75.4 |
| | 5JX | Bury PCT | 12,457 | 8,736 | 70.1 | 7,172 | 5,532 | 77.1 |
| | 5NP | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 26,493 | 19,190 | 72.4 | 17,945 | 14,252 | 79.4 |
| | 5NG | Central Lancashire PCT | 28,558 | 19,310 | 67.6 | 17,074 | 12,545 | 73.5 |
| | 5NE | Cumbria PCT | 27,105 | 19,078 | 70.4 | 18,179 | 14,014 | 77.1 |
| | 5NH | East Lancashire PCT | 23,499 | 15,731 | 66.9 | 13,789 | 10,248 | 74.3 |
| | 5NM | Halton and St. Helens PCT | 19,445 | 13,406 | 68.9 | 11,989 | 8,943 | 74.6 |
| | 5NQ | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 14,082 | 9,249 | 65.7 | 8,009 | 5,797 | 72.4 |
| | 5J4 | Knowsley PCT | 9,902 | 6,230 | 62.9 | 5,782 | 3,836 | 66.3 |
| | 5NL | Liverpool PCT | 33,541 | 18,754 | 55.9 | 16,520 | 10,312 | 62.4 |
| | 5NT | Manchester PCT | 45,349 | 27,370 | 60.4 | 18,339 | 12,276 | 66.9 |
| | 5NF | North Lancashire PCT | 17,270 | 11,599 | 67.2 | 10,886 | 7,971 | 73.2 |
| | 5J5 | Oldham PCT | 15,212 | 10,368 | 68.2 | 8,509 | 6,332 | 74.4 |
| | 5F5 | Salford PCT | 16,674 | 10,458 | 62.7 | 8,448 | 5,753 | 68.1 |
| | 5NJ | Sefton PCT | 15,025 | 8,983 | 59.8 | 9,602 | 6,551 | 68.2 |
| | 5F7 | Stockport PCT | 18,623 | 13,066 | 70.2 | 11,164 | 8,386 | 75.1 |
| | 5LH | Tameside and Glossop PCT | 15,041 | 10,462 | 69.6 | 9,010 | 6,743 | 74.8 |
| | 5NR | Trafford PCT | 15,542 | 10,213 | 65.7 | 9,036 | 6,352 | 70.3 |
| | 5J2 | Warrington PCT | 12,539 | 9,075 | 72.4 | 7,958 | 6,287 | 79.0 |
| | 5NN | Western Cheshire PCT | 14,621 | 10,147 | 69.4 | 9,041 | 6,958 | 77.0 |
| | 5NK | Wirral PCT | 19,186 | 12,623 | 65.8 | 11,702 | 8,386 | 71.7 |
| *Q32* | *Yorkshire and the Humber SHA* | | 340,084 | 219,323 | 64.5 | 194,983 | 139,820 | 71.7 |
| | 5JE | Barnsley PCT | 14,259 | 8,862 | 62.2 | 9,417 | 6,089 | 64.7 |

*Cervical screening programme: Coverage of age groups 25-34 and 35-39 by primary care organisation, 2006-07*

*Age at 31 March 2007*

| | | | 25-34 | | | 35-39 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* |
| | 5NY | Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 38,481 | 21,332 | 55.4 | 18,691 | 12,101 | 64.7 |
| | 5J6 | Calderdale PCT | 12,794 | 8,238 | 64.4 | 8,074 | 5,572 | 69.0 |
| | 5N5 | Doncaster PCT | 17,972 | 12,679 | 70.5 | 10,966 | 8,279 | 75.5 |
| | 5NW | East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT | 15,817 | 11,711 | 74.0 | 11,097 | 8,897 | 80.2 |
| | 5NX | Hull Teaching PCT | 18,925 | 12,666 | 66.9 | 9,923 | 7,387 | 74.4 |
| | 5N2 | Kirklees PCT | 26,896 | 16,648 | 61.9 | 15,665 | 10,673 | 68.1 |
| | 5N1 | Leeds PCT | 60,430 | 35,409 | 58.6 | 28,313 | 18,481 | 65.3 |
| | 5AN | North East Lincolnshire PCT | 9,430 | 6,185 | 65.6 | 6,031 | 4,160 | 69.0 |
| | 5EF | North Lincolnshire PCT | 9,123 | 5,877 | 64.4 | 5,927 | 4,085 | 68.9 |
| | 5NV | North Yorkshire and York PCT | 43,577 | 31,041 | 71.2 | 27,943 | 22,242 | 79.6 |
| | 5H8 | Rotherham PCT | 15,383 | 9,141 | 59.4 | 9,499 | 6,212 | 65.4 |
| | 5N4 | Sheffield PCT | 35,835 | 24,678 | 68.9 | 19,937 | 15,400 | 77.2 |
| | 5N3 | Wakefield District PCT | 21,162 | 14,856 | 70.2 | 13,500 | 10,242 | 75.9 |
| *Q33* | *East Midlands SHA* | | 275,831 | 194,411 | 70.5 | 164,243 | 129,142 | 78.6 |
| | 5ET | Bassetlaw PCT | 5,962 | 4,425 | 74.2 | 4,024 | 3,249 | 80.7 |
| | 5N7 | Derby City PCT | 20,014 | 13,749 | 68.7 | 10,856 | 8,426 | 77.6 |
| | 5N6 | Derbyshire County PCT | 38,893 | 29,434 | 75.7 | 26,222 | 21,415 | 81.7 |
| | 5PC | Leicester City PCT | 26,549 | 16,368 | 61.7 | 11,952 | 8,867 | 74.2 |
| | 5PA | Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 38,513 | 28,074 | 72.9 | 24,595 | 19,877 | 80.8 |
| | 5N9 | Lincolnshire PCT | 38,384 | 25,385 | 66.1 | 24,848 | 18,558 | 74.7 |
| | 5PD | Northamptonshire PCT | 44,545 | 30,783 | 69.1 | 26,358 | 20,131 | 76.4 |
| | 5EM | Nottingham City PCT | 23,956 | 16,435 | 68.6 | 10,705 | 8,265 | 77.2 |
| | 5N8 | Nottinghamshire County PCT | 39,015 | 29,758 | 76.3 | 24,683 | 20,354 | 82.5 |
| *Q34* | *West Midlands SHA* | | 357,986 | 230,132 | 64.3 | 207,288 | 151,871 | 73.3 |
| | 5PG | Birmingham East and North PCT | 28,644 | 17,861 | 62.4 | 15,805 | 11,100 | 70.2 |
| | 5MD | Coventry Teaching PCT | 24,196 | 14,686 | 60.7 | 12,139 | 8,576 | 70.6 |
| | 5PE | Dudley PCT | 18,572 | 12,559 | 67.6 | 11,709 | 8,783 | 75.0 |
| | 5MX | Heart Of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 25,339 | 15,415 | 60.8 | 10,170 | 7,513 | 73.9 |
| | 5CN | Herefordshire PCT | 8,950 | 6,040 | 67.5 | 5,952 | 4,520 | 75.9 |
| | 5PH | North Staffordshire PCT | 11,355 | 7,981 | 70.3 | 7,468 | 5,814 | 77.9 |
| | 5PF | Sandwell PCT | 22,535 | 13,723 | 60.9 | 12,203 | 8,284 | 67.9 |
| | 5M2 | Shropshire County PCT | 14,479 | 10,171 | 70.2 | 10,175 | 7,960 | 78.2 |
| | TAM | Solihull Care Trust | 12,247 | 8,396 | 68.6 | 8,190 | 6,199 | 75.7 |
| | 5M1 | South Birmingham PCT | 29402 | 17,631 | 60.6 | 13,768 | 9,801 | 71.2 |
| | 5PK | South Staffordshire PCT | 34,857 | 24,522 | 70.4 | 22,727 | 17,641 | 77.6 |
| | 5PJ | Stoke On Trent PCT | 17,427 | 11,480 | 65.9 | 9,910 | 7,354 | 74.2 |
| | 5MK | Telford and Wrekin PCT | 10,602 | 6,971 | 65.8 | 6,598 | 4,920 | 74.6 |

*Cervical screening programme: Coverage of age groups 25-34 and 35-39 by primary care organisation, 2006-07*

*Age at 31 March 2007*

| | | | 25-34 | | | 35-39 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* |
| | 5M3 | Walsall Teaching PCT | 16,537 | 10,329 | 62.5 | 9,668 | 6,995 | 72.4 |
| | 5PM | Warwickshire PCT | 33,288 | 22,344 | 67.1 | 20,651 | 15,487 | 75.0 |
| | 5MV | Wolverhampton City PCT | 17,231 | 10,913 | 63.3 | 9,450 | 6,797 | 71.9 |
| | 5PL | Worcestershire PCT | 32,625 | 19,110 | 58.6 | 20,705 | 14,127 | 68.2 |
| *Q35* | *East of England SHA* | | 372,625 | 235,361 | 63.2 | 216,345 | 151,089 | 69.8 |
| | 5P2 | Bedfordshire PCT | 27,205 | 17,599 | 64.7 | 16,416 | 11,647 | 70.9 |
| | 5PP | Cambridgeshire PCT | 40,820 | 27,708 | 67.9 | 22,314 | 17,054 | 76.4 |
| | 5P3 | East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 37,187 | 22,784 | 61.3 | 22,480 | 15,061 | 67.0 |
| | 5PR | Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT | 11,784 | 7,738 | 65.7 | 7,418 | 5,320 | 71.7 |
| | 5GC | Luton Teaching PCT | 16,344 | 9,322 | 57.0 | 7,321 | 4,903 | 67.0 |
| | 5PX | Mid Essex PCT | 23,458 | 14,352 | 61.2 | 14,379 | 9,736 | 67.7 |
| | 5PQ | Norfolk PCT | 41,982 | 26,112 | 62.2 | 24,933 | 16,791 | 67.3 |
| | 5PW | North East Essex PCT | 18,426 | 12,629 | 68.5 | 10,700 | 7,416 | 69.3 |
| | 5PN | Peterborough PCT | 12,857 | 8,442 | 65.7 | 6,161 | 4,454 | 72.3 |
| | 5P1 | South East Essex PCT | 21,156 | 12,193 | 57.6 | 12,964 | 8,397 | 64.8 |
| | 5PY | South West Essex PCT | 28,717 | 16,660 | 58.0 | 15,986 | 10,348 | 64.7 |
| | 5PT | Suffolk PCT | 35,034 | 24,023 | 68.6 | 21,259 | 16,339 | 76.9 |
| | 5PV | West Essex PCT | 17,744 | 10,781 | 60.8 | 10,954 | 7,461 | 68.1 |
| | 5P4 | West Hertfordshire PCT | 39,911 | 25,018 | 62.7 | 23,060 | 16,162 | 70.1 |
| *Q36* | *London SHA* | | 857,266 | 502,800 | 58.7 | 359,133 | 240,074 | 66.8 |
| | 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 14,877 | 8,554 | 57.5 | 7,110 | 4,523 | 63.6 |
| | 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 34,283 | 18,356 | 53.5 | 14,587 | 9,484 | 65.0 |
| | TAK | Bexley Care Trust | 14,582 | 10,486 | 71.9 | 8,577 | 6,742 | 78.6 |
| | 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 35,696 | 19,453 | 54.5 | 13,788 | 9,124 | 66.2 |
| | 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 21,638 | 15,077 | 69.7 | 12,974 | 9,942 | 76.6 |
| | 5K7 | Camden PCT | 31,321 | 17,167 | 54.8 | 10,108 | 6,506 | 64.4 |
| | 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 30,001 | 17,386 | 58.0 | 11,844 | 7,684 | 64.9 |
| | 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 29,457 | 17,098 | 58.1 | 14,909 | 9,561 | 64.1 |
| | 5HX | Ealing PCT | 37,050 | 21,031 | 56.8 | 14,696 | 9,805 | 66.7 |
| | 5C1 | Enfield PCT | 23,563 | 13,193 | 56.0 | 11,566 | 7,495 | 64.8 |
| | 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 26,038 | 15,580 | 59.8 | 11,394 | 7,729 | 67.8 |
| | 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 28,034 | 15,902 | 56.7 | 9,572 | 5,641 | 58.9 |
| | 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | 28,532 | 15,606 | 54.7 | 12,690 | 8,088 | 63.7 |
| | 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 17,900 | 10,031 | 56.0 | 8,658 | 5,970 | 69.0 |
| | 5A4 | Havering PCT | 15,628 | 9,390 | 60.1 | 8,958 | 5,757 | 64.3 |
| | 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 20,215 | 11,921 | 59.0 | 10,285 | 7,152 | 69.5 |
| | 5HY | Hounslow PCT | 25,598 | 14,402 | 56.3 | 11,078 | 7,356 | 66.4 |
| | 5K8 | Islington PCT | 29,256 | 17,337 | 59.3 | 10,130 | 6,675 | 65.9 |
| | 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 22,169 | 12,739 | 57.5 | 9,439 | 5,754 | 61.0 |
| | 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 15,827 | 9,966 | 63.0 | 7,517 | 5,372 | 71.5 |
| | 5LD | Lambeth PCT | 46,265 | 27,346 | 59.1 | 17,361 | 11,245 | 64.8 |

*Cervical screening programme: Coverage of age groups 25-34 and 35-39 by primary care organisation, 2006-07*

*Age at 31 March 2007*

| | | | 25-34 | | | 35-39 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[1] | *Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)* | *Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage)* |
| | 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 29,940 | 18,609 | 62.2 | 13,483 | 9,218 | 68.4 |
| | 5C5 | Newham PCT | 31,584 | 18,974 | 60.1 | 12,215 | 8,706 | 71.3 |
| | 5NA | Redbridge PCT | 21,260 | 11,658 | 54.8 | 9,961 | 6,497 | 65.2 |
| | 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 17,716 | 11,302 | 63.8 | 9,289 | 6,700 | 72.1 |
| | 5LE | Southwark PCT | 35,462 | 20,617 | 58.1 | 14,450 | 9,274 | 64.2 |
| | 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 38,862 | 24,164 | 62.2 | 17,270 | 12,226 | 70.8 |
| | 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 30,668 | 17,029 | 55.5 | 8,220 | 5,468 | 66.5 |
| | 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 24,203 | 14,370 | 59.4 | 11,157 | 7,549 | 67.7 |
| | 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | 48,991 | 30,039 | 61.3 | 15,464 | 10,344 | 66.9 |
| | 5LC | Westminster PCT | 30,670 | 18,017 | 58.7 | 10,383 | 6,487 | 62.5 |
| *Q37* | *South East Coast SHA* | | 275,545 | 186,277 | 67.6 | 164,042 | 125,392 | 76.4 |
| | 5LQ | Brighton and Hove City PCT | 26,234 | 15,811 | 60.3 | 12,293 | 8,930 | 72.6 |
| | 5P7 | East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 17,219 | 11,463 | 66.6 | 11,221 | 8,469 | 75.5 |
| | 5QA | Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 43,046 | 29,557 | 68.7 | 25,620 | 19,648 | 76.7 |
| | 5P8 | Hastings and Rother PCT | 8,932 | 6,192 | 69.3 | 5,785 | 4,490 | 77.6 |
| | 5L3 | Medway POT | 18,272 | 12,786 | 70.0 | 10,497 | 8,169 | 77.8 |
| | 5P5 | Surrey PCT | 73,116 | 48,694 | 66.6 | 43,633 | 33,430 | 76.6 |
| | 5P9 | West Kent PCT | 42,345 | 30,005 | 70.9 | 26,236 | 20,596 | 78.5 |
| | 5P6 | West Sussex PCT | 46,381 | 31,769 | 68.5 | 28,757 | 21,660 | 75.3 |
| *Q38* | *South Central SHA* | | 284,062 | 178,103 | 62.7 | 158,601 | 112,883 | 71.2 |
| | 5QG | Berkshire East PCT | 32,223 | 18,142 | 56.3 | 16,641 | 10,713 | 64.4 |
| | 5QF | Berkshire West PCT | 37,101 | 22,851 | 61.6 | 19,194 | 13,481 | 70.2 |
| | 5QD | Buckinghamshire PCT | 31,609 | 21,155 | 66.9 | 20,000 | 15,122 | 75.6 |
| | 5QC | Hampshire PCT | 75,607 | 49,854 | 65.9 | 48,177 | 34,495 | 71.6 |
| | 5QT | Isle Of Wight PCT | 6,640 | 4,645 | 70.0 | 4,509 | 3,448 | 76.5 |
| | 5CQ | Milton Keynes PCT | 19,371 | 12,792 | 66.0 | 10,027 | 7,344 | 73.2 |
| | 5QE | Oxfordshire PCT | 46,406 | 28,706 | 61.9 | 24,505 | 18,213 | 74.3 |
| | 5FE | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 15,020 | 8,147 | 54.2 | 7,441 | 4,724 | 63.5 |
| | 5LJ | Southampton City PCT | 20,085 | 11,811 | 58.8 | 8,107 | 5,343 | 65.9 |
| *Q39* | *South West SHA* | | 311,378 | 200,749 | 64.5 | 185,172 | 131,746 | 71.1 |
| | 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 11,465 | 6,466 | 56.4 | 6,543 | 4,106 | 62.8 |
| | 5QN | Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 23,277 | 16,369 | 70.3 | 11,868 | 9,550 | 80.5 |
| | 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 39,399 | 21,548 | 54.7 | 16,328 | 10,001 | 61.3 |
| | 5QP | Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT | 27,999 | 19,793 | 70.7 | 17,935 | 13,542 | 75.5 |
| | 5QQ | Devon PCT | 37,355 | 24,202 | 64.8 | 24,294 | 17,325 | 71.3 |
| | 5QM | Dorset PCT | 18,149 | 12,750 | 70.3 | 12,285 | 9,559 | 77.8 |
| | 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 34,657 | 24,709 | 71.3 | 21,486 | 16,440 | 76.5 |
| | 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 11,466 | 6,802 | 59.3 | 7,435 | 4,865 | 65.4 |
| | 5FJ | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 17,282 | 12,036 | 69.6 | 9,379 | 7,066 | 75.3 |

*Cervical screening programme: Coverage of age groups 25-34 and 35-39 by primary care organisation, 2006-07*

*Age at 31 March 2007*

| | | | 25-34 | | | 35-39 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Eligible population[1] | Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) | Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage) | Eligible population[1] | Number of women (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) | Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (Percentage) |
| | SQL | Somerset PCT | 26,956 | 17,365 | 64.4 | 17,963 | 12,614 | 70.2 |
| | 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 16,434 | 10,096 | 61.4 | 9,948 | 6,653 | 66.9 |
| | 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 14,765 | 8,658 | 58.6 | 8,229 | 5,317 | 64.6 |
| | TAL | Torbay Care Trust | 7,613 | 5,185 | 68.1 | 4,595 | 3,453 | 75.1 |
| | 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 24,561 | 14,770 | 60.1 | 16,884 | 11,255 | 66.7 |

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons (most commonly due to hysterectomy).

*Notes:*

1. National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years. Women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, (from 2002 3.5 years) those aged 50 to 64 every five years.
2. Coverage as supplied here relates to the percentage of eligible women aged 25-39 screened within the last 3.5 years

*Source:*

KC53 Parts A2 and A3

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women *(a)* under 25, *(b)* 25 to 35, *(c)* 35 to 50, *(d)* 50 to 60 and *(e)* over 60 years of age had a CIN 3 graded smear test in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [183761]

(2) how many women under the age of 25 years had a smear test with a CIN 3 result in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [186872]

**Ann Keen:** Data for CIN3 are aggregated by age and with data for adenocarcinoma, we are not able to spilt them up. The following tables give figures, for the last five years, for women, whose cervical test outcome was CIN 3 and adenocarcinoma.

*Women (all ages) where outcome was CIN3 and adenocarcinoma in situ following referral after persistent non-negative sample (low grade—i.e. category 1/8/3 result) for 2001-02 to 2005-06 and April to June 2006*

| England | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2,498 |
| 2002-03 | 3,872 |
| 2003-04 | 3,609 |
| 2004-05 | 3,945 |
| 2005-06 | 4,151 |
| April to June 2006 | 866 |

*Women (all ages) where outcome was CIN3 and adenocarcinoma in situ following referral after single occurrence of potentially significant abnormality (high grade i.e. category 7/4/5/6 result) for 2001-02 to 2005-06 and April to June 2006*

| England | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 13,527 |
| 2002-03 | 20,787 |
| 2003-04 | 19,709 |
| 2004-05 | 19,764 |
| 2005-06 | 19,990 |
| April to June 2006 | 4,530 |

*Notes:*

1. Data for outcome of referrals is a retrospective collection and annual data for this dataset is always a year behind the rest of the published data for cervical screening, however the first quarter for the following year is available and published at the same time, this has been provided for the period April to June 2006 to show the most up to date information available.
2. Figures for 2005-06 and April to June 2006 differ slightly from those published. Arrowe Park Hospital's laboratory data was submitted with the quarter and the annual data the wrong way round.
3. The latest data on cervical screening is available in the Information Centre's publication "Cervical Screening Programme, England 2006-07".
4. Low grade includes the results; inadequate (cat 1), borderline (cat 8) and mild dyskaryosis (cat 3)
High grade includes the results; moderate dyskaryosis (cat 7), severe dyskariosis (cat 4), severe dyskariosis/?invasive carcinoma (cat 5) and ?glandular neoplasia (cat 6)
5. CIN (cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia) is an indicator of the depth of abnormal cells within the cervix
CIN3 is where the full thickness of the surface layer is affected (also known as carcinoma in situ)

*Source:*

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Form KC61 part C1 and C2

## Clinical Negligence

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2238W, on clinical negligence, by how much the forecast value of claims in the future has required amendment; and for what reason. [184500]

**Ann Keen:** This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The reasons for change in value of future claims settlements can vary from changed information on the specific damage caused to changes in the interpretation of case law and its impact on future settlements. The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) carry out a rigorous review at least twice per annum of all of our models which forecast claims not yet received and keep a constant review of all 'known claims' throughout their life. NHSLA's systems and processes are audited by the National Audit Office who have yet to offer any concern in relation to NHSLA's accounting treatment or indeed the quality of advice they are purchasing from either legal or actuarial professionals.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2238W on clinical negligence, how many claims under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts there have been relating to care or treatment for cancer since 1995; and what the value has been of such claims. [184501]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the information requested.

| *Speciality* | *Number of claims* | *Outstanding estimate (£)* | *Total paid (£)* | *Total claim (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oncology | 416 | 9,436,113 | 13,864,016 | 23,300,129 |
| Radiology | 709 | 39,459,887 | 31,388,864 | 70,848,751 |
| Radiotherapy | 54 | 1,073,861 | 1,898,797 | 2,972,658 |
| Grand total | 1,179 | 49,969,862 | 47,151,676 | 97,121,538 |

## Community Care

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people and what proportion of the population received continuing healthcare in each primary care trust area in England in each of the last five years. [183767]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

## Diabetes: Medical Equipment

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice has been issued to general practitioners on the prescription to diabetics of blood-testing strips. [183907]

**Ann Keen:** In September 2002, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued clinical guidelines on Management of Type 2 Diabetes—Managing Blood Glucose. The guidelines include advice on the self-monitoring of blood glucose, and state that although self-monitoring can have benefits, it should only be carried out as part of an integrated self-care package and if the purpose is clear and agreed with the patient.

The guidelines are under review and will be reissued as part of the Type 2 diabetes: the management of type two diabetes (update), expected to be published by NICE in April 2008.

In July 2004 NICE issued clinical guidelines on Type 1 diabetes: diagnosis and management of Type one diabetes in children, young people and adults. These guidelines also state that self-monitoring of blood glucose levels should be used as part of an integrated package to help choice and achieve the best outcomes.

A statement on blood glucose self-monitoring was reissued in February 2005 via the Medical Director, Chief Nursing Officer and general practitioner bulletins to reinforce the message that self-monitoring may prove useful to people in their overall approach to self-care.

## Diabetes: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* were offered and *(b)* accepted screening for diabetic retinopathy in each year since 2003-04. [184560]

**Ann Keen:** The following tables show the number of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy and the number of people receiving screening broken down by year.

| | *Number of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 835,900 |
| 2004-05 | 1,076,400 |
| 2005-06 | 1,478,223 |
| 2006-07 | 1,593,644 |

| | *Number of people with diabetes receiving screening for diabetic retinopathy*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [2]753,997 |
| 2004-05 | 1,076,388 |
| 2005-06 | 1,232,043 |
| 2006-07 | 1,256,463 |

[1] Data from Local Delivery Plans returns.
[2] Data for year 2003-04 was an incomplete return.

## Doctors: EU Nationals

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on which European countries' doctors in the UK *(a)* have come from and *(b)* are likely to come from in the future, based on current staffing and future projections, as a result of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals. [186640]

**Ann Keen:** The European countries that doctors come from is not collected centrally. The NHS Workforce Census does collect the countries where doctors qualified. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

The European Union Professional Qualifications Directive may have an impact of the future flows from European countries because the directive is about freeing up professional mobility. The flow of doctors will continue to depend upon the requirements of employing organisations and the competitiveness of doctors applying for employment.

*Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental[1] staff by country of qualification showing other European economic area by country*

| *England as at 30 September 2006* | *All staff[2] (number—headcount)* |
|---|---|
| England | 93,320 |
| United Kingdom | 55,445 |

*Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental[1] staff by country of qualification showing other European economic area by country*

| *England as at 30 September 2006* | *All staff[1] (number—headcount)* |
|---|---|
| Other EEA | 5,629 |
| Austria | 83 |
| Belgium | 103 |
| Bulgaria | 77 |
| Czech Republic | 262 |
| Czechoslovakia | 1 |
| Denmark | 43 |
| Estonia | 8 |
| Finland | 14 |
| France | 76 |
| Germany | 993 |
| Greece | 504 |
| Hungary | 156 |
| Iceland | 10 |
| Irish Republic | 1,390 |
| Italy | 375 |
| Latvia | 35 |
| Lithuania | 43 |
| Malta | 122 |
| Netherlands | 160 |
| Norway | 6 |
| Poland | 462 |
| Portugal | 20 |
| Romania | 156 |
| Slovakia | 42 |
| Slovenia | 4 |
| Spain | 372 |
| Sweden | 48 |
| Switzerland | 29 |
| Unknown—Europe | 35 |
| Elsewhere | 28,337 |
| Unknown—Dental | 3,909 |

[1] All dental staff are shown as unknown within the table. Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## Ear Nose and Throat: Surgery

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* child tonsillectomies were carried out in each of the last five years. [186742]

**Ann Keen:** The numbers of finished admission episodes where the primary or secondary operative procedure was a tonsillectomy for people aged (a) under 18 and (b) 18 and over in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

| | *Age* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under 18* | *18 and over* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
| 2006-07 | 18,695 | 33,905 | 2 | 52,602 |
| 2005-06 | 18,106 | 34,809 | 3 | 52,918 |
| 2004-05 | 17,966 | 34,674 | 3 | 52,643 |
| 2003-04 | 18,146 | 35,539 | 2 | 53,687 |
| 2002-03 | 18,541 | 36,321 | 3 | 54,865 |

*Notes:*

*FAE*

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be included in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Ungrossed Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*All operations count of mentions*

These figures represent a count of all mentions of an operation in any of the 12 operation fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field during an episode, all operations are counted.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Health Services: Pilot Schemes

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons his Department's Whole System Demonstrator project sites in *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Cornwall did not go live in accordance with the expected timetable; and when he expects each such project site to begin providing services to patients; [183559]

(2) what the *(a)* target population and *(b)* evaluation criteria are of the Whole System Demonstrator project sites in (i) Newham, (ii) Kent and (iii) Cornwall; [183560]

(3) what the *(a)* titles and *(b)* dates of all documents held by his Department are which concern the (i) planning and (ii) implementation of the Whole System Demonstrator pilot sites in (A) Newham, (B) Kent and (C) Cornwall; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such document. [183561]

**Ann Keen:** The Long Term Condition Whole System Demonstrators (WSDs) promised in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" are exploring the effectiveness of telehealth and telecare in supporting integrated care for those with complex health and social care needs.

The demonstrators involve the provision of integrated care supported by telehealth and telecare to thousands of individuals over a two year period. The demonstrators are charged with determining the business case for the effectiveness of this model of care. This is being facilitated by the development of a robust independent evaluation drawing upon relevant academic expertise.

The development of the evaluation methodology, in conjunction with the three sites, has been complex and a number of research design and operational issues have had to be addressed. However, since a randomised control trial provides an unbiased, balanced, and reliable method for determining whether the complex intervention is effective we have allowed more time for the evaluation methodology to be developed than originally planned. There has also been a requirement for review by a multi-site research ethics committee. We have delayed launching services on a large scale until the evaluation methodology is approved because we want each installation to contribute to the knowledge base we are generating.

Our revised timeline has the evaluated roll out of WSD services commencing in April 2008.

The three WSD sites will be subject to a single evaluation and as such the target population and evaluation methodology is common across all three sites. It is essential to clearly define the target population for the WSD programme so that the results of the detailed evaluation can be set in context. The criteria proposed for individuals in the trial is as follows:

individuals with health care needs of any age who are at risk of current or future hospital admission, due to at least one of the following conditions: heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or diabetes. The detailed severity criteria is defined using quality outcome framework indicators.

individuals with social care needs aged 18 and over who:

are currently in receipt of, or considered to have a need for night sitting;

receiving seven or more hours per week of home care or 3.5 or more hours per week of home care plus a meals service (defined by individual not household);

receiving one or more days per week of day care;

have had a fall or who are considered at high risk of falling;

a live-in nearby informal carer facing difficulties carrying their current burden of responsibilities; and

cognitive impairment/confusion people fulfilling this criterion who are unable to provide written informed consent and do not have a primary informal caregiver available or an advocate will not be approached to participate in the questionnaire study.-

individuals with both health and social care needs as defined above.

The evaluation has been designed to assess the impact of the addition of telehealth and telecare in an integrated care setting on:

patterns of health and social care utilisation;

user reported quality of life, independence and psychological well-being;

carers' quality of life;

practitioners working lives and relationships with patients/service users;

clinical effectiveness; and

cost effectiveness of care.

The WSD sites are being supported by the Department, and their project management partner KPMG, to ensure that each site manages to the principles outlined by the OGC's Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) guidance. All the sites have a requirement to produce and manage a consistent set of programme documentation. Each site has a dedicated WSD team and reports to the Department with a weekly flash report and a monthly progress report.

A comprehensive list of planning and control documentation has been produced by each site. The nature of such documentation is that it evolves over the lifecycle of the programme and so there are multiple versions of many documents that reflect this evolution. For each of the three programmes, and their associated sub-projects, there are for example project initiation documents, project plans, risk/issue and dependency logs and communications plans.

The planning documentation contains commercially sensitive information and so it would be inappropriate to place the information in the Library.

### Health Services: Private Sector

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support the involvement of patients and the public in monitoring the effectiveness of services provided for the NHS by the third sector and the private sector. [185566]

**Ann Keen:** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, set out important new arrangements for the involvement of patients and the public in health and social care, including local involvement networks (LINks). LINks will enable local people to monitor local services irrespective of who provides them.

LINks will build on the work of voluntary and community sector groups; and, enable genuine involvement of a far greater number of people than is currently available, ensuring local communities have a stronger voice in the process of commissioning health and social care and enabling them to influence key decisions about the services they both use and pay for.

In order to ensure that independent sector providers—be they from the private or third sector—co-operate with LINks, we will make directions requiring primary care trusts and local authorities to ensure that their contracts with the independent and third sectors allow LINks entry to appropriate premises and access to appropriate information. This will ensure that LINks will have the same levels of access as they do in the public sector. These changes are aimed at promoting open and transparent communication between communities and the health service, and will develop trust and confidence, increasing accountability to local people.

### Malnutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women were underweight in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007, (1) in total and (2) broken down by age. [185602]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on underweight prevalence among men and women in England in 2005 and 2006, broken down by age group can be found in the "Health Survey for England 2006 latest trends", published 31 January 2008. The data are presented in table 4 (body mass index) of the "Adult trend tables 2006". This publication and the tables are available in the Library.

Data for 2007 are not available.

### Mental Health Services: Restraint Techniques

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce *(a)* mandatory training for staff who are involved in restraint or other physical interventions in mental health units, *(b)* an accreditation scheme for trainers in necessary restraint skills and *(c)* definitive guidance on the management of violence in mental health acute units. [186662]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidelines in 2005 entitled "Short-term Management of Violence and Disturbed Behaviour in Psychiatric In-patient Settings and Emergency Departments". These guidelines state that all service providers should have a policy for training in physical intervention that specifies the frequency and level of training required.

The NHS Security Management Service has developed training for all National Health Service staff in mental health and learning disabilities settings entitled The Promoting Safer and Therapeutic Services training-programme. This does not include training in physical intervention techniques.

The Department and the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) are committed to the accreditation of training and regulation of trainers in the prevention and management of aggression and violence and are currently working to ensure the introduction of an effective accreditation system.

NIMHE issued the positive practice standards "Developing Positive Practice to Support the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings" in 2004.

On 8 February, consultation ended on definitive guidance by NIMHE entitled "The National Minimum Standards for the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings." Responses to this consultation are being considered.

### Migraine

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates he has made of the number of people who experience migraine in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [185510]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no estimates of the number of people living with migraine.

### National Centre for Involvement

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require the National Centre for Involvement to provide information, advice and learning opportunities to patients, NHS service users and local involvement networks members in relation to improving consultation at national, regional and local levels in the NHS. [183801]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) is a consortium of organisations comprising the University of Warwick, Centre for Public Scrutiny and Long Term Conditions Alliance. The NCI has been contracted by the Department to promote more effective patient and public involvement and consultation and to provide support, advice and guidance to stakeholders in this respect. Key among those receiving the NCI's support are patients and the public themselves.

The NCI is delivering a major programme of work to support those involved in local involvement networks (LINks)—patients, users of social services and the public, as well as those groups and organisations involved in supporting and participating in LINks. The NCI also provides information to members of the public more generally about patient and public involvement in the national health service.

### NHS

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new NHS constitution proposed by the Prime Minister on 7 January will be established by primary legislation. [180449]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We do not propose enshrining the entire constitution in legislation but will legislate if appropriate on specific elements of the constitution.

### NHS: Public Participation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* the NHS Centre for Involvement, *(b)* NHS service users and *(c)* local involvement networks members improve consultation at national, regional and local levels. [183743]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is taking a number of steps to improve consultation at all levels. It has contracted with the NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) to promote and support more effective patient and public involvement and consultation throughout the national health service. The Department is in close contact with the NCI to ensure that the NCI continues to develop its work in this area and constantly seeks to improve the support it offers to the NHS.

Additionally, the Department is currently developing statutory guidance, in accordance with the requirements of section 242 of the NHS Act 2006, which will set out the requirements of NHS bodies to involve and consult patients and the public in the design, development and improvement of health services. The Department is also completing the legislative base for local involvement networks (LINks) which are to be established from April 2008 onwards.

LINks will provide a more flexible and open means by which peoples' views and experiences can inform local services, and enable the NHS to develop a more long-term and meaningful dialogue with the public. As well as the primary and secondary legislation to support LINks, the Department is also developing supportive guidance for those involved in making LINks effective—those who participate in them as well as those organisations which will develop relationships with them. The NCI is also developing a comprehensive package of support to enable LINks to operate at their best.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make provision for a financial loss allowance for members of local involvement networks. [185568]

**Ann Keen:** Patient and public involvement is key to developing and delivering responsive and accountable health and social care services. For effective involvement, people need to feel supported and that their contribution has been valued. This can be done in a number of ways, including participants being thanked and their contribution acknowledged.

It will be for each Local Involvement Network (LINk) to determine its own policy regarding payment and reimbursement. However, we will remind LINks and host organisations that the Department's "Reward and Recognition" document which is available in the Library and is also on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4138523

This document provides a useful guide for service providers, users and carers on the principles and practice of service user payment and reimbursement in health and social care.

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will issue guidance to local authorities on the establishment of LINks; and if he will make a statement on progress towards establishing LINks. [186499]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Centre for Involvement is in the process of pulling together a compendium of guidance, which will be made available from 1 April 2008.

Since the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 was enacted in October last year, a great deal of work has been done to ensure that a local involvement network (LINk) is established in each local authority area.

A programme of tools and services will be available to all 150 local authorities, to support them in making arrangements for LINks activities in their area.

### Organs: Donors

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people carry donor cards; and how many transplants took place where consent was given by the existence of such a card, in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [185298]

**Ann Keen:** We do not know exactly how many people carry an organ donor card but a recent survey concluded that around 21 million people carried the card, about 36 per cent. of the population. Almost 15 million people, around 25 per cent. of the population have registered on the Organ Donor Register.

Of the 2,339 organ transplants in the United Kingdom in 2007 from deceased donors, 674, about 29 per cent. were from donors who were registered on the Organ Donor Register.

### Palliative Care Standards

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to fund the continuing work of the Gold Standard Framework Programme to improve end-of-life care in primary care teams and in care homes with central resources. [187270]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Funding has been incorporated into strategic health authority (SHA) NHS bundle to support the continuation of the End of Life Care programme, of which the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) forms an important part. It is for SHAs to decide how this funding should be allocated.

The central team for the End of Life Care programme has also received further funding to support its developing role as the national support team for the future implementation of the End of Life Care strategy. An important part of the team's work will be the continuation of existing initiatives, including the roll out of supporting tools such as the GSF.

### Patients' Prospectus

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to publish a patients' prospectus, as referred to by the Prime Minister in his speech to King's college London and the Florence Nightingale school of Nursing of 7 January; and if he will make a statement; [183556]

(2) what programmes and services will be provided under the *(a)* active patient and *(b)* care at home care options announced by the Prime Minister in his speech to King's college London and the Florence Nightingale school of Nursing of 7 January; how many patients he expects to be cared for through each care option in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; whether the care options will receive central Government funding; and if he will make a statement. [183557]

**Ann Keen:** Departmental officials will be working collaboratively with key stakeholders to develop further detail on the framework for the Patients' Prospectus. A timeframe for publication in 2008 has still to be finalised.

However, in line with the Departments "Supporting people with long term conditions to Self Care—A guide to developing local strategies and good practice" (February 2006), we envisage the Prospectus would illustrate what people might expect broadly under four key areas (care options) for self care/self management:

information;

skills;

equipment, tools and devices; and

support networks.

The Prospectus might also cover the wider aspects of self care such as choices about healthy lifestyles.

The number of people who will be cared for through each care option will be locally determined as individuals will make different choices depending on their needs and lifestyle.

This is in keeping with proposals (trailed in "Our NHS, Our Future") to provide greater personalisation and control for people with long term conditions, and the "Operating Framework: for the NHS in England 2008-09", published 13 December 2007, which expects primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve care for people with long term conditions and to ensure more choices for these patients. We expect PCTs to roll out choice to all people in their area with a long term condition, with local flexibility on the pace and priorities.

Funding to support the delivery of improved care and support for people with long term conditions is

included in PCTs main allocations. Consistent with shifting the balance of power, local empowerment and local area agreements, decisions on the level of investment in this approach will be decided locally.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radical prostatectomies for the treatment of prostate cancer were carried out in the NHS in each year since 1997-98 *(a)* in total, *(b)* broken down by commissioning authority and *(c)* broken down by provider organisation. [184264]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of prostatectomies broken down by primary care trust and national health service trust for the period requested has been placed in the Library. It is not possible to identify separately the number of radical prostatectomies.

## JUSTICE

### Community Service Orders: Foreigners

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals are serving community sentences. [187109]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the nationality of offenders being supervised by the Probation Service under community sentences is not collected centrally.

### Debt Collection: Standards

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who in HM Courts Service is responsible for ensuring compliance with the national standards for enforcement agents by *(a)* county court bailiffs, *(b)* authorised High Court enforcement officers and their bailiffs and *(c)* enforcement companies and their employees contracted for magistrates enforcement; what compliance checks were undertaken in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [187008]

**Maria Eagle:** County court bailiffs are subject to civil service recruitment and the civil service code governs their behaviour. They are subject to strict controls over their conduct, exceeding the national standards, and discipline under civil service disciplinary procedures.

Oversight of the conduct of authorised High Court enforcement officers (HCEOs) is delegated by the Lord Chancellor to the senior master of the Queen's bench division of the High Court.

The principles and concepts contained within the national standards for enforcement agents are encapsulated in the contracts that HMCS holds with those firms employed by them to enforce warrants issued by the magistrates courts. Management of these contracts is the responsibility of regional contract managers employed by HMCS.

During 2007 the regional contract managers received monthly performance reports and held regular meetings to discuss issues, complaints and the provision of services generally. Centrally a review of both performance and compliance with the terms of the contract is undertaken bi-annually. In addition these companies were audited against their ability to meet contract protocols during 2007. As a result no contract breaches were identified.

### Departmental Consultants

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181881]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. For the years 2005-06 to 2006-07, information for contracts awarded by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and those bodies that were formerly part of the Home Office and which are now part of the Ministry of Justice is available in the Library of the House.

Information on contracts awarded in the first half of the current financial year across the Ministry of Justice is also provided.

The information on contracts awarded by the National Offender Management Service in 2005-06 and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in the years 2005-07 is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Full information on contracts awarded by HM Prison Service in 2006-07 is not available.

Engaging consultancy support offers the Ministry of Justice a fast and flexible way of obtaining skills and experience that are not available in house. Additionally, it is an efficient and cost effective way of meeting ad hoc requirements and provides better value for money than expanding our permanent workforce.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers and those of its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [178884]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Driving Offences: Cycling

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cyclists, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age group and *(c)* police area were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of going through a red traffic light in each of the last five years for which information is available; [186394]

(2) what the average fine was for a cyclist convicted of going through a red traffic light in each of the last 10 years. [186395]

**Maria Eagle:** Information held by my Department cannot separately identify cyclists from other road users who have been prosecuted under various statutes that cover "going through a red traffic light".

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts for offences that cover "going through a red traffic light", by gender, age group (under 18 years, and 18 years and over), and police force area in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 can be found in the following tables 1 and 2.

The average fine given to those convicted of offences which cover "going through a red traffic light" in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be found below in table 3.

*Table 1: Number of persons under the age of 18 years proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts, for offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 35 and 36, by gender, and police force area, in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Defendants*

| | 2002 | | | | 2003 | | | | 2004 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| *10 to 17* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Bedfordshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Cambridgeshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Cheshire | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| City of London | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Cleveland | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Cumbria | 2 | – | 2 | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| Derbyshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Devon and Cornwall | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Dorset | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Durham | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Essex | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Gloucestershire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Greater Manchester | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| Hampshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – |
| Hertfordshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Humberside | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – |
| Kent | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Lancashire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Leicestershire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Lincolnshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Merseyside | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Metropolitan Police | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| Norfolk | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| North Yorkshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Northamptonshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Northumbria | 1 | – | – | – | 3 | – | 1 | – | 11 | – | 8 | – |
| Nottinghamshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| South Yorkshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Staffordshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Suffolk | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Surrey | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Sussex | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Thames Valley | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Warwickshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| West Mercia | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| West Midlands | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| West Yorkshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Wiltshire | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Dyfed-Powys | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Gwent | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| North Wales | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| South Wales | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| England and Wales | 3 | – | 2 | – | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 13 | – | 9 | – |

*Defendants*

| | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| *10 to 17* | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |

*Defendants*

| | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | | Prosecuted | | Found guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hampshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 5 | — | 3 | — | 4 | — | 1 | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | 9 | — | 6 | — | 9 | — | 6 | — |

'—' = Nil.

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Statute: Road Traffic Act 1988 sections 35 and 36. Offence description: Offences connected with bicycles: neglect of traffic directions.

[4] Data from the court proceedings database cannot separately identify offences related to "going through a red traffic light" from other offences for neglect of traffic directions under the Traffic Act 1988 as they are grouped together.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Number of persons over the age of 18 years proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts, for offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 35 and 36 by gender and police force area, in England and Wales, for the years 2002-06*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Defendants*

| | 2002 | | | | 2003 | | | | 2004 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Guilty | | Prosecuted | | Guilty | | Prosecuted | | Guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| *18 and over* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Table 2: Number of persons over the age of 18 years proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts, for offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 35 and 36 by gender and police force area, in England and Wales, for the years 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]*

*Defendants*

| | 2002 | | | | 2003 | | | | 2004 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Guilty | | Prosecuted | | Guilty | | Prosecuted | | Guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | 6 | — | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Greater Manchester | 2 | — | 2 | — | 4 | — | 4 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Hampshire | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 4 | — | 4 | — | 7 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 2 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | 4 | — | 4 | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | 16 | — | 14 | — | 26 | 4 | 21 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 20 | 1 |

*Defendants*

| | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | | Guilty | | Prosecuted | | Guilty | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| *18 and over* | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | 9 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| City of London | 3 | — | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Defendants*

| | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Prosecuted* | | *Guilty* | | *Prosecuted* | | *Guilty* | |
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* |
| Essex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Hampshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Metropolitan Police | 2 | — | 2 | — | 9 | — | 6 | — |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 9 | — | 7 | — | 4 | — | 4 | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | 25 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 39 | 7 | 33 | 7 |

'—' = Nil.

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Statute: Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 35 and 36. Offence description: Offences connected with bicycles: neglect of traffic directions.

[4] Data from the court proceedings database cannot separately identify offences related to "going through a red traffic light" from other offences for neglect of traffic directions under the Traffic Act 1988 as they are grouped together.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

*Table 3: The average fines given for persons convicted of offences for "going through a red traffic light" in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]*

| | *Average fines (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 27 |
| 1998 | 30 |
| 1999 | 40 |
| 2000 | 38 |
| 2001 | 40 |
| 2002 | 49 |
| 2003 | 35 |
| 2004 | 32 |
| 2005 | 42 |
| 2006 | 41 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Statute: Road Traffic Act 1988 sections 35 and 36. Offence description: Offences connected with bicycles: neglect of traffic directions.

[5] Data from the court proceedings database cannot separately identify offences related to "going through a red traffic light" from other offences for neglect of traffic directions under the Traffic Act 1988 as they are grouped together.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform–Ministry of Justice .

## Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted for using

their mobile telephones while driving since the legislation banning their use while driving was introduced, broken down by (A) age group and (B) police area. [186396]

**Maria Eagle:** Information requested on arrests for the offence of 'use of a hand held mobile phone while driving' is not collected centrally.

Available information on prosecutions and convictions in the period from 1 December 2003 to end 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available later this year.

The majority of use of hand held mobile phone while driving offences are dealt with under the fixed penalty notices scheme. The fixed penalty notice is intended to be a quick and simple system in giving an offender the opportunity to resolve the matter without attending court. However, failing to pay the amount due within the specified time will result in the non-endorsable £30 fine becoming £45 and being registered as a fine at a local magistrates court. The tables do not include fixed penalty notices but do include cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

*Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2] males, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05[3]*

*Number of offences*

| | *Under 18* | | *18 and under 21* | | *21 and under 25* | | *25[4]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 18 | 18 |
| Cheshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | 5 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 3 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 51 | 48 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | — | — | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Greater Manchester | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 90 | 77 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 66 | 60 |
| Humberside | — | — | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | — | — | 5 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| London, City of | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| Metropolitan Police | 2 | 2 | 33 | 26 | 99 | 84 | 119 | 101 |
| Norfolk | — | — | 3 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Staffordshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Surrey | 1 | — | 5 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Thames Valley | — | — | 4 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 67 | 58 |
| West Midlands | — | — | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 132 | 108 |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 16 | 13 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Dyfed Powys | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Gwent | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| South Wales | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| England and Wales | 15 | 13 | 128 | 108 | 275 | 239 | 633 | 549 |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 26 and under 30 | | 30 and under 35 | | 35 and under 40 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Avon and Somerset | 7 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| Bedfordshire | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | 4 | 3 |
| Cheshire | — | — | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cumbria | 9 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Dorset | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Durham | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | 11 | 11 | 18 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 25 | 21 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 21 |
| Hampshire | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | 9 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| London, City of | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Merseyside | 9 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Metropolitan Police | 98 | 81 | 192 | 123 | 104 | 84 |
| Norfolk | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 4 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| North Yorkshire | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| South Yorkshire | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Staffordshire | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Suffolk | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 8 |
| Surrey | 11 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 10 | 9 |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 14 | 13 | 32 | 29 | 27 | 25 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| West Yorkshire | 11 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Wiltshire | 7 | 6 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| Dyfed Powys | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Gwent | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| North Wales | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| South Wales | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| England and Wales | 286 | 246 | 437 | 343 | 327 | 283 |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 40 and under 50 | | 50 and under 60 | | 60 and over | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Avon and Somerset | 11 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Bedfordshire | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cheshire | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cleveland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 10 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Essex | 14 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 21 | 20 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Hampshire | 14 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | — |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 40 and under 50 | | 50 and under 60 | | 60 and over | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | 10 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| London, City of | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Merseyside | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 104 | 80 | 32 | 26 | 6 | 4 |
| Norfolk | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 13 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| North Yorkshire | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| South Yorkshire | 7 | 5 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Staffordshire | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Suffolk | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | — | — |
| Surrey | 18 | 17 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Sussex | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 26 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 5 |
| Warwickshire | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| West Mercia | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | 4 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | 8 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | 10 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 1 | — |
| Dyfed Powys | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| North Wales | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| South Wales | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| England and Wales | 352 | 295 | 137 | 115 | 39 | 26 |

'—' = Nil.

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] In December 2003, and for the Bedfordshire police force area, there was one prosecution and the male offender was found guilty.

[4] Age 25 separate as used as a default age when date of birth is not known.

*Notes:*

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2] females, by age group and by police force area, England and Wales 2003-05*

Number of offences

| Police force area | Under 18 | | 18 and under 21 | | 21 and under 25 | | 25[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15 | 15 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Essex | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 5 |
| Hampshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | 7 |
| Humberside | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |

*Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2] females, by age group and by police force area, England and Wales 2003-05*

*Number of offences*

| | Under 18 | | 18 and under 21 | | 21 and under 25 | | 25[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| London, City of | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | — | — | 3 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 15 |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 5 |
| West Midlands | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 10 | 8 |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Wiltshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Dyfed Powys | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | — | — | 13 | 12 | 26 | 21 | 71 | 63 |

*Number of offences*

| | 26 and under 30 | | 30 and under 35 | | 35 and under 40 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | — | — | 4 | 4 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dorset | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Essex | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| London, City of | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Metropolitan Police | 12 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 5 |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 26 and under 30 | | 30 and under 35 | | 35 and under 40 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Warwickshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed Powys | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Gwent | | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| South Wales | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| England and Wales | 31 | 26 | 39 | 33 | 30 | 24 |

Number of offences

| Police force area | 40 and under 50 | | 50 and under 60 | | 60 and over | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt | Proceedings | Findings of guilt |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Hampshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| London, City of | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 12 | 11 | — | — | — | — |
| Norfolk | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Sussex | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Midlands | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dyfed Powys | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 40 and under 50 | | 50 and under 60 | | 60 and over | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* |
| South Wales | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | 29 | 27 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 3 |

'—' = Nil.

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110(1), 110(2) and 110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] Age 25 separate as used as a default age when date of birth is not known.

*Notes:*

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Lisbon Treaty

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had on the potential effect of the Lisbon treaty on the principle of habeas corpus. [186121]

**Mr. Straw:** Detailed discussions have taken place on all aspects of the Lisbon treaty. The treaty requires no change to our laws in this area.

## Negligence: Health Services

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legally-aided clinical negligence cases were closed in 2007; and how many of these cases resulted in an award of damages or a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages or compensation. [187920]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures covering the whole of 2007 will not be available until after the end of the current financial year. However, 5,584 legally aided clinical negligence cases were closed in 2006-07. In 160 of these cases, the solicitors reported that the outcome was unknown, as the client had ceased to give instructions or was proceeding under other funding or as a litigant in person. Of the remaining cases, 300 resulted in an award of damages, and 1,708 in a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages or compensation.

## Offenders: Housing

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans there are to close ClearSprings operation in Kemsley; [187822]

(2) what planning requirements there were for the establishment of the ClearSprings house in Kemsley. [187821]

**Mr. Hanson:** Planning permission is not required; and the local authority has not asked that it be sought. The Kemsley property was previously residential and remains in residential use by those renting it while benefiting from the Bail Accommodation and Support Service.

The property at Kemsley currently being used for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service will be released when alternative property can be sourced to meet the demand for 10 bed spaces spread over three locations in Kent, as identified by the South East Regional Offender Manager.

## Prison Officers

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce a long service medal for prison officers in addition to the Director General's long service award. [178597]

**Maria Eagle:** The option of introducing a long service medal for prison officers is under active consideration within the Ministry of Justice.

## Prisoners: Dietary Supplements

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce free vitamin supplements for prisoners. [187588]

**Maria Eagle:** There are no plans to introduce free vitamin supplements for all prisoners in England and Wales. The National Audit Office report HM Prison Service Serving Time: Prisoner Diet and Exercise (HC 939, 2005-06) noted that, on the whole, meals offered to prisoners were in line with the Government's recommendations on energy and nutrients.

## Prisoners: Dyslexia

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the results of the Government's investigation into early intervention programmes on prisoners suffering from dyslexia, as referred to by the former Prime Minister, *Official Report*, 23 May 2007, column 1270, on dyslexia and criminality, will be published; and if he will make a statement. [181507]

**Mr. Hanson:** The identification of prisoners with dyslexia and the provision of additional support is an important theme in the Learning and Skills Council's recent publication, "Developing the Offender Learning and Skills Service: The Prospectus". The LSC publication incorporates the findings of the Prison Reform Trust research on learning disabilities, "No-one Knows", published last year. Appropriate assessments and the provision of additional support are an important part of increasing prisoners' employability on release which in turn is a key factor in reducing re-offending.

## Prisoners: Pay

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will bring the Prisoners Earnings Act 1996 and associated secondary legislation into force. [187102]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Act is complicated and prescriptive and it is calculated that in its present form it would cost substantially more to administer than it would raise in revenue. In view of this the Government do not intend to make an order to bring the Act into force.

## Prisons: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on buildings and structural maintenance in each prison built *(a)* between 1995 and to date, *(b)* between 1980 and 1995, *(c)* between 1930 and 1980 and *(d)* before 1930 in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [187111]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is in the following tables. Prisons have been categorised by year of original construction. Where for example camps/ country houses have been converted to prison use, this may not equate to the date of first use as a prison.

Figures include all centrally managed maintenance and development work and do not include minor local expenditure.

Figures do not include new accommodation under recent capacity expansion programmes.

Figures do not include privately managed prisons. All new prisons built since 1995 have been private sector operated with the exception of HMP Kennett which has only recently opened and has not yet incurred any maintenance expenditure.

| *Establishment* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashwell | — | — | 3,423,842 | 2,604,097 | 720,553 | 3,044,124 |
| Askham Grange | — | — | — | — | — | 1,756,928 |
| Aylesbury | — | — | 504,976 | 820,551 | — | 812,465 |
| Bedford | 75,523 | 366,329 | — | — | — | 3,540,964 |
| Birmingham | 234,415 | 41,403 | 36,151 | 2,437,223 | 2,517,253 | — |
| Blantyre House | 126,365 | 330,091 | 150,605 | — | 109,724 | 153,195 |
| Bristol | — | 188,184 | 368,644 | 6,799,500 | 2,305,000 | 209,500 |
| Brixton | 32,935 | — | 1,901,000 | 1,173,399 | 251,675 | 3,943,004 |
| Bullwood Hall | 39,576 | 1,995,371 | — | — | 99,303 | — |
| Camp Hill | — | 1,978,767 | 2,473,520 | — | — | 6,317,109 |
| Canterbury | 1,269,245 | — | 2,244,619 | — | 355,000 | 928,607 |
| Cardiff | — | — | — | 1,774,315 | 499,673 | 355,940 |
| Chelmsford | 50,542 | 932,799 | 1,020,666 | 374,457 | 978,924 | — |
| Dartmoor | 1,124,392 | 69,815 | — | 388,953 | — | — |
| Dorchester | 422,111 | — | — | 398,501 | 372,393 | 2,709,335 |
| Dover | — | 975,207 | 304,849 | — | 2,581,254 | — |
| Downview | — | — | — | 725,732 | 245,289 | — |
| Durham | 1,093,030 | 1,894,362 | 101,135 | 106,483 | 1,515,516 | 6,779,858 |
| East Sutton Park | — | 991,472 | 167,780 | — | — | — |
| Erlestoke | 69,461 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exeter | 886,995 | — | 153,644 | 262,800 | 790,680 | — |
| Feltham | 500,281 | 435,479 | 5,782,273 | 1,908,261 | 2,797,169 | 5,336,624 |
| Ford | 332,053 | 238,267 | — | 305,195 | — | — |
| Foston Hall | 138,691 | 141,123 | — | 493,132 | — | — |
| Gloucester | 255,570 | — | — | 182,583 | 3,768,173 | 131,421 |
| Grendon | 664,744 | — | 116,440 | 2,900,446 | 324,027 | 133,746 |
| Haslar | 585,486 | — | — | — | — | 705,232 |
| Hewell Grange | — | 1,051,143 | 763,493 | — | — | — |
| Hollesley Bay | — | 255,361 | 2,605,473 | — | — | — |
| Holloway | 98,144 | 76,814 | — | 747,203 | 1,572,716 | 379,431 |
| Hull | — | 793,334 | 1,983,509 | 413,668 | — | — |
| Kingston | 1,884,784 | — | — | — | 1,227,749 | — |
| Kirklevington | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancaster | 141,456 | 191,154 | 113,117 | 2,256,190 | 60,648 | 103,830 |
| Leeds | — | 1,924,899 | — | — | 5,826,623 | — |
| Leicester | — | 83,493 | 134,434 | — | 97,591 | — |
| Lewes | — | — | 264,798 | — | — | 805,184 |
| Leyhill | — | — | 223,861 | — | — | — |
| Lincoln | 46,463 | 471,712 | — | 4,612,574 | 4,991,229 | 2,664,763 |
| Liverpool | 1,033,085 | 1,370,160 | 246,714 | 5,125,913 | 582,174 | 256,027 |
| Maidstone | 648,638 | — | 5,244,025 | 445,795 | 5,254,906 | 109,287 |
| Manchester | 191,663 | — | — | — | — | — |
| New Hall | — | 502,563 | — | 311,714 | 1,096,209 | — |
| Northallerton | — | — | 305,185 | 2,160,021 | 195,958 | — |
| Norwich | — | — | — | 280,523 | — | — |

| Establishment | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nottingham | 150,539 | — | — | 140,503 | 357,368 | 990,819 |
| Parkhurst | 154,326 | — | 982,701 | 563,134 | — | 42,635 |
| Pentonville | — | 6,379 | 1,436,813 | — | 2,630,041 | — |
| Portland | 165,057 | 780,218 | 1,475,546 | 187,893 | 457,472 | 5,132,563 |
| Preston | — | 39,254 | 269,000 | 4,036,604 | 1,440,472 | — |
| Reading | 324,802 | 806,963 | — | — | — | 741,665 |
| Rochester | — | — | 2,403,021 | 2,682,525 | 3,063,880 | 7,473,009 |
| Shepton Mallett | — | 471,780 | — | 1,700,099 | — | — |
| Shrewsbury | 964,388 | 996,697 | 399,155 | — | — | 142,456 |
| Stafford | 273,888 | 238,382 | — | 249,157 | — | 1,835,460 |
| Standford Hill | 390,982 | 37,345 | — | — | — | 1,227,260 |
| Styal | — | 275,897 | 506,527 | — | — | — |
| Swansea | 351,821 | 263,215 | — | 1,661,498 | — | 754,604 |
| The Verne | — | 192,820 | — | 885,624 | 132,164 | 1,443,106 |
| Usk | 353,777 | 251,820 | — | — | 53,500 | — |
| Wakefield | 1,555,740 | 6,260,961 | 397,995 | 9,367,419 | 810,750 | — |
| Wakefield (Aberford) | — | 1,192 221 | — | — | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 15,913,342 | 1,475,612 | 1,369,060 | 1,826,274 | 4,600,067 | 5,630,966 |
| Werrington | — | — | 3,098,123 | 384,538 | 54,350 | — |
| Winchester | — | — | — | 0 | 440,520 | 2,648,304 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 475,285 | — | 11,285,270 | 8,668,446 | 362,713 | 281,043 |
| Grand total | 33,019,595 | 30,588,866 | 54,257,964 | 72,369,943 | 55,540,706 | 69,550,464 |

| Establishment | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashwell | 139,000 | 70,065 | — | 5,759,418 | 15,761,099 |
| Askham Grange | — | — | — | — | 1,756,928 |
| Aylesbury | 1,499,916 | 11,558,772 | — | 2,757,875 | 17,954,555 |
| Bedford | — | 194,891 | — | — | 4,177,707 |
| Birmingham | — | — | 2,358,532 | — | 7,624,977 |
| Blantyre House | 971,587 | — | — | — | 1,841,567 |
| Bristol | 1,580,288 | — | 937,891 | — | 12,389,007 |
| Brixton | 1,839,834 | — | 382,621 | 140,595 | 9,665,063 |
| Bullwood Hall | 471,617 | 1,850,707 | — | 0 | 4,456,374 |
| Camp Hill | 2,367,952 | — | — | — | 13,167,348 |
| Canterbury | — | — | 1,150,738 | — | 5,948,209 |
| Cardiff | 8,510,013 | 347,558 | — | — | 11,487,499 |
| Chelmsford | 6,027,367 | 431,234 | — | — | 9,815,989 |
| Dartmoor | 146,300 | 481,487 | 6,967,894 | 5,283,605 | 14,462,446 |
| Dorchester | 602,807 | 168,450 | 261,409 | — | 4,935,006 |
| Dover | 775,603 | — | 1,186,650 | — | 5,823,563 |
| Downview | 3,252,125 | 564,592 | — | — | 4,787,738 |
| Durham | 620,270 | 9,530,423 | — | — | 21,641,077 |
| East Sutton Park | 410,820 | 444,295 | — | — | 2,014,367 |
| Erlestoke | 3,354,169 | — | — | — | 3,423,630 |
| Exeter | 403,500 | 25,000 | 2,945,752 | — | 5,468,371 |
| Feltham | — | 2,342,182 | 472,281 | — | 19,574,550 |
| Ford | — | — | — | 779,944 | 1,655,459 |
| Foston Hall | 307,413 | 79,896 | 5,072,768 | — | 6,233,023 |
| Gloucester | — | 268,509 | 374,850 | — | 4,988,106 |
| Grendon | 93,346 | 2,382,675 | 286,501 | — | 6,901,925 |
| Haslar | 344,445 | — | — | — | 1,635,163 |
| Hewell Grange | — | — | 402,931 | 381,215 | 2,598,785 |
| Holloway | 1,150,063 | 714,387 | — | — | 4,725,284 |
| Holloway | 1,653,247 | 4,026,222 | 1,198,081 | 963,595 | 10,715,453 |
| Hull | — | — | — | 1,199,417 | 4,389,928 |
| Kingston | — | 2,248,171 | — | 172,870 | 5,533,574 |
| Kirklevington | 3,945,251 | — | 607,722 | — | 4,552,973 |
| Lancaster | 0 | 1,498,439 | — | — | 4,364,834 |
| Leeds | 1,651,152 | — | 1,206,896 | 920,758 | 11,529,528 |
| Leicester | 427,548 | 1,168,783 | — | — | 1,911,849 |
| Lewes | 2,168,661 | 848,830 | — | — | 4,087,473 |
| Leyhill | 111,000 | 202,900 | — | — | 537,761 |
| Lincoln | — | 3,159,333 | — | 8,789,000 | 24,735,074 |
| Liverpool | 479,777 | 195,665 | 1,833,622 | 15,390,682 | 26,513,819 |

| Establishment | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maidstone | 2,376,683 | 5,402,818 | — | — | 19,482,152 |
| Manchester | 848,798 | — | 95,116 | 251,107 | 1,386,684 |
| New Hall | 0 | 4,378,434 | 520,604 | — | 6,809,524 |
| Northallerton | 888,603 | 195,134 | 1,019,906 | — | 4,764,807 |
| Norwich | — | 428,002 | 5,487,569 | — | 6,196,094 |
| Nottingham | 519,991 | — | — | 1,350,994 | 3,510,114 |
| Parkhurst | 825,150 | 386,331 | — | 1,844,378 | 4,798,655 |
| Pentonville | 10,213,429 | 1,470,446 | 1,388,799 | 2,156,100 | 19,302,007 |
| Portland | 1,015,957 | 0 | 20,353,589 | — | 29,568,295 |
| Preston | 4,628,401 | 0 | 14,546,657 | 1,779,451 | 26,739,839 |
| Reading | 183,072 | 546,376 | — | — | 2,602,878 |
| Rochester | 902,445 | — | — | 1,154,161 | 17,679,041 |
| Shepton Mallett | — | — | — | 0 | 2,171,879 |
| Shrewsbury | — | 2,702,015 | — | 2,080,077 | 7,794,788 |
| Stafford | 458,182 | — | 1,098,788 | — | 4,153,857 |
| Standford Hill | 1,253,503 | 2,629,305 | — | 3,484,222 | 9,022,617 |
| Styal | — | 22,243 | — | — | 804,667 |
| Swansea | 2,574,761 | — | 2,010,142 | — | 7,616,041 |
| The Verne | 81,745 | 1,394,055 | 528,891 | — | 4,638,405 |
| Usk | 1,016,246 | — | — | 2,897,350 | 4,572,693 |
| Wakefield | 9,870,172 | — | 11,205,973 | 34,806 | 39,503,816 |
| Wakefield (Aberford) | — | — | — | — | 1,192,221 |
| Wandsworth | 1,682,627 | — | 503,425 | 9,069,038 | 42,07[illegible]411 |
| Werrington | — | — | 928,087 | — | 4,465,098 |
| Winchester | 1,762,826 | 3,992,243 | 1,546,142 | — | 10,390,035 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | — | 306,665 | — | 3,265,274 | 24,644,696 |
| Grand total | 86,407,462 | 68,657,533 | 88,880,027 | 71,905,835 | 631,178,395 |

*1930 to 1980*

| Establishment | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 1,387,679 | 813,636 | — | — | — | 5,527,245 |
| Albany | 640,573 | 203,132 | 209,381 | — | — | — |
| Blundeston | 563,135 | 962,130 | — | 287,118 | — | — |
| Brockhill | 2,808,159 | — | — | — | 504,498 | 2,921,252 |
| Channings Wood | — | 3,417,970 | 2,087,256 | — | — | 156,514 |
| Coldingley | 448,063 | 3,434,415 | 3,233,176 | 122,561 | — | — |
| Cookham Wood | 149,523 | 218,065 | — | — | — | — |
| Deerbolt | 1,171,168 | 1,658,512 | 2,614,659 | 191,756 | 271,450 | — |
| Drake Hall | 158,091 | — | 827,537 | — | 2,607,373 | — |
| Eastwood Park | — | 1,334,820 | 356,927 | — | — | 4,775,281 |
| Everthorpe | — | — | — | — | — | 1,876,233 |
| Featherstone | 367,327 | 357,360 | 78,909 | — | — | 1,062,745 |
| Gartree | — | 342,206 | — | 82,081 | 3,264,880 | 5,363,754 |
| Glen Parva | — | 2,000,121 | — | 158,039 | 784,784 | 375,142 |
| Guys Marsh | 394,511 | — | — | — | — | 171,383 |
| Haverigg | 323,030 | 4,488,401 | 6,750,619 | — | — | — |
| Highpoint South | — | 219,984 | 404,776 | 2,609,691 | 571,481 | 534,815 |
| Hindley | 301,000 | 1,057,035 | — | — | 331,487 | 2,753,887 |
| Huntercombe | — | — | — | — | 1,334,896 | — |
| Kirkham | 37,522 | 5,398,435 | — | — | — | 5,930,600 |
| Latchmere House | — | 1,160,045 | — | — | — | — |
| Lindholme | 1,218,670 | — | 4,274,857 | 2,916,495 | 1,003,929 | 259,771 |
| Long Lartin | — | 3,492,957 | — | 379,874 | — | — |
| Low Newton | — | 3,639,477 | 150,648 | — | — | — |
| Morton Hall | 141,193 | — | — | 2,163,263 | — | — |
| North Sea Camp | 392,207 | 232,574 | — | — | — | — |
| Onley | 207,536 | 1,029,418 | 3,486,072 | 186,287 | 851,386 | 1,874,890 |
| Prescoed | 224,713 | — | — | — | — | 201,322 |
| Ranby | 472,639 | — | — | 185,351 | — | — |
| Risley | 77,215 | 829,819 | 4,214,093 | 2,247,800 | 261,216 | — |
| Send | 232,800 | 3,041,743 | — | — | — | — |
| Spring Hill | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stoke Heath | 75,198 | — | 1,097,735 | 274,275 | 815,715 | — |
| Sudbury | 242,985 | 161,030 | 288,371 | — | 804,000 | — |

*1930 to 1980*

| *Establishment* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swinfen Hall | 521,611 | 1,677,023 | — | — | — | 42,167 |
| Wealstun | 650,152 | 299,505 | 75,098 | — | — | — |
| Wellingborough | 935,892 | 0 | 192,012 | 238,563 | 144,595 | 163,612 |
| Wetherby | — | — | 2,303,016 | — | — | — |
| Whatton | 723,850 | — | 98,597 | — | 1,383,781 | 723,985 |
| Wymott | 165,257 | 284,498 | — | — | — | 260,500 |
| Grand Total | 15,031,699 | 41,754,911 | 32,743,739 | 12,043,154 | 14,935,471 | 34,975,098 |

| *Establishment* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 226,788 | — | 461,967 | 5,965,057 | 14,382,372 |
| Albany | 1,356,598 | 168,195 | — | — | 2,577,879 |
| Blundeston | — | 1,716,848 | — | — | 3,329,231 |
| Brockhill | — | — | 6,158,255 | — | 12,392,164 |
| Channings Wood | 2,083,575 | 1,224,667 | — | — | 8,969,982 |
| Coldingley | 1,034,519 | 184,592 | — | — | 8,457,326 |
| Cookham Wood | 970,480 | 4,399,308 | — | 1,073,566 | 6,811,542 |
| Deerbolt | 2,583,921 | — | — | — | 8,491,466 |
| Drake Hall | 3,712,361 | — | — | — | 7,305,362 |
| Eastwood Park | 156,500 | 4,111,491 | — | — | 10,735,019 |
| Everthorpe | 1,113,779 | — | — | — | 2,990,012 |
| Featherstone | 195,26 | — | 1,277,547 | — | 3,339,153 |
| Gartree | 2,372,470 | — | 3,228,209 | — | 14,653,600 |
| Glen Parva | 823,027 | — | 0 | — | 4,141,113 |
| Guys Marsh | 288,121 | — | 2,322,717 | 622,393 | 3,799,125 |
| Haverigg | 1,830,717 | — | 596,428 | 1,884,675 | 15,873,870 |
| Highpoint South | — | — | — | — | 4,340,747 |
| Hindley | 805,327 | 356,214 | 745,729 | 1,598,410 | 7,949,089 |
| Huntercombe | — | 366,166 | 661,775 | — | 2,362,837 |
| Kirkham | — | — | 104,540 | 1,075,392 | 12,546,489 |
| Lochmere House | 147,836 | — | — | 657,548 | 1,965,429 |
| Lindholme | 2,546,947 | 1,055,022 | — | — | 13,275,691 |
| Long Lartin | 6,916,702 | 877,050 | 965,383 | 1,170,150 | 13,802,116 |
| Low Newton | — | — | 3,420,719 | — | 7,210,844 |
| Morton Hall | — | 725,240 | — | 347,027 | 3,376,723 |
| North Sea Camp | 134,000 | — | — | — | 758,781 |
| Onley | 929,527 | 2,129,317 | 2,244,429 | 2,433,464 | 15,372,326 |
| Prescoed | — | — | 2,061,956 | — | 2,487,991 |
| Ranby | 4,231,073 | — | — | — | 4,889,063 |
| Risley | 0 | 382,561 | — | — | 8,012,704 |
| Send | 0 | — | — | — | 3,274,543 |
| Spring Hill | 1,434,410 | — | — | — | 1,434,410 |
| Stoke Heath | 3,309,381 | — | 581,814 | — | 6,154,118 |
| Sudbury | — | — | 268,532 | — | 1,764,918 |
| Swinfen Hall | 971,087 | — | — | — | 3,211,888 |
| Wealstun | — | — | — | 626,447 | 1,651,202 |
| Wellingborough | 63,427 | — | — | 743,487 | 2,481,588 |
| Wetherby | 3,460,504 | — | 1,898,547 | 570,419 | 8,232,486 |
| Whatton | — | — | — | — | 2,930,213 |
| Wymott | — | — | — | — | 710,255 |
| Grand Total | 43,698,342 | 17,696,671 | 26,998,547 | 18,768,035 | 258,645,667 |

*1980 to 1995*

| *Establishment* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belmarsh | — | 617,001 | 41,561 | — | 384,201 | 1,170,805 |
| Blakenhurst | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Brinsford | — | — | 712,634 | 46,728 | 1,371,719 | — |
| Buckley Hall | — | — | — | 82,190 | — | 476,153 |
| Bullingdon | — | — | — | — | 1,992,767 | — |
| Castington | 151,356 | 956,453 | 641,365 | — | 9,677,883 | — |
| Elmley | 362,613 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Frankland | 73,812 | — | 3,549,618 | 655,489 | 1,697,794 | — |
| Full Sutton | 15,000 | — | 1,765,416 | 273,800 | — | 1,035,231 |
| Garth | — | 267,756 | — | — | 96,000 | 327,112 |

1980 to 1995

| Establishment | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Down | — | 317,190 | — | 108,332 | 854,855 | 85,351 |
| Holme House | — | — | — | — | 218,907 | 295,926 |
| Lancaster Farms | — | — | 772,619 | — | 930,438 | — |
| Littlehey | — | 99,880 | 503,314 | 445,888 | 548,580 | — |
| Moorland | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mount | — | — | 496,440 | — | 292,145 | 463,710 |
| Stocken | — | 458,876 | — | — | 335,569 | — |
| Swaleside | — | — | — | 1,380,379 | 1,444,516 | 770,680 |
| Thorn Cross | — | — | — | — | 229,448 | 2,693,681 |
| Wayland | — | — | — | 670,115 | 763,105 | — |
| Whitemoor | — | 736,211 | 1,171,888 | 809,334 | 376,551 | 136,156 |
| Woodhill | — | 615,017 | — | — | — | — |
| Grand total | 602,781 | 4,068,384 | 9,654,855 | 4,472,255 | 21,214,478 | 7,454,805 |

| Establishment | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belmarsh | 1,107,476 | — | — | — | 3,321,044 |
| Blakenhurst | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Brinsford | 1,999,117 | — | 613,839 | — | 4,744,037 |
| Buckley Hall | 2,393,766 | — | — | 225,031 | 3,177,140 |
| Bullingdon | 30,000 | 48,304 | — | 724,740 | 2,795,811 |
| Castington | 2,055,462 | 776,329 | 947,528 | — | 15,206,376 |
| Elmley | 716,256 | — | — | 249,510 | 1,328,379 |
| Frankland | — | 715,361 | 958,858 | 1,373,332 | 9,024,264 |
| Full Sutton | 162,826 | — | 5,117,197 | — | 8,369,470 |
| Garth | 1,748,908 | — | — | — | 2,439,776 |
| High Down | 272,433 | — | 4,112,706 | 890,691 | 6,641,558 |
| Holme House | 305,748 | 3,039,307 | — | — | 3,859,888 |
| Lancaster Farms | — | — | 547,706 | — | 2,250,763 |
| Littlehey | — | 457,581 | — | — | 2,055,243 |
| Moorland | 444,443 | — | — | 1,835,054 | 2,279,497 |
| Mount | 861,027 | — | 296,676 | — | 2,409,998 |
| Stocken | 167,419 | 59,766 | — | — | 1,021,630 |
| Swaleside | 829,617 | 647,964 | 369,455 | — | 5,442,611 |
| Thorn Cross | — | — | 546,717 | — | 3,469,846 |
| Wayland | 94,966 | — | 1,253,897 | — | 2,782,083 |
| Whitemoor | 1,005,084 | — | — | — | 4,235,224 |
| Woodhill | — | 352,945 | — | — | 967,962 |
| Grand total | 14,194,548 | 6,097,557 | 14,764,579 | 5,298,358 | 87,822,600 |

## Young Offenders

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were held in prison in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age of first admission and *(c)* type of offence. [186736]

**Mr. Hanson:** Figures showing the number of under 18-year-old prisoners under immediate custodial sentence held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by gender and offence type between 1997 and 2006 can be found in the following table. Information on the age of prisoners at first admission is not available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

*Under 18 population in prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence by sex and offence group, England and Wales each year as at 30 June*

*Number of persons*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Under 18s* | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Males and Females* | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Immediate Custodial Sentence* | 1,673 | 1,689 | 1,710 | 1,860 | 1,976 | 2,088 | 1,781 | 1,763 | 1,835 | 1,865 |
| Violence against the person | 231 | 241 | 267 | 288 | 358 | 363 | 320 | 341 | 389 | 391 |
| Sexual offences | 40 | 47 | 48 | 59 | 52 | 58 | 42 | 55 | 65 | 68 |
| Robbery | 443 | 475 | 425 | 409 | 439 | 522 | 456 | 456 | 438 | 503 |
| Burglary | 452 | 434 | 454 | 468 | 391 | 405 | 290 | 248 | 289 | 282 |
| Theft and handling | 181 | 202 | 219 | 310 | 325 | 319 | 299 | 277 | 233 | 192 |

*Under 18 population in prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence by sex and offence group, England and Wales each year as at 30 June*

*Number of persons*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fraud and forgery | 0 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
| Drug offences[2] | — | — | — | — | 49 | 51 | 49 | 57 | 79 | 71 |
| Motoring offences[2] | — | — | — | — | — | 84 | 123 | 94 | 58 | 69 |
| Other offences | 191 | 179 | 230 | 280 | 293 | 203 | 155 | 203 | 257 | 265 |
| Offence not recorded | 135 | 107 | 61 | 39 | 64 | 78 | 44 | 27 | 18 | 13 |
| *Males* | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Immediate Custodial Sentence* | 1,620 | 1,627 | 1,643 | 1,791 | 1,911 | 1,986 | 1,724 | 1,706 | 1,780 | 1,814 |
| Violence against the person | 213 | 230 | 250 | 264 | 339 | 336 | 310 | 326 | 366 | 381 |
| Sexual offences | 40 | 46 | 48 | 59 | 52 | 58 | 42 | 55 | 65 | 67 |
| Robbery | 425 | 451 | 410 | 396 | 429 | 503 | 436 | 449 | 422 | 486 |
| Burglary | 447 | 428 | 447 | 458 | 382 | 396 | 289 | 242 | 285 | 275 |
| Theft and handling | 178 | 196 | 208 | 303 | 313 | 299 | 290 | 268 | 230 | 189 |
| Fraud and forgery | 0 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Drug offences[2] | — | — | — | — | 46 | 43 | 43 | 51 | 76 | 68 |
| Motoring offences[2] | — | — | — | — | — | 84 | 122 | 92 | 58 | 69 |
| Other offences | 182 | 168 | 215 | 268 | 284 | 191 | 149 | 194 | 252 | 258 |
| Offence not recorded | 135 | 104 | 59 | 37 | 61 | 72 | 42 | 25 | 18 | 12 |
| *Females* | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Immediate Custodial Sentence* | 53 | 62 | 67 | 69 | 65 | 102 | 57 | 58 | 55 | 50 |
| Violence against the person | 18 | 11 | 17 | 24 | 19 | 27 | 10 | 15 | 23 | 11 |
| Sexual offences | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery | 18 | 24 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 21 | 8 | 16 | 17 |
| Burglary | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| Theft and handling | 3 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| Fraud and forgery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Drug offences[2] | — | — | — | — | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Motoring offences[2] | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Other offences | 9 | 11 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| Offence not recorded | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

[1] Excludes police cells.
[2] Drug Offences from 1997 to 2000 and Motoring Offences from 1997 to 2001 are included in the Other Offences category.
*Data Sources and Quality*
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level.
This table taken from table 8.21 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2002-06 and table 3.3 Prison statistics in England and Wales 1997 - 2001

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on departmental public relations, which public relations company was contracted for the *(a)* digital switchover campaign and *(b)* licensing campaign. [187788]

**Margaret Hodge:** The public relations company Harrison Cowley was used for the digital switchover campaign and the licensing campaign.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182206]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to government buildings for security reasons.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187864]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** For the 2006-07 financial year, the percentage of working days lost attributed to stress is 13 per cent. of total sickness absence.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has a legal obligation to provide a safe working environment for all employees and guidance is available for staff and managers on how to manage stress effectively.

As part of our attendance, health and well being programme for staff we have a range of policies in place to reduce work related stress. These include: Stress Management policy and Sickness Absence

policy, which includes guidance on making reasonable adjustments. We also offer a full range of flexible work patterns to support work-life balance and have health awareness pages on our intranet. We have appointed a DCMS board member as the Health and Well-Being Champion. In addition, staff have access to our Employee Assistance Programme (counselling service) and onsite gym with a programme of exercise and yoga available.

### Film

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding is available for foreign film production companies to make films in the United Kingdom. [187357]

**Margaret Hodge:** The UK Government provide film tax relief for qualifying films. Foreign filmmakers working in partnership with British film companies may be eligible for such relief. In order to qualify, their films need either to pass the UK's cultural test or qualify as an official UK co-production. Films should be intended for theatrical release, meet a minimum UK spend requirement of 25 per cent. and be made by a film production company within the UK corporation tax net.

In addition, the UK Film Council provides national lottery funding for film development and production projects; approximately £19 million per year is available. Foreign filmmakers can access this funding by collaborating with companies that are registered and centrally managed in the UK or in another member state of the European Union or European economic area. The provision to allow companies registered in other states of the European Union or European economic area is to ensure compatibility with the general legality principles of the treaty on European Union (the Maastricht treaty).

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many British and foreign film company collaborations have taken place in the last 10 years. [187359]

**Margaret Hodge:** Between 1997 and 2007, 631 films made either with foreign finance or under the arrangements for official co-productions have been produced in the UK.

There may have been additional collaborations outside the framework for official co-productions. The Government do not maintain central records of such collaborations.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many British and foreign film company collaborations have taken place in the last 12 months. [187360]

**Margaret Hodge:** Between January and December 2007, 54 films made either with foreign finance or under the arrangements for official co-productions have been produced in the UK.

There may have been additional collaborations outside the framework for official co-productions. The Government do not maintain central records of such collaborations.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many collaborations there have been between British and Indian film companies in the last 10 years. [187361]

**Margaret Hodge:** We are finalising a treaty to allow for official co-productions between UK and Indian film companies. We are expecting to see up to 10 UK-Indian co-productions made within the first two years. We estimate that this will result in expenditure in the UK of approximately £88 million and in Indian spend of approximately £62 million.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187130]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently has three members of the senior civil service who have received an honour.

### National Lottery: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in grants from Lottery funds to organisations in Tamworth in each of the last five years, expressed *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the Staffordshire total. [187781]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The total value of grants awarded in the local authority area of Tamworth in each of the last five complete financial years, and as a percentage of the Staffordshire total, is set out in the table.

The information is location specific. That is, the figures include only grants that are specific to a location in the region and exclude grants that might have gone to addresses in the region, but are not otherwise related to it.

| *Financial year* | *Total value of grants awarded in Tamworth (£)* | *Staffordshire total (£)* | *Tamworth total as a percentage of Staffordshire total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 58,017 | 6,353,181 | 0.91 |
| 2005-06 | 525,530 | 8,468,002 | 6.21 |
| 2004-05 | 36,882 | 9,966,699 | 0.37 |
| 2003-04 | 545,206 | 23,363,864 | 2.33 |
| 2002-03 | 703,320 | 14,219,555 | 4.95 |

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

### Playing Fields: Planning Permission

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1044, on planning permission: playing fields, how many applications were *(a)* approved, *(b)* rejected and *(c)* withdrawn; and what percentage of those approved were considered to represent a significant change to sporting provision, broken down by region since 2001. [188013]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested, broken down at a regional level, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, a table showing the total number of planning applications nationally on playing fields on which Sport England were consulted for all years since 2001 broken down by numbers *(a)* approved, *(b)* rejected or withdrawn and *(c)* yet to be decided is given as follows. Many of these applications are from clubs/schools wanting to improve the quality of their sports facilities.

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Approved | 695 | 807 | 959 | 910 |
| Rejected or withdrawn | 161 | 148 | 122 | 177 |
| Yet to be decided | 129 | 342 | 332 | 184 |
| Total | 985 | 1,297 | 1,413 | 1,271 |

### Regional Arts Councils: Disclosure of Information

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the dissemination of information to the public by regional arts councils. [186811]

**Margaret Hodge:** It is a long standing, fundamental principle that the Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government, which ensures that decisions about the arts are taken by people in the Arts Council whose job it is to develop and support the arts, and not by Ministers. The Arts Council is committed to a policy of openness and transparency and makes information available to the public on a routine basis. Among others, this can include Council minutes, advice and guidance on funding programmes and research reports. The Arts Council's publication scheme gives details of what information is publicly available and can be found on their website:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?sid=1&id=413

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?sid=1&id=413>

### Sports: Capital Investment

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital has been allocated to evening sports clubs for young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [187067]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Funding is allocated by DCMS for Capital Projects throughout England, but no records are kept by DCMS or Funding Distributors (NDPBs) on what purpose building projects that benefit from this funding are used for. It is therefore not possible to provide an answer to this question.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital has been allocated to sport in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [187072]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following tables show how much capital Exchequer and lottery funding DCMS has allocated to sport in the requested categories:

*(a) Jarrow*

| *Financial year* | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 0.287 |
| 2002-03 | 0.000 |
| 2003-04 | 0.017 |
| 2004-05 | 0.040 |

*(b) South Tyneside*

| *Financial year* | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 0.023 |
| 2000-01 | 0.311 |
| 2001-02 | 0.000 |
| 2002-03 | 2.416 |
| 2003-04 | 2.234 |
| 2004-05 | 0.500 |
| 2005-06 | 0.037 |

*(c) The North East*

| *Financial year* | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 18.973 |
| 1998-99 | 15.631 |
| 1999-2000 | 7.053 |
| 2000-01 | 5.999 |
| 2001-02 | 30.571 |
| 2002-03 | 10.083 |
| 2003-04 | 3.977 |
| 2004-05 | 7.386 |
| 2005-06 | 1.834 |
| 2006-07 | 2.242 |
| 2007-08 | 1.325 |

*(d) England*

| *Financial year* | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 189.225 |
| 1998-99 | 303.335 |
| 1999-2000 | 130.687 |
| 2000-01 | 163.554 |
| 2001-02 | 325.503 |
| 2002-03 | 155.048 |
| 2003-04 | 103.728 |
| 2004-05 | 73.257 |
| 2005-06 | 32.050 |
| 2006-07 | 33.363 |
| 2007-08 | 6.295 |

Figures given prior to 2001-02 are lottery only as Sport England advises that it is not possible to provide the requested information for Exchequer funding back to 1997. This is because they changed their budget management software at the start of 2001-02 and they do not have information before that date readily available.

### Sports: Drugs

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward measures to assist the governing bodies of UK sports in excluding participants who have been found guilty of the illicit use of performance-enhancing drugs from selection to represent their country in international or representative competitions; and if he will make a statement. [187811]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Code is the international framework of anti-doping rules, setting out the minimum sanctions applicable to those found guilty of breaching them. A key aim of the code is the harmonisation of anti-doping rules across countries and sports.

However, the Code does not restrict sport's national or international federations from applying further sanctions to athletes found guilty of an anti-doping rule violation, should they choose to do so.

### Stonehenge: Conservation

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proposals English Heritage has made for future provision for the protection of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site; and if he will make a statement. [185632]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Stonehenge World Heritage Site is currently protected through existing designations and planning systems. Changes proposed by my Department in the Heritage White Paper in March 2007 will improve protection through inclusion of World Heritage Sites in the new unified register and through improvements to the planning system. English Heritage is currently facilitating a revision of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan being undertaken by all key stakeholders. This will review policies for the practical protection and management of the World Heritage Site and is due to be completed and sent to UNESCO by January 2009. My Department has also asked English Heritage to lead the project for environmental improvements (including new visitor facilities) at Stonehenge in time for the 2012 Olympics.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of his report to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the future of Stonehenge; and if he will make a statement. [185633]

**Margaret Hodge:** I am placing a copy of the 2008 Reactive Monitoring Report for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site in the Libraries of both Houses. The Report was sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on 30 January 2008.

### Tourism: Balance of Payments

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the balance of payments was for the tourism industry in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [187642]

**Margaret Hodge:** The tourism balance of payments deficit was as follows:

| | *Amount (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4.8 |
| 1998 | 6.8 |
| 1999 | 9.5 |
| 2000 | 11.4 |
| 2001 | 14.0 |
| 2002 | 15.2 |
| 2003 | 16.7 |
| 2004 | 17.3 |
| 2005 | 18.1 |
| 2006 | 18.4 |

The latest Office of National Statistics figures, released on 15 February, show that the deficit was down by £120 million in the three months to December 2007, compared to the same period in 2006.

### Tourism: North East

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average spend per head per day of domestic tourists visiting the North East in each of the last five years. [184902]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per trip and per night for domestic overnight trips to the North East region for the latest five years.

*North East: average expenditure[1] of domestic overnight tourists[2]*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average spend per trip[3] | 181 | 172 | 180 | 177 | 159 |
| Average spend per night[3] | 65 | 62 | 66 | 61 | 57 |

[1] Expenditure includes items such as package holidays, accommodation, travel to and from the destination and during the trip, services and advice, buying clothes, eating and drinking out, shopping, entertainment and other items relating to the trip.
[2] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.
[3] Figures are rounded.
*Source:*
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Also, average expenditure during tourism day visits made to, or within, the North East was £25.40 in 2002-03 (source: Leisure Day Visits Survey). It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently and on a non-consistent basis; therefore, this is our best estimate for this period.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ACTIS

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* investment positions and *(b)* subsequent disposals have been made by Actis since 2004; and what the (i) original investment and (ii) sale proceeds were in each case. [186737]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Actis manages funds not only for Government (through CDC) but also for other private equity investors. Details of Actis' investments and sale proceeds are commercially confidential. However, key targets within its 2004-08 business plan are on target to be met or exceeded. This has enabled substantial re-investment to be undertaken by CDC. Additional information on CDC's investments is included in its annual report and accounts.

### Africa: HIV Infection

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received of commitments made by African governments to support HIV prevention efforts; and if he will make a statement. [186040]

**Gillian Merron:** Many African countries have made specific commitments on HIV prevention that are articulated in their National AIDS plans. For example, the new South African National Strategic Plan (2007-11) for HIV and AIDS identifies HIV prevention as one of its four priorities. The plan includes the following targets: 80 per cent. on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) by 2011; 50 per cent. reduction of new HIV infections by 2011; 70 per cent. of the adult population to be tested; and a target to reduce mother to child transmission to 5 per cent.

Regionally, African Union (AU) member states have made key commitments to scale up evidence based HIV prevention services. For example, African Union Health Ministers unanimously agreed the Maputo Plan of Action in September 2006, which included commitments to achieve better family planning, improved contraceptive commodity security and action to reduce unsafe abortion.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department is providing for humanitarian programmes in Bangladesh. [187933]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total UK aid to Bangladesh proposed to be spent in 2007-08 is just over £116 million. This includes just over £10 million of funding for emergency assistance to meet the humanitarian needs of people affected by the floods and by Cyclone Sidr in 2007.

### Chad: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN about the establishment of a humanitarian corridor for aid into Abeche in Chad to enable aid agencies to respond to the humanitarian need. [186965]

**Gillian Merron:** We have been in continuous contact with the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with the World Food Programme United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (WFP UNHAS) and with other partners in Abeche and N'Djamena about the situation in eastern Chad. We recognise that this air bridge is of critical importance in maintaining ongoing support to existing refugee, IDP and host population caseload.

Over the last week, WFP UNHAS has established a regular service linking Yaounde (Cameroon) to Abeche, and is now looking at the possibility of re-establishing the N'Djamena-Abeche air link.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding from his Department has been channelled through UK-based, non-governmental organisations in each of the last five years through *(a)* Programme Partnership Agreements, *(b)* country budgets, *(c)* humanitarian central budgets, *(d)* other budget lines and *(e)* in total; and how much funding in each category is to be made available in 2007-08. [187921]

**Mr. Thomas:** Total DFID expenditure channelled through UK Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in each of the last five years and planned expenditure for 2007-08 through the Civil Society Challenge Fund and Partnership Programme Agreements are set out in the following table. The table also includes planned funding in respect of the Development Awareness Fund and the Strategic Grant Agreement for 2007-08.

DFID also provides ad hoc funding to agencies and CSOs working in country or at a regional level responding to specific emergencies. DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE) estimates that in 2007-08 £8 million was spent on humanitarian relief across a range of natural disasters, from an earthquake in Peru to cyclones and floods in Bangladesh, India, Mexico, North Korea and Pakistan, to winter shelter for extreme winter conditions in Kyrgyzstan. Of this, £5 million was provided through NGOs.

There is no central allocation of funding through CSOs for humanitarian assistance projects or other parts of the DFID programme.

Multilaterals also allocate funding to CSOs—among these are the European Commission, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Because multilaterals do not report the proportion of their expenditure allocated to CSOs, DFID is unable to attribute multilateral expenditure to CSOs.

*DFID expenditure through UK CSO's for 2002-03 to 2006-07 and planned expenditure for 2007-08*

£000

| | Total | Civil Society Challenge Fund | Partnership Programme Agreement | Humanitarian Assistance | Country and other DFID programme |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03[1] | 222,845 | 13,056 | 57,227 | 93,822 | 58,739 |
| 2003-04[1] | 220,321 | 10,355 | 59,000 | 86,689 | 64,277 |
| 2004-05[1] | 232,930 | 10,106 | 65,263 | 91,187 | 66,374 |
| 2005-06[1] | 260,952 | 13,260 | 81,650 | 95,254 | 70,788 |
| 2006-07[1] | 274,309 | 13,539 | 89,141 | 85,423 | 86,207 |
| 2007-08[2] | | 14,280 | 90,191 | | [3]4,200 |

[1] Actual
[2] Planned
[3] Includes Development Awareness fund and the Strategic Grant Agreement only

Final expenditure figures for 2007-08 will not be available until after the end of the fiscal year.

### Departmental Film

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of funding the promotional film on ethical consumerism in connection with Valentine's Day. [187763]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The cost of producing the video was £8,500. The purpose of the video was to inform people's shopping decisions in advance of Valentine's Day, and to raise awareness of how ethical shopping can reduce poverty in developing countries. It ran on the DFID website, YouTube and one other commercial site for two days before Valentine's Day.

### Development Aid

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support inclusive and equitable development strategies that increase investment in pro-poor sectors. [187924]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government support developing country governments to ensure that increased investment and growth is included appropriately in their overall poverty reduction strategies (PRSs). This is a key component of the new public service agreement (PSA) 29 on poverty reduction. Our involvement and support will be both through our bilateral programme and through our influence on other development agencies.

There are a range of sectors which can bring high benefits for the poor-for example, agriculture. DFID's policy paper 'Growth and poverty reduction: the role of agriculture' sets out the various ways in which DFID is supporting inclusive and equitable development strategies. This is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/growth-poverty-agriculture.pdf.

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent research has been commissioned by his Department on the subject of female genital mutilation; and what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* raise international awareness of this issue and *(b)* dispel culturally-entrenched myths surrounding the practice; and if he will make a statement. [186039]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government provided £5.5 million to the United Nations (UN) Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproductive Health (HRP) between 2005 and 2008. HRP supports research in the area of Female Genital Mutilation.

DFID strongly supports efforts to eliminate FGM and other harmful traditional practices as part of our sexual and reproductive health, maternal health and gender equality strategies. DFID has supported advocacy events globally and in Africa-for example funding events in 28 African countries and Geneva to mark International FGM Zero Tolerance Day on 6 February 2007; and supporting an Africa Regional workshop on child protection and FGM in Kenya in 2006 and an African Parliamentarians Conference on FGM in 2005. DFID is a member of the Donor Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) that brings together key actors at the international level, and which held a panel at the Women Deliver Conference in October 2007.

### Health

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms to engage civil society in the international health partnership have been established. [187435]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK is committed to ensuring that civil society organisations (CSO) are involved in the International Health Partnership (IMP). CSOs are not only a critical partner in delivering health services in many developing countries, but they can also play an important role in holding partners to account at the global and country level.

The UK has engaged with CSO partners both before and after the launch of the IMP. In October, DFID hosted a meeting in London with several CSOs. Since then the eight health agencies (H8) leading on the IHP have regularly consulted with CSOs and they are currently developing a strategy for ongoing CSO engagement. A key meeting called by the H8 to review progress in developing country compacts will be held in Lusaka later this month, and several CSOs will be attending.

### Kenya: Surveys

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of the survey commissioned by his Department on conditions for workers on Kenyan flower farms; and if he will publish the results of the survey. [187764]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID funded the Natural Resources Institute to undertake a project assessing the social impact of the adoption of codes of practice. This looked at the impact on the welfare and livelihoods of workers, worker households and other local stakeholders of the introduction of codes of practice in the Kenyan cut flower industry and the wine industry in South Africa.

The total cost of the project was £247,999, of which £124,916 was for the Kenyan portion of the research. The final report on the Kenyan flower industry was published in February 2006.

The report can be accessed with the following link:
http://www.nri.org/NRET/final_ Kenya_ main_ report.pdf

### Mineral Waters

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187671]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has recently changed its restaurant service provider, and detailed records are not available. However, we estimate that DFID has spent in the region of £10,500 per annum over the last three years. Bottled water was provided for some official meetings in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money. Since January 2008, however, we no longer purchase bottled mineral water, but instead use bottled filtered mains water that is prepared on site. This change was made on the grounds of economy and environmental benefits.

### Natural Disasters

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department has provided for disaster risk reduction strategies in countries prone to disasters. [187922]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID's current financial management system does not record total resources spent on disaster risk reduction (DRR) centrally, because DRR programmes can be included under a range of types of assistance, from education (for example DRR education in schools) to infrastructure (for example earthquake-proof building).

However, DFID has a commitment to allocate approximately 10 per cent. of the funding it provides in response to each natural disaster to prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters, where this can be done effectively. Under this commitment, DFID has pledged £7.5 million following the Indian Ocean Tsunami; £5.5 million following the Pakistan earthquake and £500,000 following the Yogyakarta (Indonesia) earthquake. Other examples of support for DRR at country level include: £50 million for the Chars (river islands) Livelihoods Project in Bangladesh which aims to increase livelihood security for £6.5 million vulnerable people in flood-prone districts; £3.8 million to an insurance fund to provide Caribbean Governments with fast payouts after natural disasters; and £2.9 million for a consortium of NGOs in Niger to help communities prevent food security crises.

DFID also provides funds for multilateral and regional organisations working on DRR. We have provided: £3 million for the United Nations international strategy for disaster risk reduction; £4.38 million for the World Bank's global facility for disaster risk reduction; £2.5 million for the ProVention Consortium; £2.15 million for the International Federation of the Red Cross; £3.3 million for the Pan American Health Organisation for DRR programmes; as well as some resources through its £7 million annual contribution to the United Nations Development Programme's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

### Natural Disasters: Children

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that development strategies in countries prone to disasters include measures for managing and mitigating the impacts of disasters on children. [187923]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID is committed to supporting international and national efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters in poorer disaster-prone countries. DFID is providing £3 million over three years (2006 to 2009) to the United Nations international strategy for disaster reduction (ISDR), which launched the global campaign "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School" in 2006. The campaign promotes the 'disaster-proofing' of school buildings, inclusion of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in school curricula and the active role children can play in promoting DRR in their communities. Examples of activities include: a consultative meeting in Kenya on DRR for Education Ministry officials from 19 African countries. This inspired the Mozambican Ministry of Education and Culture, with the support of the Mozambique Red Cross Society, to implement DRR training in 76 schools, reaching 4,400 children.

DFID also supports Action Aid's "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through Schools" project and Plan UK's "Children and Young People at the Centre of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" project, for which DFID is providing £2.8 million and £2.9 million respectively over five years. In Bangladesh, Action Aid have funded an interactive learning kit for children on DRR, aimed at helping children learn about disaster risk and take action to reduce risk. In Sierra Leone, Plan UK is providing DRR training for 30 children's groups and 28 schools.

### Somalia: Asylum

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Somali refugees he estimates are now in each neighbouring country; and what assistance his Department is providing to those refugees in each country. [186279]

**Gillian Merron:** UNHCR is the UN agency with principal responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees. The latest estimates from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for the number of Somali refugees resident in countries neighbouring Somalia are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Djibouti | 8,642 |
| Ethiopia | 19,572 |
| Kenya | 182,000 |

The UK provides its primary support to refugees through the UNHCR. In 2007 the UK was the sixth largest donor to UNHCR for its global operations with contributions amounting to $56.2 million. The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) is the second largest contributor to UNHCR. The UK provides 17.39 per cent. of ECHO'S funding. The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), also provides assistance to UNHCR for refugee assistance in these countries. DFID has provided 14.8 per cent. of funding available in the CERF in 2008 to date.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of parents with care whose entitlement to child support has been altered as a result of the 6 April 2006 changes allowing increased pension contributions to be deducted from income assessed for child support; and if he will make a statement: [188071]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No such estimate has been made. However, maintenance arrangements in force before 6 April 2006 will have changed only if the Child Support Agency has been notified of a relevant change of circumstances by either parent.

None of the organisations representing parents has raised these concerns with the agency, and the matter has not been the subject of any complaint the agency has received. Therefore very little evidence exists to suggest that non-resident parents are exploiting the current rules on pension contributions in a way which unreasonably reduces their child support liability. If such a case were to arise, the Child Support Agency is able to adjust liabilities in specified exceptional circumstances where the usual rules may not operate fairly. For example, in either child support scheme, it is possible to adjust the child support liability where the net income of the non-resident parent used in the calculation is inconsistent with their lifestyle. In such cases, this action will be considered by the agency following an application by the parent with care.

### Child Support Agency: Private Sector

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the results of outsourcing of Child Support Agency work, with particular regard to *(a)* response times and *(b)* quality of work delivered. [183913]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the results of outsourcing of Child Support Agency work with particular regard to *(a)* response times and *(b)* quality of work delivered. [183913]

As part of the Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency contracted out some of its enforcement work to private debt collection agencies, Eversheds LLP and iQor, and the management of our clerical case load to Vertex Data Science Ltd.

Although the Agency has contracted out the maintenance of its clerical cases to Vertex Data Science Ltd, the performance targets set by the Secretary of State apply to all Child Support cases, regardless of whether they are clerical or not.

In addition, the Agency's Client Service Standards apply to cases maintained by Vertex Data Science Ltd.

Formal monthly governance arrangements are in place to measure and discuss Vertex performance against these targets and standards. Weekly meetings between Vertex and Agency operational managers also take place to track performance.

The number of cases that need to be processed clerically is larger than was initially expected. Consequently, in order to ensure we maintain a good standard of service to our clients, we returned some of the cases being handled by Vertex to our other centres. This process began in July 2007 and was completed in September 2007.

The Agency now retains responsibility for clerical cases until the first payment stage, including processing some cases previously passed to Vertex (CSA Bolton) which were awaiting initial assessment and payment scheduling. Thereafter, these cases will be sent to CSA Bolton to ensure on-going maintenance compliance.

These changes have allowed Vertex to focus on case maintenance, keeping more money flowing to more children, and have resulted in an improvement in the service offered to clients.

The forthcoming upgrade to the CS2 computer system will result in a significant reduction in the number of cases that need to be processed clerically. The process will be re-assessed at that point.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Computer Software

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the source code copies of core application software used by his Department and its agencies and supplied by third parties are held in escrow. [186908]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department assesses the need to put any of its core application software source code into escrow on a case by case basis. Where appropriate, the Department will then enter into an escrow agreement for the relevant code to be placed with the escrow agent.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1547W, on departmental cost effectiveness, what the administrative cost to his

Department was of paying benefits into bank accounts in each of the last 10 years; and how many and what proportion of benefits claims were paid directly into bank accounts in each of the last 10 years. [185593]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows *(a)* the number of benefit accounts paid into a bank or building society account and *(b)* the proportion of benefit accounts paid into a bank or building society account in each of the last five years.

Phasing out order books and paying the vast majority of customers by direct payment will save the taxpayer around £1 billion between 2005 and 2010.

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administrative cost of paying into a bank account (£ million) | 1.2 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 4.4 | [1]4.2 |
| Number of benefits accounts paid into a bank account[2] (million) | 8.4 | 12.3 | 14.9 | 15.3 | 15.8 |
| Proportion of benefit accounts paid into a bank account[2] (percentage) | 44.2 | 62 | 74.6 | 76.1 | 78 |

[1] Includes forecast for final quarter of financial year. [2] Figures have been provided by DWP Information Directorate and are based on snap shot as at October of that year.

Figures refer to the number of benefit accounts live and in payment on the specified date, and not the number of benefit claims, customers, or POCA accounts. People in receipt of more than one benefit/pension are counted for each separate benefit/pension in payment. People who have their benefit/pension combined and paid at the same time are only counted through the paying benefit

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176472]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Contracts awarded by the Department include standard terms and conditions which place obligations on contractors in relation to confidentiality of information, security of equipment and auditing requirements. These clauses specify that:

contractors must have prior written consent from the Department before disclosing any confidential information obtained during or arising from the contract; and

the Department and the National Audit Office have unrestricted access to their accounts, files and records; and

the Official Secrets Acts and, when appropriate, the Social Security Administration Act, apply to those contractors.

Where contractors handle personal data, the Department has built in additional data protection clauses, which require the contractor to comply with the Data Protection Act.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183300]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Prior to 6 August 2007, all vehicles used by DWP were owned by the Department. Since then the Department has leased all its vehicles. Consequently no vehicles have been purchased since 2006-07 financial year.

Information on purchases prior to April 2003 is not held centrally. The number of vehicles purchased between April 2003 to April 2007 is provided as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 390 |
| 2004-05 | 448 |
| 2005-06 | 315 |
| 2006-07 | 402 |

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181591]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of new claimants on the new employment and support allowance are expected to claim *(a)* the employment portion and *(b)* the support portion when the new allowance is introduced; [180135]

(2) when the Government plans to announce the level of the new employment and support allowance; and what preliminary work his Department has carried out on the level of that allowance. [180136]

**Mrs. McGuire:** We are projecting a total of 567,000 new claims for 2008-09 as a whole. From October 2008 new customers will claim Employment and Support Allowance. Prior to that date incapacity benefit and income support will be available. These benefits will also be available after October 2008 to those protected by the linking rules.

The most severely disabled people claiming Employment and Support Allowance will be placed in the Support Group and will receive a higher rate of

benefit. Early estimates are that around 10 per cent. of new customers to ESA will be in the Support Group. Over time, as proportionately more people in the work-related activity group leave the benefit, the proportion will rise to around 20 per cent. of the longer term ESA caseload.

We will be laying the main ESA regulations in the coming weeks and they will include the rates of the benefit. Analysis has been undertaken and an appropriate rate for ESA will be set in order to meet our aspirations for welfare reform.

### Equality: Public Sector

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the guidance notes produced on procurement and race, disability and gender public sector equality duties published respectively by the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission. [176257]

**Barbara Follett:** I am placing copies of the following publications in the Library:

The duty to promote race equality: Race Equality and Procurement in Local Government: A guide for (local) authorities and contractors (CRE)

The duty to promote race equality: Public Procurement and Race Equality: Guidelines for local government (CRE)

The duty to promote race equality: Race Equality and Public Procurement: A guide for public authorities and contractors (CRE)

The duty to promote race equality: Public Procurement and Race Equality: Guidelines for public authorities (CRE)

Public procurement and race equality: Briefing for suppliers (CBI and CRE)

Procurement and the Disability Equality Duty: Implications of the Disability Equality Duty for Public Procurement and the Management of Public Sector Contracts (DRC)

Guidance for Great Britain: Procurement: Gender equality duty (EOC)

### Health and Safety Executive: Expenditure

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* the Health and Safety Commission in each year since 2005-06; and how much is expected to be spent in 2008-09. [186683]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The following table sets out the amount spent by Health and Safety Commission/Executive for the period requested. The forecast expenditure for 2008-09 will be available once the Health and Safety Commission/Executive agrees its spending review 2007 settlement with the Department for Work and Pensions.

| *Financial year* | *Health and Safety Executive* | *Health and Safety Commission* | *£000 Total HSC/E* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06[1] | 238,157 | 848 | 239,005 |
| 2006-07 | 232,846 | 890 | 233,736 |
| 2007-08[2] | 215,022 | 830 | 215,852 |
| 2008-09 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

[1] The 2005-06 outturn has been restated to reflect the transfer of responsibility for rail regulation from HSE to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006.
[2] The 2007-08 figures are the latest forecast used to inform the Spring Supplementary Estimate.

### Housing Benefit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the expenditure by each London local authority on discretionary housing payments was in each of the last five years. [185975]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following table.

*Total discretionary housing payments spend by London local authority*

| *Local authority* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *£000 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking | 10 | 19 | 58 | 40 | 114 |
| Barnet | 165 | 195 | 179 | 226 | 215 |
| Bexley | 37 | 31 | 50 | 48 | 68 |
| Brent | 143 | 143 | 234 | 206 | 253 |
| Bromley | 5 | 36 | 63 | 81 | 71 |
| Camden | 170 | 147 | 122 | 138 | 141 |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Croydon | 111 | 154 | 157 | 160 | 171 |
| Ealing | 210 | 185 | 204 | 259 | 243 |
| Enfield | 45 | 127 | 129 | 170 | 154 |
| Greenwich | 185 | 185 | 378 | 373 | 323 |
| Hackney | 41 | 36 | 120 | 79 | 134 |
| Hammersmith | 99 | 117 | 110 | 117 | 132 |
| Haringey | 63 | 120 | 198 | 219 | 333 |
| Harrow | 59 | 67 | 104 | 83 | 102 |
| Havering | 63 | 43 | 43 | 51 | 53 |

*Total discretionary housing payments spend by London local authority*

| *Local authority* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *£000 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hillingdon | 93 | 110 | 122 | 112 | 97 |
| Hounslow | 72 | 78 | 46 | 40 | 77 |
| Islington | 28 | 22 | 57 | 78 | 104 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 63 | 81 | 213 | 121 | 163 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 25 | 38 | 51 | 51 | 48 |
| Lambeth | 69 | 124 | 125 | 146 | 132 |
| Lewisham | 114 | 137 | 138 | 144 | 98 |
| Merton | 56 | 78 | 109 | 108 | 76 |
| Newham | 113 | 113 | 0 | 175 | 238 |
| Redbridge | 143 | 122 | 83 | 68 | 88 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 92 | 90 | 92 | 106 | 102 |
| Southwark | 122 | 120 | 133 | 111 | 110 |
| Sutton | 34 | 39 | 70 | 56 | 48 |
| Tower Hamlets | 111 | 113 | 142 | 157 | 93 |
| Waltham Forest | 109 | 86 | 141 | 89 | 179 |
| Wandsworth | 88 | 75 | 87 | 47 | 77 |
| Westminster | 160 | 154 | 172 | 176 | 186 |
| London total | 2,900 | 3,200 | 3,900 | 4,000 | 4,400 |

*Note:*
1. Amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand
2. The total is rounded to the nearest 100 thousand
3. The latest available audited expenditure information for discretionary housing payments is for the financial year 2006-07.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities in London did not spend the whole of their discretionary housing payments budget in 2006-07. [185976]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The London local authorities that did not spend the whole of their discretionary housing payment allocation for 2006-07 are:

Camden
Harrow
Havering
Hillingdon
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston-upon-Thames
Lambeth
Lewisham
Merton
Newham
Red bridge
Richmond-upon-Thames
Southwark
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Westminster

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received discretionary housing payments in each London local authority area in 2005-06. [185977]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available.

**Industrial Health and Safety: Standards**

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets the Health and Safety Executive set for reducing *(a)* the incidence of injury, *(b)* the incidence of ill health, *(c)* the incidence of working days lost and *(d)* the numbers of recorded major hazard precursor incidences in each year since 1997, broken down by region; and whether these targets were met in each year. [186680]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Commission set three targets to reduce the incidence rates of work-related fatal and major injury, ill health and working days lost as part of its 'Revitalising Health and Safety' strategy launched in 2000. This was the first time HSC/E had set national targets of this sort. These were not annual targets, but cover a 10-year period to 2009-10, using 1999 to 2000 as the baseline year, and sought reductions of:

- work-related fatal and major injury—10 per cent. reduction from the baseline;
- work-related ill health—20 per cent. reduction from the baseline; and
- work-related days lost—30 per cent. reduction from the baseline.

HSE's current PSA targets (2005-06 to 2007-08, using 2004-05 as a baseline) are designed to contribute to these longer term targets—aiming for a 3 per cent. reduction in work-related fatal and major injuries, 6 per cent. reduction in work-related ill health and 9 per cent. reduction in work-related days lost over the life of the PSA. The following table shows the official published statistics for each year from 1999 to 2000 to 2006-07 against the PSA target for comparison purposes.

HSE has only had formal targets relating to major hazard for the current PSA period (2005-06 to 2007-08). The table shows the major hazards targets for 2007-08 and progress towards them.

All HSE's targets cover Great Britain as a whole; although regional statistics are published, the targets, and progress towards them, are not broken down regionally or locally.

*Improving health and safety outcomes in Great Britain through control of risks in the workplace*

| | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Q3 2008-09[5] | PSA 2007-08 (target) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Occupational health and safety* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fatal and major injuries (per 100,000 workers) | 117.3 | 111.1 | 111.7 | 111.8 | 121.1 | [4]118.6 | 111.1 | [5]107.7 | [6]— | 115.0 |
| Incidence of work-related ill health (per 100,000 workers)[1] | — | — | 2,187 | — | 1,959 | [4]1,846 | 1,642 | 2,094 | [6]— | 1,735 |
| Days lost due to work-related illness and injury (per worker)[1] | | 1.76 (2000-02) | | — | 1.68 | [4]1.53 | 1.31 | 1.55 | [6]— | 1.39 |
| *Major hazards* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number events reported by licence holders, which HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate judges as having the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system | — | 192 | [4]143 | 126 | 110 | 127 | 118 | 126 | 74 | 132 |
| Number major and significant hydrocarbon releases in the offshore oil and gas sector | 139 | 125 | [4]113 | 85 | 97 | 83 | 73 | 73 | [5]57 | 62 |
| Number reportable dangerous occurrences in the onshore sector/RIDDOR[2] | 177 | 137 | [4]179 | 155 | 154 | 130 | 124 | 105 | [5]75 | 152 |

[1] Statistics are subject to a 95 per cent. confidence interval.
[2] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.
[3] New major hazards data (post-APR07). Latest available for APR was Q2.
[4] Baseline years.
[5] provisional outturn.
[6] Next statistics due November 2008.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants in Peterborough constituency had been claiming for *(a)* more than three months, *(b)* more than six months, *(c)* more than nine months and *(d)* more than 12 months, including any period for which a person may have been on the New Deal but returned to jobseeker's allowance immediately afterwards, at the most recent date for which figures are available. [174410]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The additional information on spells on the New Deal is not available except at disproportionate costs. Following is a table showing information on continuous spells of claimant unemployment. We are collecting information on repeat spells on benefit which we will place in the Library in the new year.

*Jobseeker's allowance claimants by continuous duration of claim, Peterborough: November 2007*

| Duration of claim | Number of claimants |
|---|---|
| 0 to less than 3 months | 870 |
| 3 to less than 6 months | 360 |
| 6 to less than 9 months | 180 |
| 9 to less than 12 months | 150 |
| 12 months and over | 270 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures are based on computer held cases only.

*Source:*
NOMIS

## Now Let's Talk Money

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the "Now let's talk money" programme. [184847]

**Mrs. McGuire:** HM Treasury allocated £5.4 million to the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver the "Now let's talk money" campaign.

During 2006-07 and 2007-08 £4.9 million will have been spent on a range of activities to increase awareness among excluded consumers of the availability of suitable financial services; awareness raised via intermediary organisations and direct marketing. This includes £0.5 million through a special projects fund, with a balance of £0.5 million spent on the same during 2008-09.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the future demand for Health and Safety Executive inspectors of nuclear facilities; and if he will make a statement. [186681]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) estimates in current circumstances that around 230 full-time equivalent nuclear safety inspectors will be required at the peak of its programme of nuclear regulatory work. That estimate takes account of expanding work for HSE on assessing three designs for new reactors, an understanding of programmes for Ministry of Defence nuclear facilities, and Government plans for nuclear decommissioning. The figure excludes inspectors of other disciplines employed by HSE who are also involved in regulating nuclear facilities in other areas.

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors of nuclear facilities were employed by the Health and Safety Executive in each year since 2004, broken down by region. [186682]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive has employed the following number of nuclear safety inspectors within its Nuclear Directorate (ND) since 2004:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 162 |
| 2005-06 | 161 |
| 2006-07 | 157 |
| 2007-08 (as at 14 February 2008) | 155 |

Except for two inspectors based in HSE's London Office all nuclear safety inspectors operate from HSE's headquarters in Bootle, Merseyside and are not located in regions.

## Pensioners: Income

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual income was of the average pensioner household in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [186962]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information cannot be provided at a lower level than Government office region, averaged over three years. Information that is available is set out in the following table.

*Average net annual income before housing costs for all pensioner units, in real terms*

*£ per week, 2005-06 prices*

| | *North East* | *Great Britain* | *United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 to 1999-2000 | 10,600 | 12,300 | n/a |
| 1998-99 to 2000-01 | 10,800 | 12,800 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 to 2001-02 | 11,300 | 13,300 | n/a |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 12,100 | 13,800 | n/a |
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 12,600 | 14,200 | n/a |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 13,100 | 14,500 | n/a |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 13,200 | 14,900 | 14,900 |

*Notes:*
1. Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home. Gross income is from all sources received by the pensioner unit, including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. Figures are based on the average of three years' data for government office regions as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Great Britain and United Kingdom figures (where available) are included on the same basis for comparison: further information for single years at a national level are available in the publication "Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)".
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
5. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
6. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.

*Source:*
Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)

## Pensions: Edinburgh

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* the state pension and *(b)* pension credit in (i) Edinburgh East, (ii) Edinburgh North and Leith, (iii) Edinburgh South, (iv) Edinburgh South West and (v) Edinburgh West parliamentary constituencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [187436]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is in the following table.

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *State pension individual recipients* | *Pension credit household recipients* |
|---|---|---|
| Edinburgh East | 14,180 | 4,550 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 13,460 | 3,600 |
| Edinburgh South | 14,520 | 2,810 |
| Edinburgh South West | 14,510 | 3,330 |
| Edinburgh West | 18,770 | 3,360 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are as at May 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Poverty

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)*

the south-west and *(c)* England who live below the poverty level. [186625]

**Mr. Timms:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06'. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Available information is shown in the following table. Information below the level of Government office region is not available.

*Number and proportion of individuals in the south-west and England living in households with below 60 per cent. of median income based on three year averages, 2003-04 to 2005-06*

| *Geographical area* | *Number of individuals, before housing costs (million)* | *Proportion of individuals (percentage)* | *Number of individuals, after housing costs (million)* | *Proportion of individuals (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South-west | 0.7 | 15 | 0.9 | 19 |
| England | 8.4 | 17 | 10.5 | 21 |

*Notes:*
1. Three survey year averages are given for the south-west and England, as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
4. Tables show numbers in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000.

## Social Security Benefits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative cost is to his Department of paying benefits claims by means other than post office card accounts and bank accounts; and how many and what proportion of benefit claims are paid in this way. [185595]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The total cost of paying benefit claims by cheque is currently around £1.79 per transaction. This is made up of various components including stationery, postage and costs incurred by the Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank plc. Around 300,000 (less than 2 per cent.) of customers are paid solely by cheque. The vast majority (98 per cent.) are paid by Direct Payment into an account.

## Social Security Benefits: Foreigners

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* the Czech Republic, *(c)* Estonia, *(d)* Hungary, *(e)* Latvia, *(f)* Lithuania, *(g)* Malta, *(h)* Poland, *(i)* Slovakia and *(j)* Slovenia claimed benefits for the first time in each month since 1 May 2004. [185112]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

No information is available for Cypriot and Maltese nationals; people from these countries are not subject to the same labour market restrictions as the A8 nationals.

Limited information on the number of applications, by A8 nationals, for income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit is available in the "Accession Monitoring Report; May 2004 to September 2007", a joint online report by the Border and Immigration Agency, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Department for Communities and Local Government; copies of which have been placed in the Library.

The report is available online at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/accession_monitoring_report/

## Social Security Benefits: Post Office Card Account

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative cost to his Department of paying benefits into Post Office card accounts was in each year since April 2003; and how many and what proportion of benefits claims were paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last 10 years. [185594]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The following table shows *(a)* the cost of paying benefits into Post Office card accounts, *(b)* the number of benefit accounts paid into a POCA, and *(c)* the proportion of benefit accounts paid into a POCA, and for each year since the Post Office card account was introduced in April 2003.

| *Financial year* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cost of paying benefits into POCA (£ million) | 76 | 138 | 159 | 152 | [1]148 |
| Number of benefits accounts paid into a POca[2] (million) | 0.04 | 1.95 | 4.5 | 4.36 | 4.15 |
| Proportion of benefit accounts paid into a POca[2] (percentage) | 0.2 | 10 | 23 | 22 | 20 |

[1] Includes forecast for final quarter of financial year.
[2] Figures have been provided by DWP Information Directorate and are based on snap shot as at October of that year.

*Note:*
Figures refer to the number of benefit accounts live and in payment on the specified date, and not the number of benefit claims, customers, or POCA accounts. People in receipt of more than one benefit/pension are counted for each separate benefit/pension in payment. People who have their benefit/pension combined and paid at the same time are only counted through the paying benefit. The figures shown for 2003 and 2004 reflect the fact that customers were gradually being migrated from order books during this period.

## State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK have received the basic state pension in each of the last 30 years. [186669]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The available information is in the following table.

*Numbers in receipt of any basic state pension*

| | *Jarrow parliamentary constituency* | *South Tyneside local authority* | *North-east Government office region* | *GB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 16,700 | 30,500 | 490,100 | 10,659,900 |
| 2006 | 16,600 | 30,300 | 482,700 | 10,513,800 |
| 2005 | 16,100 | 30,000 | 478,500 | 10,450,300 |
| 2004 | 15,900 | 29,900 | 473,500 | 10,313,500 |
| 2003 | 15,700 | 29,700 | 471,100 | 10,225,900 |
| 2002 | 15,800 | 30,000 | 470,900 | 10,149,300 |
| 2001 | 15,300 | 29,600 | 469,700 | 10,087,200 |
| 2000 | 15,500 | 29,900 | 468,400 | 10,035,100 |
| 1999 | — | — | — | 9,938,800 |
| 1998 | — | — | — | 9,839,400 |
| 1997 | — | — | — | 9,700,400 |
| 1996 | — | — | — | 9,575,400 |
| 1995 | — | — | — | 9,469,300 |

*Notes*:
1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extract of Pensions Strategy Computer System. Therefore, figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures are based on the live caseload as at March each year where any basic state pension is in payment.
4. Geographical breakdowns by parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region are not available prior to September 1999
5. Electronic data is only held from 1995 therefore basic state pension cases cannot be separately identified prior to this.

*Source*:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and WPLS 100 per cent. data.

## Sunbeds: Young People

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of the levels of use of *(a)* sunbed salons and *(b)* unsupervised sunbed salons by under 18-year-olds since 1990. [185447]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive has made no such assessments. There is a commitment in the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy that the Department of Health will gather more information about the number and distribution of sunbeds and the scale of sunbed use by minors.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 22 February 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Arms Trade: Export Controls

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plans to take to strengthen controls on the export of arms. [186849]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* On 6 February 2008 the Government published their initial response to a public consultation carried out as part of the 2007 review of export control legislation. The response can be viewed on BERR's website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/legislation/export-control-act-20Q2/review/index.html

The initial response commits the Government to (1) extending export laws to control the brokering and trafficking, by UK persons anywhere in the world, of small arms, man portable air defence systems (MANPADs), and those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; (2) extending controls on the export and trading of torture equipment to include sting sticks; (3) starting ED negotiations to introduce a new EU-wide torture end use control, which would enable all EU states to make licensable—and therefore refuse—the export of any equipment believed to be for use in acts of torture; and (4) rationalising the licensing treatment of long range missiles and unmanned air vehicles.

### Business: Sustainable Development

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what contribution his Department will make to the funding of programmes run by *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* the Manufacturing Advisory Service for the provision of advice on resources efficiency to businesses in 2008-09; [178615]

(2) what contribution his Department plans to make to the funding of programmes run by *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* the Manufacturing Advisory Service for the provision of advice on resources efficiency to businesses in 2008-09. [178616]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2008-09, BERR will provide the following levels of funding for Business Link and Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS):

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Business Link: | 141.7 |
| MAS: | [1]5 |

[1] expected to be at least match funded by RDA contributions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to require businesses above a certain size to put in place sustainability strategies and to submit them to his Department. [187905]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is not Government's role to inquire into the sustainability of individual firms. Business must ensure its own long term competitiveness in a low carbon economy and investors must satisfy themselves that they are investing in companies equipped to meet future environmental and social challenges.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers and those of its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [183188]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W

### Energy: Fees and Charges

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent meetings his Department has held with energy companies to discuss the premium paid by pre-payment customers for gas and electricity; and what progress has been made in encouraging energy suppliers to reduce this premium. [187226]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I last met representatives of the six the largest suppliers and Ofgem on 31 January, with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We both expressed strongly our growing concern about rising tariff differentials.

Gas and electricity suppliers have been considering their tariff structures and two companies have equalised their standard credit and prepayment prices for electricity, while one offers prepayment customers a lower price for both fuels than that paid by standard credit customers.

The Government will continue to work with Ofgem to ensure we do all we can to encourage customers to switch to the best payment method. There are considerable benefits to be had—customers changing supplier and payment type (eg credit to direct debit) should see an average saving of around £130, and may even make larger savings of up to £200.

### Fuel Poverty

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 805W, when he will publish his Department's analysis of which of the major six energy companies offer a proportional programme of assistance. [184293]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* We will publish our analysis in the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 6th Annual Progress Report later this year.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on progress towards the Government's target of eradicating fuel poverty *(a)* in England by 2010 and *(b)* in the UK by 2016 to 2018. [184864]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have been successful in reducing fuel poverty between 1996 and 2005 by 3 million vulnerable households across the UK.

However, as indicated in our most recent UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 5th Annual Progress Report www.berr.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/strategy/index.html energy prices since 2003 have had an impact on households in fuel poverty.

The Government remain committed to our fuel poverty targets, working together with those key stakeholders including the energy suppliers, voluntary groups, energy efficiency scheme managers and campaigning organisations to ensure that appropriate progress is made.

**Fuels: Prices**

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the impact on the rural economy of the cost of petrol and diesel. [186301]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has not specifically undertaken an assessment of the impact of the cost of petrol and diesel on the rural economy. However, prices in rural and remote areas, where distribution costs are higher and the degree of retail competition is lower, will typically be higher than the UK average.

The Government recognise the importance of transport in rural areas and has provided grant funding to develop and enhance local rural bus and community services.

**Furniture**

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department has provided to *(a)* the furniture manufacturing industry and *(b)* its supply chain in the last 10 years; which elements of such support have been provided on a regional basis; and what plans he has to fund future assistance to the (i) furniture manufacturing sector and (ii) its supply chain to support its global competitiveness. [182233]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer to her earlier question on 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 805W, which detailed the financial support to the furniture sector since 1990. Since that time we have continued to provide funding towards UK First, the furniture industry forum, and will continue to do so until March 2008. UK Trade and Investment continues to help the furniture sector succeed overseas with support under the Tradeshow Access Programme and the sector forms a component of the strategy to market the UK's creative industries overseas. In the regions Advantage West Midlands has set up Furniture West Midlands to support the sector and Furniture Link, managed by Business Link London, is helping furniture companies to develop business opportunities. In addition the Government Businesslink service offers a range of support solutions to companies in all sectors. Support is also available through the Manufacturing Advisory Service and under the Technology Programme if the industry can address the technology priorities identified by the Technology Strategy Board.

**Industrial Diseases: Compensation**

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what agreement his Department has made with CMC insurers about the CMC/CMR co-morbidity report costs for service claims under the miners' compensation claim scheme. [188568]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No specific agreement has been made between the Department and the Coal Mining Contractors' (CMC) insurers with respect to the costs of CMC and Coal Mining Related co-morbidity reports for services claims under the Vibration White Finger scheme.

However, 50 per cent. of reasonable costs incurred by the CMC insurer for the co-morbidity medical will be reimbursed under the existing reimbursement agreements between the Department and the CMCs.

**Low Carbon Buildings Programme**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for the future of the low carbon buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [187271]

**Malcolm Wicks:** From a total budget of £86 million made available through the low carbon buildings programme, we have committed approximately £26 million to 5,700 household, community group, public, private and charitable sector projects to date.

We are currently exploring options for raising awareness in the programme and encouraging uptake in grants, in consultation with stakeholders, including industry representatives.

Grants of up to £2,500 per property remain available to households, and grants of up to £1 million remain available to public sector organisations and charitable bodies through to 2009. Further details on the household stream are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

and detailed information regarding grants available to public sector organisations and charitable bodies are available at:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/

Beyond LCBP, electricity technologies are supported by the renewables obligation (RO) and CERT will apply to microgeneration technologies from April 2008. More significant changes to the RO are planned for 2009 including differentiated levels of support to different technologies in order to encourage a larger contribution from emerging renewable technologies. This change will benefit microgenerators (i.e. generators under 50 kW), including all PV. We will also be looking at support for microgeneration as part of the renewable energy strategy.

## Microgeneration

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic microgeneration installations, broken down by type; and if he will make a statement. [187227]

**Malcolm Wicks:** An Energy Saving Trust report commissioned by the then DTI and completed in 2005 estimated that there were approximately 82,000 microgeneration installations in the United Kingdom by the end of 2004. We are currently commissioning further research to provide up to date estimates.

The following table sets out installations by technologies taken from the EST data plus installations under Government grant programmes from 1 April 2005 to the end of December 2006.

| *Technology* | *Number of installations* | *Total number of grant funded installations to end December 2006* |
|---|---|---|
| Wind | 650 | 883 |
| Hydro | 90 | 107 |
| Ground source heat pumps | 546 | 1,251 |
| Biomass | 150 | 422 |
| Solar water heating | 78,470 | 81,494 |
| PV | 1,301 | 2,143 |
| Micro CHP | 990 | 990 |
| Other | 5 | 34 |
| Total | 82,202 | 87,323 |

[1] EST report end March 2005
[2] Total likely to be higher

For installations under the low carbon buildings programme, which started in April 2006, please see the latest statistics on domestic installations at:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/stats/

## Microgeneration: Standards

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what targets he has set for installing heat producing microgeneration in settlements of fewer than 10,000 in homes classified as *(a)* hard to treat and *(b)* hard to reach. [187438]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We currently have no specific targets for installing microgeneration technologies in these areas.

BERR and the local regional development agencies have each provided £1 million in co-funding to each of two demonstration programmes in North-East England and Yorkshire and Humberside, which consist of a number of projects to provide mains gas or renewables technologies to deprived communities. Each of these programmes has a target of helping 20 communities and installing measures in 2,000 homes in each RDA area.

We will also be examining the benefits of wider microgeneration targets in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006.

## Mining: Pensions

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what time limit the current split between beneficiaries and Government of future valuation surpluses from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme are subject to; and if he will meet trustees to discuss these arrangements. [187831]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The equal division between beneficiaries and Government of periodic surpluses in the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme is a fundamental element of the arrangements established in 1994 whereby the Government provides an insolvency guarantee to the scheme. These arrangements are not time limited. Although my officials are in regular dialogue with scheme representatives on a range of issues, I have no immediate plans to meet the trustees.

## Mobile Phones: Contracts

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether mobile telephone providers have a statutory obligation to inform their customers when they have reached the end of their mobile contract. [180378]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Mobile telephone operators are under no statutory obligation to inform their customers when the minimum term of a mobile contract has ended.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timescale is for decommissioning nuclear sites; and what estimate he has made of the prospects for achieving targets set for decommissioning such sites. [187065]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has responsibility for the decommissioning and cleaning up of the historic civil public nuclear sites, including the Magnox nuclear power stations. A life cycle description of each site for which the NDA is responsible, including key decommissioning milestones, is set out in the NDA strategy, which is available on the NDA website at:

www.nda.gov.uk.

## Office of Communications: Finance

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what financial contributions were made by *(a)* O2, *(b)* Vodafone, *(c)* 3, *(d)* Orange, *(e)* T-Mobile and *(f)* Virgin Mobile to Ofcom in the last year for which information is available. [187018]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Offshore Industry: Taxation

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Government paid to *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Northern Ireland in relation to UK Continental Shelf receipts in each year since 2004. [187443]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table shows how much the Government have paid to *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Northern Ireland in respect of a share of UK Continental Shelf receipts since 2004:

*Payments to Isle of Man and Northern Ireland*

£000

| Financial year | Isle of Man | Northern Ireland |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0 | 13,175 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 1,527 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 1,317 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 1,392 |

## Power Stations: Carbon Sequestration

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to require the use of carbon capture and storage technology as a condition for approval of the new Kingsnorth power station in Kent. [187032]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* No decision on the application for consent to build a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth has yet been taken.

## Renewable Energy: National Grid

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what renewable energy projects have been built which are not connected to the national grid. [186995]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I am not aware of any large-scale renewable electricity projects that have been built but which are not connected to the national grid.

Microgeneration is used in off-grid applications, for example to power parking meters. There may also be domestic microgeneration projects which remain off-grid due to the property owners' choice. The Department does not hold statistics relating to these projects. As I understand it, larger distributed energy installations that use a private wire network for the distribution and supply of electricity tend to maintain a grid connection, for example to maintain supply in the event of a failure of their own generating plant. These installations could operate in what is known as "island-mode", using their own generation in the event of a cut in grid supply, but we are not aware of any that choose to operate off grid at all times.

In addition, there are some renewable energy developments, such as renewable heat projects, that do not generate electricity and so do not require connection to the grid.

## Sellafield

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the design capacity of the Sellafield Mox Plant is; and how many tonnes of mixed oxide fuel were manufactured at the plant in each year since it was opened. [188164]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I am advised by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority that the original design capacity for the Sellafield Mox Plant, based on largely unproven technology, was 120tHM (tonnes heavy metal) per annum. From assessments during uranium comr. sioning in 2001, this was revised to 72tHM. Justification of the plant was approved in October 2001. Output as finished fuel assemblies has been as follows:

| | tHM |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 0.0 |
| 2003-04 | 0.0 |
| 2004-05 | 0.3 |
| 2005-06 | 2.3 |
| 2006-07 | 2.6 |

## Telecommunications: Fees and Charges

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has received the report from Ofcom concluding its review of communications providers' additional charges; and if he will make a statement. [185745]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The independent regulator the Office of Communications (Ofcom) announced on 6 June 2007 that it would carry out a full review of communications providers' additional charges. Ofcom is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Ofcom expects to announce the conclusions of its review soon, and progress may be monitored on its website: www.ofcom.org.uk.

## Utilities: Prices

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to regulate utility bill price increases in the last three years. [182001]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Neither the Government nor Ofgem regulate overall prices in the energy supply markets, which are competitive markets. Ofgem does regulate charges in monopoly sectors of the energy markets, including transmission and distribution, and these charges form part of consumers' energy bills.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to encourage energy providers to minimise utility bill price rises. [182002]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government do not interfere in commercial pricing decisions in the energy supply markets, which are competitive markets.

However we are concerned about the impact of higher prices on vulnerable people and we continue to

encourage energy suppliers to adopt social tariffs and to restrict price rises for the most vulnerable. In the Energy White Paper, we called for suppliers to increase their help to vulnerable customers. The level of help has now increased from £40 million to £56 million during winter 2007-08 with around 700,000 households benefiting. All these companies have committed to continuing their programmes of assistance for the next three years.

### Wind Power: Licensing

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 699W, on wind power (licensing), what proportion of future offshore renewables applications he expects to be for wind farms generating over 100 MW of power. [187031]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The size of future offshore wind farms in development consent applications will depend on the outcome of the Strategic Environmental Assessment on offshore energy currently underway, future Crown Estate competitions for options for site leases and proposals put forward by wind farm developers.

For the Crown Estate's Round 1 competition in 2001 for demonstration-scale offshore wind farm projects, it was a requirement for proposals to be under 100MW in scale. Under the Round 2 competition in 2003, for commercial-scale projects, only one lease option was granted for a proposal under 100MW. My Department expects that while some proposals may be for offshore wind farms under 100MW, it is likely that the majority of future offshore wind farm proposals will be over 100MW.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Sports: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been drawn down by each local education authority from New Opportunities for PE and Sport funding; and how many projects have received funding. [187491]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

In England, £495.16 million of the £581.25 million of funding available for the New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) has been allocated direct to Local authorities. This has helped them to support 1,365 capital projects, developing or refurbishing over 2,300 sports facilities. The following table shows NOPES allocations by local authority; draw-down by local authorities against those allocations; and the numbers of projects and sports facilities supported.

| *Local education authority* | *Total allocation (£)* | *Total draw-down to date (£)* | *Total capital projects* | *Number of sports facilities* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,993,000 | 2,231,938 | 2 | 2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset Council | 945,000 | 945,000 | 5 | 5 |
| Bedfordshire County Council | 2,571,000 | 1,328,662 | 14 | 20 |
| Birmingham City Council | 16,919,000 | 10,836,893 | 41 | 42 |
| Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council | 2,562,000 | 1,245,466 | 6 | 6 |
| Blackpool Council | 2,362,000 | 1,660,240 | 18 | 18 |
| Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,475,000 | 2,774,241 | 33 | 36 |
| Borough of Poole | 630,000 | 606,584 | 6 | 6 |
| Bournemouth Borough Council | 1,283,000 | 1,027,538 | 4 | 17 |
| Bracknell Forest Borough Council | 530,000 | 230,684 | 4 | 4 |
| Bradford Metropolitan District Council | 8,035,000 | 6,978,542 | 28 | 28 |
| Brighton and Hove City Council | 2,246,000 | 2,246,000 | 2 | 3 |
| Bristol City Council | 4,478,000 | 4,187,469 | 7 | 7 |
| Buckinghamshire County Council | 2,599,000 | 2,247,303 | 16 | 16 |
| Bury Metropolitan Borough Council | 1,704,000 | 1,480,014 | 8 | 8 |
| Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council | 2,003,000 | 1,912,686 | 9 | 9 |
| Cambridgeshire County Council | 2,879,000 | 2,601,251 | 17 | 17 |
| Cheshire County Council | 4,816,000 | 4,587,194 | 12 | 61 |
| City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council | 5,000,000 | 4,160,555 | 6 | 6 |
| Cornwall County Council | 4,518,000 | 4,071,482 | 9 | 9 |
| Corporation of London | 53,000 | 53,000 | 1 | 1 |
| Coventry City Council | 4,529,000 | 3,622,876 | 6 | 6 |
| Cumbria County Council | 4,607,000 | 3,377,380 | 5 | 5 |
| Darlington Borough Council | 1,075,000 | 1,074,819 | 10 | 10 |
| Derby City Council | 2,712,000 | 1,784,268 | 5 | 5 |
| Derbyshire County Council | 6,097,000 | 4,753,598 | 31 | 31 |
| Devon County Council | 3,953,000 | 2,591,586 | 16 | 62 |
| Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | 4,746,000 | 4,541,912 | 8 | 8 |
| Dorset County Council | 2,082,000 | 1,604,843 | 10 | 12 |
| Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,244,000 | 2,593,262 | 13 | 13 |
| Durham County Council | 7,335,000 | 6,936,452 | 5 | 5 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council | 2,196,000 | 1,648,634 | 4 | 4 |

| Local education authority | Total allocation (£) | Total draw-down to date (£) | Total capital projects | Number of sports facilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Sussex County Council | 3,727,000 | 3,277,500 | 10 | 10 |
| Essex County Council | 9,068,000 | 6,615,717 | 18 | 18 |
| Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,057,000 | 2,867,504 | 4 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire County Council | 3,663,000 | 3,233,633 | 13 | 39 |
| Greenwich Council | 3,886,000 | 2,972,934 | 8 | 8 |
| Halton Borough Council | 2,337,000 | 1,826,131 | 8 | 8 |
| Hampshire County Council | 6,634,000 | 6,429,663 | 10 | 10 |
| Harrow Council | 1,029,000 | 932,532 | 3 | 3 |
| Hartlepool Borough Council | 1,714,605 | 1,697,405 | 11 | 15 |
| Herefordshire Council | 1,084,000 | 1,011,405 | 1 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire County Council | 5,684,000 | 4,372,265 | 7 | 7 |
| Isle of Wight Council | 1,371,000 | 1,182,883 | 5 | 49 |
| Isles of Scilly Council | 25,000 | 25,000 | 1 | 5 |
| Kent County Council | 10,437,000 | 6,690,182 | 22 | 39 |
| Kingston Upon Hull City Council | 4,212,000 | 396,829 | 5 | 5 |
| Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council | 4,821,000 | 4,248,644 | 6 | 33 |
| Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,194,000 | 658,794 | 16 | 17 |
| Lancashire County Council | 11,987,000 | 7,490,780 | 21 | 21 |
| Leeds City Council | 7,712,000 | 6,516,315 | 5 | 29 |
| Leicester City Council | 4,996,000 | 3,974,518 | 6 | 6 |
| Leicestershire County Council | 3,350,000 | 2,906,581 | 14 | 14 |
| Lincolnshire County Council | 4,987,000 | 4,729,427 | 4 | 4 |
| Liverpool City Council | 9,217,000 | 8,625,007 | 11 | 12 |
| London Borough of Barking and Dagenham | 3,082,000 | 2,038,690 | 2 | 2 |
| London Borough of Barnet | 1,776,000 | 945,042 | 5 | 5 |
| London Borough of Bexley | 1,874,000 | 1,661,839 | 6 | 11 |
| London Borough of Brent | 2,965,000 | 2,446,715 | 11 | 12 |
| London Borough of Bromley | 1,906,000 | 1,891,493 | 13 | 15 |
| London Borough of Camden | 2,460,000 | 2,455,457 | 7 | 7 |
| London Borough of Croydon | 2,376,000 | 2,195,012 | 10 | 13 |
| London Borough of Ealing | 2,978,000 | 1,246,998 | 11 | 25 |
| London Borough of Enfield | 2,995,000 | 2,714,460 | 13 | 90 |
| London Borough of Hackney | 4,259,000 | 1,830,378 | 9 | 9 |
| London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,510,000 | 1,488,431 | 13 | 89 |
| London Borough of Haringey | 3,775,000 | 3,168,229 | 20 | 22 |
| London Borough of Havering | 1,684,000 | 577,279 | 4 | 12 |
| London Borough of Hillingdon | 1,403,000 | 1,039,751 | 6 | 7 |
| London Borough of Hounslow | 1,573,000 | 1,397,621 | 16 | 16 |
| London Borough of Islington | 3,796,000 | 996,577 | 8 | 10 |
| London Borough of Lambeth | 4,362,000 | 1,625,494 | 20 | 21 |
| London Borough of Lewisham | 3,817,000 | 2,299,595 | 8 | 8 |
| London Borough of Merton | 903,000 | 903,000 | 3 | 4 |
| London Borough of Newham | 5,425,000 | 1,813,272 | 5 | 5 |
| London Borough of Redbridge | 2,131,000 | 1,920,973 | 1 | 1 |
| London Borough of Richmond upon Thames | 899,000 | 891,741 | 12 | 28 |
| London Borough of Southwark | 4,286,000 | 1,240,260 | 9 | 10 |
| London Borough of Sutton | 1,176,000 | 1,108,195 | 3 | 3 |
| London Borough of Tower Hamlets | 4,204,000 | 2,739,045 | 12 | 13 |
| London Borough of Waltham Forest | 3,481,000 | 2,940,857 | 5 | 7 |
| London Borough of Wandsworth | 1,448,000 | 1,262,870 | 5 | 5 |
| Luton Borough Council | 2,008,000 | 1,977,999 | 8 | 11 |
| Manchester City Council | 8,823,000 | 7,969,292 | 9 | 95 |
| Medway Council | 2,165,000 | 1,310,672 | 5 | 13 |
| Metropolitan Borough of Wirral | 4,448,000 | 4,315,945 | 5 | 6 |
| Middlesbrough Council | 2,317,895 | 2,306,533 | 18 | 18 |
| Milton Keynes Council | 1,455,000 | 1,375,462 | 5 | 5 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne City Council | 4,338,000 | 2,740,442 | 4 | 4 |
| Norfolk County Council | 6,358,000 | 5,649,285 | 14 | 64 |
| North East Lincolnshire Council | 1,965,000 | 1,826,367 | 3 | 3 |
| North Lincolnshire Council | 1,319,000 | 517,689 | 2 | 2 |
| North Somerset Council | 1,170,000 | 992,135 | 4 | 4 |
| North Tyneside Council | 2,364,000 | 2,341,500 | 7 | 11 |
| North Yorkshire County Council | 3,421,000 | 3,313,647 | 19 | 20 |
| Northamptonshire County Council | 5,034,000 | 4,333,042 | 17 | 18 |

| Local education authority | Total allocation (£) | Total draw-down to date (£) | Total capital projects | Number of sports facilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northumberland County Council | 2,972,000 | 1,762,748 | 6 | 7 |
| Nottingham City Council | 5,080,000 | 5,036,841 | 10 | 10 |
| Nottinghamshire County Council | 7,358,000 | 5,849,238 | 57 | 62 |
| Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,362,000 | 2,962,653 | 3 | 3 |
| Oxfordshire County Council | 3,329,000 | 2,898,495 | 5 | 5 |
| Peterborough City Council | 1,855,000 | 1,779,199 | 5 | 5 |
| Plymouth City Council | 3,154,000 | 1,805,674 | 13 | 13 |
| Portsmouth City Council | 1,450,000 | 1,258,905 | 8 | 14 |
| Reading Borough Council | 920,000 | 615,960 | 3 | 7 |
| Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council | 2,069,800 | 1,103,532 | 11 | 17 |
| Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council | 2,873,000 | 2,772,036 | 5 | 5 |
| Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,832,000 | 2,347,543 | 3 | 3 |
| Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea | 1,338,000 | 948,645 | 3 | 3 |
| Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames | 678,000 | 482,290 | 4 | 4 |
| Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead | 763,560 | 625,492 | 4 | 67 |
| Rutland County Council | 203,000 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Salford City Council | 3,922,000 | 3,704,393 | 11 | 15 |
| Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | 5,526,000 | 2,673,678 | 15 | 27 |
| Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,331,000 | 3,133,399 | 14 | 93 |
| Sheffield City Council | 6,010,000 | 5,716,637 | 6 | 11 |
| Shropshire County Council | 1,414,000 | 1,351,952 | 4 | 4 |
| Slough Borough Council | 1,007,000 | 910,307 | 3 | 3 |
| Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council | 1,945,000 | 761,613 | 3 | 3 |
| Somerset County Council | 3,062,000 | 2,686,163 | 12 | 15 |
| South Gloucestershire Council | 1,261,000 | 1,261,000 | 4 | 4 |
| South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,031,000 | 2,112,891 | 5 | 5 |
| Southampton City Council | 2,310,000 | 2,050,422 | 4 | 4 |
| Southend on Sea Borough Council | 1,303,000 | 1,302,999 | 5 | 5 |
| St. Helens Council | 3,092,000 | 1,926,063 | 7 | 8 |
| Staffordshire County Council | 5,839,000 | 4,870,824 | 16 | 25 |
| Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council | 2,150,000 | 2,145,992 | 12 | 119 |
| Stockton on Tees Borough Council | 2,286,700 | 2,161,587 | 5 | 5 |
| Stoke-on-Trent City Council | 4,547,000 | 3,003,747 | 5 | 5 |
| Suffolk County Council | 4,701,000 | 3,598,203 | 6 | 6 |
| Sunderland City Council | 5,377,000 | 5,239,753 | 8 | 9 |
| Surrey County Council | 5,277,000 | 3,159,477 | 20 | 20 |
| Swindon Borough Council | 1,363,000 | 1,080,971 | 7 | 7 |
| Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,363,000 | 2,728,286 | 4 | 4 |
| Telford and Wrekin Council | 1,847,000 | 1,623,320 | 4 | 4 |
| Thurrock Borough Council | 1,619,000 | 1,201,654 | 7 | 7 |
| Torbay Council | 1,832,000 | 1,805,469 | 5 | 7 |
| Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council | 1,634,000 | 1,581,318 | 8 | 8 |
| Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council | 3,959,000 | 3,670,395 | 7 | 7 |
| Warrington Borough Council | 1,807,000 | 1,714,330 | 4 | 4 |
| Warwickshire County Council | 3,358,000 | 2,724,130 | 5 | 5 |
| West Berkshire Council | 811,000 | 789,203 | 5 | 6 |
| West Sussex County Council | 3,905,000 | 3,727,169 | 17 | 24 |
| Westminster City Council | 1,758,000 | 636,994 | 8 | 8 |
| Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council | 4,310,000 | 4,270,126 | 15 | 15 |
| Wiltshire County Council | 2,163,000 | 2,078,933 | 7 | 8 |
| Wokingham Borough Council | 819,440 | 602,287 | 9 | 9 |
| Wolverhampton City Council | 3,963,000 | 3,509,998 | 14 | 46 |
| Worcestershire County Council | 3,100,000 | 2,706,115 | 5 | 5 |
| York City Council | 818,000 | 772,891 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 495,158,000 | 385,677,245 | 1,365 | 2,349 |

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gap funding was provided for stock transfers in each year since 1997; how such funding has been financed; and if she will make a statement. [164916]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today to PQ 162805.

### Council Tax: Gloucester

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to Gloucestershire County Council on the account to be taken of the flooding of summer 2007 in the setting of its council tax precept for 2008-09. [188187]

**John Healey:** While Government have not provided guidance to local authorities on how they should set their council tax precept we have made it clear that we expect the national average increase in council tax to be substantially below 5 per cent.

In July 2007 Communities and Local Government wrote to the chief executives of flood affected authorities to remind them of powers around council tax discounts and business rate relief that would enable them to provide financial relief to affected taxpayers.

In addition to any statutory council tax discounts that may apply to those forced out of their homes by flooding, local authorities have discretionary powers, under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to grant discounts of up to 100 per cent. to householders who have been affected.

Local authorities can also consider whether non-domestic properties hit by flooding should be liable for empty property rates and/or whether to exercise their discretionary powers under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to grant hardship rate relief in respect of occupied or empty properties.

### Devolution: Wales

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to designate the Welsh Assembly Government as a statutory consultee on national policy statements impacting on Wales. [188170]

**John Healey:** As we made clear in the white paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future (Cm 7120)" published in May 2007, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland ministers will be statutory consultees in the development of relevant national policy statements.

### Eco Towns

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department expects to announce which eco-town bids have been shortlisted. [187343]

**Caroline Flint:** We are carrying out an initial sift of eco-towns proposals across Government and its agencies. This will give a preliminary indication of the sustainability and infrastructure potential of these schemes in relation to the criteria set out in the eco-towns prospectus, including their approach to transport and the environment. We are also contacting local authorities and regional bodies, in areas where schemes look to have the potential to go forward to a shortlist for consultation. We hope to publish this shortlist in early March 2008 for consultation with the public, wider stakeholders and local authorities.

### Eco-Towns: Essex

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has received any bids for new eco-towns in Essex in the last six months. [187828]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* We have received more than 50 expressions of interest from both the public and private sector for eco-town schemes. At this stage, I am not able to disclose the details of bids, in view of the Department's process and the interests of bidders, but we will be publishing a shortlist in the near future for full consultation with the public, wider stakeholders and local authorities.

### Gambling: Internet

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which countries are on the white list of approved nations allowed to operate an internet gambling service in the UK. [187481]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Tasmania and the States of Alderney and the Isle of Man are the only three jurisdictions or countries that have been added to the 'whitelist' which allows gambling operators licensed in these jurisdictions to advertise remote gambling in the UK as if they were an EEA state.

Any operator that wishes to operate an internet gambling site from Great Britain (ie has remote gambling equipment located in Great Britain) would require an operating licence from the Gambling Commission.

### Health and Safety Executive

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 778W, on the Health and Safety Executive, if she will place in the Library copies of the correspondence between the Health and Safety Executive and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister relating to the water heaters of the type involved in the fatalities in 2002 and 2007. [178622]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Copies of correspondence between the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 and between the HSE and Communities and Local Government in 2006-07 have today been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Home Information Packs: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much has been spent on home information packs from the public purse; how much has been spent on associated *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* external advisers; and how much is budgeted to be spent in the remainder of this financial year; [176231]

(2) how much has been spent on publicity, marketing and communications relating to home information packs to date. [176180]

**Caroline Flint:** An update was given to the hon. Member on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1313W.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Thames Gateway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals for a system by which the proposed Homes and Communities Agency will engage with hon. Members representing constituencies in the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [184626]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government's response to the Public Accounts Committee report into the Thames Gateway outlined that the views of hon. Members representing constituencies in the Thames Gateway are being sought by the Department as to how this communication and dialogue can be improved and strengthened. The Department intends to meet with the Thames Gateway Parliamentary Group to discuss how the programme can most effectively engage hon. Members. We plan to continue to use this and other avenues to ensure that the Homes and Communities Agency builds on this work when it takes over responsibility for the Thames Gateway.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what gap funding payments by her Department to registered social landlords to support large scale voluntary transfers were made in respect of each local authority area in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and how much is estimated to be paid in respect of each such area in 2007-08. [162805]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** £182 million has been made available over the period of the 2004 Spending Review, up to 2007-08, for gap funding payments to registered social landlords taking negatively valued housing stock from local authorities under large scale voluntary transfer arrangements. These grant payment arrangements enable sufficient private finance to be levered in to enable full Decent Homes investment programmes to be undertaken by RSLs after transfer. We have currently entered into 28 gap funding arrangements with RSLs. Payments to those RSLs under these arrangements are made from the Department's Capital DEL budget.

Details of the gap funding grant payments to date and current 2007-08 forecasts by local authority area are in the following table. The table does not include possible grant payments in the current year in respect of gap funding arrangements with RSLs that have yet to be finalised.

We estimate that about £2 billion of private finance is likely to be levered in to support Decent Homes investment programmes by RSLs taking housing stock, where gap funding arrangements are in place.

*£ million*

| *Local authority area* | *Gap funding ceiling* | *Grant payments made to RSLs* | | | *Current estimate of grant payments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| NE Lincolnshire | 17.00 | 0.65 | 0.50 | 3.601 | 4.000 |
| LBTH | 39.864 | — | 1.21 | 4.552 | 10.169 |
| Preston | 47.999 | — | 2.05 | 4.815 | 4.748 |
| Rossendale | 17.672 | — | — | 2.945 | 3.160 |
| Hyndburn | 2.925 | — | — | 0.728 | 0.976 |
| Sheffield | 57.979 | — | — | 0.715 | 10.955 |
| Pendle | 15.260 | — | — | 1.500 | 4.325 |
| Sefton | 33.666 | — | — | 1.545 | 5.850 |
| Manchester | 78.013 | — | — | 1.517 | 7.361 |
| North Lincolnshire | 47.000 | — | — | — | 7.680 |
| LB Islington | 32.340 | — | — | — | 10.400 |
| Castle Morpeth | 12.5 | — | — | — | 0.700 |
| LB Lewisham | 42.2 | — | — | — | — |
| Chester-le-Street | 39.0 | — | — | — | — |
| | — | 7.65 | 3.76 | 21.918 | 70.324 |

### Housing: Planning

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 691-2W, on housing: planning, what record was taken of the views of hon. Members at the briefing held by Government Office North West in December 2001; whether a record of those views was passed to Ministers; what steps have been taken to ensure that the views of hon. Members were accurately recorded; and if she will place a copy of the record in the Library. [186000]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The briefing held by Government Office North West in December 2007 was an informal briefing to provide hon. Members with an overview of Housing Growth Point Expressions of Interest, which had been submitted in the North West, and as such no formal

record of the meeting was taken. The Government Office North West did note the key issues raised by hon. Members and wrote to all relevant local authority chief executives outlining these. This letter also invited them to engage with, and consult, hon. Members, if they had not already done so. Any specific issues which hon. Members raised relating to individual local authorities were included in letters to relevant chief executives by Government Office North West.

**Infrastructure Planning Commission: Wales**

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she, other Ministers in her Department, and her officials have had with representatives of *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the Sustainability Committee of the Welsh Assembly on the creation of a new Infrastructure Planning Commission and minimisation of the number of non-departmental public bodies. [188168]

**John Healey:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of Sate and I have both had discussions about the creation of a new Infrastructure Planning Commission with the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing in the Welsh Assembly Government. I have not had discussions with representatives of the Sustainability Committee of the Welsh Assembly but I have received a copy of their report on the Planning Bill.

**Job Creation: Thames Gateway**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of jobs which will be created in the Thames Gateway area which will be taken by people already resident in the area; and if she will make a statement. [184623]

**Caroline Flint:** The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, launched by the Prime Minister in November 2007, announced that we now expect to see 225, 000 new jobs created in the Thames Gateway area by 2016, significantly more than previous estimates.

The Government are dedicated to ensuring that existing residents of the Gateway share in the economic benefits of the area's regeneration and are equipped with the skills required to secure the new, high- value jobs being created. The Thames Gateway delivery plan announced a pan- gateway skills plan developed by the Learning and Skills Council to invest £1.6 billion in teaching and learning, and £850 million in new building for further education. The delivery plan also reiterated our commitment to a Thames Gateway guarantee of assured progression, ensuring that every level three course on offer in the Gateway leads directly to entry to a suitable level four course for learners who want to progress further.

This new employment will therefore benefit both existing and new residents as the Gateway becomes an increasingly attractive place to live. However the precise balance will inevitably depend upon the investment decisions of private sector investors in the Gateway over the next few years.

**Multiple Occupation: Foreign Workers**

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken on *(a)* eviction practices and *(b)* temporary homelessness in multi-occupancy housing areas with large migrant worker populations. [187316]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** People living in Houses in Multiple Occupation have the same rights and protection as other tenants in the private rented sector. They cannot be asked to move out without adequate notice and cannot usually be evicted without a court order. We have, however, commissioned an independent policy review of the private rented sector, to improve our understanding of the sector and how it is operating, which is due to report in October. Eviction practices is an issue that may well be considered in the context of this review.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken in relation to car usage and parking provision in multi-occupancy housing areas with large migrant worker populations. [187317]

**Caroline Flint:** Local authorities have powers to implement permanent or temporary traffic management or parking controls, and are best placed to do so.

The Government's Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing", issued in November 2006, states that local planning authorities should, with stakeholders and communities, develop residential parking policies for their areas, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

**Planning: Lancashire**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the use of section 106 monies at Royal Ordnance, Lancashire. [188565]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The making and implementation of planning obligations (also known as 'Section 106 Agreements'), under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, are matters for local planning authorities and those with an interest in a piece of land. The Secretary of State would not normally be involved, and in the case referred to she has had no dealings with any of the planning obligations which are in place, and which are recorded, and required to be made available for inspection by the public on the local authority's planning register. She will therefore not be making a statement about the developer contributions agreed in the planning obligations.

**Planning: Renewable Energy**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of *(a)* the likely impact of allowing for the off-site provision of renewable energy sources in planning decisions on the renewable energy industry

and *(b)* the ability of off-site provision to contribute to the Government's targets for building zero-carbon houses; and if she will make a statement. [167072]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 588W, which explains how our new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on climate change sets out how local plans should help secure much greater use of local renewable and low-carbon energy in new development. The final PPS is supported by an impact assessment (available on the Department's website).

'Building a Greener Future' policy statement (available on the Department's website) set out the definition of zero carbon new homes. It recognises that there may be certain circumstances or particular sites where it may be difficult for developers to achieve zero carbon without considering off-site solutions. As new evidence emerges about costs and practicalities, and as technologies develop, we will develop the definition of zero carbon for the purposes of building regulations, after full consultation and within a sensible time frame that will allow the industry to adjust before the planned changes in 2016.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how much onsite renewable energy capacity will be delivered in England as a result of the 2016 Zero Carbon Homes initiative in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2016, as referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 681W, on renewable energy. [167185]

**Caroline Flint:** The regulatory impact assessment published alongside 'Building a Greener Future' policy statement in July 2007 (both available on the Department's website) indicates that the requirement to meet the zero carbon standard in new homes from 2016 will result in an additional amount of energy being sourced from renewable sources compared to a scenario without the policy. It also suggests that this additional amount of renewables as a result of the policy could be equivalent to around 1 per cent. of the total UK electricity demand by 2020. The modelling did not disaggregate capacity from on-site renewables.

### Property

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce legislation requiring all properties to display a number or name. [187005]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government has no plans to introduce legislation of this nature.

### Rented Housing: Rents

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce her decision whether to return to the basic rent restructuring formula with caps and limits or extend rent restructuring to reduce the steepness in the trajectory guideline and actual rent rises. [164190]

**Caroline Flint:** Communities and Local Government consulted on the mechanism for the setting of guideline rents in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy regime in August. The options consulted on were guideline rents predicated on a rent convergence date of 2011-12, or extending the convergence date to lower annual guideline rent increases. A decision on the preferred option (extending the convergence date to 2016-17, solely for the purpose of calculating guideline rents in the HRA subsidy system for 2008-09) was included in the HRA subsidy determination for 2008-09 which was issued in draft for consultation on 23 November 2007 and in final form on 15 January 2008.

### Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria were for deciding on the membership of the Government's Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce; and if she will appoint representatives of providers of affordable housing to the taskforce. [175007]

**Caroline Flint:** We welcome the contribution which providers of affordable housing can make towards our zero carbon homes programme.

The 2016 Taskforce was established to identify the barriers to implementation of the zero carbon 2016 target, and to put in place measures to address them. Therefore the membership of the Taskforce consists of representatives of the principal industries and stakeholders that have a role to play in achieving this, for example housebuilders, energy companies and local authorities. There are no plans to extend the current membership of the Taskforce.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many supermarkets in England and Wales *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted (i) an extension of their alcohol sales licence and (ii) a 24-hour licence in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007. [187453]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This information is not held centrally.

However, DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, published on 8 November 2007, shows that between April 2006 and March 2007 there were 917 supermarkets and stores with a 24-hour alcohol licence in force on 31 March 2007 in England and Wales (based on 83 per cent. of all licensing authorities).

### Archaeology

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff have been employed on the portable antiquities scheme since it started. [187792]

**Margaret Hodge:** The numbers of staff employed on the Portable Antiquities Scheme since it started are as follows:

| | Scheme status | Full-time staff | Part-time staff | Total staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Pilot | 6 | — | 6 |
| 1998 | Pilot | 12 | — | 12 |
| 1999 | Pilot | 12 | — | 12 |
| 2000 | Pilot | 12 | — | 12 |
| 2001 | Pilot | 12 | — | 12 |
| 2002 | Pilot | 12 | — | 12 |
| 2003 | National | 36 | 12 | 48 |
| 2004 | National | 35 | 13 | 48 |
| 2005 | National | 35 | 14 | 49 |
| 2006 | National | 35 | 15 | 50 |
| 2007 | National | 35 | 15 | 50 |
| 2008 | National | 35 | 14 | 49 |

### Arts Council of England: Bassetlaw

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of visits made to Bassetlaw constituency by staff of Arts Council England over the last three years. [187779]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department does not hold this information. The Arts Council have informed me that they do not collect information about visits made by staff to individual constituencies.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185277]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the past five years the following have been lost or stolen:

| | Lost | Stolen |
|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 4 | 0 |
| 2006 | 3 | 2 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 3 | 1 |
| 2003 | 1 | 0 |

My Department does not hold information regarding the value of the items.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen since 2001. [184325]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since 2001 staff in my Department have reported:

PDA's—15 lost and 7 stolen

Laptops—1 lost, 1 missing and 2 stolen.

My Department does not hold this information on mobile telephones.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187889]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of staff who retired on the grounds of stress related illness in each of the last three years is nil.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has a legal obligation to provide a safe working environment for all employees and guidance is available for staff and managers on how to manage stress effectively.

As part of our attendance, health and well being programme for staff we have a range of policies in place to reduce work related stress. These include: stress management policy and sickness absence policy, which includes guidance on making reasonable adjustments. We also offer a full range of flexible work patterns to support work-life balance and have health awareness pages on our Intranet. We have appointed a DCMS Board member as the Health and Well-Being Champion. In addition staff have access to our Employee Assistance Programme (counselling service) and on-site gym with a programme of exercise and yoga available.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187508]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** From the 2006-07 financial year, the average cost of sick pay per staff member who has taken sick leave is £468.

As part of our attendance, health and well being programme for staff we have a range of policies in place these include: Sickness Absence policy, which includes guidance on making reasonable adjustments. We also offer a full range of flexible work patterns to support work-life balance and have health awareness pages on our intranet We have appointed a DCMS board member as the Health and Well-Being Champion. In addition, staff have access to our Employee Assistance Programme (counselling service).

### Film

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place to encourage British film companies to collaborate with foreign film companies. [187358]

**Margaret Hodge:** The UK Government currently have active bi-lateral film co-production agreements with Australia, Canada, France, Jamaica, New Zealand and South Africa. The aim of these co-production agreements is to encourage cultural and economic collaboration between film makers from signatory countries.

The UK has also ratified the European convention on cinematographic co-production, the Council of Europe fund established to promote co-operation

among European states in the field of film production. 38 Council of Europe states have signed up to the convention, including all 27 European Union member states. The UK Government are also in the process of negotiating further film co-production agreements with a number of countries including India and Morocco, in order to secure increased inward investment for the UK and encourage communities and cultures in both participating countries to share and develop ideas.

### Tourism: North East

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who were involved in work-based training in the tourism sector in the North East in each of the last five years. [184978]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East has provided data for each of the last five years on the number of people "starting" and "completing" work-based learning in travel and tourism and in hospitality and catering. This includes apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships, where the learner gains a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), and also training in the workplace which results in an NVQ. The LSC has also provided data on the number of people "starting" and "completing" learning through "Train to Gain" since it was rolled out nationally in 2006.

*Learners involved in work-based learning in travel and tourism and hospitality and catering in the North East*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Starts | 1,641 | 1,275 | 898 | 824 | 707 |
| Completions | 533 | 495 | 442 | 411 | 447 |
| Percentage completing | 32.5 | 38.8 | 49.2 | 49.9 | 63.2 |

*Learners involved in travel and tourism and hospitality and catering through Train to Gain in the North East*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Starts | — | — | — | — | 794 |
| Completions | — | — | — | — | 283 |
| % completing | — | — | — | — | 35.6 |

People 1st are currently conducting an in-depth analysis of apprenticeships in the sector, which will include an identification of the job roles of apprenticeships, the content of learning and how to improve completion rates. This work will be outlined in an Apprenticeships Strategy in April 2008, and forms part of the industry-led National Skills Strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, which my Department actively supports.

Government have recently committed to a new measurement for apprenticeships. Whereby we measure the number of starts and the number of successful completions. This replaces the historic "Average in Learning" which takes an average of the numbers on an apprenticeship at any point in a given year. Further details about these measurements can be found in the January 2008 report outlining the findings of the Government's Review of Apprenticeships:

www.dius.gov.uk/publications

"Train to Gain"—the national skills service for employers—will be vital for work-based learning in the tourism sector and will play a key role in transforming the nation's skills base. In November 2007, Government published a "Train to Gain Plan for Growth", setting out our ambitions on better meeting employer needs. This includes tailoring the service to meet the skills needs of employers in each sector through a sector compact with Sector Skills Councils, including one with People 1st for the tourism sector. My Department is actively involved in supporting this work as part of the sector's National Skills Strategy.

### VisitBritain: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant-in-aid his Department provided for VisitBritain in each year since its establishment; and how much he expects his Department to provide to VisitBritain in each of the next three years expressed in 2007-08 prices. [186235]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: VisitBritain's total allocation of grant in aid, from its establishment in March 2003 to the end of the next spending review period, was (and will be) as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Actual grant-in-aid* | *At 2007-08 prices* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 47.9 | 53.4 |
| 2004-05 | 48.4 | 52.5 |
| 2005-06 | 48.9 | 51.4 |
| 2006-07 | 49.9 | 51.5 |
| 2007-08 | 49.9 | 49.9 |
| 2008-09 | 47.9 | 46.6 |
| 2009-10 | 45.4 | 43.0 |
| 2010-11 | 40.9 | 37.7 |

The figure for 2006-07 is part of the £350 million invested by the public sector in tourism support, across the UK (based on figures returned to DCMS). Of that £350 million, £101.1 million was central Government funding for VisitBritain and the regional development agencies. Central Government funding for tourism in 1997-98 was £44.7 million.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women are serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [187931]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 18 February 2008, there were 4,100 service personnel in Iraq and 7,100 in Afghanistan.

The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

### Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were involved in disciplinary or criminal proceedings as a result of *(a)* firearms and *(b)* other military equipment being sold illegally in each of the last five years. [187367]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Available information is shown in the following tables. Because data are captured using different methods for each of the three services, the definition of the "Firearms" category is not wholly comparable across all three.

The figures provided are based upon individuals dealt with summarily or by courts-martial. Other military equipment has been considered to be any MOD asset.

*Army*

| | *Firearms* | *Other military equipment* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 2 |
| 2005 | 0 | 6 |
| 2006 | 2 | 6 |
| 2007 | 2 | 0 |

*Royal Navy*

Information on the illegal selling of 'Other Military Equipment' is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Firearms* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 |

*Royal Air Force*

| | *Firearms* | *Other military equipment* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 1 | 2 |
| 2007 | 0 | 5 |

Disciplinary offences by other ranks which were dealt with summarily are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Foreigners

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are citizens of countries other than the UK, broken down by nationality. [184708]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 72-73W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

### Armed Forces: Publications

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 567, *(b)* JSP 584, *(c)* JSP 70 and *(d)* JSP 712. [175455]

**Derek Twigg:** JSP 567 (Contractor Support to Operations (CSO): Policy Overview) is currently being considered for release and a version will be available shortly. I have placed copies of JSP 584 (New Financial Assistance Regulations for Reservists and their employers) and JSP 712 (Working with databases) in the Library of the House. JSP 712 provided guidance on working with databases for all the IT systems that were currently in use in 2001. With the advent of the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) in 2005, no further updates were made to existing IT systems or applications and the decision was made to mothball JSP 712.

JSP 70 is not recognised as a JSP document.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by (i) the Cabinet Office, (ii) No. 10 Downing street in each of the last 10 years; and how many were (A) owned and (B) purchased by the Office of the Minister for the Olympics since its establishment; [178919]

(2) how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by the (i) Cabinet Office and (ii) Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of such penalties was in each year. [183350]

**Mr. Watson:** The Information requested is not separately identified in the Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. In respect of vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W.

### National Security Committee

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions the National Security Committee has met since it was formed; and what the purpose was of each of those meetings. [188367]

**Edward Miliband:** The Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID), and its sub-committees, exist to consider issues relating to national security, and the Government's international, European and international development policies. Details of these Committees' membership and terms of reference are available in the Library of the House or can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/nsid.aspx

It is established practice that information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including the number of meetings held and topics discussed, is not disclosed.

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which department or office the support staff of the National Security Committee is based; how many staff support the Committee; and from which budget they are funded. [188404]

**Edward Miliband:** Like all Cabinet Committees, the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID) and its sub-committees are supported by a small secretariat within the Cabinet Office. Departments across Government are involved in supporting the work of NSID and its sub-committees.

**National Security: Departmental Responsibilities**

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the responsibilities of the *(a)* Home Department, *(b)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *(c)* Ministry of Defence, *(d)* Department for Communities and Local Government, *(e)* Department for International Development and *(f)* Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will be under the forthcoming National Security Strategy. [188400]

**Edward Miliband:** The National Security Strategy will cover the responsibilities of a wide range of Departments, including those identified.

**National Security: Ministerial Responsibility**

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who the lead Minister is with responsibility for the National Security Strategy. [188401]

**Edward Miliband:** The National Security Strategy is overseen by the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development, which includes Ministers from key departments and is chaired by the Prime Minister.

**National Security: Public Participation**

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what further consultations are planned before the National Security Strategy is published. [188402]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office has discussed the National Security Strategy with a number of individuals and organisations and is continuing to do so prior to its publication.

**National Security: Publications**

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the National Security Strategy will be published. [188403]

**Edward Miliband:** The National Security Strategy will be published shortly.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**Bulls**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on bulls, in what way his Department has supported the Beyond Calf Export forum; and what resources have been committed to such support for 2008-09. [186774]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA officials and Ministers have played an active role in the work of the Beyond Calf Export forum, whose report has recently been published.

Forum stakeholders will now be working within their sectors of the farming and food industry to establish commercially viable alternatives to calf exports. Those alternatives are not dependent on Government intervention but, as recognised in the report, DEFRA and other authorities have a role facilitating collaboration. A further meeting of the forum is planned for June 2008 to review progress. DEFRA will be taking a keen interest in that progress and will facilitate collaboration if it is needed. No specific financial resource has been allocated for this.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

**Aral Sea**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1160-61W, on the Aral Sea, what representations he has made to the Uzbekistan government on the effect of irrigation for cotton farms in Uzbekistan on the Aral Sea. [187041]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our ambassador in Tashkent discussed issues relating to cotton, including irrigation and the Aral sea, when he called on Mr. Elyor Ganiev, Uzbek Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, on 17 January 2008. Our ambassador has also discussed cotton irrigation and the Aral sea with Professor Victor Dukhovny, the Uzbek Government representative at the Interstate Commission for Saving the Aral Sea. Professor Dukhovny advises the Uzbek Government on these and other related topics regarding the Aral sea.

**Botswana: Human Rights**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Botswana government on the Botswana High Court ruling in December 2006 that the Botswana government had illegally removed Kalahari bushmen from their tribal lands; and whether his Department has received recent reports on the Botswana government's response to this ruling. [187046]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney), raised the court ruling with President Mogae of Botswana when he visited in June 2007. Our high commissioner in Gaborone followed this up by raising it with both the

Botswana Vice President and the Foreign Minister. Since then our high commission in Gaborone, working closely with EU partners, has maintained regular contact with the Government of Botswana on the issue of the San community. We continue to encourage the Government of Botswana to take an inclusive approach to finding a sustainable solution to the future use of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, underlining the importance of dialogue and negotiation with the San (Bushmen).

Our high commission is in regular contact with representatives of the San Community and non-governmental organisations, through whom they receive assessments on the implementation of the court ruling.

### Egypt: Religious Freedom

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made on behalf of Egyptian citizens on trial for apostasy in that country. [187966]

**Dr. Howells:** We regularly raise a range of human rights issues with the Egyptian government, including concerns about freedom of religion. I did so directly with the visiting Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament on 21 January 2008. Although there are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to raise with the Egyptian government the specific subject of Egyptian citizens on trial for apostasy, we will continue to raise such concerns at other levels.

We welcome the recent decision of the Supreme Administrative Court in Egypt which ruled that Christians who converted to Islam were entitled to convert back to Christianity without adverse consequence.

### Foreign Workers: Doctors

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many foreign doctors were granted visas in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the last 10 years. [187155]

**Dr. Howells:** This information is not readily available and could be obtained only by examining individual application forms and this would incur disproportionate cost.

### Iran: Religious Freedom

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian authorities in respect of the Iranian government's proposed Bill for Islamic penal law, with particular reference to section 5 and those of non-Muslim faiths. [188471]

**Dr. Howells:** We are aware that a new draft Islamic penal code is currently being considered by the Iranian Parliament. We have concerns about this draft law; in particular the provisions set out in section five in relation to apostasy, heresy and witchcraft, which stipulate that these offences should be punishable by death. If the draft is adopted, it would be the first time that the death penalty is set down in Iran's criminal law for apostasy. We are concerned that these articles would constitute a violation of Iran's international human rights obligations, such as the right to freedom of religion and belief, and the provision that in countries that retain death penalty, the sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes. We are particularly concerned about the impact the new law, if adopted, would have on non-Muslim faiths in Iran. We are following developments closely and are currently discussing with our EU partners what representations to make on this matter.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage the Iranian authorities to protect the freedom of belief of the Baha'i community in Iran. [188487]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government remain very concerned by the situation of the Baha'i community in Iran. The Baha'i faith is not recognised as an official minority religion under the Iranian Constitution and Iranian Baha'is face systematic discrimination and persecution. We regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU. On 22 January, the EU presidency, with strong UK support, raised specific concerns about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran during a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this meeting the EU expressed opposition to all forms of discrimination, in particular regarding freedom of religion. Most recently, on 7 February, the EU presidency issued a public statement expressing concern about the deteriorating situation of the Baha'i minority. We have also taken action at the UN; in December 2007 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran. The resolution, which was co-sponsored by the UK and all other EU member states, expressed very serious concern about increasing discrimination against religious minorities in Iran and the situation of the Baha'is in particular. We will continue to urge the Iranian authorities to uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party.

### Kenya: Politics and Government

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the impact on the Kenyan economy of the political situation in that country. [187212]

**Meg Munn:** Various reports have shown that the current conflict has already created significant impact on the Kenyan economy and this is likely to deteriorate further. Members of the federation of Kenyan employers are reporting losses of £1.6 billion. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance, representing most major businesses, has estimated that 400,000 jobs have been lost and economic growth is expected to slow to 4 per cent. Inflation is set to rise and the tourism industry has been crippled. The agriculture sector has also been heavily affected, which will also have long term effects on Kenya's economy.

We are working with our partners to address the humanitarian situation. The Department for International Development programme is under review. Future levels and modes of aid delivery will depend on the extent to which a political solution can be achieved, that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and provides lasting solutions.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to encourage the Kenyan political community to reach a political settlement through the use of sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [187213]

**Meg Munn:** The current focus is on restoring stability to Kenya through political dialogue and agreement. We continue to fully support Kofi Annan and his panel of Eminent Persons. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement on 13 February urged Kenya's leaders to set aside entrenched positions and resolve to find a way forward through dialogue, negotiation and compromise. Individuals who stand in the way of progress will have to face the consequences. The Government have not ruled out any options if no progress is made in the talks.

The possibility of the use of such measures was also discussed at the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels on 18 February.

### Kosovo: European Union

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the Government are making to the European Union's judicial and policing mission to Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [187774]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK fully supports the European Security and Defence Policy Policing and Rule of Law mission to Kosovo, and plans to second approximately 70 police and civilian personnel to it. The common costs of the mission are funded from the Common Foreign and Security Policy budget, to which the UK contributes 17 per cent.

### Overseas Residence: Prisoners

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* powers he has and *(b)* actions are open to him to take to secure the freedom of a UK national abducted by a regime which has expressed the intent of inflicting cruel and inhuman treatment upon him; and if he will make a statement. [188533]

**Meg Munn:** The UK provides consular assistance to British nationals in difficulty abroad in accordance with the Government's consular policy, which can be found in the document "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide", also available at www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contribution the Government are making to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur. [187628]

**Meg Munn:** All members of the UN will fund the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) through their assessed contributions. The budget for UNAMID, agreed in December 2007, is US$1.28 billion for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. The UK's share of the assessed costs for this budget is just under 8 per cent.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research has been undertaken since June 2007 into the causes of the increase in emergency readmissions to hospital, particularly for people over 75 years of age; [184714]

(2) what research has been undertaken since June 2007 into rates of emergency re-admission to hospital, particularly for people over 75 years of age. [184889]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In 2007 the Department commissioned the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) to analyse trends in hospital re-admission rates and identify the most likely main causal factors.

The NCHOD study examined a large number of potential causes but the findings were inconclusive and their interim report in August 2007 recommended that further more detailed studies were required. A copy of this report will be placed in the Library shortly.

The Department is currently undertaking further analysis and has committed to share final results of this work with the Health Select Committee.

### Agency Nurses

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on the employment of agency nurses in each of the last three years. [185455]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 400 |
| 2005-06 | 321 |
| 2006-07 | 193 |

*Notes:*

1. Trust Financial returns (TFR3B), primary care trust financial returns (PFR3B) and Strategic Health Authority financial returns (HFR25B)
2. Information on agency staff spend by Staff Group is not collected from foundation trusts (FTs). The number of FTs differs for each year. As at 31 March there were 25, 32 and 59 FTs in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

### Antidepressants: Suicide

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those who committed suicide were taking prescribed anti-depressant medication at the time of death from 1997 to 2007. [186060]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

## Breast Cancer: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer screenings there were in Essex in each of the last five years. [185315]

**Ann Keen:** There are three breast-screening units in Essex: Colchester and Chelmsford, Epping and South Essex (Southend). The most recent year for which data are available is 2005-06.

The numbers of women aged 45 and over screened at each unit in each of the last five years for which data are available are set out in the following table. While the national breast screening programme targets women aged 50 to 70 there are some women in the age range 45 to 49 who are invited to be screened, the majority of whom are women aged 49 who have been called for their first routine screening a few months early.

*Number of women aged 45 and over screened at Colchester and Chelmsford, Epping and South Essex (Southend) breast screening units in each of the last five years for which information is available*

| | Number of women screened | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Breast Screening Unit* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Colchester and Chelmsford | 20,579 | 21,966 | 20,121 | 23,684 | 28,221 |
| Epping[1] | 13,703 | 15,601 | 15,078 | 8,143 | 814 |
| South Essex (Southend) | 15,386 | 16,422 | 17,538 | 18,321 | 20,936 |
| Total | 49,668 | 53,989 | 52,737 | 50,148 | 49,971 |

*Note:*
Screening at Epping Breast Screening Unit (which covers West Essex) was suspended between November 2004 and January 2006.
*Source:*
KC62 (Part 1, Tables A to F2): NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year since 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180700]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not currently hold individual contract details in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost. However, a new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather future information of this nature for the Department.

Details of the amount paid to Capita and its subsidiaries by the Department from 2004 are set out as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 980,447 |
| 2005-06 | 1,997,939 |
| 2006-07 | 1,865,918 |
| 2007 to date | 1,460,316 |

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries. The records used to provide this information only go back as far as the beginning of 2004. To try to retrieve earlier details would attract a disproportionate cost, as these data are archived and not easily accessible.

## Care Homes

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the consistency of methodology used in compiling continuing care statistics in England; and if he will make a statement. [187488]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* Information on continuing healthcare is collected from primary care trusts as part of the local delivery plan return process. From this financial year the data are being collected quarterly, prior to this date the collection was annual. When this change to the frequency of the collection was made, the data definition for continuing care was also clarified. These changes were made to improve data quality and better monitor the implementation of the "National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and National Health Service-funded Nursing Care".

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the new care assessment tool for determining whether patients receive NHS continuing healthcare on the number receiving such care; and if he will make a statement. [187489]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The "National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and National Health Service funded Nursing Care" was implemented on 1 October 2007 and it is too soon to conclusively gauge its impact. We will review the Framework and the decision support tool in September 2008.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received continuing care *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 50,000 of population in each primary care trust area in England in each quarter of 2007. [187490]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:*
The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Continuing care, England*

| Org code | Organisation | Number of people receiving continuing care in 2007 | | | | Number of people receiving continuing care population per 50,000 population | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 |
| | England | 30,975 | 24,952 | 27,619 | 29,092 | 30.51 | 24.68 | 27.32 | 28.78 |
| 5HG | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 107 | 126 | 57 | 68 | 17.51 | 20.89 | 9.45 | 11.27 |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 231 | 96 | 255 | 271 | 69.71 | 29.24 | 77.66 | 82.53 |
| 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 121 | 242 | 770 | 284 | 18.41 | 36.59 | 116.43 | 42.94 |
| 5JE | Barnsley PCT | 36 | 51 | 53 | 65 | 8.05 | 11.07 | 11.50 | 14.10 |
| 5ET | Bassetlaw PCT | 17 | 17 | 17 | 23 | 7.63 | 7.99 | 7.99 | 10.81 |
| 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 387 | 158 | 185 | 248 | 110.18 | 43.08 | 50.45 | 67.63 |
| 5P2 | Bedfordshire PCT | 159 | 172 | 163 | 170 | 19.68 | 21.13 | 20.02 | 20.88 |
| 5QG | Berkshire East PCT | 285 | 71 | 252 | 245 | 37.27 | 9.35 | 33.18 | 32.26 |
| 5QF | Berkshire West PCT | 222 | 268 | 275 | 241 | 24.92 | 29.79 | 30.57 | 26.79 |
| TAK | Bexley Care Trust | 95 | 127 | 100 | 148 | 21.44 | 30.23 | 23.80 | 35.22 |
| 5PG | Birmingham East and North PCT | 182 | 147 | 191 | 182 | 22.97 | 18.54 | 24.09 | 22.96 |
| 5CC | Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 47 | 49 | 44 | 45 | 16.64 | 16.20 | 14.55 | 14.88 |
| 5HP | Blackpool PCT | 59 | 55 | 52 | 68 | 20.67 | 19.59 | 18.52 | 24.22 |
| 5HQ | Bolton PCT | 79 | 119 | 119 | 181 | 15.05 | 22.66 | 22.66 | 34.47 |
| 5QN | Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 77 | 146 | 219 | 219 | 12.92 | 22.98 | 34.47 | 34.47 |
| 5NY | Bradford and Airedale PCT | 94 | 166 | 187 | 240 | 9.53 | 16.83 | 18.95 | 24.33 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 300 | 583 | 199 | 156 | 55.26 | 103.74 | 35.41 | 27.76 |
| 5LQ | Brighton and Hove City PCT | 246 | 156 | 135 | 112 | 48.92 | 30.35 | 26.26 | 21.79 |
| 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 127 | 86 | 123 | 110 | 15.47 | 10.18 | 14.56 | 13.02 |
| 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 115 | 168 | 159 | 199 | 19.22 | 27.83 | 26.33 | 32.96 |
| 5QD | Buckinghamshire PCT | 700 | 0 | 224 | 295 | 69.90 | — | 22.68 | 29.87 |
| 5JX | Bury PCT | 26 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 7.11 | 6.06 | 7.44 | 7.71 |
| 5J6 | Calderdale PCT | 52 | 77 | 72 | 98 | 13.10 | 19.36 | 18.10 | 24.64 |
| 5PP | Cambridgeshire PCT | 174 | 174 | 204 | 189 | 14.76 | 15.28 | 17.92 | 16.60 |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | 166 | 166 | 129 | 129 | 36.49 | 36.08 | 28.04 | 28.04 |
| 5NP | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 163 | 100 | 169 | 188 | 18.07 | 11.27 | 19.04 | 21.19 |
| 5NG | Central Lancashire PCT | 192 | 206 | 214 | 224 | 21.25 | 23.50 | 24.41 | 25.56 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 120 | 175 | 234 | 221 | 27.76 | 39.41 | 52.69 | 49.76 |
| 5QP | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 313 | 541 | 450 | 412 | 29.73 | 51.96 | 43.22 | 39.57 |
| 5ND | County Durham PCT | 847 | 517 | 540 | 533 | 84.58 | 51.15 | 53.43 | 52.74 |
| 5MD | Coventry Teaching PCT | 117 | 836 | 759 | 568 | 19.08 | 129.63 | 117.69 | 88.07 |
| 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 214 | 215 | 237 | 263 | 31.75 | 32.35 | 35.66 | 39.57 |
| 5NE | Cumbria PCT | 264 | 140 | 113 | 95 | 26.60 | 13.97 | 11.28 | 9.48 |
| 5J9 | Darlington PCT | 95 | 63 | 79 | 98 | 47.81 | 32.29 | 40.49 | 50.23 |
| 5N7 | Derby City PCT | 7 | 152 | 105 | 136 | 1.48 | 28.25 | 19.52 | 25.28 |
| 5N6 | Derbyshire County PCT | 77 | 218 | 218 | 398 | 5.34 | 15.80 | 15.80 | 28.85 |
| 5QQ | Devon PCT | 307 | 227 | 382 | 492 | 20.72 | 15.70 | 26.43 | 34.04 |
| 5N5 | Doncaster PCT | 460 | 153 | 164 | 348 | 79.23 | 26.15 | 28.03 | 59.48 |
| 5QM | Dorset PCT | 166 | 42 | 297 | 497 | 20.59 | 5.54 | 39.18 | 65.56 |
| 5PE | Dudley PCT | 272 | 277 | 291 | 296 | 44.55 | 45.92 | 48.24 | 49.07 |
| 5HX | Ealing PCT | 74 | 77 | 84 | 80 | 12.08 | 12.04 | 13.13 | 12.50 |
| 5P3 | East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 362 | 285 | 244 | 250 | 34.29 | 26.11 | 22.35 | 22.90 |
| 5NH | East Lancashire PCT | 130 | 116 | 117 | 135 | 16.89 | 15.51 | 15.64 | 18.05 |
| 5NW | East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 98 | 35 | 36 | 45 | 14.81 | 5.78 | 5.95 | 7.43 |
| 5P7 | East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 211 | 181 | 151 | 151 | 31.96 | 27.82 | 23.21 | 23.21 |
| 5QA | Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 692 | 329 | 304 | 319 | 48.02 | 23.17 | 21.41 | 22.47 |
| 5CI | Enfield PCT | 160 | 168 | 189 | 209 | 28.04 | 31.40 | 35.33 | 39.07 |
| 5KF | Gateshead PCT | 131 | 116 | 115 | 108 | 34.39 | 29.87 | 29.62 | 27.81 |
| 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 68 | 61 | 62 | 65 | 5.88 | 5.30 | 5.39 | 5.65 |
| 5PR | Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 44 | 43 | 42 | 73 | 10.47 | 9.79 | 9.57 | 16.63 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 152 | 135 | 166 | 154 | 34.14 | 29.34 | 36.07 | 33.46 |
| 5NM | Halton and St. Helens PCT | 126 | 100 | 125 | 165 | 21.21 | 16.44 | 20.55 | 27.12 |
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 134 | 94 | 90 | 76 | 39.09 | 27.75 | 26.57 | 22.44 |
| 5QC | Hampshire PCT | 1,106 | 1,076 | 1,095 | 1,339 | 43.68 | 43.91 | 44.69 | 54.64 |

*Continuing care, England*

| Org code | Organisation | Number of people receiving continuing care in 2007 | | | | Number of people receiving continuing care population per 50,000 population | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | 43 | 185 | 180 | 182 | 9.53 | 38.93 | 37.88 | 38.30 |
| 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 826 | 306 | 310 | 290 | 192.48 | 77.16 | 78.16 | 73.12 |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 146 | 152 | 158 | 148 | 80.10 | 83.61 | 86.91 | 81.41 |
| 5P8 | Hastings and Rother PCT | 89 | 56 | 59 | 62 | 25.27 | 16.40 | 17.28 | 18.16 |
| 5A4 | Havering PCT | 316 | 316 | 199 | 168 | 69.50 | 66.94 | 42.15 | 35.59 |
| 5MX | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 77 | 61 | 65 | 77 | 14.19 | 10.81 | 11.52 | 13.65 |
| 5CN | Herefordshire PCT | 27 | 52 | 72 | 94 | 7.59 | 14.91 | 20.64 | 26.95 |
| 5NQ | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 75 | 82 | 36 | 86 | 18.16 | 20.08 | 8.81 | 21.05 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 341 | 290 | 339 | 377 | 68.21 | 60.40 | 70.61 | 78.52 |
| 5HY | Hounslow PCT | 276 | 294 | 296 | 299 | 63.13 | 66.72 | 67.17 | 67.85 |
| 5NX | Hull PCT | 98 | 168 | 68 | 66 | 19.12 | 30.10 | 12.18 | 11.82 |
| 5QT | Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 175 | 57 | 67 | 116 | 63.16 | 20.79 | 24.44 | 42.31 |
| 5K8 | Islington PCT | 45 | 127 | 96 | 78 | 12.13 | 34.32 | 25.94 | 21.08 |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 122 | 140 | 118 | 128 | 34.27 | 37.05 | 31.23 | 33.87 |
| 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 71 | 71 | 64 | 58 | 22.77 | 20.93 | 18.87 | 17.10 |
| 5N2 | Kirklees PCT | 514 | 125 | 120 | 141 | 64.54 | 16.06 | 15.42 | 18.12 |
| 5J4 | Knowsley PCT | 53 | 56 | 66 | 128 | 17.51 | 18.52 | 21.83 | 42.33 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | 77 | 120 | 135 | 126 | 14.16 | 20.87 | 23.48 | 21.91 |
| 5N1 | Leeds PCT | 570 | 520 | 576 | 666 | 37.99 | 34.37 | 38.07 | 44.02 |
| 5PC | Leicester City PCT | 114 | 103 | 104 | 113 | 19.68 | 16.83 | 17.00 | 18.47 |
| 5PA | Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 243 | 187 | 220 | 237 | 18.04 | 14.64 | 17.22 | 18.55 |
| 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 276 | 113 | 149 | 13 | 53.98 | 22.12 | 29.17 | 25.45 |
| 5N9 | Lincolnshire PCT | 1,048 | 431 | 301 | 30 | 76.09 | 31.12 | 21.73 | 21.73 |
| 5NL | Liverpool PCT | 190 | 225 | 258 | 25 | 21.79 | 25.30 | 29.01 | 29.01 |
| 5GC | Luton PCT | 223 | 130 | 133 | 10 | 59.70 | 35.43 | 36.25 | 28.89 |
| 5NT | Manchester PCT | 129 | 128 | 163 | 216 | 14.27 | 13.33 | 16.98 | 22.50 |
| 5L3 | Medway PCT | 81 | 117 | 155 | 149 | 16.09 | 22.11 | 29.29 | 28.16 |
| 5PX | Mid Essex PCT | 918 | 273 | 94 | 94 | 126.92 | 38.70 | 13.33 | 13.33 |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 93 | 88 | 96 | 121 | 33.59 | 30.58 | 33.36 | 42.05 |
| 5CQ | Milton Keynes PCT | 61 | 63 | 64 | 62 | 13.24 | 13.71 | 13.92 | 13.49 |
| 5D7 | Newcastle PCT | 120 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 22.18 | 12.70 | 12.70 | 12.70 |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | 122 | 55 | 273 | 294 | 24.56 | 10.85 | 53.85 | 57.99 |
| 5PQ | Norfolk PCT | 269 | 233 | 262 | 301 | 18.20 | 16.30 | 18.32 | 21.05 |
| 5PW | North East Essex PCT | 54 | 56 | 63 | 89 | 8.56 | 8.98 | 10.10 | 14.27 |
| 5AN | North East Lincolnshire PCT | 160 | 99 | 106 | 111 | 49.94 | 30.16 | 32.29 | 33.82 |
| 5NF | North Lancashire PCT | 198 | 246 | 197 | 200 | 30.09 | 37.88 | 30.33 | 30.79 |
| 5EF | North Lincolnshire PCT | 17 | 60 | 79 | 82 | 5.48 | 19.01 | 25.03 | 25.98 |
| 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 85 | 34 | 66 | 86 | 21.10 | 8.56 | 16.63 | 21.66 |
| 5PH | North Staffordshire PCT | 150 | 121 | 129 | 264 | 35.51 | 29.69 | 31.65 | 64.78 |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 100 | 96 | 187 | 132 | 26.44 | 25.61 | 49.89 | 35.22 |
| 5D8 | North Tyneside PCT | 76 | 102 | 115 | 137 | 19.48 | 25.11 | 28.31 | 33.73 |
| 5NV | North Yorkshire and York PCT | 211 | 245 | 232 | 232 | 13.47 | 16.07 | 15.22 | 15.22 |
| 5PD | Northamptonshire PCT | 328 | 397 | 397 | 421 | 24.51 | 30.46 | 30.46 | 32.30 |
| TAC | Northumberland Care Trust | 204 | 213 | 239 | 214 | 32.92 | 34.32 | 38.51 | 34.48 |
| 5EM | Nottingham City PCT | 72 | 87 | 104 | 133 | 12.57 | 14.39 | 17.20 | 22.00 |
| 5N8 | Nottinghamshire County PCT | 142 | 212 | 251 | 280 | 10.80 | 16.64 | 19.70 | 21.98 |
| 5J5 | Oldham PCT | 89 | 122 | 123 | 196 | 20.27 | 27.44 | 27.66 | 44.08 |
| 5QE | Oxfordshire PCT | 193 | 145 | 224 | 205 | 15.89 | 11.91 | 18.40 | 16.84 |
| 5PN | Peterborough PCT | 70 | 123 | 75 | 56 | 21.44 | 41.12 | 25.07 | 18.72 |
| 5F1 | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 100 | 100 | 224 | 334 | 20.15 | 20.19 | 45.23 | 67.44 |
| 5FE | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 357 | 190 | 192 | 208 | 90.90 | 47.89 | 48.40 | 52.43 |
| 5NA | Redbridge PCT | 135 | 138 | 159 | 156 | 26.79 | 29.09 | 33.51 | 32.88 |
| 5QR | Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 49 | 58 | 53 | 53 | 17.56 | 21.82 | 19.94 | 19.94 |
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 265 | 104 | 102 | 102 | 73.81 | 30.16 | 29.58 | 29.58 |
| 5H8 | Rotherham PCT | 61 | 82 | 95 | 107 | 12.04 | 16.82 | 19.49 | 21.95 |
| 5F5 | Salford PCT | 66 | 35 | 40 | 97 | 15.14 | 7.88 | 9.00 | 21.83 |
| 5PF | Sandwell PCT | 333 | 333 | 333 | 63 | 57.90 | 55.37 | 55.37 | 10.47 |
| 5NJ | Sefton PCT | 132 | 131 | 145 | 148 | 23.79 | 24.14 | 26.72 | 27.28 |

*Continuing care, England*

| Org code | Organisation | Number of people receiving continuing care in 2007 | | | | Number of people receiving continuing care population per 50,000 population | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 | Q4 2006-07 | Q1 2007-08 | Q2 2007-08 | Q3 2007-08 |
| 5N4 | Sheffield PCT | 123 | 99 | 126 | 176 | 11.70 | 9.34 | 11.89 | 16.61 |
| 5M2 | Shropshire County PCT | 80 | 80 | 80 | 280 | 13.83 | 14.10 | 14.10 | 49.36 |
| TAM | Solihull Care Trust | 110 | 125 | 134 | 135 | 27.10 | 30.46 | 32.65 | 32.89 |
| SQL | Somerset PCT | 311 | 120 | 145 | 188 | 29.98 | 11.79 | 14.25 | 18.47 |
| 5M1 | South Birmingham PCT | 151 | 76 | 82 | 101 | 22.26 | 10.97 | 11.84 | 14.58 |
| 5P1 | South East Essex PCT | 298 | 111 | 169 | 174 | 45.21 | 16.84 | 25.63 | 26.39 |
| 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 168 | 77 | 98 | 91 | 33.02 | 16.04 | 20.41 | 18.95 |
| 5PK | South Staffordshire PCT | 298 | 195 | 230 | 280 | 24.68 | 16.79 | 19.81 | 24.11 |
| 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | 156 | 156 | 129 | 118 | 51.65 | 51.68 | 42.73 | 39.09 |
| 5PY | South West Essex PCT | 142 | 67 | 132 | 128 | 18.28 | 8.50 | 16.74 | 16.23 |
| 5L1 | Southampton City PCT | 275 | 275 | 275 | 220 | 60.14 | 56.55 | 56.55 | 45.24 |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | 65 | 119 | 169 | 168 | 12.07 | 23.53 | 33.42 | 33.22 |
| 5F7 | Stockport PCT | 73 | 82 | 89 | 89 | 13.01 | 14.58 | 15.83 | 15.83 |
| 5PJ | Stoke On Trent PCT | 78 | 133 | 133 | 139 | 15.75 | 25.72 | 25.72 | 26.88 |
| 5PT | Suffolk PCT | 57 | 49 | 64 | 94 | 4.87 | 4.21 | 5.50 | 8.08 |
| 5KL | Sunderland Teaching PCT | 492 | 203 | 203 | 286 | 87.67 | 37.01 | 37.01 | 52.14 |
| 5P5 | Surrey PCT | 355 | 388 | 582 | 513 | 16.54 | 18.30 | 27.45 | 24.19 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 371 | 187 | 192 | 221 | 48.54 | 24.91 | 25.57 | 29.43 |
| 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 62 | 54 | 61 | 57 | 16.10 | 14.25 | 16.09 | 15.04 |
| 5LH | Tameside and Glossop PCT | 146 | 103 | 115 | 159 | 29.45 | 22.85 | 25.51 | 35.27 |
| 5MK | Telford and Wrekin PCT | 155 | 180 | 206 | 249 | 47.87 | 55.85 | 63.92 | 77.26 |
| TAL | Torbay Care Trust | 130 | 130 | 149 | 189 | 48.80 | 47.04 | 53.91 | 68.38 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 57 | 74 | 74 | 64 | 13.39 | 17.45 | 17.45 | 15.09 |
| 5NR | Trafford PCT | 71 | 56 | 63 | 60 | 16.76 | 13.36 | 15.03 | 14.31 |
| 5N3 | Wakefield District PCT | 203 | 159 | 196 | 186 | 31.60 | 23.90 | 29.46 | 27.96 |
| 5M3 | Walsall Teaching PCT | 88 | 47 | 234 | 272 | 17.29 | 9.41 | 46.85 | 54.46 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 107 | 109 | 109 | 118 | 24.13 | 23.96 | 23.96 | 25.94 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | 412 | 59 | 79 | 81 | 73.85 | 10.64 | 14.24 | 14.60 |
| 5J2 | Warrington PCT | 135 | 105 | 105 | 89 | 34.79 | 27.40 | 27.40 | 23.23 |
| 5PM | Warwickshire PCT | 334 | 311 | 387 | 393 | 31.98 | 30.36 | 37.78 | 38.37 |
| 5PV | West Essex PCT | 86 | 90 | 95 | 74 | 15.64 | 17.32 | 18.29 | 14.24 |
| 5P4 | West Hertfordshire PCT | 333 | 290 | 238 | 265 | 31.37 | 27.20 | 22.33 | 24.86 |
| 5P9 | West Kent PCT | 152 | 305 | 278 | 318 | 11.47 | 23.23 | 21.17 | 24.22 |
| 5P6 | West Sussex PCT | 687 | 365 | 494 | 293 | 44.57 | 23.74 | 32.14 | 19.06 |
| 5NN | Western Cheshire PCT | 133 | 93 | 94 | 90 | 28.27 | 19.00 | 19.21 | 18.39 |
| 5LC | Westminster PCT | 136 | 239 | 249 | 191 | 29.33 | 51.48 | 53.64 | 41.14 |
| 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 684 | 135 | 266 | 285 | 76.22 | 15.67 | 30.88 | 33.09 |
| 5NK | Wirral PCT | 163 | 70 | 107 | 78 | 26.19 | 11.26 | 17.21 | 12.55 |
| 5MV | Wolverhampton City PCT | 147 | 127 | 143 | 181 | 31.06 | 26.69 | 30.06 | 38.04 |
| 5PL | Worcestershire PCT | 270 | 270 | 270 | 203 | 24.41 | 24.86 | 24.86 | 18.69 |

*Notes:*
1. The data shown above are for the calendar year 2007.
2. 5AN North East Lincolnshire PCT changed to a care trust to form TAN North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus in 2007, data shown above for 5AN has been mapped to TAN for Q2 2007-08 and Q3 2007-08.
3. Buckinghamshire PCT did not supply continuing care data in Q1 2007-08.
4. Note that the figures for Q1-Q3 2007-08 were collected as quarterly figures. The figure used for Q4 2006-07 was collected as a year end snapshot, but therefore also gives the position at the end of Q4 2006-07.

*Source:*
Department of Health form: Local Delivery Plan Return Commissioner; Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates each year

## Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the take-up rate of cervical screening; and if he will make a statement. [185343]

**Ann Keen:** Women invited to participate in the national health service cervical screening programme need to understand the potential benefits and harms in doing so and to be able to make an informed choice about whether or not they wish to take part in the programme.

This is why all eligible women receive a national information leaflet on cervical screening, Cervical Screening - The Facts. This leaflet is included with each screening invitation and contains comprehensive and understandable information about cervical screening. It is available at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/in-04.html

The cancer reform strategy noted concerns about the fall in the number of young women taking up their invitation to be screened. That is why the NHS cancer screening programme have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level targeting this age group. The lessons learned from this work, due

in 2009, will be shared with strategic health authorities and local screening programmes to develop best practice.

The NHS cancer screening programmes' press office is developing an information pack to be issued to all local screening programmes and also developing a public relations strategy, including articles in appropriate media publications, posters etc. In addition, Cancer Research UK have commissioned research on this issue, which we will monitor closely and will share the findings.

Continued local action in this area is also essential and we will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the office for national statistics/information centre annual cervical screening statistical bulletin.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184368]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental public expenditure, what the minor claims which were abandoned on value for money grounds were; and what the value of each such claim was. [184437]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Details of the minor claims abandoned on value for money grounds in 2006-07 are listed in the following tables.

*National health service estates service charges*

A number of service charges made to health centres around the country became uncollectible as a result of re-organisations and doubt over the validity of the charges.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 59.20 |
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 81.28 |
| Kingsclere Medical Practice | 1,072.19 |
| Alton Health Centre | 1,172.14 |
| Kingsclere Medical Practice | 1,894.60 |
| The Friarsgate Practice | 2,029.72 |
| Kingsclere Dental Practice | 2,116.15 |
| Bramblys Grange Health Centre | 2,215.67 |
| Church Grange Health Centre | 3,358.26 |
| Kingsclere Medical Practice | 4,283.40 |
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 4,372.32 |
| Bramblys Grange Health Centre | 4,394.59 |
| Bramblys Grange Health Centre | 5,417.35 |
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 6,384.55 |
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 8,765.99 |
| Southampton City PCT re Eastleigh H C | 10,860.84 |
| Eastleigh Health Centre | 12,200.11 |

*NHS estates capital charges*

A number of capital charges made to individuals around the country became uncollectible as a result of doubt over the validity of the charges. These invoices were subsequently found to have been raised in error.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| A. Harrison | 4,099.44 |
| Mr. P. Hawkins | 101.06 |
| H. Leong | 1,149.00 |
| Miss O'Braithwaite | 132.94 |
| Mr. O. Brathwaite | 3,091.12 |

*NHS Live*

Over 320 organisations participated in the NHS Live events and were invoiced for their contributions.

24 cases valuing almost £28,000 were successfully challenged by the organisations and the outstanding amount was written off by the Department.

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| South and East Dorset Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 1,000.00 |
| 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT) | 1,000.00 |
| James Paget University Hospitals NHS FT | 1,000.00 |
| South Devon Health Care NHS FT | 1,000.00 |
| London Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| University Hospital of South Manchester NHS FT | 1,000.00 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital | 1,000.00 |
| Suffolk West PCT | 1,000.00 |
| Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| Enfield PCT | 1,000.00 |
| Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS FT | 1,000.00 |
| Mid Hampshire PCT | 1,000.00 |
| Isle of Wight council | 1,000.00 |
| Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS FT | 1,000.00 |
| Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| North and East Devon Community | 1,000.00 |
| Brent PCT | 1,000.00 |
| East Kent NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust | 1,000.00 |
| East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,000.00 |
| BUPA Healthcare Professionals | 4,876.25 |

*Other minor claims*

In the normal course of business and following exhaustive credit control methods, including reminder letters, statements, and telephone calls, the following outstanding debts were written off with agreement from the relevant budget manager in the Department.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Care Services Improvement Partnership | 0.10 |
| National Public Health | 4.00 |
| Annette Craze | 40.00 |
| South Western Deanery | 60.00 |
| South Western Deanery | 60.00 |
| University of Liverpool | 80.00 |
| Pharmacia and UpJohn | 100.00 |
| Al Security | 111.62 |
| Monitor | 120.00 |
| Monitor | 120.00 |
| Monitor | 120.00 |
| Workforce Development Unit | 192.29 |
| British Beer & Pub Association | 224.99 |
| Graham Howard | 250.00 |
| Health Improvement Strategy Division | 260.00 |
| Imaginary Films 2000 Ltd | 822.50 |
| North West SHA | 1,596.00 |
| Judith Adams | 1,672.40 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority | 1,797.00 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,911.00 |

**Departmental Telephone Services**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was generated by each *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone code used for customer inquiry lines by his Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [183955]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's two agencies, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency do not use 0845 or 0870 telephone numbers.

**Disabled: Norwich**

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* type of disability the number of people with disabilities under the age of 35 in Norwich, North constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [185608]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question, transferred from the Department of Health, asking for a breakdown by (a) age group and (b) type of disability, of the number of people with disabilities under the age of 35 in Norwich North Constituency, in the most recent period for which figures are available. (185608)

The 2001 Census did not ask a question on disability but did ask a question about limiting long-term illness. I have therefore provided the figures for the number of people in Norwich North Constituency with a limiting long-term illness, by 5 year age bands:

| *Age* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 0 to 4 | 130 |
| 5 to 9 | 249 |
| 10 to 14 | 265 |
| 15 to 19 | 259 |
| 20 to 24 | 353 |
| 25 to 29 | 514 |
| 30 to 34 | 654 |

*Note:*
Figures are crown copyright

A 2001 Census Commissioned table (C0886) was produced to provide these figures.

**Disabled: Tamworth**

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those under the age of 25 resident in Tamworth constituency have a disability, broken down by *(a)* type of disability and *(b)* age group. [186790]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question, transferred from the Department of Health, asking how many of those under the age of 25 resident in Tamworth Constituency have a disability, broken down by (a) type of disability and (b) age group. (186790)

The 2001 Census did not ask a question on disability but did ask a question about limiting long-term illness. I have therefore provided the number of people in Tamworth Constituency with a limiting long-term illness by 5 year age bands:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 0-4 | 174 |
| 5-9 | 321 |
| 10-14 | 353 |
| 15-19 | 327 |
| 20-24 | 275 |

A 2001 Census Commissioned table (C0886) was produced to provide these figures.

*Note:*

Figures are Crown Copyright.

**Fair Trade Initiative**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183850]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has no formal policy for the purchase of fair trade goods, as there are no mandatory policy requirements in place for the procurement of fair trade products by central Government Departments.

The Department is however committed to promoting and supporting fair and ethical trading wherever possible.

### Forced Marriage

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that information on helplines and access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is made available to the public through health service networks. [184350]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Guidance to assist health professionals who suspect cases of forced marriage was produced by the Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit and the Department of Health. Published in June 2007, this guidance was widely circulated and advertised to national health service and social care staff. The guidance is intended to help all health professionals recognise the warning signs of forced marriage, understand the danger faced by women and to respond to their needs efficiently and effectively. As well as practical information, the guide contains a poster that can be displayed, and which gives the telephone number of the Forced Marriage Unit's confidential helpline.

### Hearing Impaired: Health Services

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had been waiting for more than six weeks for a hearing assessment on the latest date for which information is available; and what estimate has been made of the number likely to be waiting more than six weeks in March 2008. [186014]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Data are collected for all audiology assessments, including hearing assessments. The number of waits over six weeks for audiology assessments has fallen by 98,000 or 73 per cent. over the last year to 36,400 at the end of November 2007. The national health service is on track to ensure that no patients will wait longer than six weeks for an audiology assessment by the end of March 2008.

### Hearing Impaired: Standards

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to implement and monitor an 18-week target within which audiovestibular patients with hearing and balance disorders must be dealt with by the NHS. [187647]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Patients referred for surgical or medical consultant-led care, will be covered by the target of treatment within 18 weeks of referral by December 2008. Local health bodies will not be credible in claiming success on meeting the 18 week target if large numbers of patients are affected by long waits for audiology treatment. From April 2008, the Department will collect information on waits for direct access audiology treatment for patients who are referred directly to audiologists or clinical scientists in audiological medicine.

### Hepatitis

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with *(a)* hepatitis C and *(b)* HIV have (i) committed suicide and (ii) had contact with NHS mental services while receiving NHS drug treatment since 1997. [186616]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

### Home Care Services

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the inclusion of domiciliary care workers on the social care register; when he expects this work to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [187346]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]*: We hope to open the register to domiciliary care workers in late summer this year.

Officials are currently working closely with the General Social Care Council (GSCC) on this issue and are considering the mechanism for registration with the GSCC.

### NHS: Legal Costs

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS Business Services Authority was of taking Mr. Phil Mitchell of Ticknall to court for payment of a penalty charge; and if he will make a statement. [185403]

**Ann Keen:** On 13 August 2007, the NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) issued a claim via the county court to recover a total amount of £339 from Mr. Mitchell. The court fee for issuing the claim was £40. There was also a hearing fee of £50 as Mr. Mitchell filed a defence. The travel costs of a representative of the NHSBSA attending the hearing were £48.

The case went to court on 9 January 2008. The judge ordered Mr. Mitchell to pay £189 for the treatment.

### NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was for *(a)* community health councils, *(b)* each community health council, *(c)* patient involvement forums and *(d)* each patient involvement forum in the last full financial year of their operation; and what the budget is for (i) local involvement networks and (ii) each local involvement network in the first full financial year of their operation. [185569]

**Ann Keen:** Community Health Councils (CHCs), Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs) and local involvement networks (LINks) all support a stronger voice for patients and the public. However, they all have different functions, geographical coverage and support infrastructure. Furthermore, LINks differ from CHCs and Forums because they cover social care as well as health services.

Funds allocated to support CHCs, forums and LINks were distributed through three very different mechanisms—via Department of Health Regional Offices and health authorities for CHCs, via the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) and Forums Support Organisations (FSOs) to Forums and through local authorities (LAs) and hosts for LINks.

In the case of CHCs and PPIFs, it is not possible to provide exact figures for each CHC and PPIF. However, we can provide an indication of average allocation based on total funding divided by the number of CHCs and PPIFs. We can identify the allocation made available to each LINk, as the funding route is direct from the department to each individual LA.

| | £/number |
|---|---|
| Total funding for CHCs in the last full year of operation (2002-03) | 23 million |
| Number of CHCs | 184 |
| Average allocation per CHC | 125,000 |
| Total funding for PPIFs in the last full year of operation (2007-08) | 28 million |
| Number of PPIFs | 398 |
| Average allocation per PPIF | 70,300 |
| Total funding for LINks in their first full year of operation (2008-09) | 28 million |
| Number of LINks | 150 |
| Actual amount allocated to each LA per LINk for 2008-09 | See following table |

| | 2008-09 |
|---|---|
| LA | £ million |
| Hartlepool | 0.099 |
| Herefordshire | 0.119 |
| Isle of Wight Council | 0.115 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0.061 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 0.173 |
| Leicester | 0.186 |
| Luton | 0.131 |
| Medway | 0.136 |
| Middlesbrough | 0.122 |
| Milton Keynes | 0.129 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 0.120 |
| North Lincolnshire | 0.114 |
| North Somerset | 0.121 |
| Nottingham | 0.184 |
| Peterborough | 0.122 |
| Plymouth | 0.151 |
| Poole | 0.103 |
| Portsmouth | 0.125 |
| Reading | 0.104 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 0.116 |
| Rutland | 0.069 |
| Slough | 0.104 |
| South Gloucestershire | 0.124 |
| Southampton | 0.141 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0.123 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 0.126 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 0.163 |
| Swindon | 0.119 |
| Telford and The Wrekin | 0.119 |
| Wiltshire | 0.181 |
| Worcestershire | 0.222 |
| Bedfordshire | 0.171 |
| Buckinghamshire | 0.182 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.219 |
| Cheshire | 0.257 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 0.147 |
| Barnet | 0.182 |
| Bexley | 0.131 |
| Brent | 0.185 |
| Bromley | 0.151 |
| Croydon | 0.188 |
| Ealing | 0.183 |
| Enfield | 0.179 |
| Haringey | 0.172 |
| Harrow | 0.138 |
| Havering | 0.133 |
| Hillingdon | 0.147 |
| Hounslow | 0.142 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 0.102 |
| Merton | 0.123 |
| Newham | 0.214 |
| Redbridge | 0.156 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0.107 |
| Sutton | 0.118 |
| Waltham Forest | 0.164 |
| Camden | 0.176 |
| Greenwich | 0.188 |
| Hackney | 0.207 |
| Thurrock | 0.111 |
| Torbay | 0.119 |
| Warrington | 0.117 |
| West Berkshire | 0.095 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 0.093 |
| Wokingham | 0.087 |
| York | 0.108 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 0.109 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 0.123 |
| Blackpool | 0.126 |
| Bournemouth | 0.119 |
| Bracknell Forest | 0.086 |
| Brighton and Hove | 0.148 |
| Bristol | 0.210 |
| Darlington | 0.096 |
| Derby | 0.150 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 0.158 |
| Halton | 0.111 |
| Cornwall | 0.252 |
| Cumbria | 0.232 |
| Derbyshire | 0.314 |
| Devon | 0.298 |
| Dorset | 0.183 |
| Durham | 0.256 |
| East Sussex | 0.236 |
| Essex | 0.480 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.231 |
| Hampshire | 0.378 |
| Hertfordshire | 0.361 |

| LA | 2008-09 £ million |
|---|---|
| Kent | 0.492 |
| Lancashire | 0.454 |
| Leicestershire | 0.219 |
| Lincolnshire | 0.285 |
| Norfolk | 0.342 |
| North Yorkshire | 0.222 |
| Northamptonshire | 0.253 |
| Northumberland | 0.165 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0.304 |
| Oxfordshire | 0.222 |
| Shropshire | 0.150 |
| Somerset | 0.226 |
| Staffordshire | 0.301 |
| Suffolk | 0.280 |
| Surrey | 0.333 |
| Warwickshire | 0.212 |
| West Sussex | 0.281 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0.143 |
| Islington | 0.170 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 0.140 |
| Lambeth | 0.207 |
| Lewisham | 0.197 |
| Southwark | 0.211 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0.208 |
| Wandsworth | 0.169 |
| Westminster | 0.174 |
| City of London | 0.063 |
| Barnsley | 0.152 |
| Bolton | 0.166 |
| Bradford | 0.259 |
| Bury | 0.122 |
| Calderdale | 0.130 |
| Coventry | 0.178 |
| Doncaster | 0.172 |
| Dudley | 0.173 |
| Gateshead | 0.140 |
| Kirklees | 0.202 |
| Knowsley | 0.140 |
| North Tyneside | 0.134 |
| Oldham | 0.151 |
| Rochdale | 0.147 |
| Rotherham | 0.160 |
| Salford | 0.159 |
| Sandwell | 0.202 |
| Sefton | 0.172 |
| Solihull | 0.119 |
| South Tyneside | 0.127 |
| St Helens | 0.132 |
| Stockport | 0.149 |
| Sunderland | 0.176 |
| Tameside | 0.146 |
| Trafford | 0.130 |
| Wakefield | 0.182 |
| Walsall | 0.170 |
| Wigan | 0.175 |
| Wirral | 0.200 |
| Wolverhampton | 0.169 |
| Birmingham | 0.558 |
| Leeds | 0.308 |
| Liverpool | 0.291 |
| Manchester | 0.288 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 0.171 |
| Sheffield | 0.263 |

*Note:*
The remaining £1 million, after LA allocations are made, will be used to support national LINks activity.

## Nutrition

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutritionists the national health service employed in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years for which information is available. [186248]

**Ann Keen:** The latest published annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify the number of nutritionists who work in the NHS because nutritionists are grouped together with dieticians in the census.

There were 10 dieticians employed by Southend Hospitals NHS Trust in 2006, the latest period for which figures are available. The figures for the previous five years are nine in 2005, 10 in 2004 and six in both 2003 and 2002.

There were 81 dieticians employed by NHS trusts in Essex in 2006, 73 in 2005, 72 in 2004, 63 in 2003 and 58 in 2002.

There were 3,413 qualified dieticians employed in the NHS in England in 2006, an increase of 1,240 (57 per cent.) since September 1997. There were 3,407 employed in 2005, 3,235 in 2004, 3,122 in 2003 and 2,906 in 2002.

The following table gives the breakdown:

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified dietetics staff in England, East of England Strategic Health Authority and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

*Headcount*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 2,906 | 3,122 | 3,235 | 3,407 | 3,413 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| East of England Strategic Health Authority | 286 | 305 | 325 | 339 | 332 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 12 |

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified dietetics staff in England, East of England Strategic Health Authority and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | | | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 9 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| North East Essex primary care trust (PCT) | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| South East Essex PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 12 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 19 |
| Southend Hospital NHS Trust | 6 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| West Essex PCT | 18 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thurrock PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*
In October 2006 various mergers took place; Colchester PCT and Tendring PCT merged to form North East Essex PCT. Basildon PCT, Thurrock PCT, Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT merged to form South West Essex PCT. Epping Forest PCT, Harlow PCT and Uttlesford PCT merged to form West Essex PCT.
The figures have been aggregated accordingly by the current organisation title.
More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The information on dieticians employed in the NHS in Wales is not collected by the Department. The information will be available from the devolved administration in Wales.

### Pathology: Children

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified paediatric pathologists were practising in each coroner's district in each of the last five years. [184740]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. Data on the numbers of pathologists are collected by the Royal College of Pathologists, but are not broken down by coroners' districts. Royal College of Pathologists' data show that the number of qualified consultant paediatric/perinatal pathologists practising in England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

| | Number of paediatric/perinatal pathologists |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 40 |
| 2006 | 38 |
| 2005 | 35 |
| 2004 | 32 |
| 2003 | 32 |

### Peripheral Arterial Disease

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons peripheral arterial disease is no longer included in the quality and outcomes framework; and if he will make a statement. [184319]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There have never been any indicators in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) for peripheral arterial disease.

### Skin Cancer

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many skin cancer patients were diagnosed where use of sunbed salons was a contributing factor in their condition in each of the last five years for which records are available. [187730]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many skin cancer patients have been diagnosed where use of sunbed salons has been a contributing factor in their condition in each of the last five years for which records are available. [187730]

The use of sunbed salons as a contributing factor in skin cancer is not recorded. The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for the years 2001 to 2005 are in the following table.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed skin cancer, by sex, England, 2001-05*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 2,785 | 3,580 |
| 2002 | 2,922 | 3,693 |
| 2003 | 3,044 | 3,830 |
| 2004 | 3,307 | 4,056 |
| 2005 | 3,663 | 4,362 |

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Teenage Pregnancy

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls aged *(a)* under 16 years and *(b)* 16 to 17 years became pregnant in (i) the Metropolitan Police area of London, (ii) Birmingham and (iii) England and

Wales in each of the last three years; and how many of those pregnancies were followed by (A) a live birth and (B) abortion. [186968]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

The numbers of conceptions to girls under 16 and of conceptions to 16 and 17 year old girls and the percentage resulting in maternity or abortion in each of the last three years for which data are available (2003-05) in the Greater London Government office region, in Birmingham, in England and in England and Wales are provided in the following table. It also includes information on the under 18 conception rate which shows that the proportion of under 18s becoming pregnant has declined in England by 11.4 per cent. since 1998.

| | *Number of conceptions to girls under 16* | | | *Number of conceptions: girls aged 16 and 17* | | | *Under 18 conception rate (per 1,000 of the female population aged 15-17)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
| *England and Wales* | 8,024 | 7,615 | 7,930 | 34,138 | 34,583 | 34,395 | 42.4 | 41.8 | 41.4 |
| Percentage leading to maternity | 43 | 43 | 43 | 57 | 57 | 56 | — | — | — |
| Percentage leading to abortion | 57 | 57 | 57 | 43 | 43 | 44 | — | — | — |
| *England* | 7,508 | 7,181 | 7,473 | 31,995 | 32,412 | 32,331 | 42.2 | 41.6 | 41.3 |
| Percentage leading to maternity | 42 | 42 | 43 | 57 | 57 | 56 | — | — | — |
| Percentage leading to abortion | 58 | 58 | 57 | 43 | 43 | 44 | — | — | — |
| *Greater London GOR* | 1,247 | 1,128 | 1,068 | 5,220 | 5,107 | 4,795 | 51.8 | 49.2 | 46.0 |
| Percentage leading to maternity | 33 | 34 | 36 | 43 | 42 | 42 | — | — | — |
| Percentage leading to abortion | 67 | 66 | 64 | 57 | 58 | 58 | — | — | — |
| *Birmingham* | 186 | 192 | 199 | 967 | 927 | 896 | 54.4 | 51.9 | 50.7 |
| Percentage leading to maternity | 46 | 44 | 50 | 61 | 60 | 57 | — | — | — |
| Percentage leading to abortion | 54 | 56 | 50 | 39 | 40 | 43 | — | — | — |

## Transplant Surgery: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are waiting for an organ transplant in each region. [185297]

**Ann Keen:** The number of people listed as waiting for a transplant at 5 February 2008 by strategic health (SHA) authority of patient residence is shown in the following table.

| *SHA* | *Kidney* | *Pancreas* | *Kidney/pancreas* | *Heart* | *Lung(s)* | *Heart/Lungs* | *Liver* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Channel Isles | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| East Midlands | 726 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 779 |
| East of England | 619 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 22 | 700 |
| Isle of Man | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| London | 1,472 | 20 | 25 | 8 | 24 | 3 | 41 | 1,593 |
| North East | 249 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 286 |
| North West | 936 | 14 | 42 | 7 | 47 | 2 | 30 | 1,078 |
| Northern Ireland | 291 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 12 | 319 |
| Scotland | 791 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 21 | 0 | 35 | 870 |
| South Central | 488 | 5 | 33 | 3 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 551 |
| South East Coast | 404 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 16 | 1 | 12 | 457 |
| South West | 534 | 8 | 34 | 4 | 19 | 2 | 20 | 621 |
| Wales | 419 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 12 | 466 |
| West Midlands | 833 | 3 | 22 | 8 | 20 | 3 | 16 | 905 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 752 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 27 | 1 | 37 | 843 |
| Total | 8,533 | 83 | 246 | 88 | 252 | 18 | 273 | 9,493 |

*Note:*
1. Includes those temporarily suspended on the list.

# HOME DEPARTMENT

## Migrant Workers: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers there were in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Peterborough and *(c)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last three years. [187207][1]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information request falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

1. *[Official Report, 3 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 2MC.]*

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in (a) Cambridgeshire, (b) Peterborough and (c) North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last three years. (187207)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in the county of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough UA and North East Cambridgeshire constituency, for the twelve month periods ending in June for 2005, 2006, 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent which is currently available. The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born persons as a percentage of all working age in employment, in these areas.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Number of migrant workers in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and North East Cambridgeshire in the last three years*

| | *Cambridgeshire* | | *Peterborough* | | *North East Cambridgeshire* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending June each year* | *Employment level (thousand)*[1] | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2] | *Employment level (thousand)*[1] | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2] | *Employment level (thousand)*[1] | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2] |
| 2005 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 2006 | 33 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 2007 | 41 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 9 |

[1] Includes males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
[2] Denominator for percentage does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:
it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS

## Missing Persons

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vulnerable adults were reported missing to the police in 2007; and what estimate she has made of the number of such people who became victims of crime whilst missing. [187964]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not currently centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Government are, through the new National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau (which will become operational from 1 April 2008), exploring how data relating to missing persons should best be captured, recorded and shared in the future.

## National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, if she will publish the work commissioned by the Economic Research Council, King's College and the Royal Society for Arts on dealing with radicalisation at home and abroad. [181183]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* We understand that the Economic and Social Research Council, which is independent, will publish findings of their commissioned work in due course. The Government welcome this and other contributions to the crucial effort of developing common understanding of radicalisation towards violent extremism and of the best ways to tackle it.

## Offensive Weapons: Crime

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the merits of creating specific offences for *(a)* carrying and using a knife in a violent attack and *(b)* carrying a knife in a violent attack. [180808]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Government are committed to reducing instances of all types of violent crime including knife crime and to see that offenders are brought to justice.

We do not currently have plans to create new specific offences in relation to knife crime. The new Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February focuses on a range of actions to ensure robust enforcement of the existing criminal law, including those currently in force in relation to the possession of knives. Current sentencing guidelines include the use of weapons as an aggravating factor to be taken into consideration by the courts when considering sentencing.

### Police: Expenditure

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of employing police officers was as a percentage of the total budget for each police force in England for each year since 1990. [176041]

**Mr. McNulty:** Data on the cost of employing police officers on a force by force basis going back to 1990 is not held centrally. Projected spend on police salaries, including overtime, national insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions, in 2007-08, accounts for some 80 per cent. of overall projected gross police service revenue expenditure (including police staff, and based on Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy data).

### Police: Finance

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department will give to police authorities on allocation of the surplus from the budget set aside to meet a 2.5 per cent. pay award for police officers from 1 September 2007. [179483]

**Mr. McNulty:** None. It is for police authorities to determine how they use the resources available to them to ensure the best possible service to the public.

### Police: Interpreters and Translators

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average time *(a)* English speaking individuals and *(b)* non-English speaking individuals requiring interpreters were held in custody in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by police force. [186136]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on police interpreters, how much was spent on interpreters and translators by police forces in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 to date. [188086]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not collected centrally. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 192W, on police: interpreters and translators, if she will make it her policy to collect information on the amount spent by police forces on interpreters. [187842]

**Mr. McNulty:** There are no plans to collect this information centrally.

### Police: Manpower

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in the Derbyshire Police Authority area in each year since 1997. [187035]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] in Derbyshire police force area, 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007*

| *As at 31 March:* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,791 |
| 1998 | 1,772 |
| 1999 | 1,759 |
| 2000 | 1,777 |
| 2001 | 1,823 |
| 2002 | 1,848 |
| 2003[3] | 2,003 |
| 2004[3] | 2,070 |
| 2005[3] | 2,070 |
| 2006[3] | 2,046 |
| 2007[3] | 2,023 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

### Police: Vehicles

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths were caused by accidents in which police vehicles were involved in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force. [186467]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information relates to the numbers of casualties and degree of injury from road traffic collisions resulting from immediate/emergency response and police pursuits on public roads involving all police forces in England and Wales.

These data have been collected centrally from 2002-03 and are provided in the following tables.

*Number of casualties resulting from those road traffic accidents during immediatelemergency response, from 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2 | 7 | 53 | 2 | 6 | 74 | 0 | 9 | 52 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 56 | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 7 | 29 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 35 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 1 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Dorset | 0 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 9 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Durham | 0 | 1 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex | 0 | 2 | 32 | 2 | 3 | 36 | 1 | 3 | 35 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Greater Manchester | 4 | 5 | 74 | 6 | 9 | 56 | 4 | 2 | 106 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 7 | 29 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 6 | 59 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 61 |
| Humberside | 0 | 4 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Kent | 0 | 2 | 48 | 0 | 7 | 73 | 0 | 2 | 23 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 16 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 3 | 62 | 3 | 6 | 75 | 0 | 3 | 58 |
| Metropolitan Police | 5 | 14 | [1] | 4 | 21 | 600 | 4 | 23 | 724 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 6 | 26 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 22 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 3 | 62 | 0 | 3 | 70 | 3 | 13 | 94 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| North Yorkshire | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 57 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 3 | 24 | 0 | 12 | 67 | 2 | 10 | 83 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Surrey | 0 | 2 | 40 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 31 |
| Sussex | 0 | 7 | 45 | 0 | 6 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 31 |
| Thames Valley | 3 | 13 | 115 | 2 | 11 | 122 | 0 | 6 | 71 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 4 | 30 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 0 | 4 | 32 |
| West Midlands | 1 | 1 | 61 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 |

| | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2 | 3 | 68 | 0 | 8 | 42 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 5 | 30 | 0 | 2 | 18 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Cumbria | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Dorset | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Durham | 0 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex | 1 | 4 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 6 | [1] | [1] | [1] |

| | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 3 | 91 | 6 | 6 | 64 |
| Gwent | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 11 | 48 |
| Humberside | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Kent | 1 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 2 | 32 |
| Leicestershire | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| London, City of | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 3 | 136 | 1 | 4 | 88 |
| Metropolitan Police | 4 | 33 | 584 | 4 | 26 | 496 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 7 | 13 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 5 | 84 | 1 | 5 | 64 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 16 |
| Nottinghamshire | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 33 | 35 |
| Staffordshire | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Surrey | 0 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 24 |
| Sussex | 5 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | 2 | 127 | 3 | 6 | 56 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 2 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 23 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

[1] Force unable to provide data.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to answer Question 164208, tabled on 9 November 2007. [187033]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 424W.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, if he will place in the Library copies of the two studies completed by the Stabilisation Unit into *(a)* UK provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) in Helmand and Basra and *(b)* the review of the Helmand PRT deployment. [186706]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Both studies are classified as they consider in detail the capabilities of, and operational constraints faced by, the UK's Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Helmand and Basra. As such it would not be appropriate to place them in the Library of the House.

### Burma: Education

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's contribution to the multi-donor trust fund for education in Burma has been spent on *(a)* state schools, *(b)* monastery schools and *(c)* other non-state schools since contributions began. [188263]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The multi-donor education fund, managed by UNICEF, is designed to help poor Burmese children to complete primary education by helping to cover the costs of schooling which parents would otherwise have to meet themselves. It pays for items such as educational materials and repairs to school buildings.

In 2007, the first year of its operation, the fund spent £2,880,000. DFID contributed £740,000 of the total. 66 per cent. of the fund (£1,900,000) was spent on local-level support for children in state schools, and 24 per cent. (£700,000) on support for children in monastic and affiliated schools and pre-schools run by NGOs and communities. The remaining 10 per cent. (£280,000) was spent on technical support, including monitoring the distribution and usage of supplies. In

the first year 12 per cent. of the primary age population benefited from the work of the fund. In the same period, DFID spent a further £910,000 on support for community-managed pre-schools through Save the Children.

None of DFID's funds go to the central Ministry of Education.

### Chad: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there are plans to increase the humanitarian assistance to Chad. [186213]

**Gillian Merron:** The humanitarian situation in Chad and in western Darfur remains fluid. The rapidly changing humanitarian situation means that DFID is urgently reviewing its funding commitments.

In the financial year 2007-08, DFID has committed £6.5 million to Chad through humanitarian agencies. These include ICRC (£600,000), UNHCR (£2 million) UNOCHA (£260,000), Oxfam (£330,000), WFP (£1.8 million) and Islamic Relief (£500,000). Through these agencies, DFID is contributing to the provision of water and sanitation facilities, food, shelter and other relief items for refugee, IDP and host populations.

### Chad: Sudan

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effect that the security situation in Chad is having on the humanitarian situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [186214]

**Gillian Merron:** Clashes between the Justice and Equality Movement, allegedly supported by the Government of Chad, and Sudanese armed forces, allegedly supported by Chadian rebels, have led to deterioration in security in West Darfur. The area north of El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, has been particularly heavily affected by these clashes, with media reports suggesting 12,000 additional displaced civilians, the looting and destruction of humanitarian relief centres and at least 160,000 vulnerable civilians currently cut off from receiving aid.

Humanitarian agencies are attempting to assess the scale and nature of needs in the area but are being hampered by the ongoing clashes.

The humanitarian implications for Darfur of the escalation in violence inside Chad remain unclear at present.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183164]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Nine contracts were awarded by the Department for International Development (DFID) to public relations companies in the last 10 years, at a total cost of £527,645.

These data have been extracted from readily available information and may not be comprehensive. To undertake an extensive interrogation of records over the last 10 years would incur disproportionate cost.

### Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with what countries the European Commission has *(a)* discussed and *(b)* entered into millennium development goals contracts. [187927]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission has discussed its proposals to establish millennium development goal (MDG) contracts with member states, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The proposal is not yet finalised, and the Commission has not yet entered into any MDG contracts.

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what indicators the European Commission has developed to ensure that millennium development goal (MDG) contracts are effective in achieving the MDGs, with particular reference to MDG5. [187928]

**Mr. Thomas:** Monitoring frameworks for the proposed MDG contracts will include health and education indicators at a minimum, and may also cover anything clearly linked to the MDGs, including issues related to growth. Specific indicators linked to payments will be agreed when contracts are being designed.

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what extent *(a)* national parliaments and *(b)* sexual and reproductive health and rights organisations will be involved in the preparation of (i) the European Commission millennium development goal (MDG) contract proposals, (ii) the development of MDG contracts and (iii) the monitoring of results. [187929]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission has been developing its proposals for a millennium development goal (MDG) contract for some time. We are not aware of any specific engagement, to date, with national parliaments or sexual and reproductive health and rights organisations.

The Commission's guidelines on Global Budget Support encourage delegations to consult with groups such as NGOs, professional associations and trade unions over the design of budget support programmes. The guidelines recommend that monitoring should be used to promote ownership and accountability, and that key stakeholders—including parliaments, local governments and non-state actors—should participate at key moments in performance reviews.

### India: Children

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides to India to tackle *(a)* malnutrition and *(b)* poor sanitation affecting children under five. [188032]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** At the national level, DFID is providing £252 million to the Government of India's Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH II) which is tackling child ill-health and malnutrition through antenatal care, promotion of early breastfeeding, treatment of diarrhoea, and education on health and sanitation. DFID has also committed £75 million to UNICEF to work in eight disadvantaged states to provide better services for undernourished babies and children. DFID also supports India's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), the main response of the Government of India to child malnutrition. We are providing £1 million to help redesign the programme so that it more effectively reaches its target of 36 million children under six and 7.7 million pregnant and nursing women. DFID's considerable support (£350 million since 2003) to the Government of India's education programmes is also contributing to improved sanitation and nutrition through empowerment and awareness raising.

At the state level, tackling malnutrition is a key element of DFID's health sector support programmes in Orissa (where we are contributing £50 million), Madhya Pradesh (£60 million) and Andhra Pradesh (£40 million). The Government of West Bengal has launched a nutrition strategy targeting children under three in the state's six poorest districts. DFID will provide up to £12 million over the next three years to support this strategy, with another £100 million to strengthen general health services in the state.

DFID's rural livelihoods programmes (five state-level programmes totalling £153 million) have reduced hunger for millions. Households in these areas report fewer days without sufficient food, increased production of food staples, and improved access to food and incomes.

### India: Females

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* tackle barriers to educational access for girls and *(b)* improve female literacy in India. [188033]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID has spent £350 million on education in India since 2003. This has mostly helped fund the Government of India's Sarva Shiksa Abhiyan (Education for All) programme which aims to get all India's children, particularly girls, into elementary school. This has resulted in enrolments rising from 160 million in 2003 to over 190 million in 2007. The programme's targeting of girls has resulted in numbers of girls and boys being close to equal at the primary level (up to age 11) and is likely to be achieved at upper primary level (11 to 14) by 2010. DFID also recently committed £35 million in support of the Government of India's women's empowerment programme, Mahila Samakhya, which helps women and girls in rural areas to overcome discrimination and access educational opportunities.

Sarva Shiksa Abhivan and Mahila Samakhya are both working towards improved female literacy in India. Sarva Shiksa Abhivan is doing this by bringing girls into elementary education. Mahila Samakhya supports over 7 million adolescent girls and women across rural India to help them to read and write. It targets those sub- districts where female literacy rates are known to be significantly lower than average.

### India: Infant Mortality

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that economic growth in India has a positive impact on infant mortality; and if he will make a statement. [187776]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Despite India's impressive economic growth, illness and death rates among infants and children remain unacceptably high. DFID is working with the Government of India to tackle this issue through more effective delivery of health services for poor people, women and children.

DFID supports two of the Government of India's national programmes to reduce child and maternal mortality. We are providing £252 million to Reproductive and Child Health II, a programme that is improving access to skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care for pregnant women; and providing new born care, immunisation and other health services for children. We are also providing £128 million for the Government's polio immunisation programme, which aims to eradicate the polio virus in India.

At the state level, DFID is supporting health sector programmes in the four states of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. As well as working to strengthen health services these programmes support more effective joint working between health, nutrition, education, and water and sanitation departments—to tackle the multiple causes of child ill-health.

DFID is also funding UNICEF to improve the implementation of Government programmes—focused particularly on child and maternal health—in eight disadvantaged and highly populous states, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

### Kosovo: Housing

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the work of the Kosovo Property Agency and its predecessor, the United Nations Housing and Property Directorate; what support his Department is providing to this agency; and if he will make a statement. [187702]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Kosovo Property Agency has established mechanisms to resolve property claims in Kosovo and restore property rights to persons displaced by the 1999 conflict. Since its establishment in March 2006 the agency has resolved 3,346 cases.

In 2007 the UK provided €500,000 (£335,660) support to the Kosovo Property Agency through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool.

### Timor Leste: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there are plans to increase assistance provided to East Timor. [187936]

**Mr. Thomas:** There have been no reports that the current political crisis has resulted in increased numbers of internally displaced people, which might justify additional humanitarian funding. DFID, however, remains abreast of the situation and a representative from the British Embassy in Jakarta is currently visiting East Timor. The Government of East Timor generates an increasing income from oil revenues, and a multi-donor trust fund has been established to assist the Government's delivery of the East Timor National Development Plan (NDP). DFID provided £1 million to this trust fund in 2006-07 and again in 2007-08.

## JUSTICE

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of the senior civil service in his Department have received an honour. [187122]

**Mr. Wills:** We do not routinely keep records of those officials awarded honours before joining the Department, those awarded honours not related to official duties, or those holding more than one award. This information could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

We do keep records of those officials who have received State honours on the recommendation of this Department. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007 three members of the senior civil service have received an honour, broken down as follows:

CB: 2

CBE: 1

Similar records were kept by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs. Since 1992, 36 members of the senior civil service received awards following departmental recommendation, broken down as follows:

Knighthood: 1

CB: 12

CBE: 21

QBE: 2

### Computer Misuse Act

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for unauthorised (i) access to computer material, (ii) access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences and (iii) modification of computer material under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. [187287]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various offences relating to "computer material", in England and Wales for the year 2006 can be found in the following table.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various offences relating to "computer material," in England and Wales for the year 2006*[1, 2]

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *Prosecuted* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 2 | Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences | 5 | 4 |
| Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 3 | Unauthorised modification of computer material | 13 | 10 |
| Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec. 1 | Unauthorised access to computer material | 4 | 4 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

### Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held in HM Prison Bullwood Hall and HM Prison Canterbury on 18 February 2008 had completed their custodial sentences and were awaiting deportation; and how many of those who remain in custody are up to *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months, (c) six months, *(d)* 12 months and *(e)* more than 12 months beyond the date of sentence completion. [187110]

**Mr. Hanson:** As at 18 February 2008, nine detainees at Bullwood Hall had completed their custodial sentences and were awaiting deportation. Eight of these were less than one month beyond sentence completion and one was more than three months but less than six months beyond the date of sentence completion. As at the same date, one detainee at Canterbury had completed his sentence and was awaiting deportation. He had completed his sentence less than one month earlier. All are being held under immigration act powers.

Over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the UK in 2007. This means that the Border and Immigration Agency has removed over 80 per cent. more foreign national prisoners than in 2006.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those foreign national prisoners released from a custodial sentence had served more than half of their sentence in each of the last 10 years. [187104]

**Mr. Hanson:** To establish the information requested would entail the manual inspection of all the relevant prisoner files which would involve disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners are *(a)* serving sentences of (i) six months or less, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 24 months, (iv) two to four years, (v) four to eight years, (vi) determinate sentences of more than eight years, (vii) indeterminate sentences for public protection with minimum tariffs of categories set out in (i) to (vi) and *(b)* serving life sentences, broken down by those who have minimum tariffs of (A) under five, (B) five to 10 and (C) more than 10 years. [187108]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table gives information on the numbers of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales at the end of December 2007 showing sentence length as recorded on the prison service system.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total | 7,560 |
| Less than or equal to six months | 600 |
| Greater than six months less than 12 months | 430 |
| 12 months to less than four years | 2,070 |
| Four years to less than or equal to 10 years | 2,990 |
| 10 years to less than Life | 620 |
| IPP | 270 |
| Life | 580 |

Information on the lengths of tariffs of individual prisoners is not available and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

For the proportion of total prisoners who are foreign nationals, Council of Europe data on foreign national prisoners held in other major western countries reveal much higher proportions, for example in Austria (43 per cent.), Spain (33 per cent.), Germany (28 per cent.) and France (21 per cent.) than the figure for England and Wales (14 per cent.), based on 2006 population data.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Rape: Sentencing

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of rape in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk were given (i) an immediate custodial sentence, (ii) a community sentence and (iii) a (A) conditional and (B) absolute discharge in each of the last five years. [187114]

**Mr. Hanson:** The requested information is contained in the following table.

The East of England has been defined by police force area, and includes:

Derbyshire
Nottinghamshire
Lincolnshire
Leicestershire
Northamptonshire
Cambridgeshire
Norfolk
Suffolk

*Offender sentenced to immediate custody, community sentences or discharge for rape[1, 2] in Eastern England and Suffolk, 2002-2006*

| | *Area* | *Discharge* | *Community sentence* | *Immediate custody* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | East England | 0 | 4 | 72 | 76 |
| | Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 2003 | East England | 0 | 0 | 77 | 77 |
| | Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 2004 | East England | 1 | 1 | 84 | 86 |
| | Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 2005 | East England Suffolk | 0 | 5 | 91 | 96 |
| | Suffolk | 0 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 2006 | East England | 0 | 3 | 99 | 102 |
| | Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Classified under the offence class of rape, which include rape of a male and a female.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

### Travelling People

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was to his Department of each of the five annual Developing Services for Gypsies and Travellers conferences. [188291]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 55-56W.

### Young Offenders: Lancashire

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the evaluation of the peer panels in Lancashire will be published; and when a decision will be made on the extension of the project. [186951]

**Mr. Hanson:** The peer panel project in Lancashire is in its very early stages and evaluation of it has not yet begun. Expressions of Interest to carry out the evaluation have been invited and the deadline for responses is 4 March. At this moment it is not possible to say when the evaluation will be completed. In the light of that no decision about extending the project has been considered or made.

## PRIME MINISTER

### 10 Downing Street: Operating Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister what the running costs were of 10 Downing street in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how much they are expected to be in 2007-08. [172784]

**The Prime Minister:** As a result of accounting changes it is not possible to provide comparable figures for the financial year 2005-06.

The figure for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 are set out in the table as follows:

| *Running costs* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 21.9 |

The figure includes for the first time the full costs of security, Information and Communications Technology and part of the Government News Network budget previously held by the Cabinet Office.

Figures for 2007-08 will be available when the Cabinet Office Annual Resource accounts have been audited.

### Banking (Special Provisions) Bill (Draft)

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what dates meetings were held between officials in his Office and HM Treasury to discuss *(a)* proposals for and *(b)* drafting of the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill; [188405]

(2) when he first received a draft of the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill. [188407]

**The Prime Minister:** The Banking (Special Provisions) Bill was published on 18 February 2008. My officials and I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Prime Minister what percentage of No. 10 Downing street's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183000]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 685W.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was of the Downing Street Press Office in each quarter since 31 March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [163573]

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister what the communications budget was for No. 10 Downing street and his Office for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [164768]

**The Prime Minister:** As a result of changes to the Press Office budget since the start of the financial year 2006-07 it is not possible to provide the information requested. The budget includes, for the first time, part of the budget for the Government News Network, which was previously held centrally by Cabinet Office and the costs associated with Strategic Communications Unit.

The communications budget for No. 10 for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 was £2.5 million.

Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be available after the end of the financial year.

### Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Office in each year since 2004-05. [179038]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Tom Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187957]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in the usual way after the end of the financial year.

### Ministers: Pay

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers of the Crown do not receive a ministerial salary. [187900]

**The Prime Minister:** The information requested can be found on the No. 10 website at: http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page2988.asp. A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Strategic Communications Unit

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* other staff were employed by the No. 10 Strategic Communications Unit in each of the last five years; [178946]

(2) what the total cost of the No. 10 Strategic Communications Unit was in each of the last five years. [178952]

**The Prime Minister:** For information for the financial year 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W and to the answer I gave today (UIN 163573).

For information for previous years I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 895-6W, 8 March 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1377-8W and, 25 March 2003, *Official Report*, columns 125-7W.

## TRANSPORT

### Airports: Baggage

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report, column* 1411W, on airports: baggage, whether there is a requirement on UK airport authorities to record information on the disposal of items which are confiscated from the hand luggage of passengers; and how her Department ensures compliance with the requirement on airport operators to ensure that passengers are prevented from taking prohibited articles on to aircraft departing UK airports. [186993]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** UK airports are not required to keep records of passenger items that they have confiscated and subsequently disposed of.

Before anyone can be allowed airside access for departing flights, all travellers and their luggage must be screened for prohibited articles in airport search areas.

### Departmental Computer Software

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the source code copies of core application software used by her Department and its agencies and supplied by third parties are held in escrow. [186901]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following table shows whether the source code copies of core application software used by the Department for Transport and its agencies, and supplied by third parties, are held in escrow:

| | *Whether or not held in Escrow* |
|---|---|
| DfT (Central) | No |
| DVLA | Partial—a number are currently held in Escrow and DVLA are currently working with service providers to provide further items for inclusion as part of an ongoing review. |
| HA | Partial |
| DSA | No |
| MCA | No |
| VOSA | Yes |
| VGA | Nil requirement |
| GCDA | Nil requirement |

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints from individuals directly her Department has received as a consequence of the loss of personal data held by her Department and its agencies. [185807]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Many parts of the Department are involved in handling personal data in relation to its varied functions, and central records are not kept of the different kinds of losses that could be construed to fall within the scope of this question.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [185417]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There is no central record of all databases covering the whole of the Department for Transport, but a table, which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House, shows the major databases operated by the Department. Further information on smaller databases can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the special advisers employed in her Department and its predecessors since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184376]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to her Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182258]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

### Driving: Elderly

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to simplify the process whereby those who reach the age of 70 years can receive a new driving licence. [188056]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A web-based facility was introduced in June 2007 to allow drivers aged 70 and over to renew their driving licence entitlement on line. This supplements the existing paper based renewal facility.

There are no other plans to introduce further facilities for the licence renewal process for drivers at age 70 and over.

### Eurostar North Pole Depot: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding from the public purse was spent on the Eurostar North Pole depot. [187717]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** North Pole depot was originally built by European Passenger Services Ltd (EPSL), a subsidiary of British Rail, in 1991-02 for £75 million. The facility was built to service what is now known as the Eurostar train fleet.

Under the arrangements for the Government to fund the provision of the new Eurostar maintenance depot at Temple Mills, Eurostar (UK) Ltd agreed to relinquish its interests in North Pole Depot for zero cost. The depot transfer to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. ownership was completed on 31 January 2008.

The asset transferred from Eurostar (UK) Ltd to BRB (Residuary) Ltd on 31 January 2008, under the arrangements for providing Eurostar (UK) Ltd with a new depot at Temple Mills. This transfer involved no costs to the public purse. BRB (Residuary) Ltd is now responsible for managing all the costs and benefits of North Pole depot.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of the senior civil service in her Department have received an honour. [187119]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Since New Year 2003, 12 members of staff in the senior civil service in the Department and its agencies have been awarded an honour, of whom four are still serving.

### Motor Vehicles: Ownership

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to clarify the responsibilities of the seller and new owner of a vehicle under the form V5 process to ensure that the legal owner and registered keeper are always the same person. [188057]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) maintains a register of vehicles and associated keepers. It does not record owners of vehicles. There are no plans to change this approach.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers she has to take action against a previous owner of a vehicle who has not filled in the relevant paperwork to transfer the title of registered keeper according to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [188058]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Failure to notify sale, transfer, destruction or export of a vehicle is a criminal offence that can result in a fine of up to £1,000 under Section 59 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (VERA).

### Private Roads: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is responsible for the unadopted road at the side of 21 Market street, Adlington, Lancashire. [188564]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have no information on the specific circumstances at Adlington. In general, if a road is unadopted, the responsibility for the maintenance of it lies with the property owners that front the road concerned.

### Railways: Greater London

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average timetable journey time by train was from *(a)* Cambridge to London King's Cross, *(b)* Lewes to London Victoria, *(c)* Peterborough to London King's Cross, *(d)* St. Albans to London St. Pancras, *(e)* Reading to London Paddington, *(f)* Southend Victoria to London Liverpool Street and *(g)* Canterbury to London Charing Cross in each year from 1993 to date. [188502]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, this information should be available from Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Children

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children died as a result of drinking alcohol in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years, broken down by (i) strategic health authority, (ii) age and (iii) sex. [187201]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children died as a result of drinking alcohol in the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years, broken down by (i) strategic health authority, (ii) age and (iii) sex. (187201)

There were no deaths of children where there was any mention of alcohol on the death certificate in (a) 2006 (the latest 12 month period available). The table attached provides, for (b) the five year period 2002-06, the number of deaths of children which resulted from the effects of alcohol, or where there was any mention of alcohol on the death certificate, by (i) strategic health authority in England. Of these 11 deaths, (ii) all were aged between 12 and 15, and (iii) there were six boys and five girls.

*Table 1. Number of deaths with any mention of alcohol on the death certificate[1], children under the age of 16, by strategic health authority, 2002-06[2]*

| | *Deaths (persons)* |
|---|---|
| North East | 3 |
| North West | 1 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3 |
| East Midlands | 1 |

*Table 1. Number of deaths with any mention of alcohol on the death certificate[1], children under the age of 16, by strategic health authority, 2002-06[2]*

| | Deaths (persons) |
|---|---|
| West Midlands | 0 |
| East of England | 1 |
| London | 1 |
| South East Coast | 1 |
| South Central | 0 |
| Southwest | 0 |
| England | 11 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F10 (mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol), T51 (toxic effect of alcohol) and Y90.4-Y90.8 (evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level of 80 or more mg/100 ml), where there was any mention of these codes on the death certificate, with the exclusion of deaths where the underlying cause of death was drug-related poisoning or the deceased was identified as being a passenger in a vehicle.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Alcoholic Drinks: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in which alcohol was the primary cause there were in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [187616]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in which alcohol was the primary cause there were in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. (187616)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Cambridgeshire counties, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire counties[2], 1997 to 2006[3]*

| | | | Deaths (persons) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Suffolk | Norfolk | Cambridgeshire |
| 1997 | 37 | 50 | 32 |
| 1998 | 53 | 64 | 28 |
| 1999 | 43 | 60 | 40 |
| 2000 | 50 | 69 | 36 |
| 2001 | 51 | 67 | 38 |
| 2002 | 48 | 70 | 51 |
| 2003 | 60 | 87 | 37 |
| 2004 | 65 | 70 | 45 |
| 2005 | 56 | 81 | 48 |
| 2006 | 70 | 89 | 54 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] All figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)*

| Cause of death | ICD-9 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Alcoholic psychoses | 291 |
| Alcohol dependence syndrome | 303 |
| Non-dependent abuse of alcohol | 305.0 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | 425.5 |
| Alcoholic fatty liver | 571.0 |
| Acute alcoholic hepatitis | 571.1 |
| Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver | 571.2 |
| Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified | 571.3 |
| Chronic hepatitis | 571.4 |
| Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol | 571.5 |
| Other chronic nonalcoholic liver disease | 571.8 |
| Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol | 571.9 |
| Accidental poisoning by alcohol | E860 |

*Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

## Child Tax Credit

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of UK households eligible for but not claiming *(a)* child tax credits and *(b)* working tax credits. [187601]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates of the take-up rate for child and working tax credits in 2004-05, for which latest figures are available, are produced in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2004-05". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

## Children

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of children were living with *(a)* both birth parents, *(b)* one birth parent and *(c)* no birth parents in each year since 1987, broken down by social class. [187143]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of children were living with (a) both birth parents, (b) one birth parent and (c) no birth parents in each year since 1987, broken down by social class. (187143)

This information is only available from the 2001 Census. It is not possible to readily identify whether children are living with their birth parents from other sources.

The question asks for the proportion of children by the number of birth parents in the family. In the 2001 Census the number of children living with both birth parents can be obtained from the number of children living in couple families that are not stepfamilies plus the number of children living in stepfamilies who are children of both parents. The number of children living with one birth parent can be obtained from the number of children living in couple stepfamilies who are the stepchild of one of the partners plus the number of children living in lone parent families. All other children living in households have been considered to be living with neither birth parent. This group will include children living with a step-parent only and those living with other relatives but not a birth parent.

Table 1, attached, shows the proportion of dependent children in households in England and Wales by number of birth parents and the NS-SEC of the household reference person, according to the 2001 Census. The table refers to children living in households only, because we cannot provide the requested information for children living in communal establishments. According to the 2001 Census, the number of dependent children in communal establishments in England and Wales was 47,643.

From 2001 the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) has been used for all official statistics and surveys as a replacement for social class. In some cases, the household reference person may not necessarily be a birth parent of the child.

Comparable data from the 1991 Census are not available because stepfamilies were not separately identified in 1991. Family data are available on an annual basis for recent years from the General Household Survey (GHS) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, these surveys do not readily identify children in families by the number of birth parents.

*Dependent children in households by parent status and NS-SEC of household reference person (HRP)—England and Wales*

| *NS-SEC* | *Both birth parents (Percentage)* | *One birth parent (Percentage)* | *No birth parents (Percentage)* | *Base* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Higher managerial and professional occupations | 90 | 9 | 1 | 1,636,093 |
| Lower managerial and professional occupations | 80 | 19 | 1 | 2,608,709 |
| Intermediate occupations | 59 | 39 | 1 | 776,259 |
| Small employers and own account workers | 85 | 13 | 2 | 1,348,021 |
| Lower supervisory and technical occupations | 81 | 17 | 1 | 1,237,363 |
| Semi-routine occupations | 57 | 41 | 2 | 1,364,120 |
| Routine occupations | 68 | 30 | 2 | 1,306,668 |
| Full-time student | 30 | 62 | 8 | 118,037 |
| Never worked, long-term unemployed, not classifiable for other reasons | 28 | 67 | 5 | 1,269,996 |
| Total dependent children | 70 | 28 | 2 | 11,665,266 |

*Notes:*
1. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
2. "No birth parents" includes children living with grandparents where no parent is present and children living with step-parents only.
3. Children under 16 living with a partner or child are included in the "no birth parents" category.
4. NS-SEC is calculated according to the household reference person (HRP) and is not necessarily that of either birth parent.
5. An error in processing has resulted in under estimation of the numbers of economically inactive people aged 65-74 who had never worked in tables containing these data throughout England and Wales. Users are advised either to restrict analyses of ever worked and NS-SEC to the economically active population and to economically inactive people aged under 65, or to combine the "never worked" and "not classifiable for other reasons" categories when analysing NS-SEC. The latter is the approach adopted by ONS in the production of commissioned tables and has been used in this case.
6. Crown Copyright applies unless otherwise stated, Copyright@ons.gov.uk.

*Source:*
2001 Census.

## Debt Collection: Standards

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who in HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for ensuring compliance with the national standards for enforcement agents by contracted enforcement companies; what compliance checks were undertaken in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [187009]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry for Justice (Maria Eagle) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 965-6W.

## Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and other publications in the last year for which figures are available. [187624]

**Angela Eagle:** In 2006-07 OGCbuying.solutions spent £23,000 on publication supplements. National Savings and Investments could not provide the information within the disproportionate costs threshold. For details of spending by the Treasury and the remaining agencies, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 219W.

## Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183352]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187497]

**Angela Eagle:** None.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182257]

**Angela Eagle:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187868]

**Angela Eagle:** In financial year 2006-07 the percentage of absences due to stress-related conditions was 14 per cent. of the total working days lost to sickness absence in the HM Treasury.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187522]

**Angela Eagle:** This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year; [181593]

(2) how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181631]

**Angela Eagle:** For details of overseas visits I refer to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W. Spending on UK travel in 2006-07 was £506,000. For details of UK travel in earlier years I refer to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary (Mr. Healey) to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 719W.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

### External Contracts

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 671W, on external contracts, how many external consultancy contracts his Department held in each year for which figures are available; and what the total value of those contracts was. [187803]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Browne) on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1957-58W.

### Financial Institutions: Bank of England

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any financial institutions other than Northern Rock have asked the Bank of England for financial assistance in the last 12 months. [188189]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Bank of England does not disclose whether or not it has received requests for financial assistance.

### Foreign Workers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrant workers from *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside the EU were in employment in the UK in each quarter since 1984. [187149]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many migrant workers from (a) inside and (b) outside the EU have been in employment in the UK in each quarter from 1984 to 2008. (187149)

The attached table gives figures for Q4 from 1992 on a seasonal quarter basis and from 1997 on a calendar quarter basis. These estimates have not been seasonally adjusted. Comparable estimates are not available prior to 1992 or for 1998 and 2000.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*People of working age[1] in employment by country of birth, Quarter 4,1992 to 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| | *Total in employment[2]* | *UK Born* | *EU[3] Born* | *Born in rest of the world* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1992 | 24,081 | 22,265 | 490 | 1,317 |
| 1993 | 24,001 | 22,284 | 452 | 1,261 |
| 1994 | 24,242 | 22,479 | 495 | 1,267 |
| 1995 | 25,108 | 23,341 | 523 | 1,244 |
| 1996 | 25,398 | 23,586 | 512 | 1,295 |
| 1997 | 25,811 | 23,869 | 544 | 1,398 |
| 1999 | 26,389 | 24,362 | 566 | 1,458 |
| 2001 | 26,749 | 24,514 | 576 | 1,656 |
| 2002 | 26,986 | 24,583 | 593 | 1,809 |
| 2003 | 27,045 | 24,607 | 577 | 1,859 |
| 2004 | 27,262 | 24,599 | 748 | 1,914 |
| 2005 | 27,207 | 24,376 | 843 | 1,987 |
| 2006 | 27,323 | 24,207 | 952 | 2,159 |
| 2007 | 27,513 | 24,111 | 1,140 | 2,258 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59
[2] Includes those who did not state their country of birth
[3] 1992 Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain
1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden join
2004 Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia join
2007 Bulgaria and Romania join
*Notes*:
1. It should be noted that the estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months.
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent.
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics
2. Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000.
*Source*:
ONS Labour Force Survey

## Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

**Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in net ounces of gold has been sold from the foreign exchange reserves since 1997; what the net proceeds have been from those sales; and what the current value would be of the amount sold. [187192]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* 395 tonnes of gold were sold from the reserves between July 1999 and March 2002 and re-invested in interest-bearing foreign currency assets. Other central banks have adopted similar policies. The total proceeds were around $3.5 billion, equivalent to around £2.3 billion (using exchange rates at the time of the sales). On 15 February 2008, the current market value of the gold sold was around $11.5 billion, equivalent to around £5.8 billion.

The programme was part of a restructuring of the foreign currency and gold reserves aimed at achieving a better-balanced portfolio. As a result of the programme a one-off reduction in risk of approximately 30 per cent. was achieved, as measured by a type of widely used financial risk model—Value-at-Risk.

## Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of the senior civil service in his Department have received an honour. [187118]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the last five years five members of the senior civil service currently serving in the Treasury have received an honour.

This does not include any awards that may have been received that are not related to official duties, or awards held by staff before joining the Department, as this data is not routinely held.

## Income

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much a single earner on average earnings with two children earned in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [187302]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 22 February 2008:*

The National Statistician, has been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how much a single earner on average earnings with two children earned in *(a)*1997 and *(b)* 2007. I am replying in her absence. (187302)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal spurge of statistics on employees' earnings. The information requested is not available from the ASHE because the survey does not collect details of employees' family circumstances. The labour force survey (LFS) collects information about each member of participating households and can therefore be used to estimate how many people are in employment with two children. However, the LFS cannot be used to estimate their average earnings. This is because statistics on. lone parents and couples are produced from the LFS household datasets, which do not contain information on earnings within each family unit.

## Income: Equality

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of *(a)* the income inequality gap and *(b)* changes to this differential since 1997; and what measures he plans to introduce to address income inequalities. [187414]

**Jane Kennedy:** Measures of household income inequality are published annually by the Department of Work and Pensions in "Households Below Average Income" and by the Office for National Statistics in "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income".

The Government have implemented a comprehensive programme to promote employment opportunity for all and a fair society in which everyone shares in rising national prosperity, including the introduction of the new deals, the national minimum wage and tax credits.

## Income: Nottingham

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Nottingham North constituency were in receipt of no more than the national minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [187304]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the number of families in Nottingham North who were in receipt of no more than the national minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [187304]

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal source of statistics on employee earnings. However, since the ASHE does not collect information about family status, estimates for the number of families paid below the national minimum wage are not available. They are available by region and by age group (16 to 17-years-olds, 18 to 21-year-olds and 22 and over) for the UK.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

## Lone Parents

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working age lone parents his Department estimates lived in each region in the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by sex. [187705]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many working age lone parents lived in each region in the UK, broken down by sex in each year since 1997. (187705)

The information requested is given in the table attached. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending in June of each year for 1997, 1999 and 2000 to 2007. Comparable estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not currently available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Number of working age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] by region and sex April-June 1997, 1999, 2001-07, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| | North-east | North-west | Yorkshire and Humberside | East midlands | West midlands | Eastern | London |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Lone fathers* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 6 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 17 | 15 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 7 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 18 | 12 | 21 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 7 | 19 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 19 |
| 2002 | 8 | 24 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 25 |
| 2003 | 7 | 28 | 17 | 16 | 9 | 16 | 16 |
| 2004 | 8 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 23 |
| 2005 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 18 |
| 2006 | 4 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 18 |
| 2007 | 8 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 10 | 16 |
| *Lone mothers* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 78 | 199 | 136 | 88 | 130 | 102 | 219 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 89 | 229 | 127 | 82 | 130 | 110 | 266 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 80 | 213 | 136 | 96 | 140 | 106 | 255 |
| 2002 | 83 | 248 | 132 | 102 | 151 | 116 | 248 |
| 2003 | 92 | 232 | 134 | 98 | 141 | 120 | 254 |
| 2004 | 79 | 225 | 141 | 93 | 137 | 123 | 283 |
| 2005 | 88 | 229 | 147 | 110 | 146 | 119 | 267 |
| 2006 | 81 | 229 | 140 | 105 | 143 | 130 | 264 |
| 2007 | 77 | 220 | 136 | 106 | 159 | 137 | 278 |
| *All lone parents* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 84 | 216 | 150 | 99 | 147 | 118 | 234 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 96 | 246 | 140 | 93 | 148 | 123 | 287 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 86 | 232 | 152 | 108 | 155 | 119 | 274 |
| 2002 | 92 | 271 | 146 | 116 | 164 | 129 | 272 |
| 2003 | 98 | 260 | 152 | 114 | 150 | 135 | 270 |
| 2004 | 87 | 245 | 158 | 107 | 148 | 137 | 306 |
| 2005 | 91 | 252 | 164 | 123 | 161 | 131 | 285 |
| 2006 | 85 | 249 | 155 | 119 | 156 | 141 | 282 |
| 2007 | 85 | 239 | 149 | 118 | 176 | 146 | 294 |

| | South-east | South-west | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland | Thousand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Lone fathers* | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 19 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 146 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 18 | 14 | 6 | 12 | 5 | 157 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 17 | 13 | 11 | 18 | 4 | 164 |
| 2002 | 13 | 14 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 164 |
| 2003 | 20 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 6 | 171 |
| 2004 | 22 | 17 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 170 |
| 2005 | 22 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 4 | 164 |
| 2006 | 24 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 156 |
| 2007 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 18 | 3 | 156 |
| *Lone mothers* | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 152 | 90 | 81 | 132 | 45 | 1,452 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 154 | 103 | 96 | 147 | 47 | 1,579 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 168 | 104 | 90 | 150 | 49 | 1,586 |
| 2002 | 180 | 104 | 87 | 142 | 53 | 1,646 |
| 2003 | 178 | 101 | 82 | 148 | 54 | 1,633 |
| 2004 | 171 | 108 | 98 | 159 | 60 | 1,678 |
| 2005 | 170 | 114 | 80 | 164 | 56 | 1,691 |
| 2006 | 176 | 107 | 96 | 153 | 48 | 1,673 |
| 2007 | 185 | 113 | 92 | 141 | 48 | 1,692 |
| *All lone parents* | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 171 | 101 | 88 | 142 | 47 | 1,598 |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 171 | 117 | 102 | 160 | 53 | 1,736 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 184 | 117 | 101 | 168 | 53 | 1,750 |
| 2002 | 193 | 119 | 94 | 157 | 56 | 1,809 |
| 2003 | 198 | 116 | 90 | 161 | 60 | 1,804 |
| 2004 | 194 | 125 | 106 | 174 | 62 | 1,848 |
| 2005 | 192 | 129 | 90 | 176 | 60 | 1,856 |
| 2006 | 200 | 118 | 108 | 164 | 52 | 1,829 |
| 2007 | 204 | 126 | 100 | 159 | 51 | 1,848 |

n/a = comparable estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not currently available

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59

[2] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged or 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education

*Notes*:

1. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty.
2. Estimates are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003.

*Source*:

LFS Household datasets

## National Insurance Fund

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage increase in the basic state pension could be paid in the years from 2009-10 to 2012-13 by using the national insurance fund's excess of receipts over payments projected by the acting Government Actuary for that period. [185406]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

The NIF is not just for state pension expenditure but for other contributory benefits such as incapacity benefit and contribution-based jobseeker's allowance.

National insurance contributions and associated social security benefits operate within the Government's fiscal rules designed to ensure sound public finances and when there is a surplus it is invested in public services. Any surplus of NICs over social security benefits in any one year (the NIF surplus) is not therefore an extra resource available to spend.

The NIF is maintained under the control and management of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

## Quality of Life

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of quality of life he uses. [187626]

**Jane Kennedy:** Productivity and employment are the key determinants of growth and therefore of living standards. However, a large volume are of other data also important indicators for a broader measure of quality of life, such as those on crime, working hours, social capital, social demography and health.

### Revenue and Customs: Fraud

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in HM Revenue and Customs have been investigated for fraud in the last 12 months. [187632]

**Jane Kennedy:** From 1 April 2007 to date, there have been 35 completed investigations into suspected fraudulent activity by staff. HMRC is a large organisation employing approximately 88,000 staff.

### Revenue and Customs: Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training courses were attended by staff working at HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such courses was. [187625]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 220W. The information requested would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

### Tax Avoidance

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue lost due to tax avoidance in each financial year since 1997. [187216]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not available.

As part of the avoidance disclosure regime, first introduced in 2004, promoters of schemes have to disclose to HMRC the details of the schemes developed and users should notify HMRC of a scheme in their tax return. For the last two years HMRC has published on its website a quarterly analysis of the number of avoidance schemes disclosed at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/avoidance-disclosure-statistics.htm

### Tax Avoidance: Companies

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of tax revenue lost due to avoidance by large corporations; and if he will make a statement. [187215]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are committed to tackling avoidance and in recent years has taken a number of steps to identify and close down opportunities for avoidance. For example, they have introduced a disclosure regime which requires those designing and selling tax avoidance schemes to provide HM Revenue and Customs with details of those schemes within five days of them being first marketed. On receipt, the schemes are assessed for tax risk and consideration whether an urgent announcement of a legislative fix is needed to prevent extensive use of the scheme.

Recent Finance Acts have all contained measures to close various loopholes in the tax system used by avoiders, most of these informed to some extent by information from the disclosure regime. This year will be no exception. In each of the last four budgets there have been revenue protection measures averaging around £1½ billion a year.

In addition to these legislative counteractions, HMRC has in place a comprehensive anti-avoidance strategy, published on its website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/vision-strategy.htm

### Tax Credit

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of tax credit awards are currently experiencing technical difficulties having been unresolved for six months or more; and what plans he has to resolve such difficulties. [183051]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the format requested.

### Tax Yields: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government raised in tax from *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [187939]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the total amount of tax raised in Tamworth and Staffordshire is not available.

### Taxation: Music

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* grants and *(b)* tax incentives the Government has made to the UK popular music industry in the last 10 years; what the cost to the public purse has been of such (i) grants and (ii) tax incentives in that period; what recent representations he has received on support for the industry; and if he will make a statement. [186369]

**Jane Kennedy:** No specific tax incentives for the UK popular music industry have existed in the last 10 years. The Treasury holds no records of any representations having been made on the subject of specific tax incentives or grants for the music industry. The Treasury has not made any grants to the music industry during the period.

### Valuation Office: Rightmove

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been to date of the contract between HM Revenue and Customs, on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency, and Rightmove.co.uk Plc. [183271]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1861W. Expenditure in the year 2007-08 will be available in the Valuation Office Agency's annual report and accounts, when published.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were prosecuted in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 for tax credit fraud; how many people were found guilty; and how much money was fraudulently obtained in each such case where proceedings are complete. [187591]

**Jane Kennedy:** There were 183 prosecutions and 163 convictions for tax credits fraud in 2006-07.

Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

### Working Tax Credit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the distribution of expenditure via *(a)* working tax credit, *(b)* child tax credit, *(c)* the childcare element of working tax credit and *(d)* the disability element of child tax credit, broken down by household income quintile; [186975]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of families eligible for *(a)* working tax credit, *(b)* child tax credit, *(c)* the childcare element of working tax credit and *(d)* the disability element of child tax credit in each income quintile. [186976]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates of the proportion of households in each income quintile with entitlements to tax credits in 2007-08 and a quintile breakdown of estimated entitlements by value is provided in the following table.

| | *Tax credits* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Household income quintile*[1] | *Percentage households with entitlements* | *Percentage total entitlements (value)* |
| 1 | 37 | 48 |
| 2 | 36 | 30 |
| 3 | 33 | 14 |
| 4 | 26 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 |

[1] Households ranked according to equivalised income after direct taxes and benefits

Entitlements to tax credits are modelled using family resources survey data, and are subject to sampling variation. Estimates are provided for tax credits overall; eligibility for working tax credit increases total tax credit entitlement but does not necessarily mean that a family will receive working tax credit. It is not possible to provide reliable estimates for the childcare element of working tax credit or the disability element of child tax credit in isolation.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of families received the childcare element of the working tax credit during the last year for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [187092]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates of the total number of families benefiting from tax credits and the number of in-work families benefiting from the childcare element, based on final family circumstances and incomes at 4 December 2007, are published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics December 2007", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-dec07.pdf

Depending on their income, families are generally eligible for the childcare element if they are working at least 16 hours a week, or in the case of a couple, both partners are working at least 16 hours a week. Their child must be in registered or approved childcare.

### Working Tax Credit: Nottingham

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Nottingham North constituency were in receipt of working families tax credit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187303]

**Jane Kennedy:** Working families' tax credit was replaced by child and working tax credits in April 2003.

Estimates of the number of recipient families of working families' tax credit in 2001-2002, broken down by constituency, appear in the HMRC quarterly WFTC and DPTC geographical analyses. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/wftc/wfdptc_ geog.htm

Estimates for 2005-06 of the number of in-work families with tax credit awards, by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2005-06 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Geographical Analysis." This publication and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by constituency with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

## WALES

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many letters his Department received in each of the last five years. [187075]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The total number of letters received in each year from 2003 were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 826 |
| 2004 | 740 |
| 2005 | 722 |
| 2006 | 518 |
| 2007 | 493 |

This figure does not include interdepartmental correspondence, this can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187740]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Polygamy

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the number of polygamous unions there are in the UK involving *(a)* three and *(b)* four people. [185351]

**Barbara Follett:** No estimate has been made of the number of polygamous unions there are in the UK involving *(a)* three and *(b)* four people.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency: Private Sector

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much private agencies have collected on behalf of the Child Support Agency since such companies were first contracted to provide collection services on 7 July 2006; [183810]

(2) how many debt collection cases for child support have been referred to private agencies; in how many such cases has *(a)* full collection and *(b)* partial collection been secured; and how the performance of private agencies compares to cases handled directly by the Child Support Agency over the same period since 7 July 2006. [183811]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 22 February 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much private agencies have collected on behalf of the Child Support Agency since such companies were first contracted to provide collection services on 7th July 2006 [183810] and

How many debt collection cases for child support have been referred to private agencies; in how many such cases has (a) full collection and (b) partial collection been secured; and how their performance compares to cases handled directly by the Child Support Agency over the same period since 7th July 2006, [183811]

The Agency contracted both Eversheds Limited Liability Partnership and iQor (formerly known as Legal and Trade) to collect debt on some of the Agency's cases from July 2006. By the end of 2007, over 63,000 cases had been referred to these debt collection agencies, who have to date collected debt from 15,619 cases, amounting to £9.3 million. Of those 15,619 cases, 3,092 cases have been repaid in full.

While it is not possible to compare directly as there are differences in the enforcement tools employed by the Agency and the debt collection agencies, the total amount of maintenance collected and arranged from all sources for the period was over £1.4 billion of which £159.6 million was arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total carbon emissions from his Department's estate in each year since 2005. [185463]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Total carbon emissions for the Department of Work and Pensions, as reported in the annual Sustainable Development in Government reports since 2005 are as follows:

| | *KgC* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 59,098,569 |
| 2006-07 | 60,063,793 |

These figures are calculated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and do not reflect the substantial volumes of renewable electricity secured by the Department during those years.

### Employment Schemes

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have found sustained employment through Workstep; and what his Department's annual expenditure on Workstep has been in each year since the scheme was introduced. [178739]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* Around 2,900 individuals have been recorded as progressing to sustained employment on the Workstep programme up to the end of September 2007.

Information about the Department's annual spend on Workstep is in the following table.

*Workstep spend and numbers helped*

| | *Spend (£ million)* | *Number of individuals who received supported employment* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 59.3 | 14,170 |
| 2003-04 | 74.2 | 15,270 |
| 2004-05 | 68.7 | 16,620 |
| 2005-06 | 69.2 | 17,260 |
| 2006-07 | 63.9 | 17,200 |

### Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answers of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 235-36W, on housing benefit: anti-social behaviour, how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households (i) in each of the nine pilot areas and (ii) in the UK were (A) the subject of an order for possession on grounds of anti-social behaviour and subsequently left the property and (B)

unreasonably refused to engage with the help and support offered as specified in a written warning notice while in receipt of housing benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [188609]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** As part of the sanction process, when a possession order is served on a household, the court clerk sends a copy of the order to the Department for Work and Pensions. To date, DWP has not been notified by the court of any relevant orders for possession in the eight pilot areas.

Information on the numbers of orders for possession on grounds of antisocial behaviour in the UK is not available.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment for benchmarking purposes he has made of the provision of state pensions in the UK in comparison with other European countries. [185048]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* Direct comparisons of levels of state pensions between countries can be misleading, as differences may be due to underlying economic conditions or policy choices, such as different costs faced by pensioners and the presence of other policies targeting the welfare of elderly people.

In contrast with many other European countries, the UK's policy on retirement income provision envisages the state providing benefits that act as a foundation for private saving, and not the state as being the sole provider. The UK state pension system is also structured differently than that in other European countries, in that it targets spending on those on lower incomes, rather than aiming at providing the same level of generosity to all income groups.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report, "Pensions At A Glance 2007", published on 7 June, confirms that the UK targets the greatest resources on those most in need and that the UK has a very redistributive pension system that is more generous towards people on lower incomes.

Eurostat data indicate that the median income of UK persons aged 65+ (adjusted for cost of living differences), are much higher than the EU average and is the fifth highest in Europe.

The OECD also noted that 'changes to the public pension system since 1997 have increased future benefits for low earners', with average pensions for this income group up by seven percentage points, while

> 'recent reforms in France, Germany and Japan have cut benefits by around 15-20 percent'.

The average pension promise in 16 OECD countries studied was cut by 22 per cent. In only two countries—Hungary and the United Kingdom—did pension promises increase on average.

This Government are committed to further improve this situation. In fact, the latest assessment of the European Commission on UK pension policy, published at the end of January, endorsed our recent pension reforms, stating that

> "these reforms will ensure that recent achievements in reducing pensioner poverty are secure into the future".

### Unemployment

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those classified as workless households were *(a)* families with dependants, *(b)* two parent households, *(c)* lone parent households, *(d)* single parent households and *(e)* claiming incapacity benefit in the last period for which figures are available. [188566]

**Mr. Timms:** Data on workless households are drawn from the labour force survey. It is not possible to provide data relating to households and individuals on benefits from the labour force survey. The available information is in the table.

*Number of working age workless households by type. Great Britain: Quarter 2 (April, May, June) 2007*

| | *Thousand* |
|---|---|
| Two parent household with dependent children | 293 |
| Lone/single parent household with dependent children | 684 |
| Other household with dependent children | 11 |
| Total number of workless households with dependent children | 989 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The figures show the number of working-age households with dependent children where no adult work[r].
3. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (a woman aged between 16 and 59 or a man aged between 16 and 64).
4. Workless individuals are those who are either International Labour Organisation unemployed or economically inactive (that is, not in employment).
5. A dependent child is defined as a child aged under 16 or aged under 19 and in full-time education.

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 25 February 2008*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her Office on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187959]

**Helen Goodman:** Following the machinery of government changes in May 2007, the Leader of the House of Commons office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Information prior to May 2007 is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will be answering this question shortly on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Carbon Emissions: Business

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many FTSE 100 companies meet minimum reporting guidelines on greenhouse gas emissions; [187420]

(2) what steps have been taken to encourage FTSE 100 companies to include information on carbon dioxide emissions in their annual reports. [187421]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government require companies and industries to report on their Greenhouse Gas emissions, including $CO_2$, in a standardised way. For example, all installations taking part in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme must monitor and report their $CO_2$ emissions in accordance with guidelines produced by the European Commission.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment, which will come into force in 2010, will require companies involved in the mandatory trading scheme to monitor their energy use and report it annually in a standardised format. This will cover a large number of FTSE 100 companies.

In addition, from 1 October 2007, quoted companies have been required to ensure that their Business Review includes information on environmental matters to the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the company's business. The first reports under this new regime will not be published until later this year.

The Government have also supported the work of the Carbon Disclosure Project. This is a voluntary investor-driven approach aimed at encouraging companies to disclose greenhouse gas emissions data. In 2007, 91 per cent. of FTSE 100 companies disclosed to CDP. This is an increase from 83 per cent. in 2006.

### Carbon Emissions: China

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research to measure the level of carbon emissions resulting from the production of goods in China for the export market in 2007. [187791]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have no plans to commission research to measure the level of global carbon emissions from the production of goods in China for the export market. Estimates of the carbon dioxide emissions from the Chinese economy as a whole are available from the International Energy Agency.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the carbon dioxide emissions from operation of their Departments' computer hardware. [187902]

**Mr. Woolas:** While I have had no discussions, DEFRA officials are fully engaged on a cross departmental basis in taking forward initiatives to reduce the carbon and energy footprint of the Government's information technology estate.

The Chief Technology Officer's (CTO) Council Green Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Delivery sub group was set up in December to review our needs and produce actionable toolkits for both Government and its industry suppliers. DEFRA participates in the CTO Green ICT working group promulgating and promoting best practice across Departments, including a "Top Tips list for Green ICT" shortly to be placed on the DEFRA website.

All central Government Departments are currently mandated to purchase IT equipment to minimum energy efficiency specifications. These specifications are continually under review and we are carrying out an analysis of more rigorous sustainable standards that we aim to recommend as best practice to all Government Departments in the near future.

### Eller Brook Stream

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for Eller Brook stream at the rear of the property on Ellerbrook Close, Heath Charnock, Chorley. [188563]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Eller Brook at this location is classified as an 'ordinary watercourse'. Managing flooding from ordinary watercourses is the responsibility of the local council, in this case, Chorley borough council.

Chorley borough council has permissive powers to address flooding issues.

### Environmental Action Fund: Finance

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been budgeted for the biodiversity elements of the Environmental Action Fund/Countdown 2010 Fund in

*(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; how much funding is available for biodiversity projects under the funds run by non-governmental organisations in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [188725]

**Joan Ruddock:** Natural England's budget for 2008-09 was announced on 21 February and final decisions on budget allocations for the Environmental Action Fund/ Countdown 2010 have yet to be made. Figures for Natural England's budget in future years will be announced in due course.

I will ask Natural England's chief executive to write to the hon. Member when these figures have been confirmed.

### Fuel Poverty: Standards

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the implications would be of the Government not meeting its target of eradicating fuel poverty by 2016. [188717]

**Mr. Woolas:** We remain committed to the eradication of fuel poverty. Our aim in England, restated in 'Fuel Poverty in England: The Government's Plan for Action', is to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, by 22 November 2016. The target for the UK as a whole is 2016-18.

Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government. DEFRA will continue to discharge its duties and responsibilities under the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 with the aim of ensuring, as far as is reasonably practicable, that people do not live in fuel poverty by the set date.

As with any target with a statutory basis, failure to achieve this carries the risk of a legal challenge. We do not take this risk lightly and remain committed to achieving the 2016-18 target across the UK.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to change arrangements for field trials for GM crops in relation to transparency of operations and identification of crops. [188456]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have no specific plans to change the existing arrangements for publishing GM crop trial locations on the DEFRA website. We are, however, keeping this issue under general review, because there are a small minority of people who seem to be intent on destroying any GM trials. This is a concern if legitimate and potentially beneficial research is either being discouraged or not allowed to proceed.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: EU Action

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether qualified majority voting in the Council of Ministers will apply to UK policy on regulating growth of genetically modified crops in the UK. [187925]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]*: Decisions on proposals for the commercial cultivation of GM crops are taken at European Union level. Consistent with the EU legislation, the UK voting position is based on what the scientific evidence indicates about the safety of each crop in question for human health and the environment. DEFRA consults the relevant authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland before the UK position is finalised. There are no plans for the UK position to be determined on the basis of qualified majority voting.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the effects reducing the Warm Front grant will have on the move away from oil installed heating systems to low carbon systems or renewables. [187439]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA has had no discussions with HM Treasury regarding this issue. DEFRA is continuing to actively assess the suitability of alternative low carbon technologies to integrate into Warm Front.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Warm Front grants provide value for money. [186198]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA employs independent quality assessors, who have completed two reviews of Warm Front pricing. These reviews have shown that Warm Front charges provide value for money.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Heating

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the process is for servicing boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme; how often boilers and central heating appliances are serviced under the Warm Front scheme; what the response time is when boilers or central heating appliances are reported faulty under the Warm Front scheme; what the procedure is, under the Warm Front scheme, for those left without heating or hot water when appliances fitted under Warm Front break down; and whether there is a procedure for emergency situations when such boilers or heating appliances break down. [186981]

**Mr. Woolas:** Gas boilers installed or repaired under Warm Front receive two annual service visits. These are carried out approximately 12 and 24 months after the date of installation.

Warm Front customers who have received a gas boiler have access to a 24 hour breakdown line, which operates seven days a week and 365 days a year. In the majority of cases this service provides either a same day or next day response. Temporary heaters will also be provided under certain circumstances.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average size was of Warm Front grant approved in Tamworth constituency in each of the last three years. [187940]

**Mr. Woolas:** Over the last three scheme years, the average cost of each grant approved is as follows:

| *Scheme year* | *Average spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,211.59 |
| 2006-07 | 1,030.75 |
| 2007-08 | 1,788.31 |

### National Bee Unit: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has spent in the National Bee Unit in each year since 1997; how much he intends to spend over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [188436]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1089W.

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average length of closed periods will be under the new regime for nitrate-vulnerable zones. [188228]

**Mr. Woolas:** Manures and manufactured fertilisers cannot be applied in nitrate-vulnerable zones during defined closed periods. Proposals set out in the recent consultation for redefining the closed periods for organic manures have been developed using a targeted approach based on soil type, land use (arable or grassland) and rainfall. Under those proposals, the average length of the closed periods would be just over four months. There are no proposals to redefine closed periods for manufactured fertilisers.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Standards

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the public service agreement target to ensure that 95 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest are in favourable condition by 2010 remains in place; [188723]

(2) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the public service agreement target to ensure that 95 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest are in favourable condition by 2010. [188728]

**Joan Ruddock:** We remain committed to achieving the public service agreement target to bring 95 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest by area into favourable or recovering condition by 2010. This target will become a departmental strategic objective under the new natural environment public service agreement.

Within the Major Landowners Group, my officials meet regularly with representatives of other organisations with a significant role in delivery of this target. This provides a mechanism for identification of emerging issues and ensures that they are discussed at the appropriate level.

### Tree Preservation Orders: Guildford

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will give consent to Guildford borough council for tree protection orders to be placed on its departmental land at Epsom Road, Guildford prior to its forthcoming sale and disposal to a housing developer. [186271]

**Joan Ruddock:** As part of the preparation for a planning application at the Guildford site DEFRA has undertaken a joint survey with Guildford borough council of the trees and, under the guidance of the tree preservation officer has identified a number of trees that are worthy of retention (some having been identified as restricting the sustainable growth of others).

DEFRA has no objection to the principle of imposing a TPO but would not expect this to be undertaken while in the ownership of DEFRA, pending disposal.

DEFRA is awaiting confirmation from the council as to the identification of those trees to which an Order would relate.

### Wildlife: Environment Protection

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for a statutory regime to govern the adaptation of wildlife habitats in response to climate change; and if he will make a statement. [187553]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government believe that the current regime adequately covers any adaptation of wildlife habitats that may be required in response to climate change.

Last year we published "Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate: guidance on building capacity to adapt", which is directed at those who plan and deliver conservation of terrestrial biodiversity.

The UK was also the first country to produce a national Biodiversity Action Plan in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan comprises both species and habitats action plans. In 2007, the UK Biodiversity Partnership published a new list of priority habitats, containing 65 habitat types. These priority habitats are a focus for conservation during the next decade and the impacts of climate change will feature in conservation actions.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species are to be removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; what mechanisms will be put in place to monitor the effect on wild populations of such species; and what the expected cost is of such monitoring. [187844]

**Joan Ruddock:** The list of species to be removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 has not been finalised and will be subject to

further discussions with the devolved administrations. I hope the revised schedule will take effect from 1 October this year.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies support a range of bird surveillance and monitoring schemes in the United Kingdom, usually in partnership with specialist non-government organisations. Surveillance schemes may include annual or periodic assessment of population size and distribution and allow trends in both to be derived. Schemes are tailored to provide comprehensive coverage of common and rare species in both breeding and non-breeding seasons. Monitoring is undertaken as part of the JNCC's and Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies' statutory obligations and would not incur any additional costs.

## TRANSPORT

### Dartford Tunnel

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average number of *(a)* daily and *(b)* annual crossings made at the Dartford Crossing, broken down by vehicle category, was in the last five years. [188868]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The figures requested are in the following tables.

*Average daily traffic flows*

| | Motorbikes | Cars | Vans | HGVs/ PSVs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 1,005 | 107,763 | 21,334 | 15,998 | 146,106 |
| 2004 | 981 | 109,430 | 22,420 | 16,795 | 149,631 |
| 2005 | 1,017 | 107,998 | 22,454 | 16,915 | 148,390 |
| 2006 | 1,024 | 107,101 | 22,689 | 16,607 | 147,426 |
| 2007 | 1,075 | 104,753 | 22,820 | 17,037 | 145,690 |

*Annual traffic flows*

| | Motorbikes | Cars | Vans | HGVs/ PSVs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 366,849 | 39,333,500 | 7,786,829 | 5,839,418 | 53,328,599 |
| 2004 | 358,908 | 40,051,354 | 8,205,557 | 6,146,979 | 54,764,802 |
| 2005 | 371,024 | 39,419,306 | 8,195,879 | 6,174,141 | 54,162,355 |
| 2006 | 373,639 | 39,091,736 | 8,281,632 | 6,061,508 | 53,810,521 |
| 2007 | 392,340 | 38,234,700 | 8,329,418 | 6,218,527 | 53,176,992 |

### Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the Dartford Crossing tolls. [188867]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Transport received several thousand representations in response to the consultation on the Dartford Crossing charges that finished in March last year. These included representations from local residents, trade associations, local government and local MPs. The views expressed in these responses have been taken into account in the proposals for a local residents' discount scheme, issued for consultation on 15 February 2008.

### Driving: Licensing

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the consultation document on fitness to drive. [188252]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We intend to consult on options for change to health and driver licensing arrangements later this year.

### Motor Vehicles: Lighting

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the likely increase in annual fuel consumption resulting from the requirement to have daytime running lamps on motor vehicles. [188257][1]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Research undertaken for the Department for Transport indicated that the requirement for new types of motor vehicle to be equipped with dedicated daytime running lamps would result in an increase of about 5 per cent. in fuel consumption.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, on motor vehicles: safety, what provisions have been agreed with her EU counterparts on the exemption of vehicles registered for road use before the commencement of the relevant European directive from the mandatory use of daytime running lights or their equivalent. [188253]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Following EU decisions on daytime running lights (DRL) issues, a European Directive will require new vehicle types to be equipped with dedicated DRLs from early 2011 (cars, vans) and summer 2012 (other vehicles). Vehicles registered before these dates will not be required to be retro-fitted with DRLs or to use existing lights as an equivalent.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidelines her Department has issued to statutory authorities on *(a)* measuring the level of degradation of road surfacing and *(b)* the time scales for resurfacing each of the categories of degraded road surfacing. [188517]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Local highway authorities have a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highways in their charge. As part of the Best Value regime, they are required to report annually on the condition of those highways. Guidance on the calculation of such Best Value Condition Indicators, including reference to the road surface condition parameters to be measured, is provided on the Department's website.

Decisions on what maintenance should be undertaken, and when, is a matter for each individual highway authority. The Department endorses 'Well-maintained Highways' (TSO, 2005) produced by the UK Roads Board, which provides best practice guidance on maintenance management.

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and

1. *[Official Report, 3 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 22MC.]*

*(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184682]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Due to the low number of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination complaints in the Department for Transport and its agencies, this information is withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

### Transport: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of ring-fencing local authority grants to community transport providers. [188055]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The conditions attached to the Department's grants to local authorities, or other bodies, reflect the particular circumstances of each case. However, it is Government policy to reduce the proportion of total local authority funding which is given by means of ring-fenced grants to enable more decisions about local issues to be made locally.

The level and form of local authority support for community transport is a matter for local decision.

It is for each local authority to determine the conditions which apply to any grants they provide for community transport providers.

### Travel: Concessions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to extend the concessionary travel scheme to *(a)* long distance coach travel and *(b)* other forms of public transport. [183107]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since 2003 there has been a half-fare concessionary travel scheme for older and eligible disabled people on long distance coaches. It is a voluntary scheme but the major providers of long distance coach services take part. The scheme will continue following the introduction of the England-wide free off-peak local bus travel concession in April. There are no proposals at present to extend statutory concessionary fares to forms of transport other than local buses.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Department of Resources: Pay

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what pay grades are applicable to members of staff working for the Department of Resources. [186170]

**Nick Harvey:** As at 31 January 2008, the Department of Resources employed 136.28 full-time equivalent staff (FTE), broken down as follows:

| *Pay band* | *FTE* |
|---|---|
| Band SCS2 | 1 |
| Band SCS1A | 1 |
| Band SCS1 | 4 |
| Band A1 | 3.21 |
| Band A2 | 14.79 |
| Band B1 | 21.18 |
| Band B2 | 19.2 |
| Band C | 42.4 |
| Band D1 | 27.5 |
| Band D2 | 1 |
| Sandwich Student | 1 |
| Total | 136.28 |

An organisational chart detailing individual pay bands for staff can be found on the Department of Resources intranet site.

### Members: Allowances

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what percentage of the Department of Resources staff time is spent administering the allowances of hon. Members. [186171]

**Nick Harvey:** About one quarter of all departmental staff time is devoted to administering Members' allowances. This equates to some 35 full-time equivalent staff.

### Security

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) how many persons who are not nationals of EU member states hold a parliamentary pass; [188572]

(2) how many non-European nationals hold a parliamentary pass. [188577]

**Nick Harvey:** There are currently 1,312 valid parliamentary passes issued to individuals whose nationality is other than British.

Records are not held in a form which distinguishes the number of non-European from European nationals.

## WALES

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187952]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department spent a total of £12,631.87 on entertaining in the last 12 months. The figures for entertaining are not split between alcohol and food, and these could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187548]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The amount claimed by senior civil service staff in the financial year 2006-07 was £2,582.79.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187465]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Since 1999 our records show that we have lost:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Three mobile handsets | 40 |
| Ancillary cabling for a laptop | 107 |
| Two security passes | 0 |
| Digital camera | 100 |
| Train ticket | 144 |

There have been no items reported stolen.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187507]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The cost of sickness pay is not readily available in the format requested, and obtaining this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

However, in 2006-07, which is the latest year for which figures have been published, of all Government Departments the Wales Office had the lowest number of days lost due to sickness per member of staff, at just 1.6 days in the year.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187658]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department has spent the following amounts on first class travel in 2007:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Ministerial travel | 2,836.32 |
| Officials | 89,606.73 |

The breakdown by staff grade can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

My Office is split over two sites, namely London and Cardiff, and staff are required to travel frequently between both offices. The Wales Office, however, makes good use of advanced ticket bookings to achieve value for money.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189500]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department does not have any in-house catering facilities. Where possible, taking account of value for money, fair trade products are used.

To support Fair Trade Fortnight 2008, an e-mail, alerting all staff to the event, and linking them to the Fair Trade website, has been sent.

## OLYMPICS

### Humanitarian Assistance Unit

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost of her Department's Humanitarian Assistance Unit was in each of the last three years. [186987]

**Tessa Jowell:** The total cost of the unit and its work since it was established in 2005 is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06[1] | 663,000 |
| 2006-07 | 659,000 |
| 2007-08[2] | 420,500 |

[1] Not full year
[2] To date

### Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has plans to move the 2012 Olympics shooting events to sites other than Woolwich. [188744]

**Tessa Jowell:** There are no plans to move the shooting event to an alternative venue.

The Royal Artillery barracks at Woolwich was selected as the venue for Olympic and Paralympic shooting events in 2012 following feedback from the International Olympic Committee and consultation with the International Shooting Federation and British Shooting (the national governing body). Woolwich has the advantage of being close to the Olympic Park and Village, which will improve the athlete and spectator experience. The decision to stage the event at Woolwich is now part of the Host City Contract with the IOC.

### Olympic Games 2012: Wildlife

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress has been made on the relocation of *(a)* wildlife and *(b)* feral cats from the Olympic site at Stratford; and if she will make a statement. [187076]

**Tessa Jowell:** In parallel with ongoing site clearance and preparation works, the Olympic Delivery Authority continues its comprehensive ecology programme to ensure the preservation and protection of wildlife in the Olympic Park. Where possible, habitats are being safeguarded and will remain in place but, where wildlife cannot be protected sufficiently on-site, the ODA is working with the nearby Waterworks Nature Reserve and Hackney council to create alternative habitats in the local area. The ODA is also preparing a small nature reserve at East Marsh to become home to a variety of wildlife including birds, frogs, spiders and beetles with planting scheduled to commence in the spring.

To date, thousands of newts and hundreds of toads have been translocated to specially created ponds on the Waterworks Reserve and aquatics experts have moved fish away from the clearance and dredging works on the Pudding Mill river to the nearby river Lea. New nest areas suitable for the breeding and feeding patterns of kingfishers and sand martins have also been created at the Waterworks.

The ODA is also working with the Celia Hammond Animal Trust (CHAT) to ensure the well-being and safe capture of any feral cats remaining on the site. To date, around 170 cats have been safely taken off site for re-homing by the trust. The ODA continues to work closely with the trust to allow access to those areas safe from construction activities.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Embassies: Industrial Disputes

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what undertakings were given to staff at the British embassy in Dublin on local labour relations procedures and the treatment of industrial relations disputes. [187044]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our embassy in Dublin has regularly informed staff that it is committed to handling labour relations in accordance with good employer practice, local employment law and the (non-binding) procedural agreement signed in 2003 between our embassy and the Unite trade union.

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to promote dialogue between the British embassy in Dublin and the Unite trade union within the framework of the Labour Relations Commission apparatus in Ireland. [187247]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our embassy in Dublin and Unite, acting on behalf of the embassy's local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UK Trade and Investment section on 21 February.

### Embassies: Redundancy

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* compulsory redundancies of Irish employees are planned at the British embassy in Dublin; and if he will make a statement. [187249]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Three compulsory redundancies were made recently at our embassy in Dublin, as a result of UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) wider restructuring of their global network in line with their new strategic priorities.

Our embassy and Unite, acting on behalf of the embassy's local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UKTI section.

### Equatorial Guinea: Human Rights

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the record of Equatorial Guinea in *(a)* according fair trials to and *(b)* observing the human rights of individuals held captive in Black Beach prison. [188534]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Government have serious concerns over Equatorial Guinea's human rights record.

We are aware of recent reports that express concern over the situation in Equatorial Guinea as regards individuals' right to a fair trial and the country's observation of human rights. Such reports include the Amnesty International Report 2007 and the report of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, available at:

http://thereport.amnesty.org/document/15

http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/huricane.nsf/view01/E3F5F640A5C8217FC125731A002D604D?opendocument

While such reporting indicates that conditions in Black Beach prison are improving, following the introduction of a new block in 2005, the overall situation remains of concern.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi locally-employed staff were granted asylum in 2007; and how many he expects to be granted asylum in 2008. [185043]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information on how many Iraqi locally employed staff were granted asylum in 2007 is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It would not possible to speculate how many Iraqi locally engaged staff may be granted asylum in 2008 as every asylum application is considered on its individual merits in accordance with the criteria defined in the 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees.

### Kosovo

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his counterparts in *(a)* Spain, *(b)* Cyprus, *(c)* Greece, *(d)* Romania, *(e)* Bulgaria and *(f)* Slovakia on the declaration of independence of Kosovo. [187789]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Kosovo's declaration of independence with his colleagues from EU countries, including from Spain, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia at the 18 February General Affairs and External Relations Council.

The Council unanimously agreed conclusions setting out a clear EU response to developments in Kosovo. The EU has agreed a range of political and practical assistance to Kosovo (deploying a police and rule of law mission and special representative; assisting with economic and political development). The conclusions noted that member states could decide on their relations with Kosovo in accordance with national practice.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on Kosovo on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 20-22WS.

### Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, on Simon Mann, what the reasons are for his view that the *(a)* threat and *(b)* use of sanctions against Equatorial Guinea would be incompatible with securing the welfare of Simon Mann. [188532]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* As stated in my written answer to the hon. Member on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, the Government's main concern is for Mr. Mann's immediate welfare.

Our objective in dealing with the Equatorial Guinean authorities is to maintain open lines of communication, with a view to regular access to Simon Mann and ensuring that he is treated in line with international standards.

We do not believe that sanctions would be conducive to facilitating dialogue with the Equatorial Guinean government.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Equatorial Guinea declining to accept the legitimacy of any trial of Simon Mann by that government following his abduction to that country from Zimbabwe. [188531]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The issue of the legality of Mr. Mann's removal from Zimbabwe and its implications for any subsequent trial are a matter for Mr. Mann's legal representatives to take forward in Zimbabwe and Equatorial Guinea.

We have expressed our concern to the Zimbabwean authorities following Mr. Mann's transfer to Equatorial Guinea.

The Equatorial Guinean authorities have assured us that Mr. Mann will receive a fair trial, in accordance with international law, and that he will be free to appoint a lawyer.

We will make representations to the Equatorial Guinea authorities if Mr. Mann's trial does not follow internationally recognised standards for a fair trial.

### Timor Leste: Politics and Government

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the political and security situation in East Timor; and if he will make a statement. [187938]

**Meg Munn:** We were extremely concerned to learn of the attacks on President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gusmao on 11 February and hope that Dr. Ramos-Horta makes a speedy recovery. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office official visited Dili last week and met with a variety of key interlocutors. He assessed the security situation to be calm, although outbreaks of violence could happen without warning.

There can be no justification for these attacks. We hope that law enforcement authorities will be able to bring those responsible for the outrage to justice and that stability will be maintained in East Timor. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to Prime Minister Gusmao, condemning the attacks.

We fully support the vital work of the UN Mission to East Timor and the International Stabilisation Force in their efforts to help bring about peace and stability.

### UN World Conference Against Racism

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Libyan counterpart on Libya's intentions in chairing the preparatory committee for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188754]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with his Libyan counterpart. UK officials in Geneva are engaged in talks with other delegations on the preparatory process.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals he has made to put anti-semitism on the main agenda of the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188755]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government believe that it is vital to avoid a repeat of the disgraceful anti-Semitism that occurred at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism.

We want the Durban Review Conference to assess how states have implemented the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme for Action. The agenda for the Conference is not yet clear. The UK was among a small number of countries that worked hard to ensure that the issue of anti-Semitism was included in the 2001 Declaration and Programme for Action. We will seek to ensure that anti-Semitism receives due attention at the Durban Review Conference.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Ministerial involvement is planned in the preparatory committee for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188756]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The United Kingdom will be represented at the preparatory committee for the Durban Review Conference by our Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva. There are no plans for Ministers to attend.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Canadian government on its decision not to attend the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188757]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in discussions with their Canadian counterparts on the Durban Review Conference. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with the Canadian Government.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with European Union Ministers on the preparations for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188758]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Durban Review Conference has not yet been discussed at the level of European Union Foreign Ministers. It has, however, been a regular item on the agenda of meetings at official level.

### Vietnam: Religious Freedom

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Vietnam on the treatment of the Underground Church in that country. [187430]

**Meg Munn:** Together with our EU partners, we regularly discuss human rights issues, including religious freedom, with the Vietnamese authorities. The biannual EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue is the main forum for raising our concerns. Our ambassador in Hanoi attended the last dialogue, which was held in Hanoi on 19 December 2007. We also discuss the issues with the Government of Vietnam, both bilaterally and with our EU counterparts.

We are aware of reports of the continued harassment of some religious groups in some areas. We have urged the Vietnamese authorities to increase awareness and capacity among local authorities, to guarantee the right of all religious groups to practise their faith freely in the community through full implementation of the appropriate legislation, and to adhere to their international human rights obligations. Regulations, in force since 2004, establish criteria for the recognition of hitherto non-sanctioned religious groups.

I raised our concerns on human rights with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister at the Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Singapore on 23 November 2007 and with the Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 29 November 2007. Additionally, I raised the issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 9 October 2007.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Vietnam on the imprisonment of church leaders in that country. [187431]

**Meg Munn:** We are concerned at the arrests and sentencing of a number of human rights defenders, including some campaigning for increased religious freedoms, in Vietnam and have made numerous representations to the Vietnamese authorities on the plight of these individuals.

We co-operate closely with our EU partners in Hanoi on human rights issues, including on the question of religious freedoms. The biannual EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, which was established in 2003, is the main forum for raising our concerns. Our ambassador in Hanoi attended the most recent dialogue, which took place on 19 December 2007 in Hanoi.

I raised our concerns on human rights with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister at the Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Singapore on 23 November 2007 and with the Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 29 November 2007. Additionally, I raised the issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 9 October 2007.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed in his Department's ministerial correspondence unit in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the unit, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187050]

**Mr. Woodward:** Although the Northern Ireland Office does not have a dedicated ministerial correspondence unit, there are staff within the Belfast and London private offices that act as correspondence clerks as part of their duties.

The measurement of the costs relating to the time spent completing correspondence duties could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Stationery

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [187057]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the amount the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and non-departmental public bodies, has spent on stationery in each of the last five years.

| *Financial year* | *Stationery costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 315,435 |
| 2003-04 | 299,858 |
| 2004-05 | 297,183 |
| 2005-06 | 320,590 |
| 2006-07 | 314,784 |

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187795]

**Mr. Woodward:** The average hourly rate paid to employment agencies for agency staff used by the Department is not readily available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Historical Enquiries Team

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases the Historical Enquiries Team are investigating; and how many staff there are currently associated with the team. [187833]

**Paul Goggins:** The Historical Enquiries Team is to examine all deaths attributed to "The Troubles" from January 1969 to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998; this equates to 3,268 deaths which occurred in 2,516 incidents (an incident is described as a case). To date 1,039 cases have been allocated to the HET business process.

HET currently have a total of 175 staff.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the senior civil service in his Department have received an honour. [187121]

**Mr. Woodward:** Four members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office have received an honour.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187542]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil servants in DFID in the last 12 months was £111,005.

This figure relates to claims made directly through our UK systems. It is not possible to include reimbursable costs claimed through our local accounting sections overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

All reimbursable expenses are made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have been visited by officials from his Department in each year for which information is available. [187581]

**Mr. Malik:** A list of countries visited, for years which information is readily available, has been placed in the Library of the House. The data reflect all overseas visits for UK-based officials. It is not possible to provide information on visits carried out by staff based overseas other than visits back to the UK, without incurring a disproportionate cost.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187123]

**Gillian Merron:** Of the 96 senior civil servants currently employed by the Department for International Development, four have received an honours award.

### Overseas Aid

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the compatibility of programmes funded by the European Commission on the Millennium Development Goals with *(a)* the Global Business Plan on MDGs 4 and 5 and *(b)* the International Health Partnership. [188720]

**Mr. Thomas:** Both the Global Business Plan on MDGs 4 and 5 and the International Health Partnership aim to deliver more effective aid in support of national health plans and priorities. The European Commission is a signatory to the IHP and the UK continues to work closely with the Commission in ensuring the aid it provides is consistent with these principles. The EC does not have specific MDG 'programmes'. Our main interest with regard to their support for the MDGs is at the country level.

In 2007, the EC published the majority of its country strategy papers for the period to 2013. Many of these were completed before donors agreed the GBP and the IHP. DFID considered these CSPs against a range of criteria, including their adherence to the legal and policy base and alignment with the priorities of the partner country as set out in their national plans—this is in line with the principles of the IHP. Our assessment is that those which have so far been presented have generally met these criteria.

### Senegal: Mauritania

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK plans to contribute to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' appeal for funds to help repatriate black Mauritanians who have been in exile in Senegal. [187405]

**Gillian Merron:** There are no plans to contribute to the appeal.

## SCOTLAND

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Third Report of the Scottish Affairs Committee Session 2007-08, on Child Poverty in Scotland, (HC 277); what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Report; and what steps his Department plans to take to implement recommendations set out in the Report. [187314]

**David Cairns:** The Government are considering the recommendations contained within the Committee's report on Child Poverty in Scotland, and will respond in full in due course.

Ministers at the Department for Work and Pensions are aware of the report, and my officials are in regular contact with counterparts in DWP who are contributing to the content of the Government response.

We will work with other Government Departments to implement any necessary actions identified in our response.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187956]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1363W. The Scotland Office maintains records for expenditure on hospitality in each financial year but does not distinguish that part spent on alcohol.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on translation services by his Department in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date. [188001]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not separately record any costs associated with translations.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what documents his Department translates for people in the UK who do not speak English. [188002]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not offer translation services to the public.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many members of the senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187120]

**David Cairns:** No member of the senior civil service at the Scotland Office has received an honour.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission *(a)* conducted or *(b)* commissioned work into incomes and expenditures of below-threshold accounting units for the accounts for 2003. [186153]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it wrote in 2004 to all registered party accounting units to inquire as to whether their total income or gross expenditure was greater than £25,000 for the 2003 financial year; and to ask those whose income or expenditure was under this threshold to confirm this in writing. The purpose of the exercise was to confirm which accounting units should be submitting accounts to the Commission and which should not. No further work was carried out.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2277W, on departmental visits abroad, what the purpose of each foreign visit was, other than those listed as election or referendum observation. [186099]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the purpose of the visits in question was as follows:

| | *Countries visited* | *Reason* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | Australia | Study visit to the Australian Electoral Commission |
| | Canada | Elections Canada (Annual Conference) |
| | Croatia | Association of Central and Eastern European Electoral Administrators (Annual Conference) |
| | New Zealand | Study visit to the Electoral Enrolment Centre, Chief Electoral Office, and Electoral Commission |
| | Republic of Ireland | Study visit on Referendum planning and working practices |
| | Spain | Preparatory meeting for the Conference on European Electoral Management Bodies |
| | Sweden | International IDEA Conference |
| 2002 | Mauritius | Commonwealth Secretariat seminar on voter registration |
| | Poland | OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting |
| | Republic of Ireland | Study visit on Referendums |
| | Russia | Association of Central and Eastern European Electoral Administrators (Annual Conference) |
| | Spain | Conference on European Electoral Management Bodies |
| | Sweden | International IDEA Workshop: Toward the Development of Standards of Law and Practice to Promote Electoral Access for Citizens with Disabilities |

| | Countries visited | Reason |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Australia | Work placement: Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Western Australia |
| | Belgium | European Parliament: Disability Intergroup Meeting |
| | Canada | Conference on the State Funding of Political Parties |
| | Germany | Study visit on voting Age |
| | India | International IDEA Election Management Bodies conference |
| | Mexico | Second Conference of the global electoral organisations network |
| | Switzerland | IFES/IDEA/IPU/Inclusion International Conference on electoral rights for people for disabilities |
| | USA | Study visit on political party funding |
| 2004 | Albania | Study visit on voter turnout and first time voters |
| | Austria | FCO-organised study visit on electoral standards and commitments |
| | Canada | Study visit on political party funding |
| | | Elections Canada Conference on monitoring the Iraqi elections |
| | Chile | British Council Conference on election administration and political party funding |
| | Germany | Study visit on political party funding |
| | Netherlands | Study visit on political party funding |
| 2005 | Austria | OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation meeting |
| | Canada | Meeting with Elections Canada |
| | France | Second European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies in Strasbourg (Venice Commission) |
| | Hungary | ACCEEEO-organised meeting of EU election experts |
| | India | Commonwealth Secretariat Conference of Chief Election Officers |
| | Mexico | Federal Electoral Institute Seminar on the Media and Elections |
| | Poland | OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation meeting |
| | Russia | OSCE/ODIHR expert meeting on election observation |
| | USA | International Mission for Iraqi Elections meeting |
| | | Study of US Govt bodies |
| | | COGEL (Council on Govt, ethics and law) Conference |
| 2006 | Canada | IFES conference—Making Electoral Reform Real: Best Practices for managing an electoral system transition |
| | Latvia | Association of Central and Eastern European Electoral Administrators (Annual Conference) |
| | Poland | ODIHR Roundtable on election issues |
| 2007 | Canada | Study visit to Elections Canada |
| | | COGEL Conference |
| | Poland | OSCE/ODIHR conference on e-voting |
| | Republic of Ireland | Meeting with the Department for Foreign Affairs |
| | | Meeting with the Standards in Public Office |
| | Russia | Study visit to the Independent Electoral Commission |
| | South Africa | Conference hosted by The Electoral Commission of South Africa on Democratic Momentum |
| | Sweden | International IDEA Working Group |
| | USA | Global Electoral Organization (GEO) Conference |

## Efficiency Savings

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what efficiency savings the Electoral Commission plans to make over the next three years. [186096]

**Peter Viggers:** The resource budget agreed by the Speaker's Committee for the Commission covering the four years 2007-08 to 20010-11 is a 'cash flat' amount of £23,995,000 (including the £2 million annual Policy Development Grant budget) in each of the four years. The Commission is required to absorb all pay and non-pay inflation over this period and to do so it will have to deliver efficiency savings of on average at least 2 per cent. or £480,000 in each year.

The Electoral Commission informs me that it has already secured recurrent savings of £625,000 in 2007-08 and as the first stage of its efficiency plan for 2008-09 has identified specific savings of £250,000.

## Gershon Review

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the effect of the Gershon review on its activities. [186097]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it takes into account the Gershon principles and findings when reviewing its expenditure and efficiency plans, which are discussed with the Speaker's Committee.

## Labour Party: Elections

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance that was sent by the Electoral Commission to participants in the Labour Party deputy leadership campaign in relation to reporting donations given towards their campaign. [186162]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that its guidance to participants in the Labour party deputy leadership campaign was contained in the letters sent to candidates on 18 May 2007, copies of which are already in the Library.

## Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 15 January

2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on political parties: finance, whether the Electoral Commission plans to commission consultants to assist it in its research on the operation of the political levy and political funds. [186069]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has no plans to commission consultants to assist this research, which is limited to considering the existing legislative framework and background information on how the political levy and political funds currently operate.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 181-2W, on political parties: finance, if he will place in the Library copies of the letters sent by the Electoral Commission to the *(a)* Labour leadership and deputy leadership candidates in May 2007 and *(b)* Liberal Democrat leadership candidates in October 2007. [186071]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has done so.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much expenditure the Electoral Commission incurred in severance and redundancy pay in each year since the Commission was established. [186072]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the cost of severance and redundancy pay incurred in each calendar year since its establishment was as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£)* | *Number of individuals* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 68,524 | 1 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 61,642 | 2 |
| 2006 | 59,826 | 1 |
| 2007 | 203,905 | 11 |
| 2008 | 19,065 | 1 |

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on political parties: finance, what the timetable is for the Electoral Commission's planned research into the political levy and political funds. [186100]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the research into trade union funding is limited to considering the existing legislative framework and background information on how the political levy and political funds currently operate.

The research will be completed following a meeting between Commission staff and the Certification Officer, expected to take place next month.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on political parties: finance, if the Electoral Commission will request Sir Hayden Phillips to submit his background work into trade union funds and political funds to assist the Commission's research into trade union political funds and political levies. [186183]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has made arrangements to meet officials who performed research on trade unions for the review of party funding recently completed by Sir Hayden Philips.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on political parties: finance, if the Electoral Commission will seek to obtain copies of constituency development plans made between the Labour Party and trades unions to assist its research into trade union political funds and the political levy. [186184]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not plan to obtain copies of constituency development plans made between the Labour party and trade unions as this is beyond the scope of the research.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Horsham of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2280W, on political parties: finance, if he will name the accounting units of the Labour Party which had accounting units below £25,000 in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007. [186286]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that 578 out of 690 accounting units of the Labour Party responded in 2004 to confirm that their total income and gross expenditure for the 2003 financial year were below the reporting threshold of £25,000. A full list of those who responded has been placed in the library.

The Commission has reviewed the canvass of registered accounting units performed in 2007. The results of the capvass are incomplete and the Commission intends to update its records by working with the parties and undertaking a new canvass of accounting units in 2008.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Horsham of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2280W, on political parties: finance, if he will place in the Library copies of the accounts provided to the Commission by associations under the threshold. [186287]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that these documents are held in paper form and copies can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the accounts are available for inspection in the Electoral Commission's London office on request.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on political parties: finance, if the Electoral Commission will be inviting evidence from interested parties to assist the research into trade unions political funds and the political levy. [186288]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has no plans to invite contributions from interested external parties.

### Trade Unions: Constituencies

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission holds copies of Labour party trade union constituency development plans. [186161]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not hold copies of Labour party trade union constituency development plans.

### Trade Unions: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if the Electoral Commission will undertake research into funding of trades unions through *(a)* the Trade Union Modernisation Fund and *(b)* other public funding. [186185]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has no plans to undertake such research.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received written warnings for breaching standards of behaviour or attendance in each month in the last five years. [181267]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. The following information reflects the number of staff with a written warning for *(a)* breaching standards of behaviour; or *(b)* unsatisfactory attendance recorded on that system from April 2007 in each month to December 2007.

Information prior to April 2007 is held on a number of legacy systems. The cost of extracting this information in the format requested from these, and clerical records, for the period prior to April 2007 would be at a disproportionate cost.

The percentage of DWP staff receiving written warnings is calculated on the total number of staff employed by DWP in each month.

| As at 2007: | Unsatisfactory attendance written warning issued | Number of written warnings for unsatisfactory attendance as a percentage of all DWP staff | Standards of behaviour written warning issued | Number of written warnings for standards of behaviour as a percentage of all DWP staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 137 | 0.11 | 46 | 0.04 |
| May | 165 | 0.13 | 34 | 0.03 |
| June | 167 | 0.14 | 41 | 0.03 |
| July | 175 | 0.14 | 47 | 0.04 |
| August | 172 | 0.14 | 29 | 0.02 |
| September | 165 | 0.14 | 32 | 0.03 |
| October | 167 | 0.14 | 41 | 0.03 |
| November | 185 | 0.16 | 42 | 0.04 |
| December | 114 | 0.10 | 33 | 0.03 |
| Total | 1,447 | | 345 | |

### Pension Education Fund

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department plans to measure the performance and efficacy of the pension education fund. [183535]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DWP has commissioned an independent case study evaluation to:

Explore the impact of the fund initiatives on individuals' knowledge and attitudes towards planning for retirement and on savings behaviour;

Provide evidence to help assess the potential role that a trusted third party can play in delivering pensions information; and

Explore providers' experiences of setting up and running the initiatives.

Research has been conducted with 14 Pension Education Fund schemes selected to ensure coverage of a range of different types of initiatives. In-depth interviews were the main research tool in this study, through which the research organisation have collected detailed information on providers' experiences of setting up and running particular initiatives, on employers' experience of participating, and on the influence that funded activities have had on individuals' attitudes to retirement planning and saving for retirement.

In addition, all 26 schemes are being monitored through contract management processes and PEF funded organisations are conducting their own evaluations to understand their perspectives on delivery.

A DWP research report on the evaluation will be published in spring 2008.

*Notes:*

1. The PEF offered funding to local and national not-for-profit organisations (such as trade unions, charities, trade associations and the voluntary sector) to use innovative ways to increase financial awareness and encourage working people to provide for their retirement, especially among those that might be at more risk of undersaving.

2. The principle is to provide impartial and accurate information on pensions and retirement planning via trusted third parties to individuals (employees and self-employed people) in the workplace, where practicable.

3. The projects are running between January 2006 and March 2008.

4. Closing date for applications was 2 September 2005.

5. 55 applications were received and examined against financial and quality criteria and the process overseen by an Independent Decision Panel.

6. 26 were accepted, covering all Government Office regions and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and a range of organisational types including charities, trade unions, employer groups and the voluntary sector.

7. Information is being delivered by the projects using a variety of methods including group events, one to ones, websites, CDs, information booklets/packs and by training intermediaries and union members who return to the workplace and cascade information.

### Social Security Benefits: Offenders

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what state benefits offenders in England and Wales are eligible for while serving *(a)* community service sentences and *(b)* custodial sentences. [178705]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* Convicted offenders serving community service sentences are entitled to any benefits for which they qualify, in the same way as any other person.

In general, DWP benefits are not payable to convicted prisoners in custody. However, since 1995 and subject to certain qualifying conditions, those serving short sentences of 13 weeks or less may continue to receive housing benefit and council tax benefit. This ensures that people with very short sentences do not become homeless upon release.

### Tax Allowances: Pensioners

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on administering the 25 pence old age allowance in each year since its introduction; and how many people over 80 received the allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available. [173446]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The age addition is an automatic payment made to eligible pensioners. The cost of administering the age addition is a relatively small element of the administration costs of The Pension Service and is not separately available.

The latest available information as at March 2007 is that there are around 2,693,300 pensioners in receipt of the 25p age addition.

*Notes:*

1. Data is taken from a 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. This figure includes everyone who is eligible to receive the age addition in GB and overseas, not everyone who is aged 80 or over.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost of paying the over 80s age-related allowance is expected to be in 2007-08; [180976]

(2) how many people receive the over 80s age allowance. [180972]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The age addition is an automatic payment made to eligible pensioners. The cost of administering the age addition is a relatively small element of the administration costs of the Pension Service and is not separately available.

The latest available information as at March 2007 shows that there are around 2,693,300 pensioners in receipt of the 25p age addition. The estimate of the 2007-08 expenditure is £33 million.

*Notes:*

1. Data relating to the number of pensioners are taken from a 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service Computer System, therefore the figure is subject to a degree of sampling variation. It is also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

2. The figure relating to the number of pensioners is rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. The figure relating to the number of pensioners includes everyone who is eligible to receive the age addition in GB and overseas, not everyone who is aged 80 or over.

4. The figure relating to the value of age addition payments covers payments made to those in Great Britain and overseas.

5. The figure relating to the value of age addition payments has been rounded to the nearest million.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate; Comprehensive Spending Review 2007

### Vocational Guidance: Carers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* effective advice and support is available to those who wish to return to work after undertaking caring responsibilities and *(b)* that his Department's staff are trained to provide that advice and support. [188990]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what advice and support is available to those who wish to return to work after undertaking caring responsibilities and also that Department for Work and Pensions staff are trained to provide that advice and support. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Everyone returning to work, and who is claiming jobseeker's allowance, will discuss and agree the steps that will offer the best chance of finding work. This information is recorded in the jobseeker's agreement, which is reviewed at regular intervals. Customers are given information and advice about the range of Jobcentre Plus services, including our telephony based job-matching service (Jobseeker Direct) and our internet job bank, and how to make best use of these and other vacancy sources.

People are usually required to attend their nearest Jobcentre Plus office on a fortnightly basis to discuss what they have been doing to find work and to see what further support, if required, can be offered in terms of jobsearch or training/re-training.

To continue to receive jobseeker's allowance, people must usually be available for work for a minimum of 40 hours per week. However, restrictions on hours/days are allowed for customers who have caring responsibilities, which can be restricted to a minimum of 16 hours a week.

People who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market can access additional help through early entry to the new deal, providing more intensive help through the support of a personal adviser and a range of opportunities to help overcome more significant barriers to employment. Similarly, early access is available to Programme Centre provision, which can provide additional help for those people who need to improve motivation and confidence, and their basic jobsearch skills.

With regard to staff training, Jobcentre Plus has a diverse customer base and a comprehensive programme of learning designed to equip advisers with the full range of knowledge and skills required to support all our customers. A new Adviser Skills Learning Routeway was introduced in September 2005, which is supported by an efficient learning routeway providing advisers with key knowledge and skills.

We work closely with external partners in the development of learning products and in the up-skilling of our advisers, ensuring that additional modules are designed and delivered when required to deal with specific customer needs. These partners are professionals and are recognised as experts in their field and are able to provide the specialised knowledge and understanding of specific customer groups.

I hope this information is helpful and assures you of our intent to provide people with the best possible service, aimed at helping them into work as soon as possible.

## DEFENCE

### Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 963-64W, on advertising, what his Department's marketing costs were in each year for which figures are available; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure those figures constituted. [187805]

**Derek Twigg:** While marketing activity occurs across the Department this is not as a discrete function, but rather as an integrated element of strategic communications, press, PR, internal communications or e-media.

As a result, information on departmental expenditure on marketing alone is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme: World War II

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the compensation scheme for former civilian internees of the Japanese in the Second World War, on what date the qualification requirement that recruitment of applications had to have taken place in the UK was introduced in relation to service abroad with the Government counting towards the 20-year residency qualification; and if he will make a statement. [186105]

**Derek Twigg:** The then Under-Secretary of State announced on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 9-10, that the detailed rules of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War Scheme 20-year residence criterion, which allow applicants to demonstrate the required close link to the UK on the basis of post-January 1945 residence in the UK, were being published and implemented that day. The rules, which were the subject of consultation with the Association of British Civilian Internees—Far East Region, allow periods employed outside the UK—whether with the British Government or otherwise—to count towards the 20 years providing there is reasonable evidence of an intention to return to this country; this will most likely be the case with postings from the UK. There is, however, no requirement that the individual should have been in the UK when recruited; if a person's employment was contracted on the basis that they would otherwise have been resident in the UK and that they would travel to the UK at its termination, that would qualify.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the new facilities of *(a)* a swimming pool and *(b)* a gymnasium at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court will be funded. [184707]

**Derek Twigg:** There are currently a hydrotherapy pool and five separate gyms (four in current use) at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court. One of the gyms needs to be refurbished. The unit also makes regular use of a local authority swimming pool at Leatherhead. These facilities are publicly funded.

A new charity, Help for Heroes, has offered to raise funds to build a swimming pool and gym, as part of a new rehabilitation complex at Headley Court. We warmly welcome this generous offer to enhance the unit's existing facilities. The rehabilitation of military patients on the site, which is itself owned by a charitable trust, has for many years benefited from charitable donations and it is entirely appropriate that such funding should be blended with public funding in this way. We shall work closely with the charity as its proposals are developed.

We would expect Headley Court to take charge of the management of the new rehabilitation complex, including the provision of military or civilian staff to man it.

We are also continuing to invest significantly from public funds in new buildings. We opened a new 30-bed ward annex last year (costing £1.7 million). Work is now starting on a 58-bed accommodation block for patients and staff (costing about £4 million). We are also considering a longer term development plan to improve accommodation and clinical facilities across the site, and thus maintain the first-class capability that Headley Court currently offers.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's *(a)* trained officer target structures, *(b)* trained soldier target structures and *(c)* Army Output Map produced since 2005-06. [185721]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Targets for trained officers and soldiers, by capbadge, are given in the Army Monthly Manning Report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Two Army Output Maps have been produced since 2005-06. I will place copies in the Library of the House.

## Armed Forces: Military Decorations

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will institute the practice of wearing a wound stripe or other honour award for soldiers wounded in action. [188631]

**Derek Twigg:** We currently have no plans to introduce the practice of wearing a wound stripe or other honour for soldiers wounded in action.

Today all servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan receive a medal once they have met the qualifying criteria, which reflects the risk to life and limb of the servicemen and women and the rigour of the operations upon which they are deployed. The medals are issued automatically in the event of death or injury that leads to evacuation from theatre, regardless of how long individuals have served on the operation.

In addition, a number of those wounded on operations have also received gallantry awards.

Our primary aim must be to provide the injured with the medical care that they require and to support them where appropriate via the War Pensions Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

This is a complex issue which is kept under constant review by the Military Chiefs of Staff and they are the best placed to make the appropriate recommendations.

## Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meeting: *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [180702]

**Des Browne:** Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

## Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179021]

**Derek Twigg:** The information available from centrally held records is shown in the following table. Some information could be held under other names or outside central records. In addition, the information on objectives missing for a few of the older contracts quoted has been archived and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Contractor name* | *Objective* | *Maximum current contract value (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial year 2004-05* | | |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | | 130 |
| KPMG LLP | | 40 |
| KPMG LLP | | 40 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 1,500 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 125 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Provision of consultancy support to a restructuring project | 3,900 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 49 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 11 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 2,000 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 194 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 123 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 67 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 94 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | | 37 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | | 123 |
| *Financial year 2005-06* | | |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Provision of secretariat support to reviews of non-competitive government contracts | 830 |
| Ernst and Young LLP | Independent project assurance | 145 |
| KPMG LLP | | 43 |
| KPMG LLP | | 5 |
| KPMG LLP | | 3 |
| KPMG LLP | | 70 |
| KPMG LLP | | 42 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 153 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Consultancy support to an acquisition programme | 280 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Provision of training modules | Enabling Arrangement |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | The provision of consultancy support for catering, retail and leisure guide | 74 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 250 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | | 150 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Use of a framework agreement by the MOD | 2,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | External Assistance for independent financial advice | 100 |
| *Financial year2006-07* | | |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Provision of financial advice and related services to the MOD and its Agencies in support of PFI and Partnering Projects | 6,900 |

| Contractor name | Objective | Maximum current contract value (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Review of structural options for an MOD Trading Fund | 42 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | External Assistance for the Maritime Industrial Strategy | 2,100 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Provision of financial advice in support of a commercially owned military registered company | 2,000 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | External assistance to the Maritime Industrial Strategy Team | 60 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | External assistance to the Project Rehabilitation Unit | 13 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Consultancy Support for the UK White Fleet | 100 |
| Ernst and Young LLP | Provision of financial advice and related services to the MOD and its Agencies in support of PFI and Partnering Projects | 6,900 |
| KPMG LLP | Provision of financial advice and related services to the MOD and its Agencies in support of PFI and partnering projects | 6,900 |
| KPMG LLP | External Assistance for a Lines of Development Review | 966 |
| KPMG LLP | External Assistance to the Maritime Industrial Strategy | 654 |
| KPMG LLP | Pilot agreement: use of a framework agreement by the MOD | 950 |
| KPMG LLP | Provision of Support for the Maritime Industrial Strategy | 210 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Consultancy support to HQ army recruiting group | 77 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Consultancy support to a programme management office | 176 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance support for the development of the commodities cluster framework strategy and future business model | 92 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance to submarine support | 205 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Provision of financial advice and related services to the MOD and its Agencies in support of PFI and partnering projects | 6,900 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Feasibility Review for an MOD Trading Fund | 48 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Subscription for access to and use of a global best practices system | 32 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Provision of advice and consultancy support on the potential sale of part of an MOD Trading Fund | 921 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Specialist Negotiation Advice | 78 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Use of a framework agreement by the MOD | 950 |

| Contractor name | Objective | Maximum current contract value (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial year 2007-08* | | |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | Employment of consultant to assist a PFI Project | 75 |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP | External assistance to the Project Rehabilitation Unit | 51 |
| Ernst and Young | United Kingdom Military Flying Training System Change Management Programme Scoping Study | 157 |
| KPMG LLP | External Assistance for streamlining | 4,000 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Provision of catering, retail and leisure training and coaching | 143 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance to support Naval lean transformation | 699 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance to support the financial workstream for a future logistics project | 34 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance for breakthrough and personal coaching | 45 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Programme Management Delivery Improvement and Programme Assurance Management | 48 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Programme Assurance and Technical Support to Defence Information Infrastructure implementation | 232 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Programme Assurance and Technical Support to Defence Information Infrastructure implementation | 252 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Support to embed Project Management Controls | 127 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Support on support contracts | 97 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Support on support contracts | 100 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Inter-Modal Transportation Technology Demonstrator Programme | 2,500 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Project Assurance | 94 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Services to support the Defence Information Infrastructure | 106 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Support for support contracts | 288 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | Technical Support for the Defence Information Infrastructure | 248 |
| PA Consulting Services Ltd. | External Assistance to the Defence Information Infrastructure | 162 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | External Consultancy Assistance for a review of MOD Employers Pension Contributions Payments | 17 |

| Contractor name | Objective | Maximum current contract value (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | External Assistance for blueprint consultancy | 550 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP | Modular Open Systems Architecture enterprise model study | 420 |

*Note:*
Excluded are contracts placed on behalf of Other Government Departments, joint venture/alliance contracts, contracts placed through collaborative projects such as the Typhoon/Euro fighter and those awarded by the Ministry of Defence's Trading Funds.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176022]

**Derek Twigg:** Personal data, mainly on MOD employees and their dependents, for which the Department is responsible are stored and processed in permanent and deployed units overseas, but within UK jurisdiction. Similar data are also held on overseas based and locally employed staff by Defence Attachés in British embassies. The volume of personal data held outside the Defence overseas footprint is not currently held centrally. As part of the departmental response to the Cabinet Office-led Review into data handling procedures in Government, an internal review is currently establishing a more comprehensive assessment of personal data held and accessed overseas.

### Departmental Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12-month period for which information is available. [187783]

**Derek Twigg:** Information on alcohol expenditure is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1014W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

As regards expenditure on hospitality and entertainment, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 11W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

Expenditure on official entertainment is subject to departmental regulation and compliance with the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and in the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of his Department's Main Building staff were uniformed staff in each of the last 10 years. [186781]

**Derek Twigg:** Individual defence installations do not routinely publish personnel data, as different organisations and agencies are responsible for the same location or site. Figures for the stationed location of UK Regular Forces and civilian staff are only available at local authority level using centrally held data.

The number and percentage of military personnel stationed in MOD Main Building prior to 1 April 2007 are not centrally held and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1462W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 368W, on departmental official hospitality, if he will arrange for copies of the Hospitality Books kept by Ministers, members of the senior civil service and commanding officers to be placed *(a)* in the Library and *(b)* on a publicly accessible page on his Department's website. [187025]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by departmental board members. Information for 2007 will be published in due course. Hospitality received by Ministers over the registrable limits are declared as appropriate in the Registers of Members' or Peers' Interests. All Hospitality Books are subject to external compliance testing by the National Audit Office.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183183]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's properties in Scotland have been declared unfit for habitation. [182536]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and it will take time to determine what information could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

I will write to my hon. Friend at the earliest opportunity.

*Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Jim Devine:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 30 January 2008, (Official Report, column 368W), about the number of Ministry of Defence (MOD) properties in Scotland that have been declared unfit for habitation.

I should explain that properties can be uninhabited for various reasons, such as they are awaiting demolition or undergoing major repair, modernisation or upgrade work. All occupied properties are regarded as being of a habitable standard. A record of all MOD property in Scotland that is uninhabitable is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187406]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A summary of Losses and Special Payments has been published in the Notes to the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts since 2001-02 and, before then, in the MOD's Appropriation Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Reports

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the most recent briefing team reports from *(a)* the Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* the Chief of the Air Staff and *(c)* the First Sea Lord. [186052]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Army is the only one of the three services that currently operates a briefing team—the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team—and a copy of its most recent report, that for spring 2007, is available in the Library of the House. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 27 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 308W, to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry).

### Departmental Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of parking tickets paid by his Department and its agencies was in 2007. [187582]

**Derek Twigg:** Drivers are liable for payment of any fines while driving service vehicles and there is therefore normally no cost to the Department. There may, exceptionally, be cases when recovery of fines proved to be impossible, but these records are not held centrally.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what percentage of his Department's expenditure was spent on officials' travel costs in each year for which figures are available. [187583]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the civil service management code.

### Guided Weapons

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the United Kingdom has participated in the theatre missile defence system integration test bed tests at NATO's test facility near The Hague in 2008. [188165]

**Des Browne:** The UK participates in the integrated test bed programme through our interest in NATO's Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence programme. The UK Government has no direct military involvement in the ITB.

### Gurkhas

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Royal Ghurkha Rifles *(a)* applied for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom and *(b)* left the Army in 2007. [187429]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 100W, to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray). Serving Ghurkhas can not apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

During the period 1 April 2007 to 20 February 2008 a total of 18 officers and other ranks from the Royal Ghurkha Rifles left the Army.

### Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are any plans to gift *(a)* Mastiffs, *(b)* Warriors, *(c)* Scimitars, *(d)* Boxers and *(e)* other armoured vehicles to Iraqi forces. [183078]

**Des Browne:** We have no further plans for the gifting of armoured vehicles to the Iraqi Security Forces.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1601-603W, that refers to the 79 refurbished armoured Land Rovers which have already been gifted.

### Iraq: Military Equipment

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1602W, on military equipment: Iraq, where the Government sourced the 6,500 AK47 assault rifles; and how much was paid for them. [187081]

**Des Browne:** The assault rifles were purchased from a commercial contractor in Poland as part of the UK's efforts to prepare the Iraqi Security Forces to be self-sufficient in undertaking their own security. The total cost was €760,000.00.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to track and monitor the final destination of gifted arms and equipment in Iraq. [183083]

**Des Browne:** It is not practicable for the UK to track and monitor each item of equipment once it has been gifted to the Iraqi Security Forces. This is rightly the responsibility of the Chain of Command of the Iraqi Security Forces. In our mentoring and training engagement with the Iraqis, we continue to advise on the development of appropriate accounting and auditing procedures.

### Wind Power

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what onshore wind farm applications his Department did not initially object to but later objected to in the last three years; and what the reasons were for doing so. [184434]

**Derek Twigg:** There are a number of reasons why a late objection may have to be made; these include new information being made available, a change in Ministry of Defence requirements, or an improved understanding of the effects of wind turbines.

In many cases a wind farm proposal changes significantly between the pre-planning consultation sent to the MOD and the final planning application. It is essential, therefore, that we assess the development in its final state using all available evidence. In some cases it will mean raising an objection when earlier we hadn't; in others we may be able to lift an objection we had previously registered.

Over the past three years the MOD did not initially object to onshore wind farm applications, but did so later in the following cases:

| *Site name* | *Reason for MOD objection* |
|---|---|
| Wryde Croft | Unacceptable implications for Air Traffic Control (ATC) radars at RAF Coningsby, RAF Cottesmore, RAF Cranwell, RAF Waddington and also with the Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at RAF Wittering. |
| Wandylaw | Unacceptable implications with Air Defence (AD) radar for the Remote Radar Head (RRH) Brizlee Wood in Northumberland. |
| Green Rig | Unacceptable interference with the ATC radars at RAF Spadeadam. |
| French Farm | As for Wryde Croft. |
| Nutsgrove | As for Wryde Croft. |
| Routh | Unacceptable interference on AD radar at RRH Staxton Wold in Yorkshire. |
| Ray | Unacceptable effect on the ATC radars at RAF Spadeadam. |
| Fallago Rig | Unacceptable effect on the AD radar at the RRH at Brizlee Wood in Northumberland. |

### World War II: Medals

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will issue a medal for those who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War. [188629]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1041-42W.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Christmas

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182446]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information requested is as follows:

*UK Trade and Investment*

*(a)* The following has been spent on Christmas cards:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 18,303.00[1] |
| 2006 | 11,031.00[1] |
| 2007 | 9,112.50[2] |

[1] Paper card
[2] e-card

Figures from 1997 to 2004 are not available.

*(b)* There is no separate record of postage costs for sending paper cards in 2005 or 2006.

*Companies House*

*(a)* The following has been spent on Christmas cards:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 602 |
| 2003 | 618 |
| 2004 | 880 |
| 2005 | 590 |
| 2006 | 580 |
| 2007 | 494 |

Figures from 1997 to 2001 are not available.

*(b)* The amount spent on postage of Christmas cards is not kept as a separate record.

The Insolvency Service has not sent any Christmas cards.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182987]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department's committed spending on campaign advertising in the current financial year, procured through the Central Office of Information, is £881,482.27, as at 8 February 2008.

My Department's total spending on recruitment advertising, to date, since 1 April 2007, procured through the Central Office of Information is £9,681.53, as at 8 February 2008.

Detail of other advertising expenditure is not held centrally. It is thus not possible to express this figure as a percentage of overall expenditure.

## Departmental Assets

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the book value of departmental assets sold was in each financial year since 1997-98; and what revenue was generated from each such sale. [184880]

**Mr. Thomas:** Details of fixed assets sold by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for the period 1997-98 to 2006-07 are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Book value of assets sold transferred (£)* | *Proceeds including transfers to OGDs (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | n/a | n/a |
| 1998-99 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001-02 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 9,474 | [1]9,474 |
| 2005-06 | 2,140,630 | [1]2,140,630 |
| 2006-07 | 10,192 | [1]10,192 |
| Total | 2,160,296 | 2,160,296 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Assets transferred to OGDs are transferred at net book value, with no loss to the transferor department and no gain to the transferee department.

*Note:*

The information for financial years 1997-98 to 2003-04 is not readily available as it has been transferred to a historical archive system. To obtain the information would incur disproportionate costs.

## Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185426]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department owns 165 databases as at 1 June 2007, of which 75 are maintained by departmental staff and 90 are maintained by external companies.

DBERR agencies—Companies House and the Insolvency Service—have been asked to respond directly to the hon. Member.

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what agencies under his Department's responsibilities use *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone codes for customer inquiries; how many 0845 or 0870 telephone codes each agency uses; and how much revenue was generated by each of these codes for each agency in each of the last five years. [183963]

**Mr. Thomas:** Each agency for which the Department is responsible has been asked to provide separate written response to the hon. Member.

## Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what average hourly rate his Department and its predecessors have paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187917]

**Mr. Thomas:** Departmental policy is that agency staff are engaged where it is not possible to source the skills for the task from within the Department but the expectation is that the appointment would be time-limited.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Heating: Sustainable Development

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations officials in his Department have made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in advance of the forthcoming meeting of the Consulting Forum under the Eco-design of Energy-using Products Directive on requirements for boilers and water heaters. [189045]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Officials in my Department have been in close contact with their colleagues in DEFRA and are working together as proposals are developed by the European Commission, taking advice from industry and other stakeholders.

DBERR and DEFRA ran a joint stakeholder workshop specifically on the proposed requirements for boilers and heaters on 4 February to help inform UK Government policy at the forthcoming Consultation Forum.

## Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182842]

**Mr. Thomas:** During the calendar year 2007, the latest period for which information is available, five formal grievances in which bullying was specifically alleged were raised within the Department.

Information on agencies will be provided by separate letter from the relevant chief executives.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Cities of London and Westminster of 30 August, 10 October, 26 November 2007 and 2 January 2008 on the concerns about Companies House and identity theft of his constituent Nigel Walmsley. [181462]

**Mr. Thomas:** I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member's letter. This was due to an administrative error. A response will be issued shortly.

## Music: Health Hazards

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, if he will bring forward proposals for a statutory maximum limitation on the permitted volume of personal MP3 players. [178774]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission has asked the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks for an opinion on the potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones which include a music playing function. The Committee has been asked to report back to the Commission by March 2008.

We will consider whether there is any need for domestic measures following an analysis of the Scientific Committee's report and in the light of decisions taken by the Commission in respect of Community action.

## Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating costs of *(a)* the National Consumer Council, *(b)* Energywatch, *(c)* Postwatch and *(d)* Consumer Direct were in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [185758]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information is as follows:

*Operating costs*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *(a) National Consumer Council* | |
| 2005-06 | 3.9 |
| 2006-07 | 3.5 |
| *(b) Energywatch* | |
| 2005-06 | 12.289 |
| 2006-07 | 11.792 |
| *(c) Postwatch* | |
| 2005-06 | 10.228 |
| 2006-07 | 8.893 |
| *(d) Consumer Direct* | |
| 2005-06 | 18.354 |
| 2006-07 | 17.329 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the forecast outturn operating cost of *(a)* the National Consumer Council, *(b)* Energywatch, *(c)* Postwatch and *(d)* Consumer Direct is for 2007-08. [185759]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information is as follows:

Forecast outturn operating costs for 2007-08 for:

*(a) National Consumer Council:*

£3.5 million.

*(b) Energywatch:*

The expected forecast for Energywatch's operational costs for 2007-08 is £10.783 million.

*(c) Postwatch:*

£9 million.

*(d) Consumer Direct:*

The OFT are in the process of reforecasting the outturn costs of Consumer Direct at the moment and they estimate the operational costs for 2007-08 will be £18.875 million.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budgeted operating cost is for *(a)* the National Consumer Council and *(b)* Consumer Direct in 2009-10. [185761]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information is as follows:

*Budgeted operating cost:*

*(a) National Consumer Council in 2009-10*

The National Consumer Council (NCC) will cease to exist with effect from 30 September 2008, when a new consumer body (new NCC) will be established out of consolidating the existing NCC, Postwatch and energywatch. Work on establishing the new body is now underway, including work on compiling detailed indicative costs for 2009-10, which will be considered as part of the 2008 departmental business planning exercise.

*(b) Consumer Direct in 2009-10*

The budget has not been set. The OFT works on a year by year basis and the figure will not be determined until the next financial year.

## Nuclear Power

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of generating capacity was out of service in UK nuclear power stations in each of the last 10 years. [188602]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Planned or unplanned closures of this nature are commercial and/or technical decisions for the companies that own and operate the power stations to take in conjunction with the relevant health and safety authorities. My Department therefore does not keep records of the operating decisions of individual power stations.

However, information on plant load factors is available. The load factor is actual generation for a given year taken as a percentage of theoretical maximum potential generation. It is impossible for any power station to generate at full capacity throughout the year. There will be periods when it will not generate owing to lack of demand, routine maintenance and unplanned repairs. The load factors for UK nuclear power stations for the most recent 10 years for which data are available are as follows:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 79.1 |
| 1998 | 80.1 |
| 1999 | 77.5 |
| 2000 | 70.5 |
| 2001 | 76.1 |
| 2002 | 75.1 |
| 2003 | 77.8 |
| 2004 | 71.8 |
| 2005 | 72.4 |
| 2006 | 69.3 |

*Source:*
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, BERR

### Personal Information

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies were contracted to his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing and analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in each of the last five years. [183858]

**Mr. Thomas:** On *(a)* my Department is not aware of any contracts held by it with companies based in the United States to provide services involving the use, storage, processing and analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens. On *(b)* this information is not collected or held centrally by my Department.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. The review is now due to conclude in the spring.

### Reconstruction: Iraq

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the value of contracts awarded to UK companies for reconstruction in Iraq since March 2003. [185811]

**Mr. Thomas:** British companies are not obliged to give Her Majesty's Government any details of contracts won and there is no central organisation that publishes such information. A number of British companies have been awarded either contracts or subcontracts for the reconstruction process, but for confidentiality reasons we do not release their details.

### Recruitment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184921]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, can only provide spend on recruitment agencies from the financial year 2004-05. This information, which relates only to the former Department of Trade and Industry, has been extracted from the Department's finance system. Information for other years requested is not readily available on a consistent basis and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

The figures shown in the following table show the total amount paid to recruitment agencies, which includes both the costs for appointing staff to the Department and the salaries paid to these temporary staff members.

| *Financial year* | *Recruitment agencies costs (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,090 |
| 2005-06 | 3,004 |
| 2006-07 | 1,851 |

Recruitment agency staff are only employed when appropriately skilled permanent staff are not available to fill posts. Such appointments are closely monitored with regard to the continuing need.

### Tribunals: Discrimination

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims regarding discrimination on the grounds of *(a)* disability, *(b)* gender reassignment, *(c)* religion, *(d)* sex, *(e)* race, *(f)* age and *(g)* sexual orientation were made to employment tribunals in each year for which data are available; how many such cases were heard by tribunals in each year; and in how many cases heard by a tribunal the claimant was successful in each year. [172328]

**Mr. Thomas:** In the five-year period January 2002 to December 2007, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform had the following claims made to an employment tribunal:

*(a) Disability*

2003 One case submitted to ET withdrawn before hearing.

2004 Two cases submitted to ET one withdrawn before hearing one heard and was unsuccessful.

2005 One case submitted to ET, withdrawn before hearing.

2006 One case submitted to ET, withdrawn before hearing.

2007 Five cases submitted to ET, three withdrawn before hearing one heard and was successful one heard and was unsuccessful.

*(b)* Gender reassignment, no cases submitted to ET between 2002 and 2007.

*(c)* Religion no cases submitted to ET between 2002 and 2007.

*(d)* Sex 2006 One case submitted to ET, withdrawn before hearing.

*(e)* 2004 1 case submitted to ET, withdrawn before hearing.

2007 One submitted to ET Struck out by ET Judge.

*(f)* Age no cases submitted to ET between 2002 and 2007

*(g)* Sexual orientation no cases submitted to ET between 2002 and 2007.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Archaeology

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on the funding levels of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [188279]

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on the likely effect of funding the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the current level in 2008-09 on the number of posts; and if he will make a statement. [188625]

**Margaret Hodge:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met the chief executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to discuss these matters. In my capacity as Minister responsible for Culture I have met the MLA's chief executive regularly. During the course of these meetings we have discussed funding issues for the MLA as a whole. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the MLA, so the impact of funding levels on the Scheme is a matter for it. The MLA is committed to the continued success of the PAS and is working together with other stakeholders to ensure that it is achieved.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Director of the British Museum on the effect of funding the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the current level in 2008-09 on the number of posts; and if he will make a statement. [188626]

**Margaret Hodge:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met the Director of the British Museum to discuss this matter. In my capacity as Minister responsible for Culture, I have met the Museum's Director regularly. During the course of these meetings we have discussed the future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The British Museum is committed to the continued success of the PAS and is working with other stakeholders to ensure that it is achieved.

### Arts Council of England: Expenditure

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Arts Council England in the Bassetlaw constituency in each of the last 10 years. [187267]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* Arts Council funding for Bassetlaw for the past 10 years is as follows.

| | *Grant in aid* | *Lottery* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | — | 68,901 |
| 1998-99 | — | — |
| 1999-2000 | — | 17,707 |
| 2000-01 | — | 6,422 |
| 2001-02 | — | — |
| 2002-03 | — | 15,000 |
| 2003-04 | — | 5,000 |
| 2004-05 | — | 41,374 |
| 2005-06 | — | 23,545 |
| 2006-07 | — | 153,263 |
| 2007-08 (to January 2008) | — | 13,716 |
| Total | — | 344,928 |

### Arts: Public Expenditure

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total public expenditure on the arts in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bassetlaw was in 2007. [187268]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* My Department expects to provide £422.2 million grant in aid for Arts Council England in 2007-08, following parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate. Final outturn figures will be available in June 2008. Projected lottery income to Arts Council England (including investment income) in 2007-08 is £146 million. Final lottery figures will be available in mid April.

Bassetlaw received £13,716 in lottery funding between April 2007 and January 2008.

### British Amusement Catering Trade Association

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 317W, on the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, what the outcome was of representations received from, and discussions held with, the Association. [188259]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* I am carefully considering the representations made to me by the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA), together with the evidence that has been provided by some of its members. I hope to be able to respond to BACTA's campaign shortly.

### Casinos

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the Casino Impacts Scoping Study on what date the report *(a)* was commissioned, *(b)* was originally scheduled for publication and *(c)* is expected to be published; and what the cost of producing the report is. [188236]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Scoping Study for a UK Gambling Act, 2005 Impact Assessment Framework was commissioned in May 2006 and scheduled for completion in November 2006.

We did not stipulate a publication date but I expect that it will be published shortly. The cost of producing the study was approximately £50,000.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 317W, on casinos, how many adult gaming centres are in operation in England and Wales. [188258]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* No figures are currently available for the number of adult gaming centres (AGCs) or for any other type of licensed gambling premises in operation.

Licensing authorities are responsible for providing information on the number of AGC premises licences they have issued to the Gambling Commission but complete information is not yet available. The Gambling Commission will publish information on the number of AGC premises licences issued by licensing authorities in due course.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* columns 317-18W,

on casinos, what assessment has been made of the financial impact of the operation of the Gambling Act 2005 on adult gaming centres in England and Wales since September 2007. [188260]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* I am currently considering representations that have been made to me by the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA) and others about what it is claimed has been the financial impact of the Gambling Act 2005 on adult gaming centres. I hope to be able to respond to BACTA's campaign shortly.

### Creative Sparks Initiative

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pupils have *(a)* performed music live to an audience, *(b)* taken part in a theatre production, *(c)* visited an art gallery, *(d)* visited a library and *(e)* visited an historic building under the Creative Sparks initiative since its inception. [187765]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The DCMS Five Year Plan 'Living Life to the Full', published in March 2005, included a proposal to develop the Creative Sparks initiative by 2010.

From 2005 we trialled the idea of a cultural offer for children and young people in three areas of the country—Telford, Durham and Bournemouth and Poole—through the Cultural Hubs programme. We have also continued to develop our cultural programmes aimed at children and young people, including Creative Partnerships, the education element of Renaissance in the Regions and the Strategic Commissioning Programme for Museums and Galleries.

We will now take these programmes forward under the new title of 'Find your Talent'. As announced on 13 February 2008 a series of ten regional pilots will be selected by the summer.

It is not possible to give figures for the number of pupils who have taken part in the activities listed in the question, but the 'Taking Part' survey shows that young people took part in the following levels of activity:

*(a)* Played a musical instrument to an audience: 21 per cent.

*(b)* Rehearsed or performed in a play: 38 per cent.

*(c)* Visited a museum or gallery: 55 per cent.

*(d)* Visited a library: 72 per cent.

*(e)* Visited a historic environment site: 72 per cent.

The data relate to activities done in and out of school by 11 to 15 year olds living in private households in England. The interviews were conducted between January and December 2006.

The 10 pilots under the 'Find your Talent' scheme will be asked to audit the level of provision and the take-up of cultural activities by children and young people.

### Creative Sparks Initiative: Expenditure

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the Creative Sparks initiative in each year since its inception; and what plans it has for expenditure on Creative Sparks over the next two years. [187689]

**Margaret Hodge:** The DCMS Five Year Plan 'Living Life to the Full', published in March 2005, included a proposal to develop the Creative Sparks initiative by 2010. It is being enacted through the 'Find your Talent' policy announced on 13 February 2008. The sum of £25 million has been set aside over the next three years by the DCMS, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to establish 10 local area pilots where a full range of partners will trial different ways of delivering a comprehensive cultural offer. In the interim period, the DCMS and DCSF have continued to invest significant amounts in cultural programmes aimed at children and young people. These include Creative Partnerships, Cultural Hubs, the education element of Renaissance in the Regions and Strategic Commissioning for museums and galleries.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188812]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport no civil servants have been *(a)* suspended, or *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years.

As part of the Department's internet policy, we monitor all internet usage and block inappropriate sites.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spends on the website Margaret Hodge's DCMS Diary; how many unique visitors this section of his Department's website receives each month; how many total hits this section of his Department's website receives each month; and how many full-time staff or equivalent are employed to run this section of his Department's website. [189039]

**Margaret Hodge:** Margaret Hodge's Diary is a page within the main DCMS website, www.culture.gov.uk. No additional funds are spent on that section of the website. Figures available for the site are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *13 to 31 January 2008* | |
| Total hits | 37,581 |
| Unique visitors | 279 |

No full-time staff or equivalent are employed to run this section of the website. The diary pages are managed using existing resources.

### Departmental Studies

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 38W, on departmental

studies, when he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* assessing the readiness of the social housing sector for digital switchover, *(b)* governance of non-departmental government bodies, *(c)* the casino impacts scoping study, *(d)* sport's contribution to achieving wider social benefits, *(e)* measuring elasticity of tourism demand, *(f)* international dimension of the creative economy, *(g)* exploring creative industry spillovers, *(h)* the review of performance indicator framework for national museums and galleries and *(i)* culture on demand. [185029]

**Margaret Hodge:** Pursuant to my answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 38W, the following studies have been published and have been placed in the Library:

*(a)* Assessing the Readiness of the Social Housing Sector for Digital Switchover (now entitled Communal TV Systems and Preparation for Digital Switchover), *(d)* Sport's Contribution to Achieving Wider Social Benefits, *(h)* Review of Performance Indicator Framework for National Museums and Galleries and (i) Culture on Demand (now entitled Review of Evidence Base for Delivering SP2/ PSA3).

The following studies have now been published and will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses today:

*(b)* Governance of Non-departmental Government Bodies, *(f)* International Dimension of the Creative Economy (now entitled A Framework for Understanding International Demand for the Creative Industries) *(g)* Exploring Creative Industry Spillovers.

The following study will be published shortly:

*(c)* The Casino Impacts Scoping Study - The Lancaster Study.

The following study is unfinished and a decision to publish will be taken once complete:

*(e)* Measuring Elasticity of Tourist Demand.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187798]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has used two employment agencies to provide temporary staff since August 2007, Hays and Brook Street. The average hourly rate for staff provided by Hays was £12.70; the average hourly rate for Brook Street was £11.93.

For the period 2005-06, the Department used Adecco and Josephine Sammons, whose hourly rates were respectively £13.96 and £14.50.

The information requested prior to 2005 could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187988]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has translated the following documents for people in the UK who do not speak English:

Leaflet on the National Lottery (November 2002). Translated into Hindi and Punjabi.

Leaflet on the Licensing Act 2003 (August 2005). Translated into Turkish, Greek, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujerati, Urdu, Chinese, Arabic and Kurdish.

Information on documents translated by our associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Gambling Commission: Manpower

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many specialist Gambling Commission compliance officers there are; and how many have been appointed since the Gambling Act 2005 entered into force. [189038]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has 55 regionally based compliance staff (all of whom are designated enforcement officers). In addition there is a specialist enforcement team of 10 officers based in Birmingham with national responsibilities. There are eight further specialist compliance staff (sector experts/ technical advisers) who have also been appointed as enforcement officers.

Three compliance officers and one enforcement officer have been appointed since the Gambling Act 2005 came into force on 1 September 2007.

### Licensing: Fees and Charges

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the report of the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel; and whether he plans to review the fees prescribed by the Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005. [189043]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I am considering my response to the Independent Licensing Fees Panel report, and I expect to make changes to the Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) 2005 Regulations in due course.

### Museums and Galleries

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what progress has been made towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the number of people from priority groups accessing museums and galleries collections; and if he will make a statement; [187352]

(2) how many people aged 16 years and above *(a)* from black and minority ethnic groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups and *(d)* in total attended museums and galleries collections in each year for which figures are available. [187353]

**Andy Burnham:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey is being used to measure progress against this public service agreement.

The most recent results were published in December 2007 in the following table. They provide a comparison between the baseline figures and the second-year results of the survey. The statistics show no significant change from year one to year two.

We are working closely with the cultural sector's strategic delivery bodies—Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council—to ensure that we maximise our impact on increasing participation rates.

These bodies deliver through a range of programmes and initiatives with cultural organisations at regional and local level. This includes investment in programmes such as Renaissance in the Regions, which has seen visits to local museums and galleries by people from the PSA3 priority groups up by over 30 per cent. since 2002-03; free admission to formerly charging sponsored museums in England, where attendance has gone up by 98 per cent. since 2001; record investment in Arts Council England's regularly funded organisations of £326 million this year; and Heritage Open Days, which receives its core funding from English Heritage, where 850,000 people visited some of 3,500 buildings last year, making it England's largest voluntary cultural event.

The museums and galleries indicator is defined as at least one attendance at a museum or gallery during the past 12 months.

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Year 1* | *Year 2* |
| Black and minority ethnic | 35.5 | 33.6 |
| Limiting disability | 32.1 | 31.1 |
| Lower socio-economic | 28.3 | 28.2 |
| All adults | 42.3 | 41.5 |

**National Lottery: Tamworth**

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in prizes awarded by the National Lottery to individuals who reside in *(a)* the Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last three years for which information is available. [187816]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not available. The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect prize payout information on a constituency or postcode basis; nor does it collect the addresses of winners who win prizes of less than £500.

**Performing Arts**

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department collects on the number of constituencies in England with no permanent theatre or community performing arts space. [187778]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department does not collect the requested information.

**Sports: Schools**

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many school sports co-ordinators have been introduced in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the establishment of the policy. [187071]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The School Sport Partnership (SSP) infrastructure of Partnership Development Managers, Secondary Sport Co-ordinators and Primary Link Teachers was rolled out in stages between 2000 and 2006.

Information on numbers of School Sport Co-ordinators is only readily available for 2006 and 2008. Information for other years is available only at disproportionate cost.

| | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2008* |
| *(a)* Jarrow | 5 | 5 |
| *(b)* South Tyneside | 10 | 10 |
| *(c)* North East | 211 | 209 |
| *(d)* England | 2,765 | 3,255 |

**Tourism**

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the 10 most popular tourist attractions in England were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* revenue raised and *(b)* visitor numbers. [187676]

**Margaret Hodge:** The tables show the top 10 tourist attractions in England and admission figures between 1999 and 2006.

Information before 1999 and information on the revenue raised by these attractions are not available.

*Top 10 tourist attractions and visitor numbers in England[1, 2]*

*1999*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 7,100,000 |
| British Museum | 5,461,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,965,000 |
| Alton Towers | 2,650,000 |
| Madame Tussaud's | 2,640,000 |
| Pleasureland Theme Park | 2,500,000 |
| Tower of London | 2,429,000 |
| Adventure Island | 2,000,000 |
| York Minster | 1,900,000 |
| Tate Britain | 1,822,000 |

*2000*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,800,000 |
| Millennium Dome | 6,517,000 |
| British Museum | 5,466,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,988,000 |
| Tate Modern | 3,874,000 |
| British Airways London Eye | 3,300,000 |
| Pleasureland Theme Park | 2,600,000 |
| Adventure Island | 2,500,000 |
| Alton Towers | 2,450,000 |
| Madame Tussaud's | 2,388,000 |

*2001*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,500,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,919,000 |
| British Museum | 4,801,000 |
| British Airways London Eye | 3,850,000 |
| Tate Modern | 3,552,000 |
| Tower of London | 2,019,000 |
| Pleasureland Theme Park | 2,000,000 |
| Eden Project | 1,700,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 1,696,000 |
| Science Museum | 1,353,000 |

*2002*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,200,000 |
| Tate Modern | 4,661,000 |
| British Museum | 4,607,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,131,000 |
| British Airways London Eye | 4,100,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 2,958,000 |
| Science Museum | 2,722,000 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | 2,210,000 |
| Pleasureland Theme Park | 2,000,000 |
| Tower of London | 1,941,000 |

*2003*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,200,000 |
| British Museum | 4,584,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,360,000 |
| Tate Modern | 3,896,000 |
| British Airways London Eye | 3,700,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 2,894,000 |
| Science Museum | 2,887,000 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | 2,257,000 |
| Pleasureland Theme Park | 2,100,000 |
| Tower of London | 1,972,000 |

*2004*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,200,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,960,000 |
| British Museum | 4,868,000 |
| Brighton Pier | 4,500,000 |
| Tate Modern | 4,441,000 |
| British Airways London Eye | 3,700,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 3,240,000 |
| Xscape Castleford | 2,800,000 |
| Science Museum | 2,169,000 |
| Upper Derwent Reservoirs | 1,750,000 |

*2005*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 6,000,000 |
| British Museum | 4,536,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,202,000 |
| Tate Modern | 3,902,000 |
| River Lee Country Park | 3,500,000 |
| Xscape Castleford | 3,250,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 3,078,000 |
| Parkland at Dalton Park | 2,100,000 |
| Science Museum | 2,020,000 |
| Tower of London | 1,931,000 |

*2006*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | 5,730,000 |
| Tate Modern | 4,915,000 |
| British Museum | 4,838,000 |
| National Gallery | 4,562,000 |
| Natural History Museum | 3,754,000 |
| River Lee Country Park | 3,500,000 |
| Xscape Castleford | 3,476,000 |
| Science Museum | 2,440,000 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | 2,373,000 |
| Parkland at Dalton Park | 2,200,000 |

[1] Participation within the Visitor Attraction survey is voluntary and so there may be attractions that choose not to participate or to remain anonymous. For these reasons, comparisons between years is not advisable.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
*Source:*
Visitor Attraction Trends survey, England (Visit Britain).

### Tourism: Standards

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what target his Department has set for tourism growth in the period 2008-11; [187171]

(2) when he plans to announce a new tourism growth target for 2008-11; [187172]

(3) what progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing turnover in the tourism industry to £100 billion by 2010, as described by his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde, in departmental media release 140/05, dated 20 October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [187562]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The present DCMS strategic target for tourism growth is total UK turnover of £100 billion by 2010. This was agreed with the industry, the Regional Development Agencies and the Local Government Association in 2004, and announced in the policy document "Tomorrow's Tourism Today". The industry's turnover was £85.6 billion in 2006, compared to £74.2 billion in 2003.

Since 2004 the outlook for the UK tourism industry has changed considerably, particularly because of the opportunities of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Accordingly, DCMS announced in October 2007 in "Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond", that it would work with the industry and its public sector partners towards agreeing a revised strategic target for tourism.

### Tourism: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* the

area covered by Tamworth Borough Council in the latest period for which figures are available. [187942]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per 'visit' by overseas residents visiting *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* the West Midlands for the latest available year.

Information for the area covered by Tamworth borough council is not available.

*Average expenditure[1] per visit by overseas residents, 2006*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Birmingham[2] | 311 |
| West Midlands[3] | 333 |

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.
[2] Figures are based on small sample sizes and as such should be treated with extreme caution, and used solely as an indicative estimate.
[3] Government office region.
*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

### UK Sport: Manpower

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed in the drug-free sport department of UK Sport; what the salary costs of the department were in the last 12 months; and how many consultants are employed by UK Sport to work with that department. [188929]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** UK Sport currently employs 19 people in its drug-free sport department. The salary costs for the department in the year to March 2008 are forecast to be £703,600. UK Sport employs one part-time consultant to work with the department as an IT specialist.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Admiralty House

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Admiralty House, what individual utilities are covered by the charge paid by occupying Departments. [184976]

**Mr. Watson:** The charge paid by Departments occupying the ministerial flats at Admiralty House includes sums for gas, electricity, water and sewerage, the Whitehall district heating system and the Whitehall stand-by distribution system (a back-up electricity supply).

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether it is his policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs or *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations in the Prime Minister's Office. [173509]

**Mr. Watson:** The Christmas trees within the Prime Minister's Office were lit by LED lights. The external tree outside No. 10 Downing street was lit by a combination of LED and compact fluorescent lamp fittings. Incandescent lights are not used.

### Civil Servants: Vacancies

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of Civil Service vacancies have been advertised on the *(a)* public and *(b)* Civil Service and accredited non-departmental public bodies staff-only sections of the Civil Service recruitment gateway website in the last 12 months. [183536]

**Mr. Watson:** Government Departments are responsible for ensuring that their vacancies are publicised on the civil service recruitment gateway. Data is not collected centrally on the total number of civil service and NDPB vacancies at any given time.

From 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, 5,727 vacancies were advertised, of which *(a)* 2,916 were advertised on the public part of the site and *(b)* 2,811 on the civil service and accredited non-departmental public bodies staff-only section of the civil service recruitment gateway website.

### Committees

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the titles of all working groups attached to Cabinet Committee MISC 32. [184555]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Committee on Pandemic Influenza Planning (MISC 32) is supported by the Pandemic Flu Implementation Group of officials.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers the Cabinet Office employed in each of the last 10 years. [182527]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr. Murphy), on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1837-38W, and by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1349W.

The Cabinet Office does not keep separate records of numbers of other communication staff, who do not all work in the central communications unit.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants employed by his Department have no job description. [185181]

**Mr. Watson:** Our performance management policy requires all civil servants employed by the Cabinet Office to have a performance agreement which sets out their roles and responsibilities for the post and objectives for the performance year.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the policy of his Department is on the attendance of civil servants at party political events; and if he will make a statement. [185199]

**Mr. Watson:** Civil servants are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade; [187528]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187653]

**Mr. Watson:** Information on expenditure incurred on first and other class travel by the Cabinet Office is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187133]

**Mr. Watson:** Information on honours held by employees is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It is a matter for public record when an honour is awarded. This information is published in the *London Gazette*, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which trade unions have a recognition agreement with the Cabinet Office. [186101]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office recognises the Public and Commercial Services Union, the First Division Association and Prospect. The Department has a partnership agreement with all three.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women were referred by national health service GPs to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service for an abortion in each of the last four years for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence was in each case; [186241]

(2) how many early medical abortions were performed by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at the request of the national health service in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence. [186246]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Total national health service funded abortions at the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) clinics, England, 2003 to 2006*

| *Age* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 15 | 233 | 192 | 206 | 235 |
| 15 | 524 | 533 | 564 | 668 |
| 16 | 1,140 | 1,224 | 1,225 | 1,286 |
| 17 | 1,656 | 1,750 | 1,801 | 1,929 |
| 18 | 1,833 | 1,990 | 1,993 | 2,488 |
| 19 | 1,906 | 2,181 | 2,200 | 2,605 |
| 20 | 1,895 | 2,131 | 2,333 | 2,483 |
| 21 | 1,779 | 1,967 | 1,983 | 2,447 |
| 22 | 1,706 | 1,945 | 2,019 | 2,213 |
| 23 | 1,642 | 1,805 | 1,873 | 2,233 |
| 24 | 1,438 | 1,803 | 1,714 | 2,065 |
| 25 | 1,198 | 1,506 | 1,627 | 1,878 |
| 26 | 1,161 | 1,241 | 1,451 | 1,684 |
| 27 | 995 | 1,227 | 1,167 | 1,435 |
| 28 | 913 | 1,099 | 1,161 | 1,393 |
| 29 | 885 | 966 | 1,039 | 1,148 |
| 30 | 856 | 963 | 952 | 1,153 |
| 31 | 786 | 891 | 926 | 1,034 |
| 32 | 749 | 831 | 914 | 992 |
| 33 | 688 | 762 | 820 | 928 |
| 34 | 608 | 721 | 795 | 876 |
| 35 | 601 | 662 | 674 | 832 |
| 36 | 593 | 641 | 690 | 774 |
| 37 | 533 | 567 | 597 | 707 |
| 38 | 443 | 521 | 526 | 597 |
| 39 | 392 | 424 | 459 | 540 |
| 40 | 325 | 368 | 406 | 469 |
| 41 | 244 | 298 | 289 | 415 |
| 42 | 163 | 214 | 244 | 236 |
| 43 | 129 | 131 | 154 | 200 |
| 44 | 57 | 88 | 92 | 121 |
| 45 and over | [1]65 | 74 | 86 | 145 |
| Total | 28,136 | 31,716 | 32,980 | 38,209 |

[1] Includes age not stated. For years 2004 onwards age not stated are allocated to ages 20-24

| | *Gestation weeks* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| 5 and under | 188 | 347 | 916 | 1,254 |
| 6 | 1,176 | 1,733 | 2,959 | 3,609 |
| 7 | 3,510 | 5,076 | 7,004 | 7,854 |
| 8 | 5,037 | 5,800 | 6,101 | 7,017 |
| 9 | 3,674 | 3,950 | 3,589 | 4,298 |
| 10 | 3,508 | 3,350 | 2,851 | 3,241 |
| 11 | 2,126 | 2,227 | 1,777 | 2,152 |
| 12 | 2,161 | 2,130 | 1,766 | 1,962 |
| 13 | 1,259 | 1,523 | 1,165 | 1,429 |
| 14 | 950 | 1,078 | 950 | 1,124 |
| 15 | 952 | 942 | 816 | 819 |
| 16 | 539 | 555 | 627 | 631 |
| 17 | 731 | 734 | 593 | 641 |
| 18 | 628 | 545 | 441 | 515 |
| 19 | 393 | 399 | 470 | 450 |
| 20 | 331 | 341 | 398 | 410 |
| 21 | 378 | 398 | 282 | 337 |

*Gestation weeks*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 355 | 351 | 165 | 240 |
| 23 | 240 | 237 | 110 | 226 |
| Total | 28,136 | 31,716 | 32,980 | 38,209 |

*Strategic health authority (SHA)[1] of residence of woman*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|
| East | 857 | 884 | 1,075 |
| East Midlands | 1,349 | 1,719 | 1,416 |
| London | 5,053 | 5,921 | 6,177 |
| North West | 2,362 | 2,814 | 2,983 |
| North East | 41 | 51 | 54 |
| South East | 7,502 | 8,001 | 8,089 |
| South West | 2,557 | 3,156 | 3,143 |
| West Midlands | 6,009 | 6,618 | 7,095 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 2,406 | 2,552 | 2,948 |
| Total | 28,136 | 31,716 | 32,980 |

*SHA[1] of residence of woman*

| | 2006 |
|---|---|
| East of England | 1,163 |
| East Midlands | 1,698 |
| London | 7,655 |
| North West | 3,367 |
| North East | 56 |
| South Central | 4,632 |
| South East Coast | 4,345 |
| South West | 3,282 |
| West Midlands | 8,570 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3,441 |
| Total | 38,209 |

[1] Changed boundaries in 2006

*Total NHS funded medical abortions performed under nine weeks gestation at BPAS clinics, England, 2003 to 2006*

| Age | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | [2]— | [2]— | 61 | 99 |
| Under 18 | 107 | 142 | 364 | 585 |
| 18 | 76 | 129 | 237 | 459 |
| 19 | 83 | 152 | 295 | 486 |
| 20 | 85 | 161 | 314 | 436 |
| 21 | 105 | 148 | 295 | 468 |
| 22 | 106 | 145 | 304 | 464 |
| 23 | 99 | 161 | 302 | 484 |
| 24 | 103 | 161 | 260 | 452 |
| 25 | 70 | 143 | 302 | 413 |
| 26 | 75 | 124 | 287 | 407 |
| 27 | 69 | 140 | 236 | 343 |
| 28 | 60 | 108 | 219 | 336 |
| 29 | 72 | 106 | 197 | 263 |
| 30 | 71 | 99 | 177 | 330 |
| 31 | 47 | 95 | 186 | 251 |
| 32 | 54 | 89 | 175 | 263 |
| 33 | 56 | 80 | 167 | 232 |
| 34 | 43 | 73 | 171 | 246 |
| 35 and over | 255 | 427 | 869 | 1,282 |
| Total | 1,636 | 2,683 | 5,357 | 8,200 |

*Gestation weeks*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 and under | 134 | 245 | 780 | 1,159 |
| 6 | 465 | 717 | 1,611 | 2,581 |
| 7 | 585 | 1,012 | 1,851 | 2,757 |
| 8 | 452 | 709 | 1,115 | 1,703 |
| Total | 1,636 | 2,683 | 5,357 | 8,200 |

*SHA[1] of residence of woman*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|
| East | 43 | [2]— | [2]— |
| East Midlands | [2]— | 78 | 105 |
| London | 362 | 582 | 956 |
| North West | 74 | 97 | 196 |
| North East | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| South East | 507 | 913 | 1,468 |
| South West | 85 | 192 | 511 |
| West Midlands | 348 | 597 | 1,291 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 173 | 171 | 734 |
| Total | 1,636 | 2,683 | 5,357 |

*SHA[1] of residence of woman*

| | 2006 |
|---|---|
| East of England | [2]— |
| East Midlands | 209 |
| London | 1,342 |
| North West | 298 |
| North East | [2]— |
| South Central | 750 |
| South East Coast | 1,085 |
| South West | 921 |
| West Midlands | 2,524 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 886 |
| Total | 8,200 |

[1] SHA changed boundaries in 2006.
[2] Suppressed totals less than 10 (between 0 and 9) and values where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

## Accident and Emergency Departments: Cornwall

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of accident and emergency patients in Cornwall had a trolley wait of over four hours in the latest period for which figures are available. [186503]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the percentage of patients not placed in a bed, in a ward, within four hours of a decision to admit (commonly referred to as a 'trolley wait') is reported by National Health Service Hospital Trusts.

This is published quarterly as part of the Department's "Quarterly Monthly Accident and Emergency (A and E) Services Central Return" (QMAE) dataset. Information is collected at trust level, and Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust reports that 0.2 per cent. of patients were in this position for the period July to September 2007. This is the latest period for which figures are available.

This information is for admissions via type 1 (major) A and E departments only.

### Ambulance Services: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ambulances are operating in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley; [186438]

(2) how many paramedics are based in Chorley. [186439]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information relating to the number of ambulances operating in Lancashire, including those in Chorley, as well as the number of paramedics who might be based in Chorley, is not held centrally. These data can instead be obtained direct from the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

The headcount for paramedics in the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust in 2006 was 1,175. The figures for 2007 will be available in March.

### Aphasia

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with *(a)* aphasia, *(b)* dyspraxia and *(c)* dysproxia, broken down by (i) strategic health authority area, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) constituency in each of the last three years. [188773]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of people diagnosed with specific medical conditions, including aphasia and dyspraxia/dysproxia, is not collected.

### Autism

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on establishment of a national strategy on autism and Asperger's syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [186735]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have not received any representations on the establishment of a national strategy on autism and Asperger's syndrome.

However, I recently attended the launch of the National Autistic Society's I Exist campaign which calls on the Government to demonstrate national leadership by encouraging implementation of good practice at a regional and local level.

It is for local authorities to manage their priorities and decide how resources should be distributed, taking into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

"Better Services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). A copy of this document is available in the Library.

### Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first-class air travel in the last 12 months. [171247]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** For the Financial year 2006-07, the Department spent £672,048 on business-class air travel and £6,350 on first-class air travel.

### Baby Care Units

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid out in financial support schemes or discount schemes by hospitals for family costs incurred while babies needed care in a neonatal unit last year; and how many families used this service. [186741]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally.

### Basildon Hospital: Clostridium

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 870-72W, on Basildon Hospital: clostridium, when information for January to December 2007 will be made available. [188895]

**Ann Keen:** The Health Protection Agency publishes these data on their website and final figures for the year January to December 2007 for all NHS acute trusts in England, including Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals Foundation Trust, will be available in July 2008. Once this information is available, a copy will also be placed in the Library.

### Bowel Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the Eastern regional bowel cancer screening hub *(a)* catches up and *(b)* keeps pace with other regional hubs in terms of (i) invitations sent, (ii) kits sent and (iii) kits returned. [188778]

**Ann Keen:** The pace of rollout in each screening hub is governed by a strategy agreed with the local strategic health authorities which reflect local circumstances. The roll-out of bowel cancer screening is administered from the Eastern Regional Bowel Cancer Screening Hub.

### Cancer

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, by what means he plans to measure the extent to which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* cancer networks give high priority to raising public awareness of cancer risk factors; and what sanctions there will be for (i) primary care trusts and (ii) cancer networks which do not do this. [183974]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are funded to meet the healthcare needs of their populations, which will include the provision of cancer services. PCTs are expected to plan for and commission services, and to monitor delivery of those services against local agreements. PCT and cancer networks are jointly responsible for making local decisions about the services needed, and

are expected to use local information to assess the need for local awareness initiatives. PCTs are responsible for driving and managing change locally.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for ensuring that GPs and primary care professionals have fast access to relevant diagnostic tests for cancer; and how he plans to measure progress towards this objective. [183997]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that general practitioner and primary care professionals have appropriate and timely direct access to diagnostic tests, and to determine whether these diagnostic facilities should be provided in acute general hospitals or in community settings, on the basis of local circumstances and the needs of their local populations.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, on cancer, whether the information on projected cancer in-patient costs placed in the Library expresses costs in real or cash terms. [184229]

**Ann Keen:** All the cost estimates are in real terms with a base year of 2005-06.

### Cancer: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Cancer Director's forthcoming review of cancer drugs will evaluate geographical variations in the use of cancer drugs *(a)* approved by and *(b)* awaiting appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [186269]

**Ann Keen:** The National Cancer Director's forthcoming review of cancer drugs will evaluate the usage of National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)-approved cancer drugs. It will not evaluate the usage of cancer drugs awaiting appraisal by NICE.

It is expected that the evaluation report will be published before the end of the year.

### Cardiovascular System: Diseases

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to reduce the incidence of death from cardiovascular disease among people under 75 since 1997. [188903]

**Ann Keen:** The national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease (CHD) published in March 2000 sets a 10-year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease.

The implementation of the NSF has led to a reduction in premature mortality, improved diagnostic and treatment facilities, faster care and better prevention of heart disease.

The target set out in 'Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation' to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease (CHD and stroke and related diseases) by 40 per cent. in people under 75 by 2010 has been met five years early. The mortality rate fell by 40.3 per cent. between 2004 and 2006 over the 1995-97 baseline. This means that we are now saving nearly 31,000 lives per year from cardiovascular disease.

This progress is set out in detail in the recent report 'Building for the future', a copy of which has been placed in the Library and which is also available at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083060.

### Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what *(a)* target and *(b)* timetable he has for reducing the variation of cervical cancer screening coverage between primary care trusts; when he plans to measure the performance of this policy; and by what means. [183975]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) working in partnership with their strategic health authorities, local screening services and local stakeholders to provide appropriate cervical screening services for their local populations, which includes increasing coverage. Participation can be improved by engaging with potential users at a community level.

To incentivise services to encourage higher coverage, we will explore moving to an activity-based system for funding screening services. We are at the early stages of this exploration, and are focusing on how cancer screening can fit within the existing "payment by results" system. National health service cancer screening programmes will also encourage the sharing of best practice in improving accessibility for all groups. There is a need to ensure that health inequalities are tackled with targeted programmes that increase the uptake of screening in poor communities and in black and ethnic-minority communities. Commissioners in PCTs with low coverage will wish to develop these programmes.

We will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/Information Centre for health and social care annual Cervical Screening Statistical bulletin.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, on what date he expects all women to be informed of the result of their cervical screening test within two weeks of its being taken. [183976]

**Ann Keen:** Paragraph 3.14 of the Cancer Reform Strategy states that all women should receive the results of their cervical screening tests within two weeks by 2010.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy what *(a)* target and *(b)* timetable he has set for tackling the falling participation of women aged 25 to 35 in cervical cancer screening. [183977]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) working in partnership with their strategic health authorities (SHAs), local screening services and local stakeholders to provide appropriate cervical screening services for their local populations, which includes tackling the falling participation in women aged 25 to 35.

In order to tackle the fall in coverage among younger women, national health service cancer screening programmes have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level targeting this age group. The lessons learned from this work, due to be completed in 2009, will be shared with SHAs and local screening programmes to develop best practice. The NHS cancer screening programmes' press office is developing an information pack to be issued to all local screening programmes and is also developing a public relations strategy, including articles in appropriate media publications and posters. In addition, Cancer Research UK has commissioned research on this issue, which we will monitor closely. We will share the findings.

Continued local action in this area is also essential, and we will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/Information Centre for health and social annual Cervical Screening Statistical bulletin.

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what evidential basis changes were made in 2005-06 to the NHS Direct Health Encyclopaedia in relation to possible causes of chronic fatigue syndrome, to remove references to altered immune response due possibly to infections such as glandular fever or hepatitis neurotoxins and to immunisation; and what medical references were taken into consideration. [186130]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally, but may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct Trust.

### Clostridium

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were infected with *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* MRSA as recorded by the mandatory surveillance system, broken down by NHS trust in 2006-07; and what those figures are per 1,000 admissions of patients aged over 65 years. [185564]

**Ann Keen:** The mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides data on the number of reports of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections and *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection. All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of MRSA bloodstream infections and *C. difficile* infection processed by their laboratories and the data are published at trust level.

Mandatory surveillance of MRSA bloodstream infections was introduced in April 2001 and in 2004 for *C. difficile* for patients aged 65 and over, and has been extended to all patients aged two and over from April 2007.

The HPA publishes these data on its website, so this information and any further information on the number of MRSA infections for NHS acute trusts is available at

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm.

and the number of *C. difficile* infections for NHS Acute Trusts is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

The quarterly mandatory surveillance data on *C. difficile* and MRSA are also available in the Library. These will be updated each quarter.

Rates per 1,000 bed days are available for those aged 65 years and over for *C. difficile* in the above table for *C. difficile*. Rates for the over-65 age group are not available for MRSA. However, the MRSA enhanced surveillance scheme introduced in 2005 provides limited data. An analysis of data[1] for cases diagnosed between April 2006 and March 2007 where age was provided showed that 69 per cent. of cases occurred in people aged 65 years and over.

[1] Sources—Health Protection Agency. Surveillance of healthcare associated infections report 2007

www.hpa.org.uk/publications/PublicationDisplay.asp?PublicationID=108 (page 21).

### Departmental Computer Software

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the source code copies of core application software used by his Department and its agencies and supplied by third parties are held in escrow. [186909]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is a contractual requirement for the National Programme for Information Technology main suppliers to ensure all source code copies of core software supplied for the national programme systems and services, including that supplied by their subcontractors, are placed in escrow. Outside the National Programme, source code developed for the Department by third parties is held by the Department.

The core business application for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Sentinel, is supplied by Accenture and is held in escrow. For all other applications developed by third parties, the source code is supplied to the agency by the third party and held by the agency themselves.

Bespoke applications that are developed for the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency are normally held in escrow.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173687]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180219]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has adopted a selective disclosure log, whereby only the most interesting and high-profile pieces of information are published. Between 1 January 2005 and 30 September 2007, 2 per cent. of Freedom of Information requests received by the Department gave rise to responses that were published by the Department. However, we periodically publish a list of all requests that have resulted in release of information, providing brief subject details and advice that the information may be obtained on request. The last such list, published in August 2007, covered information released between October and December 2006.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182719]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not have a 'communication officer' grade or job title so the figures provided are for press officers. Some officers in Directorates other than Communications have some media, press or communications liaison responsibility, but this is not recorded in a consistent or economically retrievable form. Figures given as follows are therefore for the communications Directorate alone. The figures for 2003-04 are estimates. Figures are given for complete financial years.

£

| *Financial year* | *Special bonus total* | *Senior civil servant (SCS) bonus total* | *Total bonuses* | *Maximum bonus* | *Minimum bonus* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,700.00 | 4,577.00 | 7,277.00 | 4,577.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 2005-06 | 1,000.00 | 7,850.00 | 8,850.00 | 7,850.00 | 250.00 |
| 2004-05 | 1,311.50 | 6,859.00 | 8,170.50 | 6,859.00 | 111.50 |
| 2003-04 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |

The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04. Information on performance bonus payments prior to 2004-05 is available only from individual payslips. To retrieve this information would therefore involve disproportionate cost.

The figures provided include bonuses paid to press officers who are Senior Civil Servants under pay arrangements common across the civil service and special bonuses paid to press officers under schemes operated by the Department and its Agencies.

Senior Civil Service bonuses reward excellent performance during the year, on the basis of a judgment of how well people perform relative to their peers. This covers the extent to which objectives are met and how they are achieved, and has regard to how leadership behaviours and professional skills are demonstrated and how stretching objectives are.

Special bonuses are awarded for a number of different reasons. The most common of these are an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding situation, job loading becoming temporarily very heavy, a high level of commitment and resolution to get a job done, special efforts to produce results, cover for a high level of absence, and a contribution over and above what would normally be expected for the job and of the person or team concerned. Special bonuses can be paid either to individuals or to a group or team of staff at any point in the year, and only for additional duties undertaken which will not be recognised through annual pay awards.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183166]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Expenditure outlined as follows is for outsourced public relations from financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. Information related to contractual values prior to 2001 is held on legacy systems and is therefore not accessible.

| *Financial year* | *Annual expenditure (£)* | *Number of contracts let* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 1,076,400 | 14 |
| 2002-03 | 1,320,000 | 16 |
| 2003-04 | 1,370,100 | 13 |
| 2004-05 | 1,125,700 | 16 |
| 2005-06 | 1,005,200 | 16 |
| 2006-07 | 1,859,700 | 17 |

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167956]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table outlines cost of departmental advertising in the last full fiscal year for which completed records are available, 2006-07.

*Departmental advertising campaigns expenditure summary for 2006-07*

| *Campaign* | *2006-07 (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Alcohol (Department of Health (DH) contribution to campaign run jointly with the Home Office (HO)) | 1.90 |
| Child Immunisation | 1.97 |
| Drugs (DH contribution to campaign run jointly with the HO) | 3.13 |
| Flu | 1.16 |
| Hepatitis C | 0.53 |
| Immunisation | 2.80 |

*Departmental advertising campaigns expenditure summary for 2006-07*

| Campaign | 2006-07 (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Maternal and Infant Nutrition/Breastfeeding | 0.73 |
| NHS Direct | 0.32 |
| Pandemic Flu Preparedness (Standby Materials) | 0.57 |
| Teenage Pregnancy (DH contribution to campaign run jointly with Department for Children, the Schools and Families) | 2.00 |
| Sexual Health | 7.30 |
| Social care / worker recruitment | 2.69 |
| Smoking | 21.53 |
| 5 a Day | 0.92 |

## Departmental Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is on course to meet the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [181316]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department has, since 2004-05, purchased 100 per cent. of the electricity for its main London administrative estate from renewable sources.

In 2005-06, 91 per cent. of the waste removed from our London administrative estate was recycled.

*Notes:*

1. The figure represents waste removed from our five London buildings (Skipton House, Wellington House, Richmond House, Eileen House, Hannibal House). It excludes waste removed from Quarry House, Leeds (building managed on behalf of Department for Work and Pensions). It also excludes redundant information technology equipment.

2. The recycling figures differ from those quoted in the 2006 "Sustainable Development in Government" report, which include waste removed from sites occupied by our two executive agencies, NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency, and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181534]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2000-01 the Department moved to resource-based accounting, so the information provided has been restricted to the period 2000-01 to 2006-07. During this period the Department spent approximately 2.25 per cent. of its administrative budget on travel. This information is shown in the following table:

| | UK travel spend (£) | Overseas travel spend (£) | Percentage of departmental admin costs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,272,127 | 190,704 | 2 |
| 2005-06 | 4,883,804 | 942,076 | 2 |
| 2004-05 | 3,770,537 | 250,257 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 7,217,286 | 503,351 | 3 |
| 2002-03 | 6,779,266 | 410,130 | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 7,121,249 | 425,580 | 3 |
| 2000-01 | 6,586,987 | 361,411 | 3 |

## Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's internal guidance on answering Questions tabled by hon. Members. [166444]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In accordance with the ministerial code, Ministers are accountable for their answers to parliamentary questions. The Department follows Cabinet Office guidance in its handling of such questions.

## Depressive Illnesses

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with depression in England in each of the last 10 years. [187590]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Approximately 90 per cent. of people with a mental health problem are treated in primary care. Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so data are not available in this format.

## Diamorphine

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of UK demand for diamorphine has been met by the NHS's normal suppliers in each of the last five years; how shortfalls in supply have been addressed; and if he will make a statement. [186660]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The supply picture for diamorphine injection (ampoules) for the national health service in England for the years 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

*Diamorphine injection supplied by year: England: hospital and community*

*Units in thousands*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 mg (total) | 1,218 | 1,271 | 1,275 | 552 | 682 |
| 100 mg (total) | 410 | 440 | 451 | 169 | 141 |
| 30 mg (total) | 839 | 872 | 908 | 408 | 557 |
| 5 mg (total) | 1,366 | 1,448 | 1,444 | 496 | 218 |
| 500 mg (total) | 30 | 37 | 29 | 20 | 22 |

In March 2007 the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) estimated the following availabilities, against historic demand, by strength:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 5 mg | 26 |
| 10 mg | 84 |
| 30 mg | 100 |
| 100 mg | 31 |
| 500 mg | 100 |

A combination of the analyses highlights that there has been a significant recovery in the supply of 10 mg and 30 mg strengths against historic demand.

However, prescribing of these two strengths has not returned to original levels and there has been an excess in the supply of these strengths against current demand as a result.

In the case of the 5 mg and 100 mg strengths the supply position has not recovered. There is an ongoing shortage of these strengths and it is not possible to estimate true current demand as a result.

When the shortage of diamorphine first arose in December 2004, the remaining supplier immediately increased its production, and the Department took steps to ensure that adequate supplies of alternative painkillers were available. In addition, the Department issued an alert to the national health service via the chief medical officers cascade system, warning health care professionals about the shortage and advising them to avoid wastage, and to consider alternative painkillers wherever possible and reserve diamorphine supplies for those patients whose need was greatest. Both suppliers are now fully in production. The supply situation improved during 2007, and is expected to continue doing so during 2008.

### Disabled: Computers

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for people with disabilities to assist them with learning to use computers in each year since 2001. [185040]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not collected separate statistics on how much funding it provides for specific groups to assist them with learning to use computers since 2001. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the overall funding of the Government's e-learning strategy, funding was used to create infrastructure and was aimed at sectors such as further education and institutions such as colleges. The main thrust was to put technology in place, to develop the content of e-learning materials, including adaptations to enable ease of access by disabled people, and to develop staff to use technology with different groups. This has led to projects designed to support the effective use of computers by vulnerable groups such as disabled people.

For example, between 2004 and 2006 the Learning and Skills Council and the Joint Information Systems Committee provided £250,000 supporting 27 projects in specialist colleges designed to increase confidence and motivation among disabled learners and create innovative technical solutions to meet individual needs, including learners with complex disabilities.

Until 2005 the then Department for Education and Skills partly funded two national Aids to Communication in Education centres supporting learners with learning disabilities with grants of approximately £400,000 per year. These centres still exist and are self-financing.

My Department does recognise how important it is for disabled people to use computers effectively, and a number of projects have been established to improve usage and give disabled people the confidence and skills to use all forms of information and computer technology (ICT) effectively. As part of its responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, my Department ensures that its delivery partners are working to eliminate discrimination and this includes ensuring access to technology.

### Drugs: Advisory Services

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of calls to the national drugs helpline which have been unanswered as a consequence of staff shortages in each year since the helpline's inception. [186789]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The national drugs helpline ceased in England in March 2003 and was replaced by the FRANK helpline in April 2003.

The Central Office of Information (COI) advises that FRANK has received 2,114,533 telephone calls since its inception as at 31 December 2007. A total of 1,818,497 of those telephone calls were answered.

COI advise that overall there are no problems regarding staff shortages. Calls which are unanswered are as a consequence of callers who may hang up before speaking to a live adviser or who are routed to an interactive voice response system.

Anticipated demand can be exceeded owing to unknown media activity—something relating to drugs appears on television or in the national daily press and the FRANK helpline number is quoted. In these instances, staffing levels are increased to cope with the peak according to their availability. However, despite this, there may be occasions when response performance varies.

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates representatives from his Department have met representatives of general practitioners to discuss changes to the quality and outcomes framework in the last six months. [184516]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** NHS Employers conduct negotiations on the General Medical Services Contract with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the British Medical Association. Officials from the Department are not normally present. Within the last six months, an official from the Department of Health attended only one meeting of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Negotiating Sub Group, on 23 August 2007 as an observer. Wider meetings between Department officials and representatives of the GPC do also take place regularly but not specifically to discuss changes to the QOF.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to enable people to register with a GP practising outside the primary care trust area in which they live. [185775]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Regulations allow a practice to accept a person living outside its boundary on to its list of national health service patients if it wishes to do so. In accepting a patient, a practice has obligations to provide certain services such as home visits. If the practice is unable to fulfil this obligation, it is a reasonable ground to refuse a person living outside a practice area.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week GPs spent on practice-based commissioning in the most recent period for which figures are available. [185825]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not routinely collect information centrally on the number of hours per week general practitioners spend on practice-based commissioning.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to increase the number of open GP lists. [185934]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts will only grant a general practitioner practice closed list-status once both parties have made reasonable endeavours to keep the list open and the conclusion is that this is not possible.

The Department is currently exploring, as part of the Next Stages Review being undertaken by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi), whether further action is needed to better ensure patients have more choice of practices with which to register.

### General Practitioners: Finance

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely financial impact on GP surgeries of the removal of funding for choice and booking and access to directed enhanced services; and if he will provide financial support for surgeries which are adversely affected. [185828]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In each of the last two years, primary care trusts have invested £158 million, equating to an average £19,000 per practice, to fund the Access and Choice Directed Enhanced Services. It was always intended that these schemes would end on 31 March 2008. This money will be available to support PCTs and practices in agreeing improvement in patient access to their general practice.

Under proposals put to the General Practitioner Committee this money would be used by PCTs to pay general practices for providing extended opening of 30 minutes per week for every 1,000 patients on their list size. There would be no compulsion placed on practices to do this, but should an average GP practice of 6,000 patients take it up and provide the expected minimum three extended hours per week, it could expect to receive £19,000 per year. When practices choose not to provide such services to their patients, this money will not be available to them.

### General Practitioners: Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the overall cost to the public purse in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 of reviewing the quality and outcomes framework. [184554]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** NHS Employers are funded by the Department to take forward negotiations with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association on changes to the General Medical Services Contract. Funding is not identified separately for the review of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) except for a contract for a period of three years starting from April 2006 to commission an independent expert panel to advise on the review of the QOF. The total value of the contract for the three-year period is £799,364 (excluding VAT).

### Health and Social Care Services: Autism

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department has to ensure the continuity of health and social care services provided for children with autism and Asperger's syndrome as they make the transition to adulthood. [183400]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is the lead Department on transition from children's to adult services, and on social care for children. However, the Department of Health launched good practice guidance at a conference in March 2006, "Transition: getting it right for young people", a copy of which is available in the Library. The same good practice guidance as applies to children with autistic spectrum disorders applies to those with any other condition. The 2007 report, "Aiming High for Disabled Children" proposed a transition support programme for 14 to 19-year-olds and DCSF has allocated £19 million to pilot arrangements.

### Health Services: Cuba

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit Cuba to assess best practice in biotechnology and health facilities in that country. [183916]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We are aware of the considerable work my hon. Friend has done with Cuba through his chairmanship of the all-Party Parliamentary Group. However, owing to other commitments, Ministers have no plans to visit Cuba at the present time.

### Health Services: Private Sector

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to promote the involvement and consultation of patients and the public who receive NHS services through the third sector and the independent sector. [185567]

**Ann Keen:** Under section 242 of the National Health Service Act 2006, all NHS organisations are required to involve service users in the planning, development and

operation of health services. This duty does not apply directly to third-sector and independent-sector organisations.

NHS organisations which commission services from the third and independent sector must specify in their contractual arrangements that service users shall be systematically involved in the planning, development and operation of services, and that such involvement shall be evidenced and reported as part of contract performance.

The involvement of users in services provided by third-sector and independent-sector organisations shall be developed and promoted in the forthcoming statutory guidance for section 242 to be published in the summer of 2008.

### Health Services: Voluntary Work

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much West Sussex Primary Care Trust has spent on promoting volunteering in the local health service in the last two years; [186747]

(2) how many employees of West Sussex Primary Care Trust volunteer; and what the trust's policy is on facilitating volunteering. [186823]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** As these are matters for West Sussex primary care trust, the Department does not collect this information. The hon. Member may wish to approach the PCT directly for the details.

### Heart Diseases: Cheshire

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve outcomes in coronary health care in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Cheshire in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [185582]

**Ann Keen:** The National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, published in March 2000, set out a 10-year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease. An estimated 178,000 lives have been saved since 1996.

The target set out in "Our Healthier Nation" (OHN) to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease and stroke and related diseases) by 40 per cent. in people under 75 by 2010 has been met five years early. The mortality rate has fallen by 40.3 per cent. between 2004-06 over the 1995-97 baseline.

Inequalities in the death rate from heart disease, stroke and related diseases among the under-75s have been narrowing for the past eight years, and we are on track to meet a 40 per cent. reduction target in the gap by 2010. The death rate has reduced by 32 per cent. since 1995-97.

In 1997 the number of deaths from cardiovascular disease was 69,133 but by 2005 this figure fell to 42,886, a reduction of over 26,000 deaths per year.

The initiatives outlined above such as the National Service Framework and the targets in OHN will have had an impact across both Cheshire and Warrington, as well as nationally.

In addition, a £600 million programme of hospital building is continuing to provide new or expanded cardiac facilities in the places where they are most needed. There has been a £125 million investment in improved diagnostic and treatment facilities (combined departmental and national lottery fund money) which has supported the building and equipping of 90 new or replacement catheterisation laboratories in England, increasing the capacity previously available by more than 50 per cent.

More locally, a new cardiac catheter laboratory was opened at the Warrington general hospital in January 2006. The hospital also has a dedicated eight-bed coronary care unit providing monitoring and urgent treatment for patients with acute coronary conditions.

### Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on links between cardiac arrest survival rates and the time taken for the patient to reach a hospital. [188256]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has neither commissioned nor evaluated research on links between cardiac arrest survival rates and the time taken for the patient to reach hospital.

The national service framework for coronary heart disease and other guidance in this area is based on the best available evidence, and departmental policy recognises the importance of ensuring that an emergency ambulance response reaches the patient as quickly as possible. The ambulance response time target for calls to people with potentially life-threatening illnesses and conditions (which includes cardiac arrest) is for 75 per cent. of cases to be responded to within eight minutes irrespective of location.

For heart attack (blockage of a coronary artery by a blood clot which may lead to a cardiac arrest if not treated quickly), the Department has not commissioned research, but research results have been taken into account in the formulation of policy on heart attack treatment. There is accumulating evidence that angioplasty leads to better longer-term outcomes than clot-busting drugs even if it takes longer to deliver.

### Hospital Beds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 643W, on hospital beds, if he will investigate the discharges of patients from Hampshire hospitals into the community. [187082]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population. It is for Hampshire hospitals and the PCTs that commission their services to ensure that patients are appropriately discharged into the community.

More generally, on 1 October 2007 the NHS implemented the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care which contains guidance on assessing the care needs of patients. If a full assessment for continuing healthcare is required, it must be completed before discharge from hospital can proceed.

## Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of one-off deep cleaning of hospitals in preventing the spread of healthcare-associated infections. [187200]

**Ann Keen:** As set out in the written ministerial statement on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, following completion of the deep clean of the national health service on 31 March 2008, the Department will work with strategic health authorities (SHAs) to draw up examples of where a deep clean has had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and experience, and will share these across the NHS.

SHAs will take the lead on evaluation locally as the impact of each trust's programme will be different and no single measurement method will pick up all the benefits, particularly as trusts may be implementing a range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle healthcare-associated infections.

Improvements in patient experience and environment may be measurable through

Patient Environment Action Team scores;

scores on National Specifications for Cleanliness;

compliance with the "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections";

compliance with Department of Health national core standards;

health care Commission in-patient survey scores; and

infection rates.

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the risk of airborne transmission of infectious diseases, such as MRSA and clostridium difficile in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [188719]

**Ann Keen:** This reply only covers methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*).

The available evidence for MRSA and *C. difficile* is that the main route of transmission is via inadequately cleaned hands, hence the Department's focus on good hand hygiene and cleaning (especially of frequently touched areas). There is little evidence to suggest that airborne exposure is a significant transmission route. The Department continues to monitor any new evidence and is aware of some evaluations of air decontamination systems that are ongoing in national health service settings, the results of which will be reviewed when they are available.

## Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners aged 65 years and over received free influenza inoculations in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since it became available. [186963]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table by the relevant health trust or authority, as this is how the data are collected.

*Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over for South Tyneside, North East and England by year (2000-06)*

| *Area* | *Total persons aged 65 and over vaccinated* | *Total percentage uptake* |
|---|---|---|
| *2000-01 p* | | |
| Gateshead and South Tyneside health authority (HA) | 42,093 | 68.2 |
| Northern and Yorkshire Region | 638,013 | 66.8 |
| England | 4,820,239 | 65.4 |
| *2001-02* | | |
| Gateshead and South Tyneside HA | 43,421 | 70.0 |
| Northern and Yorkshire Region | 706,899 | 69.8 |
| England | 5,135,760 | 67.7 |
| *2002-03* | | |
| South Tyneside Primary Care Trusts (PCT) | 19,480 | 70.2 |
| North East Region Strategic Health Authority (SHA) | 376635 | 71.1 |
| England | 5,487,645 | 68.5 |
| *2003-04* | | |
| South Tyneside PCT | 20,274 | 72.7 |
| North East Region SHA | 387,600 | 72.9 |
| England | 5,788,875 | 71.0 |
| *2004-05* | | |
| South Tyneside PCT | 19,632 | 71.9 |
| North East Region SHA | 394,859 | 73.3 |
| England | 4,651,315 | 71.5 |
| *2005-06* | | |
| South Tyneside PCT | 21,192 | 76.9 |
| North East Region SHA | 413,718 | 76.8 |
| England | 6,122,744 | 75.3 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| South Tyneside PCT | 20,803 | 76.0 |
| North East Region SHA | 312,689 | 76.0 |
| England | 5,779,145 | 73.9 |

*Note:*
Uptake figures based on general practitioner practices returning data to the survey and reflect vaccine uptake for individuals vaccinated at these premises

*Source:*
Health Protection Informatics (HPI) web based reporting site Influenza Immunisation Uptake Monitoring Programme Health Protection Agency/Department of Health

## Kent

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183059]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** No grants have been made from the Department to district councils (Thanet district council and Dover district council). The following table lists the funds, separated into revenue payments, capital grants and supported borrowing, provided by the Department to Kent county council in 2007-08. Local authorities (LAs) were notified of these grants through relevant LA social services letters and circulars.

*Kent 2007-08*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *Revenue Funding* | |
| Access and Systems Capacity | 13.386 |
| AIDS support | 0.182 |
| Child and adolescent mental health services grant | 1.780 |
| Carers grant | 4.353 |
| Emergency respite care (additional to carers grant) | 0.588 |
| Commission for Social Care inspection reimbursement grant | 0.017 |
| Delayed discharges | 2.477 |
| Human resources development strategy | 1.082 |
| Mental health grant | 2.870 |
| National training strategy | 2.335 |
| Partnerships for older people pilots | 1.500 |
| Preserved rights grant | 12.217 |
| Preventative technology grant | 1.245 |
| Mental Capacity Act training | 0.102 |
| Independent mental capacity advocate | 0.153 |
| Mental Capacity Act general | 0.089 |
| Local involvement networks | 0.010 |
| The National Healthy Schools Programme[1, 2] | 0.261 |
| Total | 44.648 |
| *Capital Grants* | |
| Improving information management | 0.479 |
| Dignity in care | 1.895 |
| Total | 2.374 |
| *Supported Borrowing* | |
| Adults social care | 0.816 |
| Mental Health | 0.382 |
| Total | 1.198 |

*Notes:*
1. The National Healthy Schools Programme is delivered through the Standards Fund, for which the Department of Health provides the majority of funding but the Department for Children, Schools and Families also contributes.
2. The funding is to local healthy schools partnerships, so is to be shared by LAs with partner primary care trusts.

### Leukaemia: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has held with Surrey Primary Care Trust on making available the treatments *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib to patients with imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia; [186264]

(2) what representations he has received in the last 12 months on the issue of the availability of access to *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia; how many representations were received from (i) clinicians, (ii) patients and (iii) others; what the content was of the representations; and if he will make a statement. [186266]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has held no discussions with Surrey primary care trust on making available the treatments dasatinib and nilotinib to patients with imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) locally to decide whether to make these treatments available to patients.

The Department has received various correspondence from clinicians, patients and others about dasatinib and nilotinib. This correspondence mainly raises issues of access to dasatinib and nilotinib and the possibility of their appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), is minded to refer dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia as part of the 17th wave of referrals to NICE. NICE has consulted with stakeholders on the remits and scopes for this appraisal. The Minister of State will make a final decision on whether to refer the topic to NICE following the outcome of NICE's consultation.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the variations between primary care trust areas in patients' ability to access the treatments *(a)* dasatinib and *(b)* nilotinib for imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia. [186268]

**Ann Keen:** No assessment has been made of the variations between primary care trust areas in patients' ability to access the treatments dasatinib and nilotinib for imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia.

However, Ministers are minded to refer dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as part of the 17th work programme. NICE has consulted stakeholders on the remits and scopes for this appraisal. Ministers will make a final decision on whether to refer the topic to NICE following the outcome of NICE's consultation.

### Lighting: Health Hazards

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of compact fluorescent lightbulbs on people suffering from Meniere's disease. [187646]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The Department has not commissioned any research on the effects of compact fluorescent light bulbs on those living with Meniere's disease.

### Maternity Services: Finance

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the NHS budget was spent on maternity services in 2006-07. [187262]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* Estimates of national health service expenditure on maternity and reproductive health are available from programme budgeting returns. In the 2006-07 financial year, estimated gross NHS expenditure on maternity and reproductive health was £2.9 billion, accounting for 3.5 per cent. of total expenditure.

## NHS

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* NHS organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since taking up their posts. [185561]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is as follows.

| *Minister* | *Hospitals* | *NHS organisations* |
|---|---|---|
| Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson)[1] | 25 | 11 |
| Minister of State for Health Services (Ben Bradshaw)[1] | 11 | 13 |
| Minister of State for Public Health (Dawn Primarolo)[1] | 0 | 9 |
| Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services (Ann Keen)[1] | 12 | 9 |
| Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services (Ivan Lewis)[2] | 9 | 3 |
| Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi)[1] | 12 | 9 |

[1] Between taking up post in June 2007 and February 2008
[2] Between taking up post in June 2006 and February 2008

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 525W, on NHS finance, how much of the difference referred to is accounted for by *(a)* the transfer of impairments to annually managed expenditure and *(b)* latest forecast technical underspends on non-cash; [184476]

(2) what methodology is used by his Department to establish its Spending Review baseline. [184477]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In line with the treatment of all baselines in the comprehensive spending review, the resource baseline for the national health service was set at the level of expected spend excluding exceptional, time limited and one-off items.

As a result, £250 million was transferred from the NHS Departmental Expenditure Limit to NHS Annually Managed Expenditure of funding for impairments. The forecast technical underspend was £560 million.

In addition, the NHS DEL was increased by £60 million to reflect an in-year transfer of funding responsibility from personal social services.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much loan interest *(a)* West Sussex Primary Care Trust and *(b)* each of the hospital trusts in West Sussex paid back to the NHS in each of the last three years. [186739]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on interest paid on loans by primary care trusts is not collected centrally.

The following table sets out the interest paid by national health service trusts in Sussex in 2006-07. Information for earlier years was not collected centrally.

*Interest paid on loans by NHS trusts in Sussex, 2006-07*

| *NHS trust* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals | 39 |
| East Sussex Hospitals | 5 |
| Surrey and Sussex Healthcare | 68 |
| The Royal West Sussex | 29 |
| Worthing and Southlands Hospitals | 0 |
| Sussex Partnership | 0 |

*Note:*
This information was not collected prior to 2006-07.
*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules of the NHS trusts 2006-07.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the amount of work undertaken by *(a)* community health councils, *(b)* patient involvement forums and *(c)* local involvement networks. [185570]

**Ann Keen:** The rationale for arrangements to strengthen the voice of local people is to widen and broaden people's influence over their services, rather than to reflect the amount or quality of the work undertaken by Community Health Councils (CHCs) and patient and public involvement (PPI) forums.

We know from listening to people during the review of patient and public involvement that more people want to have a greater say about their local services. It is no longer appropriate to have a PPI system which is based around scrutiny of individual services. The new local involvement networks will be able to consider both health and social care, so that PPI can be joined up across the entire patient journey. Crucially, we want more people involved having influence in different ways according to their lifestyle, experience and skills. We will build on the existing experience and knowledge from patients' forums.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the former community health councils and their corresponding patient forums and local involvement networks. [185571]

**Ann Keen:** There were 184 Community Health Councils and in the main they reflected local authority boundaries, although there were a number of exceptions to this rule.

There is no direct correlation between the areas covered by CHCs and patient and public involvement forums, as forums relate to national health service organisations rather than to a specific geographical area.

There will be 150 local involvement networks corresponding exactly to the number of local authorities with social services responsibilities.

## NHS: Recruitment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of advertisements for IT jobs in the NHS specified that the applicant needed NHS IT experience in the latest period for which figures are available. [187269]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* NHS Jobs does not collect information on the content of individual vacancy listings.

## Obstetrics: Screening

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of adding screening for vasa praevia to standard prenatal testing; [188233]

(2) what assessment he has made of the feasibility of adding screening for vasa praevia to standard prenatal testing; [188234]

(3) how many people died from vasa praevia in each year since 2001. [188235]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Routine screening for vasa praevia is not available in hospitals in England. This is because it is a technically difficult condition to detect, even for a highly skilled ultrasonographer with the appropriate specialist equipment (for example, a colour Doppler scanner). Therefore, routine screening for vasa praevia is not currently advocated by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) or recommended by the National Screening Committee (NSC). Should the RCOG change its advice we will consider this and refer it to the NSC.

The total number of deaths involving mention of vasa praevia on the death certificate in England and Wales for 2001 to 2005 (the most recent years for which figures are available) is shown in the following table.

All these deaths were in neonates—that is, babies under 28 days of age:

| | *Neonatal deaths* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2004 | 1 |
| 2005 | 0 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures for 2001-05 were extracted using the International Classification of Diseases ICD 10th revision code P02.6
2. The database of deaths in England and Wales was searched for deaths in 2001-05 with any mention of the ICD-10 codes 069.4, 'Labour and delivery complicated by vasa praevia' (maternal code) or P02.6 'Fetus and Newborn affected by other and unspecified conditions of umbilical cord'. The text of the certificates with P02.6 was then searched for the term 'vasa praevia'.
3. Data on stillbirths have not been included.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Organs: Donors

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the difference between the reported rates of public support for organ donation and outcomes in securing organ donations; and if he will make a statement. [188628]

**Ann Keen:** Research carried out by UK Transplant in 2003 showed that 90 per cent. of people state their support for organ donation, but only 25 per cent. of people register on the Organ Donor Register. In its first report, the Organ Donation Taskforce placed great emphasis on understanding the reasons for this, along with the relatively high levels of family refusal to donation and this will be reflected during the implementation phase. The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) has asked the Taskforce to continue its work in order to look at the potential impact of a system of presumed consent for organ donation.

## Palliative Care: Children

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been included in primary care trust allocations for 2008-09 in order to enable them to meet the new children's palliative care strategy in (i) building a sustainable service of palliative care networks, including children's hospice services and (ii) supporting community nursing teams; and if he will make a statement. [187979]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** General allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) are not broken down into funding for individual services. It is for PCTs to decide how best to resource the priorities set out in the national health service operating framework for 2008-09.

Section two of the operating framework under 'Priorities' states

"disabled children: identifying actions and setting local targets on improving the experience of, and ranges of services for, children with disabilities and complex health needs and their families. This includes significantly increasing the range of short breaks, improving the quality and experience of palliative care services, improving access to therapies and supporting effective transition to adult services."

On 19 February, we launched the first ever national strategy for children's palliative care, 'Better Care: Better Lives'. The strategy will assist local commissioners, providers and regulators in devising local strategies to enable every child and young person with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition access to high-quality, family-centred, sustainable care and support with services provided in a setting of choice according to the child's and family's wishes. It sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place palliative care at the centre of local children's service provision.

We also announced an additional £20 million in funding to enable the children's hospices and hospice at home grant to continue in 2009-10 and 2010-11 with £10 million available in each year.

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week GPs spent using the Choose and Book system in the most recent period for which figures are available. [185824]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of hours per week that general practitioners spend using Choose and Book.

Benchmarked timings have been published showing the average length of time taken to use Choose and Book when it is correctly configured:

to log on to the system takes about 9 seconds;

to generate an appointment request takes about 38 seconds; or

to book an appointment takes 47 seconds.

These times are how long it takes the computers to respond, and do not take into account the time required for the clinical and booking conversation that is needed with the patient.

### Post-Mortems: Children

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post-mortem examinations were carried out on children aged between five and 15 years in each coroner's district in each of the last five years. [184742]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested. The Office for National Statistics collects data on the deaths of children in England aged between five and 15 years where a post-mortem examination has been carried out. It is not broken down by coroner's district. The information available is shown in the following table.

*Death registrations in England by post mortem type, ages 5 to 15*[1]

| | *Post mortem authorised by a coroner* | *Post mortem authorised by a doctor* | *Not known by whom post mortem authorised* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 493 | 22 | 4 |
| 2005 | 533 | 18 | 5 |
| 2004 | 507 | 18 | 1 |
| 2003 | 579 | 19 | 2 |
| 2002 | 571 | 25 | 4 |

[1] Data from the Office for National Statistics

Information is not collected centrally on how many of those post-mortem examinations were carried out by paediatric pathologists.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of multi-disciplinary teams for urological cancer. [184259]

**Ann Keen:** Information about the effectiveness of individual urology multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) can be found within local cancer network peer review reports. These are in the public domain and can be accessed on the Cancer Quality Improvement Networks System website at:

www.cquins.nhs.uk/published_reviews.php

A national overview of the findings from the recent round of cancer peer review (2004-07) is due to be published shortly. This will include summary information about urology MDTs.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the post-operative mortality rate for radical prostatectomy *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by strategic health authority area. [184261]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department has received from *(a)* patients and *(b)* clinicians on treating prostate cancer on the NHS in the last six months; what the content of these representations was; and if he will make a statement. [184262]

**Ann Keen:** The main forum through which patients and clinicians make representations to the Department of Health is the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG). As part of our commitment to working in partnership, the Government welcomed the establishment of the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action in January 2003 and acted upon its call to establish the PCAG, chaired by Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director. The overall remit of the PCAG is to facilitate collaboration between the Department, the voluntary sector and patient and professional groups to advise Ministers, the National Cancer Director and the Department on the development of policy on prostate cancer.

The PCAG last met on 26 June 2007, and treatment issues discussed were:

progress on the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS);

the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline on "prostate cancer: diagnosis and treatment";

the pilot multi-disciplinary team training programme;

brachytherapy;

implementation of the NICE improving outcomes guidance (IOG) on urological cancers and

NICE cancer drug appraisals.

The PCAG is next due to meet on 18 March 2008, following publication of the NICE clinical guideline "Prostate cancer: diagnosis and treatment".

I met representatives of the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action on 7 November 2007, and treatment issues discussed were the important role of cancer nurse specialists, patient experience, the Career Research Society and clinical outcomes data.

In addition, since 1 August 2007, the Department has received 57 items of correspondence from patients and clinicians on a wide variety of subjects relating to prostate cancer. Since 6 November 2007, the Department has received 26 parliamentary questions on prostate cancer.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of specialist urological cancer teams in England. [184265]

**Ann Keen:** There were over 100 urology local teams and over 50 urology specialist teams in England at the time of the 2004-07 round of the national cancer peer review.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* consultant urologists and *(b)* consultant oncologists he estimates have expertise in urological cancers. [184267]

**Ann Keen:** Data are not collected centrally on the number of urologists and oncologists specialising in urological cancers.

The last work force census showed that as of 30 September 2006, there were 510 consultants working in urology and 482 consultants working in clinical oncology.

There are 1,556 extra cancer consultants since 1997 (a 49.3 per cent. increase) and 3,341 (65.7 per cent.) extra consultants in other specialties who spend a significant amount of their time caring for cancer patients.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prostate cancer patients had prostate cancer diagnosed at *(a)* clinical stage I or II, *(b)* clinical stage III and *(c)* clinical stage IV in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the way in which these proportions have changed over time. [184268]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not publish statistics on the stages at which prostate cancer is diagnosed. The "Cancer Reform Strategy", published last December, highlights the need to collect and use high quality data on clinical outcomes with adjustments for stage of disease. Part of the new National Cancer Intelligence Network's work will be, in due course, to co-ordinate the collection and analysis of this data.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer networks have a *(a)* lead clinician, *(b)* nurse director and *(c)* service improvement lead for the Improving Outcomes Guidance for urological cancers. [184277]

**Ann Keen:** In terms of the "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers" guidance, posts would be at multidisciplinary team (MDT) rather than cancer network level. The most recent round of peer review (2004-07) found that for urological cancer:

100 per cent. and 99 per cent. of local and specialist urological cancer MDTs had a lead clinician respectively;

96 per cent. and 100 per cent. of local and specialist urological cancer MDTs had a clinical nurse specialist respectively; and

92 per cent. and 96 per cent. of local and specialist urological cancer MDTs had service improvement leads respectively.

## Seroxat

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for Seroxat were issued by general practitioners in England from 1997 to 2007. [186059]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold information on prescriptions issued by general practitioners.

## South Central Ambulance NHS Trust: Vacancies

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational posts are vacant in the Buckinghamshire division of South Central Ambulance NHS Trust; [187947]

(2) how many members of staff have resigned from *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational posts in the Buckinghamshire division of South Central Ambulance NHS Trust since its inception; [187948]

(3) how many members of staff there are in *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational posts in the Buckinghamshire division of South Central Ambulance NHS Trust; [187949]

(4) how many members of staff in *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational posts are on sick leave in the Buckinghamshire division of South Central Ambulance NHS Trust. [188011]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The requested information on the number of staff on sick leave, and the number of staff who have resigned is not collected centrally. These are matters for South Central Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust, and the hon. Member may wish to approach the Chief Executive of the Trust for this information.

Information on number of staff in post, and number of vacant posts is not available in the requested format. Information is held at NHS trust level, and is provided in the following tables, for all categories of staff at South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Latest available information is for September 2006 and March 2007.

*Staff in the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust by main staff group and level as at 30 September 2006*

| *South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust* | *headcount* |
|---|---|
| Total | 2,141 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 972 |
| Qualified nursing staff | 2 |
| Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 1 |
| Manager | 63 |
| Emergency care practitioner | 26 |
| Ambulance paramedic | 462 |
| Ambulance technician | 418 |
| Support to ambulance staff | 923 |
| Ambulance personnel | 372 |
| Trainee ambulance technician | 91 |
| Healthcare assistant | 5 |
| Clerical and administrative | 347 |
| Support worker | 103 |
| Estates (maintenance and works, ambulances) | 5 |
| NHS infrastructure support | 246 |
| Central functions, clerical and administrative | 88 |
| Property and Estates, clerical and administrative | 3 |
| Estates (maintenance and works, buildings etc) | 46 |
| Senior managers | 28 |
| Manager | 81 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

*NHS three month vacancies in South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust as at March 2007*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total | 7 |
| Healthcare assistants and support staff within local delivery plan definition | 0 |
| Other healthcare assistants | 0 |
| Administrative and clerical staff | 7 |
| Ambulance staff | 0 |

*Notes:*
1. Vacancy data is from the Vacancies Survey 2007.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2007.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Vacancy numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

### Strokes: Rehabilitation

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to speech and language therapy for people with communication difficulties following strokes; and if he will make a statement. [188774]

**Ann Keen:** The National Stroke Strategy published last December sets out the vision for modernising services and delivering the newest treatments for stroke. The strategy makes clear that people who have had strokes should be able to access high-quality rehabilitation and receive support from stroke-skilled services as soon as possible after they have had a stroke, available in hospital, immediately after transfer from hospital and for as long as they need it. Stroke care networks are being developed to provide support for service providers and commissioners locally to improve the services they offer.

The national health service has the resources to fund these changes to stroke services, having seen record levels of investment and a period of significant expansion in the workforce. There has been a 36 per cent. increase in the number of speech and language therapists (SLTs) working in the NHS, bringing the total to 6,623 (NHS staff census September 2006 headcount). The number of SLTs entering training has increased by 65 per cent. since 1998-99. We acknowledge the significant value of SLTs in the management of swallowing, speech and communication disorders following a stroke. In addition we have announced spending proposals totalling £105 million to provide national support for implementation of the National Stroke Strategy.

### Suicide: Drugs

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those who committed suicide were taking the drug roaccutane at the time of their death in each of the last five years. [186792]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the United Kingdom, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) runs the Yellow Card Scheme. This scheme allows health professionals and patients to report suspected adverse drug reactions, which include suicides, on a voluntary basis. Over the last five years a total of 15 suspected adverse drug reactions of suicide have been reported in association with isotretinoin (Roaccutane) through this scheme. It is important to note that a report of an adverse drug reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Other factors such as an underlying illness or other medicines may have contributed. Severe acne itself is known to be associated with an increased risk of depressive illness.

The safety of isotretinoin has been closely monitored by the MHRA since it was approved in 1983. The benefits of isotretinoin in the treatment of acne are considered to outweigh the risk of adverse effects by regulatory authorities throughout Europe and worldwide.

Warnings about the risk of depression and suicidal behaviour were added to the product information for prescribers and patients in 1998. These warnings have been strengthened following a European review of the isotretinoin product information and most recently the 'Roaccutane Patient Information Leaflet' has been subject to user testing to ensure that the information, including that about risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour, is clear, comprehensive and understandable.

### Surgery: Private Sector

**Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many private operations were carried out in NHS premises in 2007. [182655]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not have exact figures on private operations but we do collect information on finished consultant episodes (FCEs). FCEs are different from operations because they also include other interventions such as high-cost drug treatments, diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. The latest figure is shown in the following table.

*Private FCEs carried out in national health service premises*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 89,328 |

*Notes:*
1. An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider.
2. Data excludes a small proportion of invalid data.

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

### Working Parties

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 283W, on working parties, what *(a)* working parties, *(b)* task forces and *(c)* steering groups were set up by his Department in each of the last five years. [184807]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has not routinely collected information centrally on working parties, task forces and steering groups. It would incur disproportionate cost to seek to identify this information retrospectively. The survey referred to in the reply given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 263-64W was a one-off project, carried out in autumn 2006 which identified over 200 extant working parties which engaged stakeholders. For a list of those groups and the survey questions I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1009W, to the

hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley). The Department is planning to improve its information systems so that knowledge of working groups is captured routinely as a by-product of day-to-day work.

**Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority: Finance**

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected financial outturn of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority is for 2007-08. [188185]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* At the second quarter of 2007-08, the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority is forecasting a financial year-end surplus of £271.5 million.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Community Relations**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to tackle community tensions since 1997. [188902]

**Mr. Dhanda:** 'Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: The Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion' (published in 2005) and its related two annual progress reports set out some of the steps that the Government have taken since 1997 to tackle community tensions that can undermine community cohesion—for example, in their work with partners to monitor tensions and provide support for local areas experiencing particular challenges. More recently 'The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion' (published in February 2008) provides a new clarity on, and commitment to, delivering cohesive and integrated communities. This includes a commitment to the new public service agreement 21 to build cohesive, empowered and active communities; increased investment in community cohesion; and a commitment to establish specialist cohesion teams to provide advice and support to local authorities facing cohesion challenges.

**Debt Collection: Standards**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public request to order disposal applications have been received by the Government. [187021]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Available records show that since 1997 the Government have received 42 public requests to order disposal under Section 98 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. Of these, 37 have been received since 2004.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken on the public request to order disposal applications made in relation to Prescott Villas in Prescott Drive in Liverpool. [187022]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In 2006 a notice was issued stating that the Secretary of State proposed to direct Liverpool city council to dispose of land at numbers 14, 16, 18 and 20 Prescott Drive. After consideration of the council's representations the decision was taken not to direct in respect of 20 Prescott Drive, as the council had by then disposed of its interest.

In respect of 14, 16, and 18 Prescott Drive, the decision was taken not to direct at present, but it was decided that a notice of the proposal to direct should remain in place and be reviewed after 12 months (October 2007) in order to give the council time to resolve land issues, finalise redevelopment plans and make tangible progress towards the development of the land.

In December 2007 Government office officials met with Liverpool city council to look at progress and consider whether a new notice should be issued. The Secretary of State will shortly be considering what further action to take.

**Disabled Facilities Grants: Newcastle Upon Tyne**

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was awarded in disabled facilities grants in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in 2006-07; and what the average size of grant was in that period. [187423]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In 2006-07 the Department awarded £693,000 to Newcastle upon Tyne city council to contribute to its disabled facilities grant (DFG) programme.

Authorities submit data to the Department on DFG expenditure and the number of grants through the annual housing strategy statistical appendix (HSSA). The 2006-07 return is due to be published shortly. The latest available data are for 2005-06, where the average grant was £,500.

**Fire Services: Buildings**

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department took of shift patterns in determining the size of regional fire control centres. [187839]

**Mr. Dhanda:** None. Shift patterns have no material impact on the size of the Regional Control Centres. The size of the buildings was based primarily on the number of staff required to provide a resilient 24 hour operation.

Shift patterns for regional control centre staff will be the responsibility of the eight regional Local Authority Control Companies and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

**Fire Services: Costs**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons estimates of the cost of the FiReControl Project have varied between October 2005 and December 2007; and if she will make a statement. [186132]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The October 2005 cost estimate is taken from an options analysis which preceded the establishment of the FiReControl project. We have fully defined the business requirements and have a more detailed understanding of the solution and how it will be delivered. For example, lease agreements have been signed for the nine regional control buildings and the national IT infrastructures services contract has been awarded. Furthermore, there has been price inflation of around 10 per cent. since the options analysis was published in 2003.

### Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors she took into account in determining the grant award to *(a)* North Yorkshire fire authority and *(b)* Humberside fire authority for 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [186455]

**John Healey:** The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs and potential to raise income locally (resources) of an authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same service. It also contains a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism.

For fire and rescue authorities, the needs component is measured through the Fire and Rescue Relative Needs Formula (RNF) and the Capital Finance RNF. The Fire and Rescue RNF takes into account the resident population, coastline, deprivation, high-risk sites, property and societal risk and community fire safety. The capital finance RNF takes into account assumed outstanding debt and supported capital expenditure (revenue).

The resources element uses a measure of the council tax base (number of band D equivalent properties).

The Government consulted on the formula grant distribution system between 17 July and 10 October 2007, and on the provisional grant settlements for the next three years from 6 December 2007 to 8 January 2008. I announced the 2008-09 and provisional 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlements on 24 January 2008. Within this, I confirmed that:

*(a)* North Yorkshire fire and rescue authority also receive £1.71 million, £1.5 million and £1.3 million from the floor damping mechanism in respective years. This will ensure that they receive increases of 1 per cent., 0.5 per cent. and 0.5 per cent. in grant on a like for like basis respectively; and

*(b)* Humberside fire authority also contribute £2.1 million, £1.5 million and £1 million to the floor damping mechanism in respective years. However, they receive increases of 5.8 per cent., 3.5 per cent. and 3.3 per cent. in grant on a like for like basis respectively.

### Fire Services: Procurement

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what risk assessment her Department and Firebuy have undertaken of the decision to sign the integrated clothing project managed service contract; and what conclusions have been drawn. [188529]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The fully managed service and purchase with managed services elements of the integrated clothing project contract are expected to be signed this month between the service provider and Firebuy Ltd. The purchase-only element of the contract was signed in October 2007. The decision to proceed to contract signature was made following a full assessment of the benefits and risks.

### Fire Services: Retirement

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many ill-health retirements in the fire service there were between April and October *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007, broken down by fire authority. [187413]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Available information, for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, is set out in the following table:

*Ill-health retirements in the fire service 2005-06.*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Avon | 10 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire | 5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3 |
| Cheshire | 0 |
| Cleveland | 3 |
| Cornwall | 1 |
| County Durham and Darlington | 5 |
| Cumbria | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 2 |
| Devon | 6 |
| Dorset | 7 |
| East Sussex | 5 |
| Essex | 20 |
| Gloucestershire | 2 |
| Greater Manchester | 8 |
| Hampshire | 3 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 5 |
| Humberside | 16 |
| Isle of Wight | 1 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 |
| Kent | 7 |
| Lancashire | 2 |
| Leicestershire | 3 |
| Lincolnshire | 5 |
| London | 74 |
| Merseyside | 16 |
| Norfolk | 2 |
| North Yorkshire | 8 |
| Northamptonshire | 5 |
| Northumberland | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14 |
| Oxfordshire | 1 |
| Royal Berkshire | 4 |
| Shropshire | 1 |
| Somerset | 3 |
| South Yorkshire | 17 |
| Staffordshire | 16 |
| Suffolk | 1 |
| Surrey | 1 |
| Tyne and Wear | 13 |
| Warwickshire | 5 |
| West Midlands | 21 |

*Ill-health retirements in the fire service 2005-06*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| West Sussex | 0 |
| West Yorkshire | 7 |
| Wiltshire | 0 |
| England | 332 |

*Source:* Annual returns to Communities and Local Government.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed by the Government office for *(a)* the east of England, *(b)* the east midlands, *(c)* London, *(d)* the north-east, *(e)* the north-west, *(f)* the south-east, *(g)* the south-west and *(h)* Yorkshire and the Humber; what each office's expenditure was in each of the last five years; and what the total staffing cost was for each office in the last year for which figures are available. [188899]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The staffing information (as at January 2008) is as follows:

*(a)* the East of England: 189;
*(b)* the East Midlands: 193;
*(c)* London: 241;
*(d)* the North East: 238;
*(e)* North West: 267;
*(f)* South East: 259;
*(g)* South West; 246; and
*(h)* Yorkshire and the Humber: 220.

The running cost expenditure for each of the offices for the last five years is as set out in the following table.

£000

| GO | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | L2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | 9,355.85 | 12,841.51 | 15,075.61 | 13,296.12 | 12,211.64 |
| East Midlands | 8,713.24 | 11,153.67 | 11,937.13 | 12,530.66 | 11,490.17 |
| London | 14,038.84 | 16,654.91 | 18,870.09 | 18,483.70 | 17,595.20 |
| North East | 9,954.46 | 12,167.24 | 13,887.09 | 13,138.16 | 12,730.25 |
| North West | 15,523.52 | 16,808.94 | 17,777.86 | 17,745.45 | 16,933.67 |
| South East | 10,874.74 | 14,099.03 | 14,372.51 | 14,624.51 | 13,677.13 |
| South West | 11,860.77 | 13,960.23 | 14,724.92 | 14,823.08 | 14,570.49 |
| Yorks and the Humber | 10,943.77 | 12,4870.23 | 13,453.18 | 13,494.30 | 10,676.64 |

The total staffing costs in 2006-07 were as follows:

*(a)* the East of England: £9,710,710;
*(b)* the East Midlands: £9,308,430;
*(c)* London : £13,230,880;
*(d)* the North East: £10,271,150;
*(e)* North West: £12,924,880;
*(f)* South East: £11,647,190;
*(g)* South West: £10,780,010; and
*(h)* Yorkshire and the Humber: £9,574,780.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations have been received calling for a home information pack to be required prior to marketing. [188209]

**Caroline Flint:** We have received a range of representations about HIPs, including some relating to the current first day marketing provision. We continue to welcome such representations as HIPs bed in and we move towards a permanent state of implementation.

### Housing

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, *Official Report*, columns 1527-28W, on housing, how many domestic dwellings were on the valuation list in each year since the establishment of council tax. [178620]

**John Healey:** Details of the number of domestic dwellings on the valuation list are published each year in "Local Government Financial Statistics (England)".

The information for 1993 was published in LGFS No. 4: 1990-91 to 1993-94, for 1994 in LGFS No. 5: 1994, for 1995 in LGFS No. 6: 1995, for 1996 in LGFS No. 7: 1996, for 1997 in LGFS No. 8: 1997, for 1998 in LGFS No. 9: 1998, for 1999 in LGFS No. 10: 1999, for 2000 in LGFS No. 11: 2000, for 2001 in LGFS No. 12: 2001 and for 2002 to 2006 in LGFS No. 17: 2007.

These publications are in the Library of the House and LGFS Nos. 11, 12 and 17 are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

The data are provided by the Valuation Office Agency.

### Housing: Debt

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the historic housing debt remaining at the latest available date; what rate of interest was charged on that date; how much has been written off for *(a)* stock transfer and *(b)* large-scale voluntary transfers since 2000; and what the cost is of treating the remaining debt in the same fashion as that in transfers. [186840]

**Caroline Flint:** No distinction is drawn between 'historic debt' entered into to build councils' housing stock and 'new debt' entered into to pay for decent homes. The total assumed housing debt in 2007-08 is £17.3 billion. The interest on debt is governed by each council's Consolidated Rate of Interest (CRI). The CRI is different for each authority and depends upon the number, value and period of the various loans that authorities have negotiated individually. The average CRI for 2007-08 is 6.17 per cent.

If a local authority's attributable housing debt is not cleared either in part or in entirety by receipts from a registered social landlord (RSL) through large-scale voluntary transfer arrangements, the debt that remains is transferred from the local-authority sector to central Government through a payment made to the Public Works Loan Board. Overhanging debt payments to the Public Works Loans Board under these debt transfer arrangements since 2000 are shown in the following table.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 276 |
| 2001-02 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 548 |
| 2003-04 | 91 |
| 2004-05 | 591 |
| 2005-06 | 386 |
| 2006-07 | 544 |
| Total | 2,436 |

A payment of £17.3 billion would be required to be made to the PWLB to transfer the remaining housing debt to the Exchequer.

### Job Creation: Newcastle Upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many jobs were directly created by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in Newcastle in 2006-07; and what proportion of these were for residents of *(a)* Newcastle and *(b)* priority areas of the fund. [187410]

**John Healey:** In 2006-07 the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) was pooled within the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The NRF was un-ring-fenced and eligible areas were free to use this funding in ways that would contribute to narrowing the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest within each district. Performance was monitored across six key themes—crime, education, health, worklessness, housing and live ability.

It is not possible to determine exactly how many jobs were created as a direct consequence of NRF use in Newcastle.

### Job Creation: Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the recording of jobs created directly in Working Neighbourhoods Fund priority areas. [187411]

**John Healey:** The Working Neighbourhoods Fund will be paid as part of the new Area-Based Grant—a non-ring-fenced general grant—from April 2008. In accordance with the freedoms and flexibilities afforded to local authorities through the local government White Paper we will not be placing any additional burdens on local authorities to report on the use of any part of the grant outside the 198 National Indicators. Performance on tackling worklessness will be monitored as part of these 198 indicators, but not specifically the number of jobs created.

### Land

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether public requests to order disposal can be applied to land owned by *(a)* Government Departments and their agencies, *(b)* the Crown Estate, *(c)* regional development agencies, *(d)* English Partnerships and *(e)* the British Rail Residual Body. [183249]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Part 10 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 makes provision for the disposal of public land, including the specific public request to order disposal (PROD) power. Schedule 16 of the Act lists the specific bodies to whom part 10 of the Act applies.

The five bodies listed in the question are not listed in schedule 16 of the Act and therefore public requests to order disposal cannot be applied to any land owned by these bodies, apart from one small exception. English Partnerships is a single operational entity which brings together the Urban Regeneration Agency and the Commission for the New Towns. However, these two bodies continue to exist legally. The Commission for the New Towns is listed in schedule 16 of the Act as a body to which part 10 applies. If it could be proved that the land in question was owned by The Commission for the New Towns, the public request to order disposal could be applied to that land.

### Local Authorities: Equality

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to assist local authorities in tackling gender pay gaps among their employees. [188901]

**John Healey:** Central Government have recently increased the financial flexibility available to local authorities to meet their equal pay obligations and to speed up progress on delivering equal pay. On 5 February, we announced that the Government would continue to support councils to meet their equal pay obligations through a further equal pay capitalisation round in 2008-09. This builds on the £500 million issued to 46 authorities on 28 September 2007 for the current financial year. These directions were issued much earlier in the financial year than previous capitalisation directions to facilitate better financial planning and to maintain the momentum already achieved.

### Local Authorities: Vehicles

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department collects information on the proportion of local authorities' vehicles manufactured in the UK. [187677]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This information is not held centrally.

### Local Government Finance: Newcastle Upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the area based grant for 2008-09 will be for each Tyne and Wear local authority; and how much its various predecessor grants were for those authorities in 2007-08. [187424]

**John Healey:** The Government published allocations of the area-based grant (ABG) at individual authority level on a three-year basis alongside the local government finance settlement 2008-09 to 2010-11. Full details of the allocations, as at the time of the

settlement, are available on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0809/specgrant.htm

The 2008-09 Allocations for Tyne and Wear authorities for the period 2008-09 are as follows.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Gateshead | 17.187 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 21.978 |
| North Tyneside | 10.533 |
| South Tyneside | 20.655 |
| Sunderland | 25.188 |

Area-based grant is a new non-ring-fenced general grant which comprises some 40 funding streams from seven Government Departments including my own, three of which are new and 37 of which were previously paid as specific grants. Data on the 2007-08 allocations of the 37 predecessor grants are not held in one place at individual local-authority level, and it would incur disproportionate costs to collate the information. A list of the former specific grants moved into ABG is available on our website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/rsg_abg.pdf

### Olympic Games 2012: Essex

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister for the East of England will visit *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Colchester to discuss potential involvement with the 2012 Olympics. [188627]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the East of England will be visiting Essex in July to meet representatives of the county council, and has asked for the Olympics to be placed on the agenda.

The Minister for the East of England, and I understand that partners in Essex are well engaged with the Olympics nations and regions structures that are in place. I am also aware of the efforts made by Colchester to engage and recognise opportunities by forming a 2012 Partnership Group and submitting an application for a pre-games training camp.

The Minister for the East of England currently has no plans to visit Colchester, but she would be pleased to consider any further information about how it plans to be involved in the 2012 Olympics.

### Planning

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how often the expert panels on *(a)* housing markets and planning, *(b)* neighbourhoods, cities and regions and *(c)* housing and communities have met since being established; and whether their advice is made public. [186817]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Each of the expert panels had separate launch events, to which all panel members were invited. However, the primary role of the expert panels is for individual panel members to provide advice on the topics in which they specialise, either through attending relevant policy seminars or through undertaking customised pieces of research in order to meet the Department's short-term information needs. As such, the panels do not meet formally.

The lead members for each expert panel are developing bespoke websites in order to disseminate the outputs of the respective panels. The membership of the expert panels was provided in response to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1020-21W.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the Chair of the Sustainability Committee of the National Assembly for Wales on their involvement in the development of UK-wide planning legislation. [188171]

**John Healey:** We have received a number of representations from the Welsh Assembly Government on their involvement in the development of UK-wide planning legislation. I have received representations about the Planning Bill from the Chair of the Sustainability Committee of the National Assembly of Wales, including a copy of the Committee's report on the Bill.

### Regeneration

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the report on Alternatives to Casino-led regeneration; on what date the report *(a)* was commissioned, *(b)* was originally scheduled for publication and *(c)* is now expected to be published; and what the cost of producing the report is. [188237]

**John Healey:** The Review of Alternative Approaches to regional casino-led regeneration will be published shortly.

In July, the Prime Minister said that the Government would consider the question of whether deprived areas could be equally well served by forms of regeneration other than the development of regional casinos. As a part of this process, an interdepartmental working group was set up, the first meeting of which was held on 9 August 2007.

Civil servants have to date devoted a significant amount of time to the investigation of alternatives to regional casino-led regeneration, although the review has not had a specifically dedicated resource. In addition, there has been a cost of approximately £3,000 for the Expert Panel members' time to peer-review the document.

### Regional Ministers: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative costs for the Government offices for the regions are expected to be in the current financial year. [188769]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The administrative costs of the Government offices for the regions in 2007-08 are expected to be £142,656,000. This includes all funding received from sponsor Departments, including a

non-cash allocation and funds that have been provided for the current year for a voluntary early release scheme.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budgets the Government offices for the regions are responsible for in the current financial year. [188770]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government offices for the regions have specific responsibility for an administration running cost budget and a capital budget.

Programme budgets administered by the Government offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. The Departments delegate authority to the regional directors to spend against their programmes, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

### Supporting People Programme: Finance

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of recent trends in Supporting People funding in respect of domestic violence *(a)* refuge provision, *(b)* women only services and *(c)* black and minority ethnic women services. [188274]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In 2005-06, over £59 million of Supporting People funding was used to provide housing-related support for victims of domestic violence. In 2006-07, the most recent year for which figures are available, that figure had risen to over £61 million. Services are commissioned by top-tier local authorities to meet local needs. The Government have not assessed the funding for specific types of services to which my hon. Friend refers.

### Thames Gateway: Resignations

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the resignation of Judith Armitt, chief executive of Thames Gateway; and whether Ministers in her Department were consulted by Ms. Armitt on her decision prior to its announcement. [178747]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W.

### Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1034-5W, on urban areas: sustainable development, what measures, rules, codes of practice, or other guidelines are in place on transparency and propriety in her Department's dealings with property developers in relation to eco-towns; how much financial or other assistance has been received in sponsorship for eco-town events by property developers in Micheldever in the last 12 months; how much is expected in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [186988]

**Caroline Flint:** All Government officials are bound by the obligations set out in the Civil Service Code. The forthcoming public consultation on eco-towns will be undertaken in line with the Government's Code of Practice on consultations.

The Government have received no sponsorship or financial support from private developers for eco-towns events that they have held, and will not be receiving any future support. Any funding received by a non-governmental organisation for eco-towns events is a matter for that organisation.

## TREASURY

### Child Benefit

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit for 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education and unwaged work-based learning in 2006-07; and how much is planned to be spent on each in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [188043]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest information on finalised child tax credit awards is for 2005-06. It is estimated that the entitlement for families with one or more children aged at least 16 at the previous 31 August was about £1.8 billion. This estimate includes entitlement for other children in these families. It also includes families receiving the equivalent level of support via income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance.

In 2006-07, around £1 billion was paid in child benefit to families in respect of children aged at least 16 at the previous August.

Estimates and forecasts for later years are not available.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* guidance provided to and *(b)* training procedures for HM Revenue and Customs staff on access to copying and dissemination of personal data. [168050]

**Jane Kennedy:** Examples of guidance to HMRC staff are already in the public domain and can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals

It would not be appropriate to publish more specific details of the data security arrangements, controls and procedures adopted by HMRC to protect personal and other sensitive data as to do so would be likely to undermine their effectiveness.

HMRC is currently reviewing all training procedures and guidance relating to data security following the recent child benefit data loss incident.

### Credit

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the *(a)* size and *(b)* recent trends in growth of the (i) global and (ii) domestic credit default swap market. [187513]

**Angela Eagle:** There are many statistical sources that provide estimates of the size of the global credit default swap market. Two such resources are the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA).

The latest BIS survey published in November 2007 reported the notional amount of outstanding over the counter credit default swaps to be $42.6 trillion in June 2007, up from $28.9 trillion in December 2006 ($13.9 trillion in December 2005).

ISDA reported that the notional amount outstanding of credit derivatives grew by 32 per cent. in the first six months of 2007 to $45.46 trillion from $34.42 trillion. They also reported that the annual growth rate for credit derivatives is 75 per cent. from $26.0 trillion at mid-year 2006.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Bank of England and *(c)* the Financial Services Authority have conducted an analysis of the effect on UK financial stability of the growth of the credit default swap market. [187814]

**Angela Eagle:** Both the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority routinely analyse developments in the credit default swap market, drawing on their relationships with firms, trade associations and international counterparts. These assessments are shared with HM Treasury through the Tripartite Standing Committee on Financial Stability. The Bank of England publish their analysis in their Quarterly Bulletin and Financial Stability Report.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188779]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department does not collect data on the number of Treasury staff who have been suspended. The number of staff dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material in each of the last five years is nil.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the last 12 editions of the staff magazine of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies. [187631]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Financial Secretary (Mr. Healey) on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 737W.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on translation services by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date. [188003]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor's Department and its associated agencies have procured translation services over the last five years. However, it is not possible to provide comprehensive details as these could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK citizens in *(a)* unskilled and *(b)* semi-skilled employment in the UK in each year since 1997; [177468]

(2) what the working age employment rate of *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* the UK population who were (i) unskilled, (ii) semi-skilled and (iii) skilled workers was in each year since 2001; and what research he has (A) commissioned and (B) evaluated on changes in these employment rates. [177469]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your two Parliamentary Questions. The first is about the number of (a) UK nationals and (b) the UK 60 million population who were (i) unskilled, (ii) semi-skilled and (iii) skilled workers was in each year since 2001; and what research has been (A) commissioned and (B) evaluated on changes in these employment rates. The second is about the number of non UK citizens in (a) unskilled and (b) semi-skilled employment in the UK in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (177468, 177469)

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. However, you have requested data analysed by nationality and this is the basis on which this PQ has been answered.

The attached table gives the number and proportion of UK nationals, foreign nationals and all people in employment, for the three month period ending June each year, from 2001 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available before 2001. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification has been used to categorise the population and provide the employment status of each working age adult.

I am advised that the Government has not commissioned research on the changes in the employment rate of skilled and non-skilled workers since 2001. As part of the Leitch Review of Skills, published in 2006, projections of employment demand by skill level and occupation was commissioned from Cambridge Econometrics and the Warwick Institute of Employment Studies. Further information can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/leitch_review/review_leitch_index.cfm

It is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Working age[1] employment level and rate[2], by socio-economic classification (NS-SEC) and nationality, April to June, 2001-07, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousands, except where indicated*

| | All SEC categories[3,4] | | Higher managerial and professional | | Lower managerial and professional | | Intermediate occupations | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) |
| *2001* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,323 | 86.1 | 3,165 | 92.6 | 6,482 | 90.7 | 3,219 | 87.5 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,089 | 81.0 | 226 | 90.3 | 283 | 84.4 | 112 | 81.7 |
| Total[5] | 25,413 | 85.9 | 3,393 | 92.4 | 6,765 | 90.4 | 3,330 | 87.3 |
| *2002* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,360 | 86.3 | 3,128 | 91.7 | 6,735 | 90.3 | 3,183 | 87.5 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,164 | 81.4 | 210 | 87.1 | 347 | 86.7 | 102 | 78.1 |
| Total[5] | 25,525 | 86.0 | 3,339 | 91.4 | 7,082 | 90.2 | 3,286 | 87.2 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,492 | 86.4 | 3,271 | 92.1 | 6,840 | 90.5 | 3,098 | 86.8 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,238 | 82.4 | 232 | 89.1 | 352 | 88.8 | 133 | 79.7 |
| Total[5] | 25,730 | 86.2 | 3,503 | 91.9 | 7,192 | 90.4 | 3,232 | 86.5 |
| *2004* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,414 | 86.6 | 3,355 | 92.6 | 6,928 | 90.8 | 3,046 | 87.4 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,343 | 84.3 | 260 | 91.5 | 359 | 87.7 | 130 | 84.0 |
| Total[5] | 25,758 | 86.5 | 3,615 | 92.5 | 7,287 | 90.6 | 3,176 | 87.2 |
| *2005* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,465 | 87.0 | 3,441 | 92.9 | 6,973 | 91.0 | 3,027 | 87.7 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,424 | 84.4 | 273 | 89.0 | 373 | 88.2 | 130 | 79.1 |
| Total[5] | 25,891 | 86.9 | 3,715 | 92.6 | 7,347 | 90.9 | 3,158 | 87.3 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,241 | 86.9 | 3,490 | 92.6 | 7,107 | 91.2 | 3,019 | 87.3 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,636 | 86.4 | 311 | 93.4 | 401 | 87.6 | 120 | 83.7 |
| Total[5] | 25,879 | 86.9 | 3,801 | 92.7 | 7,508 | 91.0 | 3,139 | 87.2 |
| *2007* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 24,071 | 87.0 | 3,494 | 92.8 | 6,924 | 91.0 | 3,002 | 87.4 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 1,895 | 86.4 | 346 | 92.4 | 433 | 89.5 | 141 | 77.3 |
| Total[5] | 25,973 | 86.9 | 3,841 | 92.7 | 7,360 | 90.9 | 3,143 | 86.9 |

| | Small employers and own account workers | | Lower supervisory and technical | | Semi-routine occupations | | Routine occupations | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) |
| *2001* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,171 | 89.3 | 2,824 | 86.3 | 3,707 | 79.5 | 2,755 | 76.0 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 97 | 79.0 | 80 | 77.7 | 158 | 72.9 | 133 | 74.4 |
| Total[5] | 2,267 | 88.8 | 2,904 | 86.0 | 3,865 | 79.2 | 2,888 | 76.0 |
| *2002* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,227 | 89.9 | 2,838 | 86.1 | 3,572 | 79.5 | 2,677 | 77.1 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 96 | 83.2 | 96 | 82.9 | 174 | 73.2 | 139 | 73.8 |
| Total[5] | 2,323 | 89.6 | 2,934 | 86.0 | 3,746 | 79.2 | 2,815 | 76.9 |

| | Small employers and own account workers | | Lower supervisory and technical | | Semi-routine occupations | | Routine occupations | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) | Level | Rate (%) |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,336 | 90.6 | 2,759 | 86.0 | 3,619 | 79.5 | 2,569 | 76.9 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 102 | 79.1 | 100 | 84.4 | 176 | 72.9 | 143 | 75.1 |
| Total[5] | 2,437 | 90.0 | 2,858 | 85.9 | 3,796 | 79.2 | 2,712 | 76.8 |
| *2004* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,380 | 91.3 | 2,744 | 86.2 | 3,491 | 79.0 | 2,470 | 76.6 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 134 | 85.2 | 109 | 86.6 | 184 | 72.0 | 168 | 80.8 |
| Total[5] | 2,514 | 90.9 | 2,853 | 86.2 | 3,675 | 78.6 | 2,639 | 76.8 |
| *2005* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,331 | 90.0 | 2,736 | 86.6 | 3,502 | 80.3 | 2,456 | 77.0 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 121 | 84.3 | 103 | 82.8 | 234 | 82.7 | 190 | 78.6 |
| Total[5] | 2,453 | 89.7 | 2,838 | 86.4 | 3,735 | 80.5 | 2,645 | 77.1 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,320 | 89.4 | 2,563 | 86.7 | 3,346 | 78.6 | 2,395 | 78.2 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 156 | 90.1 | 139 | 88.1 | 285 | 80.7 | 225 | 81.8 |
| Total[5] | 2,477 | 89.4 | 2,702 | 86.8 | 3,632 | 78.8 | 2,620 | 78.5 |
| *2007* | | | | | | | | |
| UK Nationals | 2,346 | 90.3 | 2,604 | 86.9 | 3,342 | 79.1 | 2,360 | 77.4 |
| Non-UK Nationals | 169 | 87.5 | 146 | 86.3 | 353 | 82.6 | 307 | 84.4 |
| Total[5] | 2,515 | 90.1 | 2,751 | 86.9 | 3,696 | 79.5 | 2,667 | 78.1 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Number of people in employment of working age as a percentage of all persons of working age in the relevant group.
[3] Excludes those who have never worked or are long-term unemployed.
[4] Includes those who did not state their socio-economic classification.
[5] Includes those who did not state their nationality.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give a break down of the number of people in employment in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each local authority area who were (i) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other EU states and (iii) citizens of non-EU states in (A) spring 2004 and (B) Quarter 2 2007. [177482]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for a break down of the number of people in employment in (a) each region and (b) each local authority area who were (i) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other EU states and (iii) citizens of non-EU states in (A) spring 2004 and (B) Quarter 2 2007. I am replying in her absence. (177482).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of employment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16 - 59 for women), and in employment. However, you have requested data analysed by nationality and this is the basis on which this PQ has been answered.

It is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who are foreign nationals. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

Tables 1 and 2, attached, shows estimates for the 12 month periods ending in March 2005 and June 2007 from the APS. Table 1 shows the number of working age employed persons in each Government Office region by nationality. Table 2 shows the number of working age employed persons in each local authority by nationality. Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter dated 6 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Banff

and Buchan regarding a constituent, Mr. P. Hawkey of Longside. [187799]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote to the hon. Member on 21 February.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter dated 20 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding a constituent, Mr. R. Gordon of Peterhead. [187800]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote to the hon. Member on 15 February.

## Migration

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the international passenger survey estimate of *(a)* inward migration, *(b)* outward migration and *(c)* the net migration balance was in each year since 1978; [177390]

(2) how many *(a)* inward and *(b)* outward migrants to and from the UK there were in each 10-year age cohort in each year since 1997. [177389]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Nationals Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions on how many *(a)* inward and *(b)* outward migrants to and from the UK there were in each year 10-year age cohort in each year since 1997 and what the international passenger survey estimate of *(a)* inward migration, *(b)* outward migration and (c) the net migration balance was in each year since 1978. I am replying in her absence. (177389, 177390)

Table 1, attached, gives long-term international migration flows into and out of the UK by 10 year age band for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 2, attached, gives the international passenger survey estimate of long-term inward and outward migration flows and net migration balance, in each year since 1978.

The United Nations recommended definition of a long-term international migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence. This is used for calculating population estimates and projections.

These data are from the international passenger survey (IPS), the main source for producing estimates of long-term international migration. Total international migration (TIM) estimates are the most comprehensive estimates of international migration and combine the IPS with other migration flows not captured by the IPS. However, the nature of these other data sources and the methods used to produce TIM mean that some queries can only be answered using the IPS. As a sample survey, data from the IPS are subject to margins of error.

*Table 1: International migration flows by ten year age group, estimates from the international passenger survey, time series 1997 to 2006 (calendar year), United Kingdom*

*thousand*

| *Inflow* | *All ages* | *0 to 9* | *10 to 19* | *20 to 29* | *30 to 39* | *40 to 49* | *50 to 59* | *60+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 273 | 25 | 49 | 120 | 45 | 20 | 8 | 7 |
| 1998 | 318 | 25 | 41 | 153 | 67 | 20 | 6 | 6 |
| 1999 | 354 | 23 | 44 | 171 | 75 | 25 | 10 | 6 |
| 2000 | 359 | 20 | 43 | 164 | 82 | 32 | 9 | 9 |
| 2001 | 372 | 26 | 37 | 185 | 72 | 27 | 16 | 8 |
| 2002 | 386 | 17 | 54 | 191 | 78 | 30 | 7 | 10 |
| 2003 | 427 | 25 | 55 | 209 | 82 | 32 | 15 | 9 |
| 2004 | 518 | 20 | 57 | 266 | 107 | 36 | 18 | 13 |
| 2005 | 496 | 12 | 57 | 269 | 101 | 38 | 12 | 8 |
| 2006 | 529 | 12 | 55 | 269 | 107 | 41 | 16 | 9 |
| *Outflow* | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 232 | 22 | 18 | 102 | 51 | 25 | 6 | 9 |
| 1998 | 206 | 15 | 16 | 83 | 59 | 16 | 10 | 7 |
| 1999 | 245 | 18 | 14 | 118 | 52 | 20 | 14 | 9 |
| 2000 | 278 | 16 | 15 | 133 | 63 | 30 | 13 | 8 |
| 2001 | 259 | 15 | 15 | 104 | 59 | 36 | 10 | 11 |
| 2002 | 305 | 17 | 15 | 124 | 81 | 29 | 26 | 14 |
| 2003 | 314 | 21 | 19 | 120 | 82 | 40 | 20 | 13 |
| 2004 | 310 | 16 | 17 | 123 | 72 | 36 | 26 | 21 |
| 2005 | 328 | 14 | 22 | 129 | 81 | 38 | 18 | 27 |
| 2006 | 369 | 22 | 19 | 138 | 94 | 47 | 17 | 33 |

*Notes:*
1. The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and Channel Tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.
2. This table relates solely to the international passenger survey (IPS). IPS data forms the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

*Table 2: International migration, estimates from the international passenger survey time series 1978 to 2006 (calendar year), United Kingdom*

*thousand*

| | *Inward migration* | *Outward migration* | *Net migration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1978 | 187 | 192 | -5 |
| 1979 | 195 | 189 | +6 |
| 1980 | 173 | 228 | -55 |
| 1981 | 153 | 232 | -79 |
| 1982 | 201 | 257 | -56 |
| 1983 | 202 | 184 | +17 |
| 1984 | 201 | 164 | +37 |
| 1985 | 232 | 174 | +58 |
| 1986 | 250 | 213 | +37 |
| 1987 | 211 | 209 | +2 |
| 1988 | 216 | 237 | -21 |
| 1989 | 250 | 205 | +44 |
| 1990 | 267 | 231 | +36 |
| 1991 | 255 | 247 | +8 |
| 1992 | 207 | 235 | -28 |
| 1993 | 204 | 223 | -19 |
| 1994 | 243 | 197 | +45 |
| 1995 | 235 | 198 | +37 |
| 1996 | 261 | 223 | +37 |
| 1997 | 273 | 232 | 40 |
| 1998 | 318 | 206 | 113 |
| 1999 | 354 | 245 | 109 |
| 2000 | 359 | 278 | 82 |
| 2001 | 372 | 250 | 122 |
| 2002 | 386 | 305 | +81 |
| 2003 | 427 | 314 | +113 |
| 2004 | 518 | 310 | +208 |
| 2005 | 496 | 328 | +168 |
| 2006 | 529 | 369 | +160 |

*Notes:*
1. The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and Channel Tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.
2. This table relates solely to the international passenger survey (IPS). IPS data forms the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Minimum Wage

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies in each of the last five years were found to be paying their staff below the minimum wage; and what action was taken in each case. [187416]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the great majority of cases where minimum wage arrears are identified the employer pays any minimum wage arrears without the need for any formal enforcement action. Where arrears are not paid, an Enforcement Notice will be issued setting out the arrears that are considered to be due. An employer will then have 28 days to lodge an appeal and subsequently have his case heard before an Employment Tribunal. If the appeal is not upheld or the Enforcement Notice is not appealed against, the arrears become due.

Details of the number of employers found not to be paying their staff the minimum wage in each of the last five years can be found in the table.

| | *Cases of non compliance* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 2,211 |
| 2004-05 | 1,798 |
| 2005-06 | 1,582 |
| 2006-07 | 1,522 |
| 2007-08 year to date | 1,301 |

In line with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) requirements, each complaint about possible non-payment of NMW is recorded as a case. In a small number of instances, where exceptionally the same employer is the subject of more than one complaint, the same employer will feature in more than one case. The number of cases does not therefore equate exactly with the number of employers for whom arrears have been identified.

## Northern Rock

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been lent to Northern Rock by the Bank of England and the Treasury. [171171]

**Angela Eagle:** This is a commercial matter between the Bank of England and Northern Rock.

## Revenue and Customs: Buildings

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fees were paid to private contractors for the operation and maintenance of buildings occupied by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187593]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs paid £295 million to PFI contractors in the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. This included the cost of provision of over 700 properties under PFI contracts as well as their operation and maintenance.

## Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed by HM Revenue and Customs to deal with correspondence from the public. [187597]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not available in the format requested and could be collated and provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs staff to reply to correspondence from the public was in the last year for which figures are available. [187602]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the format requested and could be collated and provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Share Option Scheme

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the value of share options issued by UK-listed companies has been in each of the last five years; [188491]

(2) what the revenues raised from taxation on share options have been in each of the last five years. [188492]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available. Estimates of the value of share options issued by UK-listed companies can be produced only at disproportionate cost. Tax revenues from share options cannot be distinguished from tax revenues from other sources of income and gains.

### Tax Allowances: Voluntary Work

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the 40 pence per mile tax ceiling for volunteer car drivers. [188327]

**Angela Eagle:** As I explained on 12 November 2007 in my reply to the Member's earlier question on this subject, there is no upper ceiling on mileage payments for volunteer car drivers.

### Tax Yields

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue has been raised from taxation of executive bonuses in each of the last five years. [188493]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available as payments in respect of executive bonuses are not reported separately.

### Unemployed: Nottingham

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unemployed people there were in Nottingham North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [187301]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, how many unemployed people there were in Nottingham North in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007. (187301)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, show the number of people unemployed, resident in the Nottingham North Parliamentary Constituency for the twelve months ending in February 1998 and June 2007.

This estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, and is based on small sample sizes, and is therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, show the number of people, resident in the Nottingham North Parliamentary Constituency claiming in December 1997 and December 2007.

*Table 1: Unemployed, resident in Nottingham North parliamentary constituency*

| *12 months ending:* | *Thousand Level* |
|---|---|
| February 1997[1] | 6 |
| June 2007[2] | 4 |

*Source:*
[1] Annual Labour Force Survey.
[2] Annual Population Survey.

*Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance of working age population for residents of Nottingham North parliamentary constituency*

| | *Number of claimants* |
|---|---|
| December 1997 | 2,036 |
| December 2007 | 1,440 |

### VAT: Vocational Training

**Mr. Horam:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend VAT exemption to commercial training and skills bodies; and if he will make a statement. [188360]

**Jane Kennedy:** VAT is not chargeable on education and vocational training provided by non-profit making bodies, local authorities, schools, further education colleges and universities; and certain supplies of private tuition. VAT is also not chargeable on the provision of certain Government approved vocational training by commercial organisations.

While VAT exemption has never extended to all supplies made by all commercial training and skills bodies, the Government will keep the VAT position under careful review alongside the requirements of the European VAT agreements signed by successive Governments, and our broader employment and skills objectives, most recently set out in 'Ready to Work, Skilled for Work: Unlocking Britain's Talent'.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcohol-Induced Crime

11. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat alcohol-induced crime. [188124]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office and DCMS will publish our report of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 shortly.

An interim report, published last July, showed that serious violent crime over a whole night fell by five per cent. and that there was a shift in the time that disorder peaked.

We are encouraging local authorities and the police to take decisive action to fine premises or remove licences where there is trouble and we have given the police a range of tools and powers to clamp down on licensees and individuals who abuse the laws.

### Identity Fraud

12. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the annual costs resulting from crimes associated with identity fraud. [188125]

**Meg Hillier:** In February 2006 we estimated that the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy was £1.7 billion. We are currently engaged in calculating a new estimate based on a new methodology and hope to make an announcement soon.

### Identity Cards

13. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria the Government will use to determine whether an identity card is to be required in order for a public service to be provided. [188126]

**Meg Hillier:** Identity cards will provide the most reliable and convenient method of proving identity and will help in the more efficient delivery of public services.

However, there are no plans at this stage to make the delivery of particular public services dependent on the production of an identity card.

### Post-Charge Detention

14. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued on the questioning of those detained after being charged; and if she will make a statement. [188127]

**Mr. McNulty:** Guidance on questioning after charge is contained in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice C and H.

Currently, questioning after charge only applies in limited circumstances; where it is necessary to clarify earlier statements, where public safety is at risk, where new evidence comes to light or for intelligence purposes.

The Counter-Terrorism Bill, currently before this House, contains provisions which seek to strengthen questioning after charge in respect of terrorism offences. We are also considering, as part of the Review of PACE currently under way, whether such provisions should be extended to other cases.

### Alcohol-Related Crime

15. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to prevent alcohol-related street crime in the last 12 months. [188128]

**Mr. Coaker:** The June 2007 National Alcohol Strategy reinforced the Government's commitment to preventing and reducing alcohol-related crime. As part of this, we have focused on ensuring that enforcement agencies are equipped with the legislative tools to tackle these crimes, and that these powers are robust and proportionate.

In the past year, work has been undertaken on a national basis to raise awareness of these powers among police and trading standards, including the publication of national guidance for police and partnerships on dealing with alcohol-related violence, supported by a DVD, and also through a series of national enforcement campaigns to ensure that alcohol is sold sensibly and responsibly.

### Immigration: Economic Effects

16. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research she has commissioned and evaluated on the effects of immigration on the economy. [188130]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the October submission by the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs.

That report provides an overview of recent evidence on the economic impact of immigration, and estimates that in 2006, new migration added about £6 billion to economic growth.

### Gun Crime

17. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce levels of gun crime. [188131]

**Mr. Coaker:** We have made significant progress in efforts to reduce gun crime since 1997. We have increased enforcement operations, introduced tougher legislation and given more powers to the police and courts to deal with offenders. We are also empowering communities to take local action against guns and criminal gangs.

### Stop and Search

18. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response she has made to the recommendations of the Flanagan Report on the recording of stop and account and stop and search incidents by police officers. [188132]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Secretary's oral statement of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1140W, welcomed the Flanagan Review proposals and announced that instead of issuing a form we would pilot providing the person stopped with a card, with the encounter being recorded using Airwave police radio technology.

In her statement the Home Secretary also supported Sir Ronnie Flanagan's view that it is right to retain existing recording requirements for stop and searches but called on chief officers to streamline stop and search forms and processes as Sir Ronnie Flanagan advocates.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

19. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour orders. [188133]

**Mr. Coaker:** Three independent reports have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. Also, we have appointed IPSOS Mori to undertake a qualitative study investigating the circumstances in which different antisocial behaviour interventions are most effective. Antisocial behaviour orders are just one of these. The outcome is to be published in 2008.

### Neighbourhood Policing

20. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her assessment is of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes. [188134]

**Mr. Coaker:** By April, every area will benefit from dedicated, accessible and visible neighbourhood policing teams. Over 3,600 teams are already in place, engaging with their local communities, agreeing priorities and tackling them with community safety partners.

### Youth Initiatives

21. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to further engage local communities in initiatives to divert young people from antisocial or criminal behaviour. [188135]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government funds various initiatives, for instance Positive Futures and Positive Activities for Young People, which exist to divert young people from a number of negative outcomes, including becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour. Local authorities have discretion over how they use funding to deliver projects most appropriate for both their young people and their local communities.

### Police Bureaucracy

22. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of implementation of the recommendations of the Flanagan report on levels of police bureaucracy. [188136]

**Mr. McNulty:** In his report of 7 February, Sir Ronnie Flanagan identified a number of initiatives, which if implemented would free up time equivalent to 2,500 to 3,500 extra police officers. We welcomed these recommendations on the day and in our forthcoming Green Paper will set our proposed actions to turn this into a reality.

### Ama Sumani

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will reconsider the procedures used in removals to Ghana following the recent case of Ama Sumani. [184185]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are no plans to change procedures for removals to Ghana. Each case will continue to be assessed and reviewed in accordance with existing legislation and guidance.

### Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who *(a)* took anabolic steroids and *(b)* took anabolic steroids for non-medical reasons in each year since 1997. [186318]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Information is not held on *(a)* the number of people who have taken anabolic steroids since 1997. The number of prescription items for anabolic steroids which were dispensed in the community in England are contained in table 1 and shows steady decline over the last 10 years.

Estimates on *(b)* the proportion of 16-59 year olds in England and Wales who have taken anabolic steroids for non-medical reasons are available from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and are included in table 2 which also shows a decline in use since 1996 when questions were first included in the survey.

*Table 1*

| | *Total items (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 10.637 |
| 1998 | 9.016 |
| 1999 | 7.519 |
| 2000 | 6.083 |
| 2001 | 4.933 |
| 2002 | 2.735 |
| 2003 | 1.566 |
| 2004 | 1.435 |
| 2005 | 1.25 |
| 2006 | 0.98 |

*Source:*
Information Centre for Health and Social Care

*Table 2: Proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds reporting use of anabolic steroids in the last year, 1996 to 2006-07*

*BCS*

| | *Anabolic steroids* | *Unweighted base* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 0.3 | 10,741 |
| 1998 | 0.3 | 9,884 |
| 2000 | 0.2 | 12,771 |
| 2001-02 | 0.1 | 19,973 |
| 2002-03 | 0.1 | 23,357 |
| 2003-04 | 0.1 | 24,197 |
| 2004-05 | 0.1 | 28,206 |
| 2005-06 | 0.1 | 29,631 |
| 2006-07 | 0.1 | 28,975 |

### Assets Recovery Agency

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the Assets Recovery Agency is making in recovering assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [187099]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since its inception in 2003 the Assets Recovery Agency has used its exclusive powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act in relation to civil recovery and tax as well as providing support to outside agencies in securing criminal confiscation orders. The Agency's Centre of Excellence has consistently delivered against its targets for the delivery of financial investigation courses. Key results are provided in the following table.

The agency has also established important case law with regards to civil recovery legislation and spent considerable time working with the Home Office, Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Attorney General's Office to identify ways in which to speed up case progression and reduce costs.

The agency was pleased to announce in its 2006-07 Annual Report that it had, for the first time, been successful in meeting its cost recovery target, having recovered more money than the agency is granted by the Treasury. Furthermore, during the lifetime of the agency it has had success in concluding cases to the value of £97.2 million and gained enforcement receipts of £28.2 million. A notable recent success was a joint investigation between the Assets Recovery Agency, Thames Valley police and the Serious Fraud Office, which led to a confiscation order worth nearly £41 million—the largest believed to have been secured under criminal proceedings to date.

*Key results of the assets recovery agency*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Q1-Q3 2007-08* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Disruptions*[1] | | | | | | |
| Volume | 24 | 36 | 100 | 114 | 66 | 340 |
| Value (£ million) | 18.5 | 16.8 | 85.7 | 73.6 | 33.1 | 227.7 |
| *Concluding*[2] *actions* | | | | | | |
| Volume | 0 | 24 | 47 | 61 | 70 | 202 |
| Value (£ million) | 0 | 7.4 | 11.8 | 20.2 | 57.8 | 97.2 |
| *Enforcement receipts*[3] | | | | | | |
| Value (£ million) | 0 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 15.9 | 3.9 | 28.2 |
| *Training* | | | | | | |
| Financial investigation courses delivered | 30 | 76 | 117 | 146 | 91 | 460 |

[1] Covering civil, criminal and tax disruptions. These as defined as: obtaining of freezing orders/Marevas/interim receiving orders/property freezing orders, issuing of tax assessments, obtaining of recovery order where freezing has not taken place; or undertaking not to deal with assets, where freezing has not taken place, obtaining of a restraint order or obtaining of confiscation order, where assets are not under restraint.

[2] Covering civil, criminal and tax. These are defined as: recovery orders; voluntary settlements; tax agreements and criminal confiscation orders.

[3] Covering civil, criminal and tax. These are receipts obtained following concluding actions.

### Asylum: Sudan

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the findings of her Department's inquiry into the alleged illegal interviews of Darfuris with an active asylum case by a Sudanese embassy official in Home Office facilities in March and April 2007 will be published. [187457]

**Mr. Byrne:** Investigations are currently still ongoing and we expect to reach a conclusion in the near future. Until the investigation is completed, the Border and Immigration Agency will not be in a position to comment.

### Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Border and Immigration Agency to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 27 November 2007, on behalf of Mohammed Hussain Aziz (Home Office reference: A1024255, acknowledgement reference: B3422817). [184753]

**Mr. Byrne:** I am sorry for the delay. The Border and Immigration Agency replied to the right hon. Member on 6 February 2008.

### British Nationality

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of people eligible for UK citizenship as a result of their ancestry who have not taken up citizenship; [187852]

(2) how many people were granted UK citizenship as a result of their ancestry in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [187881]

**Mr. Byrne:** The requested information is not available

There is no provision by which someone can gain British citizenship on the basis of United Kingdom 'ancestry'.

Those with a United Kingdom born father, or a mother born in the United Kingdom after 1 January 1983, will normally acquire citizenship automatically.

Those Commonwealth citizens who can apply for ancestry visas to enter the United Kingdom, on the basis of having a United Kingdom born grandparent, do not have a specific avenue to acquire citizenship on similar grounds. They would need to qualify for naturalisation in the usual way. There is no way of establishing how many of those naturalised had a United Kingdom born grandparent.

### British Nationality: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Tamworth constituency have become naturalised UK citizens since 2005. [187853]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid by her Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by her Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if she will make a statement. [180689]

**Mr. Byrne:** Home Office HQ figures on the total value of spend on contracts with the Capita Group and its subsidiaries are available from 2003-04 when the Department's ERP system was initiated. Earlier data could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Taking into account the May 2007 machinery of government changes, the available information held by the Department and its agencies on spend for each year since 2000 is as follows:

£

| | HO HQ incl. BIA | CRB | IPS | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | n/a | 0 | 1,482,985 | 1,482,985 |
| 2001-02 | n/a | 12,100,000 | 198,290 | 12,298,290 |
| 2002-03 | n/a | 33,500,000 | 65,108 | 33,565,108 |
| 2003-04 | 92,423 | 58,500,000 | 31,091 | 58,623,514 |
| 2004-05 | 1,182,337 | 44,100,000 | 974,281 | 46,256,618 |
| 2005-06 | 1,739,153 | 47,000,000 | 4,452,623 | 53,191,776 |
| 2006-07 | 3,985,112 | 49,000,000 | 7,053,127 | 60,038,239 |

The Department does not hold a central record of individual contracts with Capita Group and its subsidiaries, and to assemble all the requested details from all individual contract records would incur disproportionate cost. The majority of the spend derives from the disclosure service contract between the Criminal Records Bureau and Capita Business Services based upon a public private partnership agreement. The Department is able to provide the information in relation to this contract as set out in the following table.

The contract was awarded in 2000 and runs for 10 years from CRB go-live which occurred in March 2002. The contract cost is estimated at £400 million over 10 years. Contract schedules set out service levels and the service credits that apply should Capita fail to meet the agreed service levels. Liquidated damages are charged in the event of late delivery to agreed changes in the service. From 2001-02, the following payments have been received from Capita for service credits and liquidated damages:

| | Received from Capita for service credits (£) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 555,000 |
| 2002-03 | 1,718,000 |
| 2003-04 | 1,528,000 |
| 2004-05 | 53,000 |
| 2005-06 | 92,000 |
| 2006-07 | 168,000 |

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement directives based on value for money. The contract was advertised and 94 companies registered expressions of interest.

### Correspondence: National Assembly for Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has replied to the recent Welsh Assembly Government letter on police pay. [188190]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* A reply was sent on 20 February 2008.

### Crime

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the victimisation rate per 1,000 people was for all crimes in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each London local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [185898]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) reports victimisation rates as the proportion of the population who have been a victim once or more in the 12 months prior to interview. Trends in the percentage of adults who were victims of all BCS crime for years are shown in the following table for *(a)* England and *(b)* each English region.

Prior to 2001-02 the BCS did not run continuously so information for all years requested is not available. Estimates for English regions are not available prior to 2001-02 nor is it possible to provide *(c)* estimates for each London local authority area from the BCS as the sample was not designed to provide such breakdowns.

*Trends in percentage of adults who were victims once or more of all BCS crime[1], 1997 to 2006-07*

Percentage

| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001-02[2] | 2002-03[2] | 2003-04[2] | 2004-05[2] | 2005-06[2] | 2006-07[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East Region | n/a | n/a | 23.9 | 24.8 | 23.9 | 20.9 | 23.4 | 25.2 |
| North West Region | n/a | n/a | 32.2 | 28.8 | 27.3 | 26.7 | 24.1 | 26.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber Region | n/a | n/a | 31.7 | 30.7 | 30.1 | 24.3 | 25.1 | 25.8 |
| East Midlands Region | n/a | n/a | 24.1 | 26.5 | 26.2 | 22.0 | 24.2 | 24.6 |
| West Midlands Region | n/a | n/a | 28.2 | 25.8 | 23.4 | 23.5 | 23.9 | 23.2 |
| East of England Region | n/a | n/a | 24.5 | 24.6 | 22.2 | 20.0 | 21.7 | 21.5 |
| London Region | n/a | n/a | 23.5 | 25.8 | 29.6 | 26.8 | 25.7 | 28.1 |
| South East Region | n/a | n/a | 31.6 | 28.7 | 26.7 | 25.5 | 22.9 | 24.1 |
| South West Region | n/a | n/a | 27.9 | 28.6 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 21.4 | 21.3 |
| England | 34.7 | 31.2 | 27.7 | 27.5 | 26.1 | 24.1 | 23.6 | 24.6 |
| Unweighted base | 14,138 | 17,983 | 30,228 | 33,476 | 34,916 | 41,432 | 43,520 | 43,053 |

[1] This rate is calculated by treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been a resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.
[2] Ints.

### Crime Prevention

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to reduce crime in and around schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* Enfield. [186999]

**Mr. Coaker:** Nationally, the Government are committed to improving the life chances of children and young people, by having fewer young people affected by crime and reduce youth victimisation.

The main initiative to tackle crime on and around school premises has been the Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) originally launched in 2002.

SSPs are a successful mechanism for ensuring structured joint working between schools and police, to identify and support children and young people regarded as being at high risk of victimisation, offending and social exclusion. There are now about 500 SSPs of one form or another across the country. Evaluations have shown that they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, developing strong and positive relationships between the police and young people, and to help young people develop a sense of being part of the local community.

Because of the proven success of SSPs, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has been working closely with the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to encourage more schools and police to engage in this type of early intervention and preventative work which is so vital to achieving the outcomes we are all committed to.

There is already a great deal of work going on across Government to tackle offenders and help vulnerable young people achieve the Every Child Matters outcome to 'Stay Safe'. Initiatives include Youth Inclusion Support Panels and the Youth Inclusion Programme. And since 2004, we have invested over £45 million in Youth Offending Teams which have pioneered antisocial behaviour prevention activities for young people at most risk. Their work includes:

Youth Inclusion Support Panels and;

Youth Inclusion Programmes.

The Home Office has invested in other prevention programmes such as Positive Futures. Around 22,000 young people are currently involved in Positive Futures projects nationwide.

In Enfield there are numerous schemes available to support and divert young people from crime and disorder which contribute to reducing crime in and around schools.

Enfield has the largest secondary school population in London, including 11 per cent. of pupils who travel into the borough to attend school and as a result, it has one of the largest Safer Schools teams in the Met. This ensures that every secondary school in the borough has a dedicated officer. This team also runs activities in the half term and holidays for youth diversion purposes.

Through the Enfield Strategic Partnership, the borough secured the funding for a dedicated Police Youth Inspector and Sergeant to co-ordinate Youth Activity across the borough. It also has Safer Neighbourhood Teams who run youth clubs, boxing clubs and football clubs.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) runs the YISP—Youth Inclusion Support Panel—scheme that all bodies can refer into for eight to 17-year-olds. There is also the Kickz project run jointly by the Football Foundation (Spurs) and Metropolitan Police in one part of the borough and very soon there will be a second site. On top of this, Enfield uses LAA funding (previously) Safer and Stronger Communities Funding to provide various youth diversion and enforcement activities (e.g. knife arch purchases, youth diversion work, funding for boxing, judo, clubs, street pastors and so on).

### Crime: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in crime detection rates in Tamworth over *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [187758]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available centrally for Tamworth. While detections data are available for basic command units (BCUs), Tamworth is not a BCU.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what items of her Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179942]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office raises revenues from fees for a number of services. These include charges for passports, managed migration and the fees charged by the criminal records bureau. The costs are uprated based on modelling of the future costs of providing these services. This is based on a range of factors including demand projections, the contracts involved and the general rate of inflation.

Expenditure plans on Home Office business are based on business planning in support of the Department's role in leading the Government-wide strategy to counter terrorism in the UK alongside responsibility for policing, crime reduction, borders and immigration, identity and passports. These plans will be based on forecast activities and costs, including the reinvestment of Value for Money gains.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when each electronic database in her Department containing personal information on members of the public was first created; [169719]

(2) how many security breaches relating to access to personal data occurred within her Department in each year since 1997; [169720]

(3) how many staff of each grade have access to electronic databases in her Department which contain personal information on members of the public; [169721]

(4) how many times databases in her Department containing personal information on members of the public have been accessed in each month of the last five years; [169722]

(5) how many times databases in her Department containing personal information on members of the public have been transferred *(a)* physically and *(b)* electronically in each year since 1997; [169723]

(6) how many requests her Department has received from the National Audit Office for access to its databases containing personal information on members of the public in each year since 1997; [169724]

(7) what provisions her Department has in place to ensure that its databases containing personal information on members of the public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* for unauthorised purposes. [169725]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W.

The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions there have been data security breaches in her Department in the last year; [180374]

(2) on how many occasions officials in her Department and its agencies have been disciplined for breaching departmental guidelines on data security in the last 12 months; [180375]

(3) how many times officials in her Department and its agencies have been disciplined for breaching the terms of the Data Protection Act in the last 12 months. [180439]

**Mr. Byrne:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

## Departmental ICT

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what obligations her Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176464]

**Mr. Byrne:** Home Department contracts include obligations on the contractor to comply with legislative requirements such as the Data Protection Act 1998 and these are set out in our model terms and conditions. Those contracts with ICT obligations have more specific audit requirements incorporated into their contracts. All personal data are to be protected in accordance with legislative requirements.

The individual business units within the Home Department develop and review policy, procedures and processes with regard to their own security and data handling requirements and central guidance and policies such as that issued by the Cabinet Office.

## Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 648W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177180]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office has employed no one as *(a)* a special adviser or *(b)* in a political role in the Home Office on a salary in excess of £100,000 since 1997.

## Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by her Department in each of the last 10 years. [183298]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not hold central records of all the vehicles owned and purchased in each of the last 10 years. To obtain the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Information on the number of vehicles owned and purchased over the last five financial years as follows:

*Fleet vehicles owned and purchased by Home Office over last five financial years*

| | *Vehicles purchased* | *Vehicles owned* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 193 | 1,387 |
| 2003-04 | 134 | 1,407 |
| 2004-05 | 88 | 1,436 |
| 2005-06 | 235 | 1,385 |
| 2006-07 | 146 | 1,512 |

## Deportation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the deportation of individuals who are not entitled to remain in the country but who have taken cases to employment tribunals. [186356]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the policy of deportation of individuals who are not entitled to remain in the country but who have taken cases to employment tribunals is available to view in the Operational Enforcement Manual (OEM) at Chapter 21.1. Copies of the OEM are placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available to view at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/oem/oemsectionc/

## Deportation: Police Custody

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours detainees awaiting deportation spent in police custody in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* England and Wales in 2006; and at what cost to the public purse. [187320]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

### Domestic Violence: Reoffenders

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people found guilty of domestic violence offences went on to re-offend in the last period for which figures are available. [187898]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available.

### Dual Nationality

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK citizens are also citizens of another nation state; and if she will list in order the 10 other nation states with which such citizens most frequently hold dual nationality. [187880]

**Mr. Byrne:** The requested information is not available.

The Border and Immigration Agency records details of the nationality of applicants at the time that a citizenship application is received. It does not have information in respect of those who subsequently renounce that nationality or in respect of British Citizens who hold or apply for citizenship of another country.

### Emergency Calls

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls were made to the police last year using the *(a)* 999 emergency number and *(b)* non-emergency 0845 6070999 number. [186758]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Data on the number of emergency calls made to the police are published in the Annual Reports of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). The latest available data refer to the 2004-05 financial year, and can be found in Figure 8 of the HMIC Annual Report 2004-05. This publication is available via the Home Office website at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

The total number of 999 calls received by the police forces of England and Wales for the year 2004-05 was 10,243,515.

*(b)* Data on the number of non-emergency calls made to the police are not collected centrally.

### Entry Clearances: Doctors

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Worthing, West (Peter Bottomley) of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on entry clearances: doctors, how many of the 2,095 doctors who were awarded highly skilled migrant status between 6 February and 31 December 2007 *(a)* were of each medical or surgical specialty and *(b)* were making an application for a (i) new and (ii) renewed permit. [186125]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances: Forced Marriages

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many *(a)* marriage visa and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain applications representations about forced marriage have been received in each of the last five years; how many of those applications have been granted; and how many representations on forced marriage have been (i) investigated and (ii) resulted in refusal of the application in each of the last five years. [186679]

**Mr. Byrne:** Grants and refusals of applications for marriage visas, and grants and refusals of applications made after entry are recorded but these are overall figures and do not reflect the degree of detail requested.

The information requested would require us to examine individual case-files which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Extradition

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained in the UK solely in connection with extradition procedures initiated by a foreign authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [185348]

**Meg Hillier:** There are currently 256 people on remand in connection with extradition proceedings in England and Wales. 27 of these are in custody in relation to separate, domestic offences. Therefore, there are currently 229 people on remand solely in connection with extradition proceedings in England and Wales (figures correct as of 15 February 2008).

### Eyesight

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of the provision of laser eye surgery for personnel within her responsibilities with visual defects to improve their operational effectiveness. [183205]

**Mr. Byrne:** No formal assessment has been made but the Department does not normally assist staff with arranging any medical treatment.

### Facilitated Returns Scheme

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners received grants under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* largest grant paid was. [180667]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Facilitated Returns Scheme was announced in October 2006 and has resulted in well over 1,000 foreign national prisoners leaving the country. The level of cash support provided has always been £46.

### Foreign Nationals

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals have been convicted of living off immoral earnings of prostitutes; and how many have been subsequently deported from the UK as a result of these crimes in each year since 1999; [181111]

(2) how many foreign nationals have been convicted of offences relating to assisting or facilitating illegal entry into the UK; and how many had subsequently been deported as a result of such convictions in each year since 1997; [181112]

(3) how many foreign nationals have been convicted *(a)* of trafficking people into the UK and *(b)* trafficking people within the UK for sexual exploitation; and how many have subsequently been deported from the UK as a result of such convictions in each year since the offences came into law; [181115]

(4) how many foreign nationals have been convicted of exercising control over a prostitute; and how many such people have been deported subsequently from the United Kingdom as a result of such a conviction in each year since 1997. [181116]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through examination of individual file records held by Ministry of Justice and Border and Immigration Agency at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months and provided the most accurate and robust information available relating to foreign national prisoners. She advised the Home Affairs Committee, during her appearance before them on 15 January, that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the UK in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this included more than 20 killers, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 1,100 drug offenders.

### Foreign Workers: Doctors

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what percentage of doctors who settled in the United Kingdom in 2007 were *(a)* non-EU and *(b)* EU foreign nationals. [187157]

**Mr. Byrne:** European Economic Area nationals are entitled to free movement and do not require leave to settle in the United Kingdom. Therefore, the requested percentages cannot be calculated.

### Foreigners: Identity Cards

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals will be required to carry identity cards with them at all times within the UK; and whether the police will have powers to arrest and detain anyone whom they believe to be a foreign national until such time as their identity is proved. [186469]

**Mr. Byrne:** The UK Borders Act 2007 expressly provides that regulations may not make provision to require a person to carry an identity card for foreign nationals at all times. The police may arrest and detain a person but only where there is suspected involvement in an offence and not simply because they believe the person to be a foreign national.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what ways the requirement for foreign nationals to have identity cards within the UK will be monitored; and what assessment she has made of the likely effect of such monitoring on community relations. [186470]

**Mr. Byrne:** When the new requirement for foreign nationals to apply for an identity card under the UK Borders Act 2007 commences this year, we will record how many cards we issue—and to whom. Details of our roll-out strategy will shortly be published. We do not expect the new requirements to affect community relations, although we are presently engaging with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights about this.

### Frontiers: Personal Records

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the general specifications and capability of the new system for monitoring travellers to and from UK ports of entry are; and what the timetable for its introduction is. [186471]

**Mr. Byrne:** The e-Borders programme is a key component of the Government's wider strategy to strengthen and modernise border controls. It is designed to complement the UK counter-terrorism strategy. The main purpose of the e-Borders programme is to collect and analyse passenger, service and crew data provided by carriers (air, sea and rail), in respect of all journeys to and from the United Kingdom in advance of their travel, supporting an intelligence-led approach to operating border controls.

The contract to deliver the e-Borders system was awarded to the Trusted Borders Consortium in November 2007. The programme will begin counting foreign nationals in and out of the country from October 2008, building upon the carrier data already captured in the Semaphore pilot. There will be a ramping up of existing capability in 2008 to handle data for 100 million (annualised) passenger movements by April 2009. The e-Borders operations centre (e-BOC) will be established by mid-2009 at the earliest, providing capture and watch list assessment of passenger data for an initially limited number of high priority passenger routes. The three stages of capability delivery are bound by the following milestones:

December 2009: Initial Operating Capability—which will deliver the capability to process 60 per cent. of passenger movements into and out of the UK;

December 2010: Major Operating Capability—which will deliver the capability to process 95 per cent. of passenger movements into and out of the UK and

March 2014: Full Operating Capability.

### Genetics: Databases

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department or individual police forces will pay for *(a)* technology, *(b)*

equipment and *(c)* training that will enable police forces access to the National Identity Register when it becomes operational; and what she expects the costs to be for each police force area. [171057]

**Meg Hillier:** Police forces or other organisations that will benefit from the provision of identity information from the National Identity Register would bear the cost of any equipment or training that they may require. No estimate of any such costs is available. However, as identity cards will be introduced incrementally, it is unlikely that any large investment would be needed at the beginning of the scheme and any costs associated with the provision of information would be phased in gradually as the national identity scheme itself grows.

### Identity and Passport Service: Data Protection

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* data loss and *(b)* data security breaches reported in the Identity and Passport Service and its predecessor agencies in each of the last five years. [181627]

**Mr. Byrne:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate has been made of the number of illegal immigrants in the UK. [180043]

**Mr. Byrne:** No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

### Immigration

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department has received representations from the Church of England on the points-based immigration system; [185472]

(2) whether *(a)* the Church of England, *(b)* its dioceses and *(c)* its individual parishes will be entitled to obtain licences to sponsor immigrants; [185477]

(3) whether *(a)* the Roman Catholic Church, *(b)* its dioceses and *(c)* its individual parishes will be entitled to obtain licences to sponsor immigrants. [185478]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency is discussing with the Church of England our proposals for the points based system of migration.

Religious organisations, including the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, will be entitled to apply to the Border and Immigration Agency for a licence to sponsor migrants. They will be free to decide at what level they seek registration.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain in the UK and *(b)* a travel document are awaiting a decision from the Border and Immigration Agency; [188044]

(2) what the current average time for processing applications is for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain in the UK and *(b)* a travel document at the Border and Immigration Agency. [188045]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the total number of indefinite leave to remain applications awaiting decision is not held centrally and would require extensive examination of cases held in the regions and other areas of BIA attracting a disproportionate cost.

There are 972 applications awaiting a decision within the travel document section of BIA.

Statistical information on time taken to process applications is not collated.

Service standards are published annually on the BIA website in the form of general caseworking service standards reports. These cover both charged (those with an associated fee) and non-charged applications. While such reports can provide overall performance against targets, they do not differentiate between different streams of casework, such as indefinite leave to remain or those applying for travel documents.

The current published standards for processing charged applications are 70 per cent. of postal applications to be decided within 20 working days, with 90 per cent. of postal applications decided within 70 working days. For charged applications made in person at the Public Enquiry Office we aim to complete 98 per cent. of applications in 24 hours.

For non-charged postal applications we will decide 25 per cent. within 20 working days and 30 per cent. within 70 working days. For non-charged applications made in person at the Public Enquiry Office we aim to complete 98 per cent. of applications in 24 hours.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many representations her Department has received from hon. Members on delays in processing applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain in the UK and *(b)* travel documents at the Border and Immigration Agency; [188046]

*(2)* how many applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain in the UK and *(b)* a travel document at the Border and Immigration Agency have been expedited or treated as a priority following representations by hon. Members in each of the last five years. [188047]

**Mr. Byrne:** Although the making of representations from hon. Members is recorded on a correspondence tracking system (CTS), the purpose of this system is to monitor the timeliness of replies. The information recorded is limited and does not include the subject matter of the letter or the outcome of the case.

As there is no link between CTS and the system on which casework decisions and the issue of travel documents are recorded (the case working information database—CID), it is not possible to link decisions made to representations lodged by hon. Members. Similarly, it is not possible to arrive at an assessment of any priority accorded. Priority may be accorded for a number of reasons, such as the serious illness of a close family member. In these circumstances, the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

I can, however, assure the hon. Member that all representations received are taken into account before decisions are made and that careful consideration is given to any exceptional facts and circumstances which might warrant urgent consideration.

### Immigration Officers: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of complaints of assault against staff involved in removals from the United Kingdom were upheld in each of the last three years. [184945]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* This information has only been held centrally since October 2006 and relates to contractors' staff involved in the detention and overseas escort process only. Of the 51 complaints of assault made to date, two have been upheld.

### Immigration: Armed Forces

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people eligible to apply for residence in the United Kingdom by virtue of providing assistance to UK armed forces *(a)* have been granted residence, *(b)* have been refused and *(c)* have their applications yet to be processed. [186163]

**Mr. Byrne:** As of 12 February 2008, of those staff who have contacted Her Majesty's Government, 293 people are eligible to apply for residence in the United Kingdom by virtue of providing assistance to the UK armed forces in Iraq. None have yet been granted residence. 93 have chosen not to opt for resettlement, and a further five have withdrawn their interest in resettlement. One has been refused.

Of the remainder, 103 have yet to decide which form of assistance to choose; 84 are under initial consideration for eligibility for the Gateway resettlement programme and seven have expressed an interest in indefinite leave to enter the UK but have not submitted their applications to UK Visas.

### Immigration: Detention Centres

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those held in immigration detention centres have previously served prison sentences in England and Wales. [187106]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination and cross referencing of information held by the Border and Immigration Agency and Ministry of Justice at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee in her letter of 17 December that there were approximately 1,200 foreign nationals prisoners held in the Border and Immigration Agency detention estate where deportation action was being pursued.

### Migrant Workers

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people from *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* the Czech Republic, *(c)* Estonia, *(d)* Hungary, *(e)* Latvia, *(f)* Lithuania, *(g)* Malta, *(h)* Poland, *(i)* Slovakia and *(j)* Slovenia held UK working visas on 1 May 2004, broken down by type of visa; and what guidance is provided to such people on steps they are required to take once their visas have expired if they want to keep working in the UK; [185108]

(2) what guidance her Department provided to employers on the legal implications of employing individuals from member states who joined the EU on 1 May 2004; [185109]

(3) how many people from *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* the Czech Republic, *(c)* Estonia, *(d)* Hungary, *(e)* Latvia, *(f)* Lithuania, *(g)* Malta, *(h)* Poland, *(i)* Slovakia and *(j)* Slovenia have left the worker registration scheme having worked in the UK continuously for 12 months. [185111]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the number of nationals from the 2004 accession states who held a UK working visa on 1 May 2004 could be obtained only by detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office has published guidance on the worker registration scheme for 'A8' nationals, those from the 2004 accession states excluding Cyprus and Malta, and employers. This includes a booklet entitled "Living and Working in the UK", detailing their rights and responsibilities from 1 May 2004. This is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/workingintheuk/wrsleaflet

A copy will be placed in the House Library.

The number of 'A8' nationals who have left the worker registration scheme is not known as there is no requirement to "de-register" once an individual has worked in the UK continuously for 12 months. The "Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 to September 2007" gives information on 'A8' nationals and their intended length of stay. This is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/accession_monitoring_report/

A copy is available in the House Library.

Nationals of Cyprus and Malta are not required to register on the worker registration scheme and are not subject to those conditions placed on nationals from the 'A8' countries.

### Naturalisation

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been naturalised as UK citizens in each London borough since 2005. [186145]

**Mr. Byrne:** Statistics on persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by region and authority 2005-06 are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2006'.

This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

### Naturalisation: Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed citizenship tests there were in 2006-07; what happened to the failed applicant in each case; and if she will make a statement. [185321]

**Mr. Byrne:** During 2006, there were 50,476 Life on the UK tests taken that resulted in failures and 93,421 during 2007.

Candidates who fail the test are not tracked through the system so it is not possible to state what action candidates took following a failure. There is no limit on how many times a candidate may take the test.

Candidates who fail the Life in the UK test and who still want to apply for permanent settlement or nationality must either retake and pass the test to satisfy the Knowledge of Life requirement or successfully complete an appropriate ESOL course.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much providing citizenship tests in Essex cost the public purse in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such applicants were successful. [185322]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has a commercial contract with the University for Industry (Ufi) to provide the Life in the UK test. Candidates taking the Life in the UK test pay a fee of £34 to the test centre. There is no limit on how many times a candidate may take the test and the fee is payable each time a test is taken. The fee is set at a level to meet the costs of delivering the overall testing service. There are currently no plans to change the fee.

Test results are recorded against the test centre where the test is taken, but it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the figures for Essex. Candidates may take the test at any test centre, but it is known that many candidates take the test at a location convenient to their place of employment rather than their place of residence.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants were convicted of crimes in each of the last five years; and what proportion of these offenders have subsequently been deported. [186900]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination and cross-referencing of individual case records held by the Border and Immigration Agency and the Ministry of Justice at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency appeared before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January and advised that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners had been removed or deported from the UK in 2007, exceeding the Prime Minister's target, which was an increase of around 80 per cent. compared to 2006.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made in deporting foreign nationals from English prisons. [186964]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency regularly updates the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and up to date information on the progress of deporting foreign national prisoners. She appeared before the Committee on 15 January and advised that over 4,200 foreign nationals prisoners had been removed or deported from the UK in 2007, exceeding the Prime Minister' target, which was an increase of around 80 per cent. compared to 2006. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this included more than 1,100 drug offenders, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 20 killers.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations have been made to prison authorities by the Border and Immigration Agency on the deportation of foreign criminals serving custodial sentences of less than 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [177341]

**Mr. Byrne:** Monthly liaison meetings are held between all relevant parties in Ministry of Justice and Border and Immigration Agency to consider general issues and specific cases.

The Border and Immigration Agency deported over 4,200 foreign national prisoners from the United Kingdom in 2007. A large number of these individuals were deported following completion of custodial sentences lasting less than 12 months and that will continue to be the case for any future deportations that take place.

The BIA routinely considers for deportation those serving less than 12 months sentences. The chief executive recently appeared before the Home Affairs Committee and advised that the focus is on deporting the most serious criminals first, but we are already deporting a significant number of criminals whose

sentences are either less than 12 months, for instance where a court recommends deportation, or where they have had a number of sentences of less than 12 months but those aggregate to 12 months overall.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU citizens serving prison sentences in respect of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* violent offences have been released from custody on completion of their sentence since 1 January 2007; and how many such prisoners have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK. [177343]

**Mr. Byrne:** We have made it clear that our priority is to protect the public by ensuring that foreign national prisoners are not released without first being considered for deportation. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported from the United Kingdom. The Home Secretary has also announced that this included more than 20 killers, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 1,100 drug offenders.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU citizens have received custodial sentences for *(a)* sexual and *(b)* violent offences of (i) less and (ii) more than 12 months in each year since 1997; and how many such offenders (A) are in custody serving their sentence or otherwise and (B) have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK. [177347]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collated by the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and can be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the BIA advised the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners from the United Kingdom had been removed or deported in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this includes more than 1,100 drug offenders, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 20 killers. A large number of these individuals were deported following completion of custodial sentences lasting less than 12 months and that will continue to be the case for any future deportations that take place.

During her recent appearance before the Home Affairs Committee the Chief Executive of the BIA advised that the focus is on deporting the most serious criminals first, but we are already deporting a significant number of criminals whose sentences are either less than 12 months, for instance where a court recommends deportation, or where they have had a number of sentences of less than 12 months but those aggregate to 12 months overall.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 4,000 prisoners deported in 2007 were serving sentences of *(a)* two years or less, *(b)* 12 months or less and *(c)* 12 months or less for offences of a violent or sexual nature. [177402]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through examination of individual file records at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months and provided the most accurate and robust information available relating to foreign national prisoners. She advised the Home Affairs Committee, during her appearance before them on 15 January, that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the UK in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this included more than 20 killers, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 1,100 drug offenders.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU prisoners have been *(a)* considered for deportation and deported, *(b)* considered for deportation and not deported, *(c)* deported following a recommendation from a judge for deportation and *(d)* allowed to remain in the UK on the completion of the custodial part of their sentence even though made the subject of a recommendation by a judge for deportation in each year since 1997. [177403]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through examination of individual file records at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee, during her appearance before them on 15 January, that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the UK in 2007. More than 500 of these were nationals from European economic area countries.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of foreign nationals detained in HMP Peterborough were removed and deported under the auspices of the Border and Immigration Agency at the conclusion of their sentence in each month since May 2006; and if she will make a statement. [178268]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote a letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 17 December and provided the most accurate and robust information on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. A copy of the letter is available in the Library of the House.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted foreign nationals were deported in 2007; and how many of these had been serving prison sentences in England and Wales. [180679]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised in her appearance before the Home Affairs committee on 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the United Kingdom in 2007. In order to ascertain which prisons they were detained at would require the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Borders and Immigration Agency's policy is on the deportation of prisoners

serving sentences of less than 12 months; and what advice it has offered HM Prison Service. [181101]

**Mr. Byrne:** Monthly liaison meetings are held between all relevant parties in Ministry of Justice and Border and Immigration Agency to consider general issues and specific cases.

The Border and Immigration Agency deported over 4,200 foreign national prisoners from the United Kingdom. A large number of these individuals were deported following completion of custodial sentences lasting less than 12 months and that will continue to be the case for any future deportations that take place.

The BIA routinely considers for deportation those serving less than 12 months sentences.

**Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners have been deported since May 2007; and to which countries they have been deported. [180040]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months and provided the most accurate and robust information available on foreign national prisoners. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

In her recent appearance before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January, it was advised that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the United Kingdom in 2007. She also advised that a significant number of foreign national prisoners come from countries such as Jamaica, China, Nigeria and Vietnam.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost was of deporting a foreign national prisoner in each of the last five years. [187103]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained through the detailed evaluation of individual cases only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months with the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners and will continue to do so as required. Copies of her letters to the Committee are available in the Library of the House.

### Passports: Biometrics

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data security measures have been implemented for the ePassport database; how much has been spent on such measures; and how much is expected to be spent on such measures in future. [187012]

**Meg Hillier:** The ePassport has replaced the previous version of the passport. It also uses the same database—the Passports Application Storage System—for information storage. It did not, therefore, require any additional data security measures or any additional expenditure.

### Police Pay

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was allocated to this year's budget for police pay as a percentage increase on last year's figures, broken down by police authority. [183052]

**Mr. McNulty:** The 2007-08 Police Funding Settlement was approved by the House of Commons on 31 January 2007.

The Government allocates funding to police authorities as a whole. No specific provision is made available for police pay. The distribution of resources and the setting of budgets is a matter for the chief officer and the police authority.

### PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments were made to PricewaterhouseCoopers by her Department in each financial year since 1997. [180824]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the total value of the Department's payments, inclusive of its agencies, made to PricewaterhouseCoopers is available from 2004-05 following the introduction of the Department's ERP—enterprise resource planning—system. Earlier data could be collected only at disproportionate cost. The information held by the Department is as follows:

| | *Payments made to PricewaterhouseCoopers (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,380,974 |
| 2005-06 | 2,361,723 |
| 2006-07 | 4,910,425 |

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has awarded any contracts to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2000. [181511]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost-effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The Department inclusive of its agencies has awarded contracts to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2000. The Department does not hold a central record

of individual contracts with external consultants. To identify and compile a list of contracts from individual files would incur disproportionate cost.

The information held by the Department on the total value of contracts let to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2004-05 is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,118,055 |
| 2005-06 | 3,769,092 |
| 2006-07 | 4,669,861 |

### Prisoners Release: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons sentenced to a period of imprisonment, then removed to an immigration centre and subsequently released into the community in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 were originally convicted of an offence of violence. [181225]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles and cross referencing them with Police National Computer records at disproportionate cost.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of EU nationals who have served prison sentences of six months or more in the UK remaining in the UK; [178502]

(2) whether nationals from an EU country having served a prison sentence in England or Wales in the last five years have been deported following completion of sentence. [178544]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency will continue to take a robust approach in considering and, where international obligations allow, pursuing the deportation of European economic area nationals.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance of 15 January that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported in 2007. More than 500 of these were nationals from European economic area countries.

### Proceeds of Crime

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what amounts have been recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Acts 1995 and 2002 in the most recent period for which figures are available; what proportion of these amounts was collected by the Assets Recovery Agency; and if she will make a statement. [188277]

**Mr. Coaker:** In the financial year 2006-07, the total amount recovered under proceeds of crime legislation was £125.04 million and the Assets Recovery Agency recovered £15.9 million; approximately 13 per cent.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by her Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183360]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department makes use of vehicles from the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA), the HM Prison Service Transport Unit and the vehicles of staff members used in the course of their official duties.

For the GCDA I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1014-5W, by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport.

For the HMPS Transport Unit the following tables gives the traffic penalties received for Crown vehicles over the last two years, the only years available. These figures cover both Home Office and HMPS usage:

*Traffic penalties*

| | *Notices of intended prosecution (speeding)* | *Penalty Charge Notices (parking)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 94 | 46 |
| 2007 | 52 | 41 |

Data on the split of penalties between Home Office and HMPS per the above are not available. However usage of the vehicles is approximately split 40 per cent. Home Office, 60 per cent HMPS.

Penalty charge notices are forwarded immediately onto the driver for payment, while notices of intended prosecution for speeding are returned to the relevant authority with the name and address of the driver. They then contact them direct regarding payment of fines or issue of penalty points. The Department therefore does not have any details regarding the total costs involved.

Lease vehicles are also provided by HMPS Transport Unit, however information on these could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Penalties incurred by staff members using their own vehicles while on official duty are the responsibility of the individuals concerned. The Department does not hold records of these penalties.

### Surveillance

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any warrants have been granted for intrusive surveillance of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords under section 32 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since 2001; [185730]

(2) whether any warrants have been granted for directed surveillance of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords under section 28 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since 2001. [185731]

**Mr. McNulty:** It has been the established policy of successive Governments neither to confirm nor deny allegations concerning whether or not there have been covert activities by intelligence or security agencies or the police.

### Victim Support Schemes: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of crime received state-provided counselling in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last four years. [187858]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not centrally available.

### Work Permits

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been awarded to non-EU professional footballers since January 2007. [185003]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of approved and successful work permit applications awarded to non-EU professional footballers for the period 1 January 2007 to 1 February 2008 is 85, this figure is rounded to the nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* the Czech Republic, *(c)* Estonia, *(d)* Hungary, *(e)* Latvia, *(f)* Lithuania, *(g)* Malta, *(h)* Poland, *(i)* Slovakia and *(j)* Slovenia were issued with work permits in each month since 1 May 2004. [185110]

**Mr. Byrne:** 115 work permits were issued to employers for people from these accession states between May 2004 and January 2008. This included a number of extensions and renewals.

The number of work permits issued are broken down by month and nationality are detailed in the following table.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

*Work permit approvals May 2004 to January 2008*

| | *Cyprus* | *Czech Republic* | *Estonia* | *Hungary* | *Latvia* | *Lithuania* | *Malta* | *Poland* | *Slovakia* | *Slovenia* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2004 | [1] | 5 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 5 | [1] | 0 | 20 |
| June 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| July 2004 | [1] | 0 | [1] | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 5 |
| August 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| September 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| October 2004 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 5 |
| November 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 5 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| December 2004 | – | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| January 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| February 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 5 |
| March 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 5 |
| April 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| May 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| June 2005 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| July 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| August 2005 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| September 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| October 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 5 |
| November 2005 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | [1] | 5 |
| January 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] |
| February 2006 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | [1] |
| March 2006 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |

*Work permit approvals May 2004 to January 2008*

| | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Estonia | Hungary | Latvia | Lithuania | Malta | Poland | Slovakia | Slovenia | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2006 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | [1] |
| May 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| June 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| July 2006 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 5 |
| October 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] |
| December 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| February 2007 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| March 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] |
| April 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| May 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| August 2007 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| October 2007 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| November 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] |
| December 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 2008 | 0 | 0 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 45 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 115 |

[1] Indicates 1 or 2.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

### Yarl's Wood

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in resolving the insurance claim relating to the fire at Yarl's Wood on 14 February 2002; and if she will make a statement. [186131]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Considerable negotiation and detailed consideration of valuation evidence continues to take place with the insurers, Home Office and their specialist advisers. The claim is nearing the point of final evidence submission and either settlement or potential litigation.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Class Sizes: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil: teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Tamworth and (ii) Staffordshire in each year since 1997. [187719]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the pupil: teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency, Staffordshire local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007 the latest information available.

*Pupil: teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency, Staffordshire local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007*

| | Tamworth | | Staffordshire | | England | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Primary | Secondary | Primary | Secondary | Primary | Secondary |
| 1997 | 24.1 | 17.4 | 24.9 | 17.7 | 23.4 | 16.7 |
| 1998 | 24.6 | 17.6 | 25.1 | 18.1 | 23.7 | 16.9 |
| 1999 | 24.5 | 17.5 | 24.5 | 17.9 | 23.5 | 17.0 |
| 2000 | 24.4 | 17.0 | 24.3 | 17.9 | 23.3 | 17.2 |
| 2001 | 23.7 | 16.7 | 23.7 | 17.6 | 22.9 | 17.1 |
| 2002 | 22.8 | 16.5 | 23.2 | 17.3 | 22.5 | 16.9 |
| 2003 | 22.5 | 17.0 | 23.3 | 17.3 | 22.6 | 17.0 |
| 2004 | 22.8 | 16.7 | 23.5 | 17.3 | 22.7 | 17.0 |
| 2005 | 22.6 | 16.4 | 23.5 | 16.9 | 22.5 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 22.1 | 16.0 | 22.5 | 16.6 | 22.0 | 16.6 |
| 2007 | 22.3 | 15.2 | 22.5 | 16.3 | 21.8 | 16.5 |

*Note:*
The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent(FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

*Source:*
School Census

### Classroom Assistants

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of days taken off work due to ill health by teaching assistants in each of the last three academic years; [187598]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of lessons delivered by teaching assistants in maintained secondary schools in the last academic year for which figures are available; [187599]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of teaching assistants who left their posts in each of the last three academic years for which figures are available. [187600]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the educational maintenance allowance on school attainment; and if he will make a statement. [187147]

**Jim Knight:** A Learning and Skills Council commissioned analysis of "The Impact of the EMA pilots on participation and attainment in post compulsory education" (IFS November 2007, Haroon Chowdry; Lorraine Dearden; Carl Emmerson) found that EMA increased attainment at Level 2 and Level 3 by around 2 ppts for male learners and 2.5 ppts for female learners. When looking at the impact on actual recipients, the report estimates this equates to an impact on attainment (at Levels 2 and 3) of 7 ppts for female, and 5 ppts for male, EMA recipients. The full report was placed in the House Library, on 3 December 2007.

### Folk Culture: Education

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will have discussions with the English Folk Dance and Song Society for the inclusion of England's traditional folk dance and song in the provision of five hours a week of culture for schoolchildren; and if he will make a statement. [188009]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* We have published a prospectus for the 'Find Your Talent' programme seeking applications from partnerships to pilot an offer of five hours of quality arts and culture a week for children and young people. We have set out a core range of activities we believe young people should be able to engage with, including the chance to play music or sing in ensembles, and take part in dance performances. But we want local communities, schools and young people themselves to be involved in designing the offer. Organisations wishing to express an interest in piloting the offer locally should contact the relevant local authority and other major cultural sector partners in their area to discuss forming a partnership. National organisations should contact the Creative Partnerships team at:

http://www.creative-partnerships.com/offer

10 pilots will trial different ways of delivering a cultural offer. They will build on cultural activity already taking place. Children and young people already experience folk song and dance through the National Curriculum and through activities outside the curriculum.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children *(a)* living with both their mother and father, *(b)* living with their mother or father and other guardians and *(c)* living only with their mother achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [187142]

**Jim Knight:** Complete information is not available. However, the Department's Youth Cohort Study can provide some estimates for some years and these are summarised in the table as follows.

*GCSE attainment of young people according to which parents they live with*

| | Percentage getting 5+ GCSE at A*-C | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1993* | *1995* | *1997* | *1999* | *2001* | *2003* |
| Mother and father | 45 | 48 | 49 | 52 | 57 | 60 |
| Mother but not father | 34 | 35 | 37 | 41 | 40 | 43 |
| All, including neither of the above | 42 | 44 | 46 | 49 | 51 | 54 |

*Note:*
Step parents are included and cannot be separated out
*Source:*
Youth Cohort Study, cohorts 7-12

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils entered for GCSE qualifications did not gain a GCSE, excluding equivalents and entry level qualifications, in 2007; [187633]

(2) how many pupils entered for GCSE qualifications did not gain a GCSE qualification above a C grade, excluding equivalents and entry level qualifications, in 2007. [187634]

**Jim Knight:** In 2007, of the 637,000 attempts at a GCSE qualification, 128,100 thousand did not achieve a grade A*-C and 7,200 did not achieve a grade A*-G.

These figures are derived from figures which are published annually in table 10 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England '. Figures for 2007 are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of the appropriate age were not entered for GCSE examinations in 2007. [187635]

**Jim Knight:** The available figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.

In 2007, 0.5 per cent. of the 649,159 pupils at the end of key stage 4 were not entered for GCSE examinations or equivalents.

This information is derived from figures which are published annually in table 3 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England'. Figures for 2007 are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals were entered for GCSE examinations in 2007, broken down by subject. [187164]

**Jim Knight:** Figures showing the number and proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals attempting GCSEs and equivalent, broken down by subject, are given in table.

*GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects of pupils eligible for free school meals at the end of Key Stage 4[2] in maintained schools (numbers and percentages), Years 2006/07[3] (Revised), Coverage: England*

| | Number of eligible pupils attempting GCSE | Percentage of eligible pupils attempting GCSE |
|---|---|---|
| Any subject | 72,751 | 94 |
| English and mathematics | 68,097 | 88 |
| Mathematics and science | 63,977 | 83 |
| English, mathematics and science | 62,347 | 80 |
| English, mathematics, science and a modern language | 20,157 | 26 |
| English | 68,992 | 89 |
| Mathematics | 70,905 | 92 |
| Any science | 64,872 | 84 |
| Single award science | 13,289 | 17 |
| Double award science | 42,867 | 55 |
| Physics | 1,508 | 2 |
| Chemistry | 1,549 | 2 |
| Biological sciences | 1,883 | 2 |
| Other sciences | 2,109 | 3 |
| Any design and technology | 33,254 | 43 |
| D & T: electronic products | 1,180 | 2 |
| D & T: food technology | 8,632 | 11 |
| D & T: graphic products | 7,044 | 9 |
| D & T: resistant materials | 9,488 | 12 |
| D & T: systems and control | 553 | 1 |
| D & T: textiles technology | 5,137 | 7 |
| Other design and technology[4] | 2,861 | 4 |
| Information technology[5] | 7,171 | 9 |
| Business studies | 6,317 | 8 |
| Home economics | 4,661 | 6 |
| Geography | 12,849 | 17 |
| History | 14,307 | 19 |
| Humanities | 1,753 | 2 |
| Social studies | 2,867 | 4 |
| Music | 3,875 | 5 |
| Any modern language | 21,419 | 28 |
| French | 11,971 | 15 |
| German | 3,613 | 5 |
| Spanish | 3,225 | 4 |
| Italian | 162 | 0 |
| Other modern languages | 4,234 | 6 |
| Art and design | 20,254 | 26 |
| English literature | 50,890 | 66 |
| Drama | 10,812 | 14 |
| Media/film/TV | 7,225 | 9 |
| Classical studies | 193 | 0 |
| Physical education | 12,986 | 17 |
| Religious studies | 15,894 | 21 |
| Any other subjects | 5,567 | 7 |

[1] For each subject only one attempt is counted—that which achieved the highest grade.
[2] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2006/07 academic year.
[3] Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[4] Includes all other combined syllabus of which design and technology is the major part.
[5] Also includes computer studies, information systems and any combined syllabus of which information technology is the major part.

## General Certificate of Secondary Education: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils re-sat GCSEs in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by subject; [187721]

(2) how many pupils re-sat *(a)* AS Level and *(b)* A2 Level examinations in each school in Tamworth constituency since such examinations were introduced. [187722]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Head Teachers: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers each school in Suffolk has had since 1997. [187607]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collected centrally.

## Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils excluded from school in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 went to a school with (i) fewer than 500 pupils, (ii) between 500 and 999 pupils, (iii) between 1,000 and 1,999 pupils and (iv) more than 2,000 pupils. [188061]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

## Pupil Exclusions: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were permanently excluded from *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* middle schools, *(c)* upper schools and *(d)* secondary schools in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [187606]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the table, and shows the number of permanent exclusions from maintained primary and secondary schools in Suffolk local authority area from 1997/89 to 2005/06.

A further split showing the number of exclusions from middle and upper schools can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent exclusions, 1997/98 to 2005/06, Suffolk local authority area*

| | Primary Schools | | Secondary Schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage[2] | Number | Percentage[2] |
| 1997/98 | 13 | 0.03 | 104 | 0.21 |
| 1998/99 | 18 | 0.04 | 106 | 0.21 |
| 1999/2000 | 23 | 0.05 | 77 | 0.15 |
| 2000/01 | 13 | 0.03 | 133 | 0.25 |
| 2001/02 | 26 | 0.05 | 135 | 0.25 |
| 2002/03 | 22 | 0.05 | 126 | 0.23 |
| 2003/04 | 32 | 0.07 | 161 | 0.30 |
| 2004/05 | 20 | 0.04 | 126 | 0.23 |
| 2005/06 | 9 | 0.02 | 78 | 0.14 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population.
*Source:*
School Census.

## Pupils: Qualifications

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils who achieved level 2 or above at key stage one went on to achieve level 4 at key stage two in 2007. [187892]

**Jim Knight:** The information is as follows:

In 2007,

92 per cent. of pupils who achieved an average of level 2 or above in reading and writing at key stage 1 achieved level 4 or above in English at key stage 2

84 per cent. of pupils who achieved level 2 or above at key stage 1 in mathematics achieved level 4 or above in key stage 2.

95 per cent. of pupils who achieved an average of level 2 or above in reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1 achieved level 4 or above in science at key stage 2.

Only pupils who have reached the end of key stage 2 in 2007 and have a valid level at both key stage 1 and key stage 2 are included in the above figures, excluding pupils who were absent or disapplied from the key stage 1 tests. In most cases, these pupils will have taken key stage 1 tests in 2003, which was the last full year of KS1 national curriculum tests.

These figures are published annually in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England'. Figures for 2007 are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

## Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children entitled to free school meals attend a school which has more than 30 per cent. of such children in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [187139]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: School meal arrangements[2]—as at January 2007—England*

| | FSM rates as used in the achievement and attainment tables[3] | | All pupils[4] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Maintained primary | Maintained secondary | Maintained primary | Maintained secondary |
| *Schools where 30 per cent. or less of the school population are known to be eligible for FSM[5]* | | | | |
| Number of schools | 14,349 | 2,946 | 14,837 | 2,965 |
| Number of pupils | 3,097,825 | 2,892,959 | 3,418,832 | 2,947,037 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 328,860 | 280,072 | 367,847 | 296,134 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 10.6 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.0 |
| *Schools where more than 30 per cent. of the school population are known to be eligible for FSM[6]* | | | | |
| Number of schools | 3,012 | 397 | 2,524 | 378 |
| Number of pupils | 753,538 | 316,155 | 691,917 | 325,447 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 322,849 | 131,208 | 287,658 | 133,567 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 42.8 | 41.5 | 41.6 | 41.0 |
| *Total* | | | | |
| Number of schools | 17,361 | 3,343 | 17,361 | 3,343 |
| Number of pupils | 3,851,363 | 645,015 | 4,110,749 | 3,272,484 |
| Number of pupil known to be eligible for free school meals | 651,709 | 411,280 | 655,505 | 429,701 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 16.9 | 63.8 | 15.9 | 13.1 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration.
[3] Includes part time pupils aged 5 to 15 and full time pupils aged up to and including 15.
[4] Includes all pupils, regardless of their age.
[5] Selects those schools where percentage of school population known to be eligible for FSM is 30 per cent. or less.
[6] Selects those schools where percentage of school population known to be eligible for FSM is more than 30 per cent.
*Source:*
School Census

### Schools: Community Relations and Revenue

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the revenue generated by schools by opening their facilities to community groups in the latest period for which figures are available. [187724]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of school facilities that have opened up for extended school provision or how much schools charge for their facilities. Local authorities have different systems and variable rates around schools charging community groups to use their facilities.

Opening school facilities to the community is one of the elements of the extended schools core offer. We are committed to all schools providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010 with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

### Schools: Energy

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the potential effect of changes in energy prices on school budgets for 2008-09. [187151]

**Jim Knight:** We took account of a wide range of cost pressures on pay and non-pay faced by schools in calculating the minimum funding guarantee of 2.1 per cent. from 2008-11, including a 1 per cent. efficiency gain. An inflationary rise of 2.7 per cent. per year for all non-pay pressures, including energy costs, was included in the calculation of the minimum funding guarantee. We chose not to identify a specific factor for increases in energy costs in the calculation of cost pressures feeding into the minimum funding guarantee. In 2006-07 average expenditure on energy costs only accounted for 1.35 per cent. of schools budgets, out of a total of 21.2 per cent. spent on non-pay.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has given to schools on managing changes in energy costs and their effect on school budgets. [187152]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has a range of guidance and tools already available, or currently in development, which assist schools in managing their energy resources and budgeting effectively against rising costs:

In April 2008 the Department will publish a planning guide to enable schools to better adapt to changes in their budgets and to ensure they have the appropriate tools to deliver school improvement alongside existing running costs.

Although energy costs represent only a very small proportion of the total expenditure of a school the Department has also previously published good practice guidance for schools on energy and water management[1]. This provides practical suggestions and simple ideas which can be easily implemented and achieve major savings.

In addition to this specific guidance the Department also enables schools to benchmark their energy expenditure with other schools through the Schools Financial Benchmarking website[2].

Furthermore the Department is working with DEFRA to implement the European Energy Services Directive article 5 which requires the public sector to procure energy efficient products and goods. Guidance will be made available via Department websites.

[1] http://www.dfes.gov.uk/valueformoney/docs/VFM_Document_84.pdf

[2] https://sfb.teachernet.gov.uk/login.aspx

### Schools: Governing Bodies

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parent governors of schools were serving on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school governing bodies in each year since 2001. [188397]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not collect information on the composition of the governing bodies of maintained schools. However, parents must comprise at least one third of the places on the governing bodies of all maintained schools in England.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of parent governors of schools were *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* white and *(d)* of black and minority ethnic background in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [188398]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not collect information on the gender and ethnicity of the governing bodies of maintained schools.

We encourage all bodies engaged in recruiting new school governors to monitor the ethnic origin of the governors they appoint, but completion of any ethnic monitoring forms is always voluntary. However, all schools and local authorities are under a duty to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and promote equal opportunities.

Many schools will have pupils from black and minority ethnic groups, different faiths, refugees, or children with English as a second language. It is important that governing bodies include people who have the skills and abilities to drive forward school improvement from all racial and cultural backgrounds.

### Teachers

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, on teachers, what recent estimate he has made of the number of teachers whose capability is in question. [187560]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Teachers: Labour Turnover

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have left the profession within *(a)* one year, *(b)* five years and *(c)* 10 years of completing their qualified teacher status induction period since its introduction. [188371]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Teachers: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers from outside the European economic area received golden hello payments in each year since 2000; and what the value was of such payments; [188369]

(2) what the cost of golden hello payments to newly qualified teachers has been in each year since 2000. [188370]

**Jim Knight:** Golden hello payments are only made to qualified teachers of priority subjects who are employed in state maintained secondary schools in England. Teachers qualified in countries outside of the European economic area who teach in England are not eligible to receive a golden hello.

The total cost of golden hello payments to newly qualified teachers in each financial year from 2000-01 is shown in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 0.3 |
| 2001-02 | 2.6 |
| 2002-03 | 28.5 |
| 2003-04 | 20 |
| 2004-05 | 25 |
| 2005-06 | 29.7 |
| 2006-07 | 28 |
| 2007-08[1] | 24.9 |

[1] This represents payments up to 15 February 2008

### Teachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of teachers attained the National Professional Qualification of Headship between 2003 and 2007 who are not head teachers; [187153]

(2) what proportion of head teachers hold the National Professional Qualification for Headship. [187154]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not hold this information. National College of School Leadership (NCSL) holds details of National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) graduates each year; it does not have information on their current position in schools.

The number of NPQH graduates in each year since 2003 are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 3,278 |
| 2004 | 3,839 |
| 2005 | 4,237 |
| 2006 | 4,409 |
| 2007 | 4,721 |

### Teachers: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many newly qualified teachers have failed their induction period and remained in teaching in the latest period for which figures are available. [188373]

**Jim Knight:** The General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) received notification of 23 newly qualified teachers that failed their induction between 1 September 2006 and 31 of August 2007. As the GTCE does not have any active employment details recorded for these teachers there is no evidence that they currently work as a qualified teacher in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in England. The GTCE do not regulate independent schools.

### Young People: Unemployed

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged under 18 years were not in employment, education or training in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [187953]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department's estimate of the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to local level. However, we can estimate the number of young people NEET using figures drawn from the client management systems maintained by Connexions services. The following table shows the and proportion of young people aged under 18 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area at the end of 2005, 2006 and 2007 based on Connexions data. Connexions do not report figures at constituency level. 2005 is the first year for which local authority level figures were available.

The figures relate to 16 and 17-year-olds known to Connexions and are not directly comparable with statistics on 16 and 17-year-olds NEET published annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. This is because the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody and young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England may also be excluded. In addition, the Department's statistics relate to the young person's academic age, rather than calendar age.

*Number and proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | *December 2005* | | *December 2006* | | *December 2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| *South-east* | | | | | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 150 | 8.6 | 90 | 5.5 | 80 | 4.8 |
| Reading | 330 | 10.8 | 250 | 8.0 | 250 | 8.4 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 100 | 4.5 | 90 | 4.3 | 90 | 3.7 |

*Number and proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | December 2005 | | December 2006 | | December 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Slough | 230 | 8.7 | 150 | 5.8 | 140 | 5.4 |
| West Berkshire | 190 | 6.2 | 150 | 5.0 | 150 | 4.8 |
| Wokingham | 140 | 6.1 | 90 | 4.8 | 120 | 6.1 |
| Kent | 1,840 | 6.5 | 1,780 | 6.3 | 1,450 | 4.8 |
| Medway | 510 | 8.3 | 420 | 6.9 | 380 | 6.0 |
| Buckinghamshire | 300 | 3.3 | 250 | 2.8 | 240 | 2.6 |
| Milton Keynes | 340 | 7.5 | 280 | 6.1 | 260 | 5.2 |
| Oxfordshire | 500 | 4.5 | 560 | 5.0 | 470 | 4.2 |
| Portsmouth | 360 | 14.0 | 290 | 11.2 | 230 | 9.0 |
| Southampton | 500 | 12.3 | 430 | 10.7 | 390 | 10.0 |
| Isle of Wight | 160 | 5.8 | 160 | 6.1 | 150 | 5.5 |
| Hampshire | 1,320 | 5.2 | 1,420 | 5.5 | 1,270 | 4.9 |
| Surrey | 640 | 3.4 | 610 | 3.4 | 560 | 3.3 |
| Brighton and Hove | 420 | 10.0 | 430 | 10.9 | 300 | 7.7 |
| East Sussex | 550 | 6.0 | 710 | 7.9 | 620 | 6.9 |
| West Sussex | 660 | 4.6 | 630 | 4.4 | 550 | 4.2 |
| *London* | | | | | | |
| Camden | 240 | 7.6 | 220 | 7.4 | 210 | 6.3 |
| Islington | 340 | 9.2 | 320 | 8.4 | 290 | 8.2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 100 | 8.6 | 120 | 8.8 | 80 | 4.9 |
| Lambeth | 400 | 13.7 | 300 | 11.4 | 240 | 9.3 |
| Southwark | 370 | 12.6 | 370 | 12.2 | 260 | 9.2 |
| Wandsworth | 260 | 6.5 | 230 | 6.0 | 160 | 3.7 |
| Westminster | 230 | 8.7 | 150 | 6.7 | 130 | 5.2 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 420 | 12.6 | 440 | 11.3 | 390 | 9.2 |
| Bexley | 280 | 6.0 | 320 | 7.4 | 270 | 6.4 |
| City of London[1] | — | — | — | — | — | 0.9 |
| Greenwich | 470 | 11.6 | 450 | 10.8 | 390 | 9.7 |
| Hackney | 350 | 14.7 | 360 | 13.7 | 280 | 11.1 |
| Havering | 400 | 7.4 | 360 | 6.0 | 320 | 5.5 |
| Lewisham | 380 | 8.8 | 250 | 5.6 | 240 | 5.6 |
| Newham | 490 | 9.8 | 570 | 11.4 | 400 | 9.0 |
| Redbridge | 310 | 6.0 | 270 | 4.8 | 240 | 4.2 |
| Tower Hamlets[1] | 380 | 10.1 | 410 | 11.0 | 230 | 6.5 |
| Barnet | 320 | 5.6 | 280 | 4.3 | 250 | 4.2 |
| Enfield | 480 | 7.9 | 390 | 6.5 | 370 | 6.9 |
| Haringey | 370 | 10.1 | 360 | 12.8 | 250 | 10.2 |
| Waltham Forest | 310 | 6.0 | 350 | 6.4 | 270 | 5.0 |
| Bromley | 270 | 4.4 | 290 | 4.7 | 270 | 4.2 |
| Croydon | 540 | 8.8 | 480 | 7.8 | 430 | 7.4 |
| Kingston | 100 | 3.2 | 110 | 3.6 | 90 | 2.9 |
| Merton | 120 | 7.2 | 120 | 7.3 | 90 | 6.2 |
| Richmond | 80 | 4.2 | 90 | 4.3 | 40 | 2.1 |
| Sutton | 210 | 4.6 | 190 | 4.4 | 180 | 4.3 |
| Brent | 190 | 4.4 | 200 | 5.4 | 180 | 5.1 |
| Baling | 280 | 7.2 | 280 | 7.7 | 180 | 5.3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 260 | 17.2 | 170 | 9.3 | 100 | 6.4 |
| Harrow | 210 | 5.3 | 170 | 4.3 | 80 | 2.0 |
| Hillingdon | 520 | 8.4 | 360 | 6.4 | 250 | 4.5 |
| Hounslow | 300 | 6.3 | 310 | 7.6 | 240 | 6.0 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 540 | 6.8 | 500 | 6.4 | 470 | 6.1 |
| Luton | 330 | 7.9 | 310 | 8.1 | 250 | 6.0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 560 | 5.3 | 540 | 5.2 | 500 | 4.8 |
| Peterborough | 390 | 9.6 | 340 | 8.2 | 310 | 7.4 |
| Essex | 2,160 | 8.5 | 1,730 | 6.8 | 1,370 | 5.1 |
| Thurrock | 330 | 9.1 | 270 | 7.5 | 240 | 6.6 |

*Number and proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | December 2005 | | December 2006 | | December 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Southend | 330 | 7.2 | 310 | 6.4 | 270 | 5.5 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,070 | 4.8 | 950 | 4.2 | 760 | 3.3 |
| Norfolk | 1,130 | 7.3 | 1,240 | 7.9 | 900 | 5.7 |
| Suffolk | 960 | 7.3 | 1,020 | 7.9 | 830 | 6.4 |
| *South-west* | | | | | | |
| Bournemouth | 220 | 8.5 | 250 | 8.9 | 240 | 8.6 |
| Dorset | 380 | 5.6 | 490 | 6.8 | 380 | 5.2 |
| Poole | 180 | 6.4 | 180 | 6.1 | 160 | 5.4 |
| Cornwall | 540 | 5.0 | 630 | 5.8 | 590 | 5.5 |
| Devon | 720 | 5.3 | 830 | 6.0 | 710 | 5.5 |
| Isles of Scilly | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Plymouth | 420 | 6.8 | 410 | 7.0 | 400 | 6.9 |
| Torbay | 140 | 4.6 | 210 | 7.3 | 170 | 5.1 |
| Gloucestershire | 670 | 5.5 | 570 | 4.7 | 470 | 4.0 |
| Somerset | 510 | 4.9 | 480 | 4.7 | 390 | 3.9 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 190 | 5.1 | 150 | 3.9 | 120 | 3.4 |
| Bristol | 600 | 9.2 | 530 | 7.1 | 450 | 6.3 |
| North Somerset | 150 | 4.3 | 150 | 4.8 | 140 | 4.0 |
| South Gloucestershire | 280 | 5.3 | 240 | 5.6 | 240 | 4.4 |
| Swindon | 220 | 5.3 | 350 | 8.1 | 240 | 5.4 |
| Wiltshire | 390 | 5.3 | 480 | 6.2 | 430 | 5.7 |
| *West midlands* | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | 2,550 | 13.2 | 2,240 | 10.2 | 1,630 | 7.2 |
| Solihull | 490 | 8.3 | 410 | 7.7 | 300 | 5.1 |
| Dudley | 580 | 8.5 | 560 | 6.5 | 480 | 5.7 |
| Sandwell | 690 | 11.9 | 700 | 17.1 | 570 | 13.3 |
| Walsall | 620 | 11.0 | 540 | 9.2 | 560 | 9.2 |
| Wolverhampton | 620 | 11.4 | 590 | 11.1 | 500 | 9.4 |
| Coventry | 570 | 8.4 | 550 | 8.0 | 420 | 6.0 |
| Warwickshire | 630 | 6.0 | 720 | 6.6 | 620 | 5.6 |
| Herefordshire | 190 | 5.9 | 170 | 5.2 | 180 | 5.3 |
| Worcestershire | 590 | 5.7 | 530 | 5.0 | 440 | 4.1 |
| Shropshire | 290 | 5.5 | 260 | 4.8 | 200 | 4.1 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 300 | 8.2 | 330 | 9.1 | 340 | 9.5 |
| Staffordshire | 1,100 | 6.6 | 1,120 | 6.7 | 870 | 4.9 |
| Stoke on Trent | 760 | 14.3 | 760 | 14.3 | 620 | 11.9 |
| *East midlands* | | | | | | |
| Derby City | 460 | 8.5 | 460 | 8.6 | 400 | 7.4 |
| Derbyshire | 860 | 6.8 | 870 | 6.7 | 830 | 6.2 |
| Leicester City | 730 | 10.2 | 740 | 10.0 | 650 | 8.5 |
| Leicestershire | 700 | 5.9 | 670 | 5.4 | 560 | 4.2 |
| Lincolnshire | 800 | 5.8 | 710 | 5.0 | 580 | 4.1 |
| Rutland | — | 0.7 | 10 | 3.0 | 10 | 1.9 |
| Northamptonshire | 980 | 7.1 | 840 | 6.1 | 700 | 5.1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 770 | 4.8 | 770 | 5.0 | 670 | 4.5 |
| Nottingham | 470 | 8.3 | 540 | 7.8 | 470 | 6.2 |
| *Yorks and the Humber* | | | | | | |
| East Riding | 310 | 5.7 | 380 | 5.5 | 320 | 6.1 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 820 | 12.8 | 740 | 13.4 | 670 | 9.8 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 350 | 8.9 | 400 | 10.3 | 270 | 5.9 |
| North Lincolnshire | 270 | 7.3 | 320 | 8.9 | 270 | 6.7 |
| Barnsley | 630 | 14.1 | 530 | 12.1 | 350 | 7.7 |
| Doncaster | 800 | 12.5 | 790 | 12.5 | 510 | 7.9 |
| Rotherham | 620 | 10.3 | 700 | 10.5 | 600 | 8.9 |
| Sheffield | 1,000 | 10.0 | 940 | 9.7 | 850 | 8.6 |

*Number and proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | December 2005 | | December 2006 | | December 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Bradford | 910 | 9.8 | 1,010 | 10.5 | 870 | 9.2 |
| Calderdale | 350 | 8.5 | 330 | 8.3 | 320 | 7.9 |
| Kirklees | 770 | 8.3 | 810 | 9.0 | 740 | 7.9 |
| Leeds | 1,400 | 9.5 | 1,390 | 9.4 | 1,410 | 9.7 |
| Wakefield | 790 | 11.5 | 810 | 11.2 | 730 | 9.7 |
| York | 200 | 4.3 | 240 | 5.2 | 210 | 4.2 |
| North Yorkshire | 500 | 4.4 | 480 | 4.2 | 440 | 4.0 |
| *North-west* | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 680 | 4.6 | 780 | 5.3 | 620 | 4.2 |
| Warrington | 240 | 6.2 | 270 | 6.7 | 290 | 4.9 |
| Cumbria | 550 | 5.4 | 500 | 4.8 | 450 | 4.3 |
| Bolton | 670 | 10.4 | 740 | 13.8 | 630 | 11.7 |
| Bury | 310 | 7.2 | 350 | 8.4 | 310 | 5.7 |
| City of Manchester | 1,070 | 11.3 | 1,040 | 11.4 | 840 | 8.8 |
| Oldham | 410 | 6.9 | 450 | 8.7 | 400 | 7.2 |
| Rochdale | 380 | 7.9 | 450 | 13.2 | 390 | 10.4 |
| City of Salford | 460 | 10.1 | 520 | 11.9 | 390 | 7.1 |
| Stockport | 370 | 6.4 | 480 | 8.4 | 480 | 6.6 |
| Trafford | 290 | 6.0 | 290 | 7.2 | 270 | 6.0 |
| Tameside | 460 | 8.6 | 450 | 9.6 | 420 | 8.7 |
| Wigan | 680 | 9.8 | 720 | 10.3 | 570 | 7.7 |
| Halton | 260 | 9.4 | 290 | 10.7 | 270 | 10.1 |
| Knowsley | 300 | 8.9 | 380 | 12.8 | 360 | 13.1 |
| Liverpool | 1,070 | 10.4 | 1,130 | 12.1 | 990 | 10.0 |
| Sefton | 470 | 7.2 | 440 | 6.1 | 400 | 5.8 |
| St. Helens | 380 | 10.3 | 380 | 8.8 | 320 | 7.1 |
| Wirral | 620 | 8.1 | 660 | 8.9 | 630 | 8.5 |
| Blackburn-Darwen | 320 | 8.9 | 340 | 6.2 | 290 | 6.3 |
| Blackpool | 340 | 10.4 | 370 | 8.2 | 340 | 7.1 |
| Lancashire | 1,560 | 6.6 | 1,680 | 7.7 | 1,640 | 7.1 |
| *North-east* | | | | | | |
| County Durham | 1,160 | 12.2 | 1,150 | 11.9 | 930 | 9.2 |
| Northumberland | 470 | 8.0 | 530 | 9.0 | 450 | 7.5 |
| Darlington | 220 | 8.7 | 190 | 6.0 | 180 | 5.5 |
| Stockton on Tees | 400 | 8.9 | 330 | 9.0 | 300 | 7.8 |
| Middlesbrough | 460 | 14.2 | 430 | 11.5 | 320 | 8.2 |
| Hartlepool | 180 | 8.3 | 230 | 10.6 | 140 | 6.3 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 310 | 9.1 | 330 | 10.4 | 320 | 10.3 |
| Sunderland | 770 | 12.4 | 740 | 12.2 | 660 | 10.9 |
| Gateshead | 460 | 12.2 | 400 | 10.9 | 370 | 9.7 |
| Newcastle | 700 | 10.1 | 660 | 9.1 | 660 | 8.5 |
| Tyneside | 430 | 11.2 | 390 | 10.5 | 310 | 8.2 |
| South Tyneside | 370 | 12.6 | 300 | 10.3 | 260 | 9.2 |

[1] Figures for City of London are included with those for Tower Hamlets in 2005 and 2006

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Aimhigher Initiative

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on the Aimhigher Initiative in each year since 2004. [186613]

**Bill Rammell:** Available expenditure for the Aimhigher programme for each year since 2004 to date is:

| | *Expenditure for Aimhigher programme (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 136 |
| 2005-06 | 102 |
| 2006-07 | 87 |
| 2007-08 | 80 |

Aimhigher remains a central part of the Government's plans to widen participation in higher education (HE), and we have been happy to support it for a further period, to 2011.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of the Aimhigher programme in each year since its inception. [172276]

**Bill Rammell:** Since the launch of Aimhigher in 2004, expenditure to help to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education has increased considerably.

£ million

| | 2004-05[1] | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aimhigher[2] | 136 | 102 | 87 | 80 |
| Student support[3] | 1,117 | 1,333 | 1,558 | 1,831 |
| Widening participation allocation | 273 | 284 | 345 | 354 |
| Total | 1,526 | 1,719 | 1,990 | 2,265 |

[1] The unified Aimhigher programme commenced in August 2004. The amount shown includes the cost of predecessor programmes (Excellence Challenge and Partnerships for Progression) for the period April to July 2004.

[2] The amounts shown include contributions from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Learning and Skills Council and the Department for Health.

[3] Includes student loans RAB charge, fee loans, and student support grants. The Student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans.

In addition, the Office for Fair Access forecasts that around £300 million annually will be spent by higher education providers on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from low-income and other underrepresented groups by the academic year 2008-09. Following passage of the Higher Education Act 2004, the Government decided to reduce the budget for Aimhigher to take account of the additional funding which was made available to support widening participation through alternative routes such as the large increases in student support.

We have reformed student finance, reintroducing grants and raising the income threshold at which repayments start. No-one is required to pay a contribution to their higher education up-front. These reforms, together with Aimhigher, have been instrumental in bringing about progress towards widening participation. The proportion of UK domiciled, young, full time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002-03 to 29.1 per cent. in 2005-06.

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since its establishment; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172234]

(2) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172567]

**Mr. Lammy:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on international flights since establishment. [174349]

**Mr. Lammy:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Degrees

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of his staff dealing with universities hold a university degree. [178198]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS staff records are not yet kept on a single database system. Until this is the case, staff records are kept on systems in BERR and DCSF, depending on which Department the individual transferred from.

There have been no formal processes in the two Departments for gathering, validating and maintaining such records. It is therefore likely that any answer given could not be guaranteed to be accurate.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of inquiries received from the public his Department

responded to *(a)* within a week, *(b)* within 14 days, *(c)* within 28 days, *(d)* within two months, *(e)* within three months, *(f)* in over three months and *(g)* in over a year in the latest period for which figures are available. [167418]

**Mr. Lammy:** This Department does not hold the information in the format requested. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has only been in existence since June 2007 and brings together functions from two former Departments, science and innovation responsibilities from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and skills, further and higher education from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Our performance for correspondence from MPs and peers will be published annually by way of a written ministerial statement. Performance figures for DfES and DTI for 2006, were published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Overall performance for all DIUS correspondence (MPs, peers and the public) will be given in the Department's annual report which will be available at:

www.dius.gov.uk

## Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185425]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

As far as we are aware, we believe the following represents databases that are owned/maintained by the Department or its agencies.

| *Database name* | *Owned* | *Maintained* |
|---|---|---|
| *DIUS* | | |
| UK Innovation Survey (UK Part of Community Innovation) | Research Base/SIA | SIA/ONS |
| Certex (Certificate of Experience) | DIUS | ECCTIS Ltd. |
| Section 97 | DIUS | DIUS |
| Student Loan Business Service (SLBS)[1] | DIUS | HMRC |
| Centre for Revenue Intelligence Images[2] | DIUS | HMRC |
| East Kilbride Student Loans Unit (EKSLU) Offline Management Tools[3] | DIUS | HMRC |
| *UK Intellectual Property Office* | | |
| Trade Marks Register | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| Patents Register | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| Designs Register | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| Human Resources | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| Financial Information | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| IP Crime Information | UK-IPO | UK-IPO |
| *National Weights and Measures Laboratory* | | |
| Goldmine Contact Database | NWML | NWML |
| NWML internet site information database | NWML | NWML |
| NWML intranet site information database | LNWML | NWML |
| ROMS internet site information and inquiry database | ROHS Section, NWML | ROHS Section, NWML |
| Trakker Enquiry Database | NWML | NWML |
| SUN finance database | Finance Dept, NWML | Finance Dept, NWML |
| Nortel phone system database | Records Dept, NWML | Records Dept, NWML |
| Central Time work recording database | NWML | NWML |
| Calibration Automatic Weighing system database | Calibration section, NWML | Calibration section, NWML |
| Projects Handler database | Type and Test dept. | Type and Test dept. |
| Local Authority Data | Enforcement dept. | Enforcement dept. |
| *Lifelong Learning UK* | | |
| Staff Individualised Records | LLUK | LLUK |
| *Institute for Learning* | | |
| Teacher Professional Registrations | IfL | IfL |
| *Quality Improvement Agency* | | |
| Internal QIA—HR Databases | QIA | Yes |
| HR Management Statistics | | |
| Recruitment Database | | |
| Monthly payroll reports | | |
| Performance Review Database | | |
| Training Records Database | | |

| *Database name* | *Owned* | *Maintained* |
|---|---|---|
| Personal Details Database | | |
| Sickness Absence Database | | |
| Employees Contracts Database | | |
| Probationary Reviews Database | | |
| QIA Programme Specific Databases | QIA | Yes |
| STARs | | |
| STAR 2007: nomination details | | |
| STAR 2007: Beacon shortlisted nominations | | |
| STAR 2007: short and long-listed nominations (including citations) | | |
| STAR 20007: shortlisted (including winners and highly commended | | |
| High Quality Managers. High Quality managers: Cohorts 1 and 2 | QIA | Yes |
| High Quality Managers; Equality and diversity information | | |
| QIA Research. QIA R and D Suppliers Register—approved suppliers | QIA | Yes |
| *Student Loans Company (SLC)* | | |
| CLASS Customer demographic details, applications, loan accounts and financial transactions: payments and repayments. Customer associated third party names and addresses | SLC | Authorised SLC staff, Third party authorised users e.g. Resource Handling Limited (External company dealing with call centre overflow) |
| Protocol Customer demographic details and applications. Sponsor demographic details and financial information | SLC | Authorised Local Authority personnel, customer self service, Authorised SLC staff |
| HEI database. HEI details, course, term data and fee amounts | SLC | Authorised SLC staff |
| Tallyman. Customers in arrears, or Trace | SLC | Authorised SLC staff |
| Hunter. Fraud detection and management database | SLC | Authorised SLC staff |
| Caseflow. Customers in Litigation | SLC | Authorised SLC staff |
| Loan Servicing System (LSS). Archive data pre-1997. Used in litigation cases | SLC | Authorised SLC staff |
| Data Warehouse. Historical and recent trend analysis for Customer Financial Transactions plus HE and FE application details | SLC | Authorised SLC, LA and DIUS staff |
| *Foundation Degree Forward (fdf)* | | |
| Foundation degree course listings[4] | fdf | fdf |

[1] The Student Loans Business Service holds the information on customers(graduates) who have entered repayment.
[2] This system holds information on new customers (i.e. new graduates) into the repayments system who have failed to match up to an employer using existing national insurance numbers.
[3] This system is an Access database which allows for sifting of all the information held on SLBS, which is limited in its scope. The EKSLU Offline Management Tools allow the prioritisation and management of student loan repayment cases.
[4] part of fdf's official website listing Foundation degree courses by subject area, region, institution or keyword. As well as the course title, it shows both the validating HE Institution and delivering institution.

## Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many staff in educational Departments within his responsibilities are on suspension; and how many of these have been on suspension for over 12 months; [178224]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department are suspended; and on what grounds. [180351]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are currently no employees of DIUS who are suspended.

## Departmental ICT

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many hits the *(a)* most popular website and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January. [162286]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills corporate website was launched on 28 June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes and creation of the new Department. The numbers of hits for the most and least popular websites that come under the DIUS remit are as follows:

| *Website* | *Number of hits[1] from 1 January 2007 to 25 October 2007* |
|---|---|
| The Intellectual Property Office (www.ipo.gov.uk) | 236,301,690 |
| Technology Strategy Board (www.berr.gov.uk/innovation/technologystrategyboard/index.html | [2]82,370 |

[1] Please note that a "hit' is simply a successful request to the web server from a visitor's browser for any type of file, whether an image, HTML page, or any other type. A single web page can cause many hits, one for each image included on the page.
[2] Figures are form page views from 1 July 2007 to 25 October 2007 as hits are not measured for this site.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and

(C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and its predecessor and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185536]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

We are not aware of any Wikipedia entries that have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials.

However, any input to such websites would be done in accordance with the civil service code which states that civil servants should "use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided" and "make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently".

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of staff in his Department dealing with universities are graduates of Oxford or Cambridge university. [180169]

**Mr. Lammy:** While the Department is collecting information about professional skills as part of the Skills Audit which is being undertaken, the survey does not ask for the origin of university degrees and we do not currently have a record of what proportion of staff in DIUS (or the Department for Children, Schools and Families) dealing with universities are graduates of Oxford or Cambridge universities.

This information could be gathered only at disproportional cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many DIUS-branded plastic bags his Department has procured, and at what cost, since it was created. [176503]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS has not produced any plastic bags with DIUS branding since the Department was created.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163607]

**Mr. Lammy:** Details of the budget and remit of each non-departmental public body (NDPB) for which my Department is responsible, with the name of the chairman and their remuneration, is published in the relevant Department's Annual Report 2007 and in Public Bodies 2007.

For DIUS NDPBs which were formerly the responsibility of DfES, this information can be found on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/pdfs/deptreport2007.pdf

and

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ndpb/

The following NDPBs are the responsibility of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills:

Construction Skills;
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board;
Higher Education Funding Council for England;
Investors in People;
Learning and Skills Council;
Office for Fair Access;
Quality Improvement Agency;
Student Loans Company;
Sector Skills Development Agency.
British Hallmarking Council (part of NWML);
Design Council;
Technology Strategy Board.
Research Councils:
Arts and Humanities Research Council;
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council;
Economic and Social Research Council;
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council;
Medical Research Council;
Natural Environment Research Council
Science and Technology Facilities Council.
Council for Science and Technology;
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property;
National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts—from DCMS.

Information on NDPBs formerly the responsibility of the DTI is published in their Public Bodies Report, which can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategy-objectives/annual-spending/page40391.html

Information on chairmen's bonuses are contained in each NDPB's annual report and accounts, which are normally available on the body's website. Composite information is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Consultations

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many citizens' juries were arranged for his Department in each year between 1997 and June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [163600]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department was created on 28 June 2007. No citizen's juries were arranged between the Department's creation and the end of June.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174409]

**Mr. Lammy:** All recycling for my Department is carried out on our behalf, as a shared service, by the Departments of Business Enterprise and Regulatory

Reform, and Children Schools and Families. Therefore, answers given on behalf of those Departments include my Department as well.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many public service agreement targets his Department has; and of these, how many are targets shared with another Department. [171872]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has lead responsibility for two of the Government's public service agreements (PSAs) for the period 2008-11:

PSA 2: Improve the skills of the population, on the way to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020;

PSA 4: Promote world class science and innovation in the UK.

Each of the PSAs is underpinned by six outcome-focused performance indicators. In the case of the Skills PSA, each indicator has a specific target attached. Details of these performance indicators and associated targets can be found in the relevant PSA delivery agreements, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

The key performance indicators for the PSAs are owned by DIUS, but responsibility for delivery of progress against them is shared across a number of Government Departments and other delivery partners. The relevant delivery agreements provide details of the roles of our key delivery partners.

DIUS has an important role to play in delivering progress on many of the Government's other PSAs, but does not share ownership of any of the targets underpinning them. Details of DIUS's role in relation to PSAs led by other Government Departments are set out in the associated delivery agreements.

### Departmental Stationery

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much letter headed notepaper his Department has bought which is headed with Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills headers; and at what cost. [166906]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills has bought supplies of letter headed paper to date at a cost of just over £2,000, at an average cost of about £37 per 1,000 sheets.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much letter headed notepaper his Department has bought which is headed with both Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Department for Children, Schools and Families headers; and at what cost. [166907]

**Mr. Lammy:** Central records held by the Department do not indicate how much letter headed paper which is specifically jointly headed has been acquired by the Department.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what trade union programmes are funded by his Department that pertain to training in *(a)* arbitration, *(b)* industrial action, *(c)* employment rights and *(d)* work as a shop steward. [178237]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created in July 2007 by the amalgamation of elements from BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DfES).

The Department is currently defining its policies and procedures around the provision for trade union support. As a consequence it has not yet established such training programmes.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department and pro-rata its predecessor in each of the last 10 years. [183293]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not own, and has never purchased, any vehicles. Its predecessors were the Department for Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills and I refer to the recent answers given by my right hon. Friends in the respective successor Departments: Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and Children, Schools and Families.

### Educational Institutions: Listed Buildings

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many educational establishments in receipt of funding from his Department are accommodated in listed buildings; and how many of these have been designated as in need of significant repair. [180349]

**Bill Rammell:** The English higher education sector has listed buildings which amount to 2,052,293 $m^2$ at around 100 institutions. We do not have figures for the number of individual listed buildings but estimate that this floor space represents around 2,000 buildings. We do not have information showing the number of listed buildings designated as in need of significant repair.

Within the FE sector a total of 107 FE colleges submitted returns in 2006 saying that they had listed buildings. The total gross internal floor of listed buildings based on those returns is 446,477 $m^2$.

### Graduates: Employment

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 university degree subjects had the 10 *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest proportions of graduates entering employment immediately after graduation in the latest period for which figures are available. [180178]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available data are taken from the Destination of Leavers in Higher Education (DLHE) survey and are given in the first table.

The DLHE survey captures the first destinations of graduates, six months after leaving university. The most recent information available is for those who graduated in 2005/06 who were surveyed in early 2007.

The table contains a complete breakdown of destination categories, and shows that those graduates who are not included in the proportion in employment are not necessarily unemployed (some are in further study, some are not available for employment and the rest are unemployed).

Data on the longer term career paths of graduates (shown in the second table) demonstrates that over time the employment of graduates in all subjects increases.

*Table 1: UK and EU domiciled first degree graduates by destination category and degree subject—destinations six months after graduation—English higher education institutions—academic year 2005/06*

| Subject | Total of known destination[1] | Employed[2] | Work and further study | Of which: Further study only | Assumed to be unemployed | Not available for employment/other | Percentage in employment[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medicine and dentistry | 4,545 | 3,960 | 270 | 270 | 10 | 35 | 93.0 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 14,795 | 11,320 | 1,460 | 920 | 620 | 470 | 86.4 |
| Architecture, building and planning | 3,505 | 2,315 | 620 | 310 | 125 | 135 | 83.8 |
| Education | 7,535 | 5,545 | 710 | 825 | 235 | 220 | 83.0 |
| Veterinary science | 385 | 290 | 15 | 65 | 5 | 5 | 80.2 |
| Mass communications and documentation | 5,440 | 4,020 | 285 | 350 | 445 | 340 | 79.1 |
| Business and administrative studies | 19,740 | 13,260 | 2,160 | 1,675 | 1,320 | 1,320 | 78.1 |
| Creative arts and design | 18,650 | 12,635 | 1,395 | 1,850 | 1,615 | 1,155 | 75.2 |
| Computer science | 10,065 | 6,865 | 635 | 955 | 1,105 | 505 | 74.5 |
| Engineering and technology | 8,715 | 5,765 | 715 | 1,075 | 680 | 480 | 74.4 |
| Combined | 4,045 | 2,155 | 815 | 310 | 220 | 550 | 73.3 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 1,295 | 845 | 100 | 165 | 75 | 105 | 73.2 |
| Social studies | 16,970 | 10,625 | 1,725 | 2,395 | 1,020 | 1,210 | 72.7 |
| Biological sciences | 16,685 | 9,735 | 1,510 | 3,315 | 1,015 | 1,110 | 67.4 |
| Languages | 12,350 | 7,185 | 1,020 | 2,495 | 765 | 885 | 66.5 |
| Historical and philosophical studies | 9,550 | 5,170 | 870 | 2,080 | 605 | 820 | 63.3 |
| Mathematical sciences | 3,185 | 1,505 | 480 | 770 | 180 | 255 | 62.3 |
| Physical sciences | 8,065 | 4,225 | 645 | 2,105 | 540 | 545 | 60.4 |
| Law | 7,845 | 2,900 | 815 | 3,320 | 330 | 485 | 47.3 |
| Total | 173,370 | 110,325 | 16,245 | 25,250 | 10,915 | 10,635 | 73.0 |

[1] Covers graduates from full-time and part-time courses. Overall, around 80 per cent. of graduates provide details of their destinations.
[2] Includes full-time paid work (including self-employed), part-time paid work and voluntary/unpaid work.
[3] Those in full-time paid work (including self-employed), part-time paid work, voluntary/unpaid work, and work and further study, as a percentage of all those with known destination.
*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
HESA Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey.

*Table 2: UK and EU domiciled first degree graduates by destination category and degree subject—graduates qualifying in 2002/03 by destination as at November 2006—UK higher education institutions*

*Percentage*

| | Activity on 27 November 2006 | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Subject | Employed[2] | Work and further study | Further study only | Assumed to be unemployed | Not available for employment/other | In employment[3] | Base (unweighted) | Base (weighted) |
| Medicine and dentistry | 81 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 96 | 437 | 336 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 91 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 95 | 92 | 141 |
| Education | 90 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 95 | 1,363 | 506 |
| Mass communications and documentation | 88 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 94 | 406 | 343 |
| Business and administrative studies | 83 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 94 | 2,060 | 1,779 |

*Table 2: UK and EU domiciled first degree graduates by destination category and degree subject—graduates qualifying in 2002/03 by destination as at November 2006—UK higher education institutions*

*Percentage*

| | *Activity on 27 November 2006* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Subject* | *Employed*[1] | *Work and further study* | *Further study only* | *Assumed to be unemployed* | *Not available for employment/other* | *In employment*[2] | *Base (unweighted)* | *Base (weighted)* |
| Law | 81 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 92 | 662 | 554 |
| Computer science | 89 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 91 | 1,053 | 937 |
| Social studies | 79 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 90 | 1,535 | 1,346 |
| Engineering and technology | 83 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 89 | 783 | 825 |
| Architecture, building and planning | 82 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 89 | 241 | 242 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 78 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 88 | 1,494 | 978 |
| Mathematical sciences | 72 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 87 | 433 | 340 |
| Languages | 78 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 87 | 1,372 | 1,100 |
| Creative arts and design | 82 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 86 | 1,157 | 1,356 |
| Historical and philosophical studies | 79 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 85 | 793 | 821 |
| Combined | 65 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 80 | 87 | 117 |
| Physical sciences | 71 | 9 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 80 | 725 | 804 |
| Biological sciences | 66 | 13 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 78 | 1,490 | 1,444 |
| Veterinary science | — | — | — | — | — | — | 25 | 35 |
| Total | 79 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 88 | 16,208 | 14,004 |

[1] Includes full-time paid work (including self-employed), part-time paid work and voluntary/unpaid work.
[2] Includes those in full-time paid work (including self-employed), part-time paid work, voluntary/unpaid work, and work and further study.
*Note:*
The original survey data (the unweighted figures in the table) were weighted to correct for differential sampling and response rates. The sample size for some subjects was not large enough to provide reliable results.
*Source:*
HESA Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Longitudinal Survey. This was conducted in November 2006 and covered a sample of graduates who had qualified in 2002/03.

## Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to exempt students of the Relate Institute at Doncaster college from the decision to reduce funding for students studying for an equivalent or lower qualification; and if he will make a statement. [178254]

**Bill Rammell:** No students currently studying equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs) will be affected by these changes. In future, our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that more of the million people of working age who do not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in higher education. There can be no exemptions for particular institutions and Doncaster college will remain responsible for decisions on how it allocates its overall budget for higher education. However, in finalising our proposals in the light of consultation we have decided to make a number of adjustments:

(a) We have asked HEFCE to increase the part-time teaching premium from the £20 million originally put forward in the consultation to £30 million. This is a response to concerns about overall impact on part-time provision and the sustainability of subjects that are of particular interest to those who might study on a part-time basis, perhaps after a career break;

(b) There will be a review mechanism each year starting in December 2008 to look at individual subjects of particular economic or social importance. We are sure it would be wrong for us to rush into making special arrangements for any subjects, other than those which had already been identified, before any changes to ELQs, as requiring support in the public interest (such as medicine, initial teacher training teaching, science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, area-based studies, and modern foreign languages). But we are asking the Funding Council each year to look at levels of demand both for exempt or protected subjects and at any other subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and in cases where there is evidence of a fall in demand advise us on the best way forward:

(c) The text of the HEFCE Grant Letter says "I hope you will also carefully consider the position of institutions most affected by this change to the funding rules, in allocating the new funded places that are being created".

(d) We want to set on record what the position will be in three years time. All we have asked HEFCE to do is to find savings of about £100 million a year by 2010-11. Anything beyond that has to be speculation, but no-one is going to fall off the edge of a funding cliff either now or in three years' time. Indeed, the reality is that no strategic decision has been taken about whether to reallocate further ELQ funding after 2010-11.

## Higher Education: Mature Students

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged between *(a)* 30 and 39, *(b)* 40 and 49, *(c)* 50 and 59 and *(d)* 60 years and above completed an equivalent or lower qualification in (i) 2007, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2005. [178122]

**Bill Rammell:** The data are not held centrally to answer this question in precisely the way it has been asked. However, in 2006-07, there were some 32,000 students aged between 30 and 39 and some 45,000 students aged 40 and over studying equivalent or lower level students. All existing students studying for such qualifications will continue to attract institutional funding until they complete their courses. The redistribution of about £100 million by 2010 away from those entering higher education to study for such qualifications will increase and widen participation and enable the Government to support over 20,000 new students (on a full-time equivalent basis) more than would otherwise have been the case either entering higher education for the first time or progressing to higher degrees.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many members of the senior civil service in his Department have received an honour. [187124]

**Mr. Lammy:** The relevant data are not held by the Department.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many cases of bullying have been reported in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [182830]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created in July 2007 by the amalgamation of elements from BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DfES). As a consequence it has not existed for the 12 months specified.

However in the interim period there have been no cases of bullying reported by staff. Nor are any cases currently reported.

### Learning and Skills Council: Expenditure

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the additional support budget of the Train to Gain programme was spent in each English region by the Learning and Skills Council in 2006-07. [187232]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 57W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes).

### Obesity: Publications

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the documents *(a)* Tackling Obesities: Future Choices and *(b)* Tackling Obesities Future Choices - Obesity System Atlas cost to (i) produce and (ii) to distribute. [166875]

**Mr. Lammy:** The production costs, i.e. design and printing, of the Tackling Obesities: Future Choices report were approx £3,300 and for Tackling Obesities: Future Choices—Obesity Systems Atlas were approx £8,600. The cost of distributing the Tackling Obesities Future Choices are likely to be approx £5,900 and for the Obesity Systems Atlas £2,500

### Overseas Students

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what penalties would be imposed on a college approved to provide education for overseas students found to be falsifying information to retain its approved status; how many such penalties have been issued in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [183211]

**Bill Rammell:** Since 1 January 2005, colleges which want to recruit international students have to appear on the register of education and training providers. To remain on the register, colleges agree to abide by the terms and conditions of registration, including compliance with the immigration rules. To date, 143 colleges have been found to be in breach of the immigration rules, following investigation by the BIA and therefore removed from the register. They are therefore no longer able to recruit international students.

### Overseas Students: Vietnam

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Vietnamese nationals are studying in the UK's higher education system; and if he will make a statement. [179632]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information shows that the number of Vietnamese domiciled students in UK higher education institutions for the 2006-07 academic year was 1,685. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in January 2009. Numbers have increased by 16 per cent. from the previous year. This is good news. International students such as those from Vietnam bring an international perspective to our campuses, they help maintain the UK's world class research base, and they provide a valuable source of income for our universities and indeed for the economy more widely. The "Global Value" report published by the British Council in September estimated that the total value of international HE students to the UK economy was in the region of £5 billion per year.

### Research: Finance

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been transferred from other budgets to allow the research councils to provide 80 per cent. of the full economic costs of the research that they sponsor; and if he will make a statement. [181725]

**Ian Pearson:** None, no funding has been transferred from other budgets.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for

vehicles used by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183359]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills was created in June 2007. The following information relates to the period since then.

Parking fines and speeding tickets incurred by DIUS staff when using vehicles for official business are not met by the public purse.

The Department also uses vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, which is the responsibility of my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport. I refer to the answer in respect of that agency given by my right hon. Friend on 5 February 2008.

### Student Loans Company: ICT

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the IT system which co-ordinates confirmation of student loan repayments between the Student Loans Company and HM Revenue and Customs; and whether this system has failed or generated errors in the last three years. [175399]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* There are a number of data exchanges between the Student Loans Company (SLC) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to enable the repayment of student loans. Information is principally exchanged to match student loan borrowers with live employment records, provide repayment information and confirm that employers need to be sent notice to start and stop making student loan deductions. The SLC is not aware of any IT system failures or errors that have prevented the exchange of data with HMRC in the last three years.

The Government take the protection of personal data extremely seriously. The provisions catering for the sharing of information in the Sale of Student Loans Bill will strengthen the framework for legal protection of data in respect of all loans, whether sold or unsold. The Bill will extend an existing criminal sanction prohibiting the wrongful disclosure of HMRC information outside the terms of the legislative gateway.

Data exchanges between the SLC and HMRC have all been reviewed following the Chancellor's statement on 20 November to ensure they meet the appropriate security standards. No breaches of data protection protocols have occurred in respect of student loan administration.

### Student Wastage

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students under 22 years old withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001; [164198]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time mature students withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001. [164199]

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) students under 22 years old and (ii) mature students withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001. [166863]

**Bill Rammell:** The information available on non-continuation of higher education students is shown in Tables 1 and 2. The figures are taken from the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Table 1 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England, who do not continue in higher education after their first year. Table 2 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time other undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England who do not continue in higher education after their first year.

*Table 1: Percentage of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| *Academic year* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Young (under 21) | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 6.8 |
| Mature | 14.8 | 15.1 | 15.4 | 14.0 |

*Source:*
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA

*Table 2: Percentage of UK-domiciled full-time other undergraduate entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| *Academic year* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Young (under 21) | 16.3 | 16.1 | 17.5 | 16.6 |
| Mature | 15.8 | 14.5 | 14.3 | 14.8 |

*Source:*
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA

Figures for 2005-06 will become available in 2008.

HESA do not publish figures on the percentage of part-time students not continuing in higher education after their first year.

According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students aged over 21 years withdrew from *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time higher education courses in each year since 2003; and what the most frequently given reasons were for withdrawal. [180496]

**Bill Rammell:** The standard measure of non-completion is the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters of all ages who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution. The available information for higher education institutions in England is shown in table 1.

*Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 15.0 |
| 2001/02 | 13.8 |
| 2002/03 | 13.9 |
| 2003/04 | 14.4 |
| 2004/05 | 13.8 |

*Source:*
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

Projected non-completion rates are not available for part-time starters, and are not available broken down by age groups.

The available information on reasons for withdrawing from higher education courses is shown in tables 2 and 3. This information covers students, aged over 21, leaving first degree courses at English higher education institutions in each year, and includes students in their first, final and intervening years of study, irrespective of the year in which they began their course.

*Table 2: UK-domiciled full-time students aged over 21 years, on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course*

| | Academic year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Reason for leaving* | *2002/ 03* | *2003/ 04* | *2004/ 05* | *2005/ 06* | *2006/ 07* |
| Successful completion of course | 58,700 | 61,785 | 62,370 | 64,550 | 64,215 |
| Academic failure/left in bad standing | 2,395 | 2,335 | 2,460 | 2,645 | 2,990 |
| Transferred to another institution | 415 | 430 | 395 | 760 | 560 |
| Health reasons | 450 | 465 | 435 | 425 | 460 |
| Death | 45 | 45 | 55 | 50 | 50 |
| Financial reasons | 480 | 480 | 500 | 495 | 410 |
| Personal reasons and dropped out | 2,180 | 2,345 | 2,320 | 2,305 | 2,325 |
| Written off after lapse of time | 820 | 1,125 | 1,395 | 1,710 | 1,435 |
| Exclusion | 160 | 230 | 285 | 285 | 310 |
| Gone into employment | 175 | 175 | 175 | 160 | 160 |
| Other | 1,525 | 1,550 | 2,065 | 1,820 | 1,630 |
| Completion of course, result unknown | 605 | 715 | 500 | 365 | 350 |
| Unknown | 815 | 670 | 525 | 605 | 415 |
| Total who left course not having transferred | 9,645 | 10,135 | 10,715 | 10,870 | 10,540 |
| Total who left in academic year | 68,755 | 72,350 | 73,480 | 76,180 | 75,315 |

*Note:*
Numbers are rounded to the nearest five so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

*Table 3: UK-domiciled part-time students aged over 21 years, on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course*

| | Academic year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Reason for leaving* | *2002/ 03* | *2003/ 04* | *2004/ 05* | *2005/ 06* | *2006/ 07* |
| Transferred to another institution | 80 | 85 | 60 | 405 | 195 |
| Health reasons | 220 | 210 | 200 | 195 | 190 |
| Death | 25 | 105 | 110 | 90 | 60 |
| Financial reasons | 160 | 120 | 165 | 175 | 185 |
| Personal reasons and dropped out | 1,645 | 1,675 | 1,485 | 1,670 | 1,855 |
| Written off after lapse of time | 600 | 640 | 740 | 850 | 870 |
| Exclusion | 30 | 1,105 | 1,230 | 1,450 | 545 |
| Gone into employment | 160 | 190 | 145 | 140 | 165 |
| Other | 960 | 950 | 1,170 | 1,415 | 880 |
| Completion of course, result unknown | 355 | 290 | 295 | 250 | 240 |
| Unknown | 445 | 755 | 1,055 | 760 | 370 |
| Total who left course not having transferred | 5,375 | 6,905 | 7,600 | 8,005 | 6,730 |
| Total who left in academic year | 20,460 | 29,105 | 32,570 | 36,455 | 32,575 |

*Note:*
Numbers are rounded to the nearest five so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The reason for leaving information on the HESA student record should be treated with some caution, because the 'other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'other' fields are used extensively throughout the time-series. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are based on different populations of students. Table 1 covers the cohort of full-time first degree starters of all ages in each year. Table 2 covers full-time first degree students aged 21 years and over leaving their courses in each year, regardless of the year of study or which year they began their course. Table 3 covers part-time first degree students aged 21 years and over leaving their courses in each year, regardless of the year of study or which year they began their course.

According to figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries.

## Students

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students in English universities were from *(a)* England, *(b)* the UK, *(c)* other EU countries and *(d)* non-EU countries in each year from 1990 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [163768]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information is given in the table. Figures for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

*Number and proportion of higher education enrolments at English institutions[1] by domicile: academic years 1990-91 to 1993-94*

| | Number | | | Percentage | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All enrolments* | *UK domiciles* | *Overseas domiciles* | *UK domiciles* | *Overseas domiciles* |
| 1990-91 | 873,150 | 807,760 | 65,390 | 92.5 | 7.5 |
| 1991-92 | 972,100 | 900,740 | 71,360 | 92.7 | 7.3 |
| 1992-93 | 1,083,455 | 995,195 | 88,260 | 91.9 | 8.1 |
| 1993-94 | 1,190,585 | 1,087,655 | 102,930 | 91.4 | 8.6 |

[1] Includes HE level students taught in Higher Education and Further Education establishments. *Notes:* 1. Enrolment numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, percentages to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
2. Proportions are based upon figures calculated on a snapshot basis as at 1 December.
3. Figures cover postgraduate and undergraduate students on full-time and part-time courses.
*Source:*
The Universities Statistical Record (USR) and the English Education Department.

*Number and proportion of higher education enrolments at English higher education institutions by domicile academic years 1994-95 to 2005-06*

| | Number | | | | | Percentage | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All enrolments* | *English domiciles* | *Other UK domiciles* | *Other EU domiciles* | *Non-EU overseas domicile* | *English domiciles* | *Other UK domiciles[1]* | *Other EU domiciles* | *Non-EU overseas domiciles* |
| 1994-95 | 1,277,165 | 1,058,755 | 93,390 | 49,130 | 75,890 | 82.9 | 7.3 | 3.8 | 5.9 |
| 1995-96 | 1,409,700 | 1,183,555 | 74,420 | 65,130 | 86,595 | 84.0 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 6.1 |
| 1996-97 | 1,431,760 | 1,202,975 | 75,100 | 67,120 | 86,565 | 84.0 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 6.0 |
| 1997-98 | 1,465,775 | 1,221,615 | 77,020 | 74,400 | 92,740 | 83.3 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 6.3 |
| 1998-99 | 1,503,585 | 1,257,945 | 73,325 | 79,435 | 92,875 | 83.7 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 6.2 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,510,545 | 1,260,215 | 73,190 | 79,640 | 97,500 | 83.4 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 6.5 |
| 2000-01 | 1,552,700 | 1,288,985 | 77,405 | 79,270 | 107,040 | 83.0 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 6.9 |
| 2001-02 | 1,594,365 | 1,326,030 | 76,510 | 73,890 | 117,940 | 83.2 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 7.4 |
| 2002-03 | 1,677,535 | 1,382,895 | 79,490 | 72,490 | 142,660 | 82.4 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 8.5 |
| 2003-04 | 1,755,430 | 1,439,380 | 84,020 | 70,775 | 161,250 | 82.0 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 9.2 |
| 2004-05 | 1,800,675 | 1,469,950 | 88,615 | 78,365 | 163,750 | 81.6 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 9.1 |
| 2005-06 | 1,814,865 | 1,478,295 | 88,970 | 82,625 | 164,975 | 81.5 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 9.1 |

[1] 1994-5 was the first year the HESA student record was collected. As such there were a higher number of UK students unknown domicile'. In 1994-05 the proportion was 3.0 per cent. whereas in 1995-06 the proportion was 0.8 per cent.
*Notes:*
1 Enrolment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
2. Proportions are based upon figures calculated on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years.
3. Figures cover Postgraduate and Undergraduate students on full-time and part-time courses.
*Source:*
The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

International students bring an international perspective to our campuses, they help maintain the UK's world class research base, and they provide a valuable source of income for our universities and indeed for the economy more widely. The "Global Value" report published by the British Council in September estimated that the total value of international HE students to the UK economy was in the region of £5 billion per year.

The growth in international students is not at the expense of home and EU students. Student numbers from those domiciled in the UK and the EU have also grown. There is no question of UK students being squeezed out of the market by international students. International students are recruited in addition to the home (UK and other EU) students, whose places are subsidised by the Higher Education Funding Councils. International students pay the full cost of their tuition.

### Students: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what activities were recently undertaken as part of Student Finance week; and what the cost was of each. [169728]

**Bill Rammell:** The information is as follows.

Student Finance Week 2008 was a week long programme of PR activity

The aim of the activity was to make the target audience aware of and direct them to view the new Student Finance DVD. The DVD contains detailed information on the package of financial support available for students entering higher education from September 2008

The activity was aimed at young people aged 16-19 and their parents

The total cost was £33,925.00

The activity provided an estimated 67 million opportunities to see

Based on the national press articles only, the reach is estimated as:

Parents of 16 to 18-year-olds with a household income of £25,000 to £60,000—articles reached 33.4 per cent. of the audience

Parents of all 16 to 18-year-olds—articles reached 32.6 per cent. of the audience

16 to 18-year-olds with a household income of £25,000 to £60,000—articles reached 29.3 per cent. of the audience

16 to 18-year-olds—articles reached 31.9 per cent. of the audience.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will ensure that the Higher Education and Funding Council for England provides funding for students seeking postgraduate training in health, education, local government, food safety and hydrology. [173202]

**Bill Rammell:** We have no plans to change arrangements for funding of postgraduate provision, except in those cases where a student already has a postgraduate qualification at an equivalent or higher level than the one for which he or she proposes to study. For such students, funding will be available for students on courses which are co-funded by employers, including those in the public sector as well as the private sector. That is and will be our priority as we respond to the challenges identified by Sandy Leitch.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people continued to make payments to the Student Loan Company (SLC) after their incomes had dropped below the repayment threshold in each year since the SLC was established; what the mean number of months for which student loan deductions continued after the repayer ceased to be eligible to repay was in these cases; how many individuals received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five or more repayments subsequent to their becoming ineligible; what the (i) median and (ii) mean amount repaid in total to each individual was; and what the mean size was of the individual rebates made as a consequence. [166888]

**Bill Rammell:** Neither the Department nor the Student Loans Company (SLC) hold the information requested.

For borrowers covered by the UK tax system, income-contingent loan repayments (deductions) are taken by the employer and passed to HMRC, on a weekly or monthly basis if the borrower's income exceeds the relevant threshold. If a deduction is taken in error when income does not exceed the threshold then the relevant deductions are refunded by the employer. The SLC does not hold information about these deductions.

However, in some cases a borrower's income for the year may be less than the threshold overall, but their earnings above the threshold in one or more pay periods. Such situations only become clear at the end of the financial year and the borrower may claim a refund from the SLC. (Note that such borrowers had deductions taken correctly when they were above the earnings threshold in the relevant pay period.) Available data on such refunds are shown in the following tables.

*Number of SLC refunds to income-contingent loan borrowers below the earnings threshold at the end of the year, England*

| *Calendar year* | *Number of refunds*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 50 |
| 2004 | 110 |
| 2005 | 190 |
| 2006 | 310 |
| 2007 (to 10 October) | 310 |

[1] Number of loans rounded to nearest 10

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

*Number of income-contingent loan borrowers[1] who received SLC refunds because they were below the earnings threshold at the end of the year, by numbers of refunds, England*

| | *Number of refunds* |
|---|---|
| One | 730 |
| Two | 90 |
| Three | 20 |
| Four or more | 10 |
| Total | 840 |

[1] Refunds up to 10 Oct 2007. Number of borrowers rounded to nearest 10.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

The mean amount of SLC refund was 130.

Borrowers with the older mortgage-style loans can apply for deferment of repayments if their income is below the relevant threshold. The SLC holds income details only for those mortgage-style loans borrowers who apply for a deferment. Some borrowers may wish to continue repayment rather than apply for deferment. Indeed borrowers threshold overall, but their earnings above the threshold in one or more pay periods.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Access to Learning Loans were paid because of delays in the student loans system in each year since 2001. [175746]

**Bill Rammell:** The information is not available.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to sell off student loans accrued by non-UK EU citizens as part of the sale of the student loan book. [187237]

**Bill Rammell:** We envisage that the sale of student loans will be a long-term programme, and in principle loans to non-UK EU citizens could be included in due course . However, tuition fee loans have only been available to non-UK EU citizens since the academic year 2006-07, and the first graduates will not enter repayment until 2010, so we do not expect such loans to be included within the first sales during 2008-09.

### Students: Qualifications

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills by what means he intends to verify that students from *(a)* other EU member states, *(b)* England and Wales and *(c)* non-EU countries do not have a graduate qualification when applying for equivalent or lower qualification courses. [173199]

**Bill Rammell:** Overseas students from non-EU and associated countries have not received public funding for over 25 years irrespective of the course qualifications they study. For other students, HEFCE will shortly be advising on the way this is dealt with. Most people will and do obey the rules, but there will need to be a random checking process to corroborate that particular students do not have a first HE qualification. That will need to be done in a way that gets the balance right between protection and not an overly bureaucratic system. In all cases HEFCE will work with institutions to audit feasible student

numbers and final HEFCE funding will be determined on a basis of audited returns through a robust audit process.

## Teachers: Training

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of entrants to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher training courses were (i) male and (ii) female in each year since 1997, broken down by subject for secondary school trainees. [185689]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the proportion of first year trainees, at the end of the first year of their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course, who are male and female for:

1. Mainstream trainees between 1998/99 and 2005/06.

2. Employment Based ITT (EBITT) between 2001/02 and 2005/06.

*Table 1: Mainstream[1,2,3,4,5] first year trainees*

*Percentage*

| | *1998/99* | | *1999/2000* | | *2000/01* | | *2001/02* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* |
| Primary and secondary | 74 | 26 | 74 | 26 | 75 | 25 | 75 | 25 |
| Primary | 87 | 13 | 87 | 13 | 87 | 13 | 88 | 12 |
| Secondary | 63 | 37 | 63 | 37 | 64 | 36 | 64 | 36 |
| Art and design | 75 | 25 | 76 | 24 | 79 | 21 | 80 | 20 |
| Business studies | 53 | 47 | 56 | 44 | 60 | 40 | 59 | 41 |
| Citizenship[6,7] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 61 | 39 |
| Design and technology | 49 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 53 | 47 | 55 | 45 |
| English (including drama and dance) | 76 | 24 | 76 | 24 | 79 | 21 | 79 | 21 |
| Geography | 55 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 56 | 44 | 57 | 43 |
| History | 55 | 45 | 56 | 44 | 57 | 43 | 57 | 43 |
| Information and communications technology | 51 | 49 | 49 | 51 | 55 | 45 | 52 | 48 |
| Mathematics | 50 | 50 | 51 | 49 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Modern languages | 82 | 18 | 81 | 19 | 81 | 19 | 80 | 20 |
| Music | 60 | 40 | 65 | 35 | 64 | 36 | 62 | 38 |
| Other[8] | 59 | 41 | 55 | 45 | 61 | 39 | 65 | 35 |
| Physical education | 53 | 47 | 56 | 44 | 53 | 47 | 52 | 48 |
| Religious education | 68 | 32 | 66 | 34 | 65 | 35 | 72 | 28 |
| Science | 59 | 41 | 59 | 41 | 62 | 38 | 59 | 41 |
| Vocational subjects[7] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Percentage*

| | *2002/03* | | *2003/04* | | *2004/05* | | *2005/06* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* |
| Primary and secondary | 75 | 25 | 74 | 26 | 74 | 26 | 74 | 26 |
| Primary | 88 | 12 | 87 | 13 | 87 | 13 | 87 | 13 |
| Secondary | 63 | 37 | 62 | 38 | 62 | 38 | 61 | 39 |
| Art and design | 79 | 21 | 79 | 21 | 76 | 24 | 80 | 20 |
| Business studies | 59 | 41 | 59 | 41 | 60 | 40 | 53 | 47 |
| Citizenship[6,7] | 52 | 48 | 60 | 40 | 57 | 43 | 65 | 35 |
| Design and technology | 56 | 44 | 55 | 45 | 61 | 39 | 59 | 41 |
| English (including drama and dance) | 78 | 22 | 78 | 22 | 79 | 21 | 80 | 20 |
| Geography | 57 | 43 | 58 | 42 | 59 | 41 | 59 | 41 |
| History | 56 | 44 | 55 | 45 | 58 | 42 | 58 | 42 |
| Information and communications technology | 45 | 55 | 43 | 57 | 42 | 58 | 41 | 59 |
| Mathematics | 46 | 54 | 47 | 53 | 45 | 55 | 48 | 52 |
| Modern languages | 81 | 19 | 78 | 22 | 80 | 20 | 78 | 22 |
| Music | 64 | 36 | 62 | 38 | 63 | 37 | 64 | 36 |
| Other[8] | 66 | 34 | 66 | 34 | 66 | 34 | 67 | 33 |

Percentage

| | 2002/03 | | 2003/04 | | 2004/05 | | 2005/06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Physical education | 55 | 45 | 51 | 49 | 54 | 46 | 49 | 51 |
| Religious education | 61 | 39 | 71 | 29 | 67 | 33 | 68 | 32 |
| Science | 59 | 41 | 57 | 43 | 59 | 41 | 58 | 42 |
| Vocational subjects[7] | — | — | 51 | 49 | 59 | 41 | 57 | 43 |

[1] Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
[2] Performance profile data is collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data is collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
[3] Trainees taking skills assessment only are not included in the table above.
[4] Data prior to 2003/04 is not available in a consistent format.
[5] Data relating to the gender of trainees are not collected on entering ITT courses. This information is collected as part of the Performance Profiles data at the end of trainees' first year.
[6] 2001/02 was the first year of recruitment to Citizenship.
[7] '-' represents not applicable.
[8] Other includes classics, economics and social sciences.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

*Table 2: EBITT[1,2,3,4,5] first year trainees*

Percentage

| | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | | 2003/04 | | 2004/05 | | 2005/06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Primary and secondary | 69 | 31 | 65 | 35 | 64 | 36 | 67 | 33 | 68 | 32 |
| Primary | 79 | 21 | 77 | 23 | 77 | 23 | 81 | 19 | 80 | 20 |
| Secondary | 63 | 37 | 59 | 41 | 56 | 44 | 59 | 41 | 61 | 39 |
| Art and design | 80 | 20 | 74 | 26 | 71 | 29 | 70 | 30 | 78 | 22 |
| Business studies | 65 | 35 | 58 | 42 | 57 | 43 | 59 | 41 | 55 | 45 |
| Citizenship | 100 | 0 | 86 | 14 | 77 | 23 | 68 | 32 | 87 | 13 |
| Design and technology | 58 | 42 | 60 | 40 | 56 | 44 | 60 | 40 | 62 | 38 |
| English (including drama and dance) | 79 | 21 | 78 | 22 | 75 | 25 | 79 | 21 | 78 | 22 |
| Geography | 65 | 35 | 54 | 46 | 52 | 48 | 47 | 53 | 42 | 58 |
| History | 56 | 44 | 51 | 49 | 58 | 42 | 55 | 45 | 52 | 48 |
| Information and communications technology | 51 | 49 | 47 | 53 | 41 | 59 | 41 | 59 | 44 | 56 |
| Mathematics | 49 | 51 | 45 | 55 | 41 | 59 | 48 | 52 | 47 | 53 |
| Modern languages | 78 | 23 | 81 | 19 | 75 | 25 | 81 | 19 | 77 | 23 |
| Music | 59 | 41 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 55 | 54 | 46 | 55 | 45 |
| Other[6] | 67 | 33 | 63 | 37 | 67 | 33 | 78 | 22 | 77 | 23 |
| Physical education | 33 | 67 | 40 | 60 | 31 | 69 | 40 | 60 | 39 | 61 |
| Religious education | 69 | 31 | 45 | 55 | 55 | 45 | 62 | 38 | 59 | 41 |
| Science | 55 | 45 | 46 | 54 | 51 | 49 | 51 | 49 | 58 | 42 |
| Vocational subjects[7] | — | — | — | — | 78 | 22 | 66 | 34 | 73 | 27 |

[1] The gender of EBITT trainees was not collected prior to 2001/02.
[2] The gender of Teach First trainees was not collected prior to 2005/06, therefore only 2005/06 data includes Teach First trainees.
[3] The gender of Overseas Trained Teacher Programme trainees was not collected prior to 2004/05, therefore only 2004/05 and 2005/06 data includes Overseas Trained Teacher Programme trainees.
[4] Data relating to the gender of trainees are not collected on entering ITT courses. This information is collected as part of the Performance Profiles data at the end of trainees' first year.
[5] Performance profiles data is collected at the end of a trainee's first year, therefore 2006/07 data is collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
[6] Other includes classics, economics and social sciences and other subjects.
[7] '-' represents not applicable.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people studied to become a teacher via *(a)* a PGCE, *(b)* SCITT, *(c)* a BA or BSc with QTS, *(d)* a BEd, *(e)* the Graduate Teacher Programme, *(f)* the Registered Teacher Programme and *(g)* Teach First in each of the last three years, broken down by age. [185690]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the age break down of first year trainees at the end of the first year of their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course between 2003/04 and 2005/06 for:

1. Postgraduate trainees (training towards PGCEs)
2. School Centred ITT (SCITT) trainees (postgraduate trainees only)
3. Undergraduate trainees (training towards BA or BSc with QTS and BEd)
4. The Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)
5. The Registered Teacher Programme (RTP)
6. Teach First Programme (TFP)

*Age breakdown of first year trainees*

| | Under 25 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | Over 55 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2003/04* | | | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate | 10,160 | 6,970 | 2,890 | 1,950 | 1,550 | 750 | 270 | 90 | 24,640 |
| SCITT | 490 | 470 | 190 | 160 | 110 | 60 | 30 | 10 | 1,500 |
| Undergraduate | 5,780 | 510 | 420 | 460 | 250 | 100 | 20 | 10 | 7,520 |
| GTP | 380 | 1,760 | 890 | 780 | 770 | 420 | 170 | 60 | 5,210 |
| RTP | * | 30 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 10 | * | 210 |
| TFP | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| *2004/05* | | | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate | 10,360 | 7,490 | 2,750 | 1,830 | 1,500 | 700 | 240 | 60 | 24,930 |
| SCITT | 530 | 550 | 230 | 170 | 140 | 80 | 20 | 10 | 1,710 |
| Undergraduate | 6,190 | 470 | 370 | 400 | 290 | 90 | 20 | * | 7,820 |
| GTP | 890 | 1,730 | 800 | 670 | 690 | 370 | 140 | 50 | 5,340 |
| RTP | 20 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 50 | 20 | 10 | 270 |
| TFP | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| *2005/06* | | | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate | 10,510 | 7,190 | 2,600 | 1,790 | 1,460 | 740 | 240 | 70 | 24,600 |
| SCITT | 550 | 520 | 210 | 160 | 160 | 70 | 30 | 10 | 1,700 |
| Undergraduate | 6,660 | 470 | 270 | 310 | 230 | 100 | 10 | * | 8,070 |
| GTP | 1,060 | 1,690 | 780 | 620 | 650 | 410 | 160 | 40 | 5,410 |
| RTP | 10 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 10 | * | 220 |
| TFP | 140 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170 |

*Notes:*
1. Data relating to the age of trainees are not collected on entering ITT courses. This information is collected as part of the Performance Profiles data at the end of trainees' first year.
2. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainees' first year, therefore 2006/07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
3. The age breakdown for the Teach First Programme was not collected prior to 2005/06.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. '*' represents values which round to under 10. '—' represents data which is not available.
5. Postgraduate trainees taking the assessment only are not included in the table above.
6. Postgraduate includes Universities and other Higher Education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
7. Undergraduate includes Universities and other Higher Education institutions, but excludes employment based routes.

*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people starting *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher training were aged (i) under 30 and (ii) over 30 years in each of the past five years, broken down by subject for secondary school trainees. [185691]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the proportion of trainees at the end of the first year of their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course, who are aged under 30 and 30 years and over for the last five years which data are available for:

**Mainstream trainees**

**Employment Based ITT (EBITT) trainees**

*Mainstream trainees*

*Percentage*

| | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | | 2003/04 | | 2004/05 | | 2005/06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 30 | 30 and over | Under 30 | 30 and over | Under 30 | 30 and over | Under 30 | 30 and over | Under 30 | 30 and over |
| Primary and Secondary | 71 | 29 | 72 | 28 | 73 | 27 | 75 | 25 | 76 | 24 |
| Primary | 73 | 27 | 75 | 25 | 75 | 25 | 77 | 23 | 79 | 21 |
| Secondary | 70 | 30 | 69 | 31 | 70 | 30 | 73 | 27 | 73 | 27 |
| Art and design | 70 | 30 | 70 | 30 | 70 | 30 | 71 | 29 | 72 | 28 |
| Business studies | 54 | 46 | 61 | 39 | 60 | 40 | 67 | 33 | 71 | 29 |
| Citizenship | 61 | 39 | 63 | 37 | 68 | 32 | 66 | 34 | 69 | 31 |
| Design and technology | 58 | 42 | 56 | 44 | 55 | 45 | 63 | 37 | 60 | 40 |
| English (including dance and drama) | 73 | 27 | 74 | 26 | 75 | 25 | 78 | 22 | 79 | 21 |
| Geography | 83 | 17 | 79 | 21 | 81 | 19 | 82 | 18 | 85 | 15 |
| History | 74 | 26 | 75 | 25 | 78 | 22 | 79 | 21 | 79 | 21 |
| Information and communications technology | 47 | 53 | 47 | 53 | 54 | 46 | 59 | 41 | 59 | 41 |
| Mathematics | 55 | 45 | 54 | 46 | 58 | 42 | 60 | 40 | 61 | 39 |
| Modern languages | 70 | 30 | 70 | 30 | 68 | 32 | 69 | 31 | 69 | 31 |
| Music | 79 | 21 | 78 | 22 | 78 | 22 | 81 | 19 | 80 | 20 |
| Other[1] | 71 | 29 | 76 | 24 | 72 | 28 | 81 | 19 | 83 | 17 |

*Mainstream trainees*

*Percentage*

| | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | | 2003/04 | | 2004/05 | | 2005/06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* |
| Physical education | 97 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 97 | 3 |
| Religious education | 67 | 33 | 68 | 32 | 70 | 30 | 68 | 32 | 69 | 31 |
| Science | 65 | 35 | 65 | 35 | 66 | 34 | 70 | 30 | 70 | 30 |
| Vocational subjects | — | — | — | — | 51 | 49 | 66 | 34 | 60 | 40 |

'—' Represents data which is not available.
[1] Other includes classics, economics and social sciences.

*Notes:*
1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainee's first year, therefore 2006/07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
3. Trainees taking the assessment only are not included in the table.
4. Data relating to the age of trainees are not collected on entering ITT courses. This information is collected as part of the performance profiles data at the end of trainees' first year.

*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles

*EBITT trainees*

*Percentage*

| | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | | 2003/04 | | 2004/05 | | 2005/06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* | *Under 30* | *30 and over* |
| Primary and Secondary | 34 | 66 | 36 | 64 | 40 | 60 | 45 | 55 | 48 | 52 |
| Primary | 33 | 67 | 37 | 63 | 36 | 64 | 41 | 59 | 42 | 58 |
| Secondary | 34 | 66 | 36 | 64 | 42 | 58 | 47 | 53 | 52 | 48 |
| Art and design | 41 | 59 | 48 | 52 | 47 | 53 | 51 | 49 | 46 | 54 |
| Business studies | 10 | 90 | 31 | 69 | 33 | 67 | 47 | 53 | 50 | 50 |
| Citizenship | 50 | 50 | 21 | 79 | 32 | 68 | 42 | 58 | 47 | 53 |
| Design and technology | 30 | 70 | 29 | 71 | 32 | 68 | 36 | 64 | 43 | 57 |
| English (including dance and drama) | 39 | 61 | 42 | 58 | 48 | 52 | 52 | 48 | 57 | 43 |
| Geography | 52 | 48 | 49 | 51 | 44 | 56 | 56 | 44 | 63 | 37 |
| History | 37 | 63 | 41 | 59 | 40 | 60 | 47 | 53 | 57 | 43 |
| Information and communications technology | 26 | 74 | 28 | 72 | 32 | 68 | 37 | 63 | 40 | 60 |
| Mathematics | 22 | 78 | 22 | 78 | 29 | 71 | 32 | 6 | 39 | 61 |
| Modern languages | 45 | 55 | 44 | 56 | 43 | 57 | 48 | 52 | 53 | 47 |
| Music | 33 | 67 | 41 | 59 | 57 | 43 | 63 | 37 | 59 | 41 |
| Other[1] | 44 | 56 | 29 | 71 | 42 | 58 | 49 | 51 | 41 | 59 |
| Physical education | 61 | 39 | 72 | 28 | 82 | 18 | 76 | 24 | 81 | 19 |
| Religious education | 24 | 76 | 38 | 62 | 51 | 49 | 46 | 54 | 47 | 53 |
| Science | 31 | 69 | 32 | 68 | 35 | 65 | 40 | 60 | 47 | 53 |
| Vocational subjects | — | — | — | — | 9 | 91 | 41 | 59 | 34 | 66 |

'—' Represents data which is not available.
[1] Other includes classics, economics and social sciences and other subjects.

*Notes:*
1. Data relating to the age of trainees are not collected on entering ITT courses. This information is collected as part of the performance profiles data at the end of trainees' first year.
2. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainee's first year, therefore 2006/07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
3. The age breakdown for the teach first programme was not collected prior to 2005/06. Therefore only 2005/06 data includes teach first trainees.
4. The age breakdown of overseas trained teacher programme trainees was not collected prior to 2004/05, therefore only 2004/05 and 2005/06 data includes overseas trained teacher programme trainees.

*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles

## Vocational Education

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of his staff responsible for work on skills possess a vocational qualification. [178197]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS staff records are not yet kept on a single database system. Until this is the case, staff records are kept on systems in BERR and DCSF, depending on which Department the individual transferred from.

There have been no formal processes in either of the two Departments for holding such data records. To gather this data to answer this question would incur disproportionate cost.

## Vocational Training

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people completed training or obtained qualifications as *(a)* carpenters, *(b)* electricians, *(c)* plumbers (water), *(d)* plumbers (gas), *(e)* plumbers (full central heating), *(f)* bricklayers and *(g)* plasterers in each of the last five years. [188556]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Vocational Training: Manpower

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate has been made of the effect on staffing costs of the *(a)* skills brokerage service and *(b)* National Employer Service arising from the expansion of Train to Gain. [174366]

**Mr. Lammy:** The National Employer Service (NES) is an internal division of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Any expansion of the NES will have to be managed within the overall reduction in administration costs agreed with this Department as part of the CSR settlement.

LSC and DIUS officials are still developing the detailed plans for the expansion of brokerage, including how larger employers with between 1,000 and 4,999 staff might best be supported. These plans are being developed within the transition to a single brokerage service from April 2009, delivered through Business Link.

## JUSTICE

### Appeals: Incapacity Benefits

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 298W, on incapacity benefits appeals, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of upheld appeals lodged against an incapacity benefit personal capability assessment. [186220]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Tribunals Service works with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), with whom appeals are lodged regarding decisions on incapacity benefit, to improve original decision making on an ongoing basis.

In accordance with S81 of the Social Security Act 1998 the president of the Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal provides an annual report on the standards of decision making by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The Tribunals Service is currently working with DWP officials specifically to improve original decision making and the appeals process for all Jobcentre Plus benefits, including incapacity benefit. This includes reviewing decision making processes and developing standards for submissions made by Jobcentre Plus staff for the tribunal.

### Approved Premises

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people housed in approved premises are categorised as *(a)* high and *(b)* very high risk in each region; and if he will make a statement. [188355]

**Maria Eagle:** As at 31 December 2007, the number of residents housed in approved premises in England and Wales categorised as *(a)* high risk of harm was 1,329, representing 69 per cent. of the total number of residents at that date. The number categorised as *(b)* very high risk of harm was 95, representing 5 per cent. These figures do not include the prospects approved premises, which are a specialist resource for offenders with substance misuse problems. If such offenders were not placed in approved premises, they would fall to be supervised elsewhere in the community. Staff in approved premises are trained in risk assessment and risk management and work closely with offender managers and with the police, in order to protect the public.

The regional profile of offenders, by risk of harm, was as follows:

| | *High risk of harm (a)* | | *Very high risk of harm (b)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| East | 94 | 67 | 2 | 1 |
| East Midlands | 108 | 71 | 17 | 11 |
| London | 229 | 85 | 7 | 3 |
| North East | 86 | 72 | 17 | 14 |
| North West | 281 | 81 | 12 | 3 |
| South East | 94 | 48 | 6 | 3 |
| South West | 77 | 52 | 9 | 6 |
| Wales | 62 | 74 | 7 | 8 |
| West of Midlands | 119 | 54 | 9 | 4 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 179 | 74 | 9 | 4 |
| Total | 1,329 | 69 | 95 | 5 |

### Courts: Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 750W, on courts: translation services, what plans Her Majesty's Courts Service has made for the collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court. [188083]

**Maria Eagle:** Her Majesty's Court Service is considering introducing a new centralised system for the provision of interpreting services in court. The proposal for the new system is still in the planning stage and is currently undergoing review and approval. Following implementation it will be possible to collect data centrally.

### Custodial Treatment

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether courts will be asked to take into account prison capacity when determining whether to use short custodial sentences during the next two financial years. [188049]

**Mr. Hanson:** Sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the courts and it would not be appropriate to ask them to take into account capacity when sentencing. But the Government believe that

short custodial sentences often lack utility and that, while serious and dangerous offenders must go to custody, less serious offenders are usually better punished in the community. We will always ensure that there are prison places for those serious and dangerous offenders who ought to be in prison and that courts have tough community sentences at their disposal to deal with less serious offenders. A working party is currently looking at the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of establishing a Sentencing Commission that might among other things consider prison capacity.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the total carbon emissions from the estate of his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005. [185461]

**Maria Eagle:** The total $CO_2$ emissions from the Ministry of Justice and its predecessors are approximately 69,617 tonnes between the years 2005-07. This data has previously been reported to be included in the Sustainable Development in Government report published in 2005-06, and the 2006-07 version due to be published early 2008. The breakdown includes:

| | | *tonnes of $CO_2$* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Former Home Office bodies | 28,237 |
| | Former DCA | 5,943 |
| 2006-07 | Former Home Office bodies | 28,925 |
| | Former DCA | 6,512 |

The increase of carbon emissions within former Home Office bodies has resulted from both an increase in prison population and in regime facilities, such as, in some cases the provision of showers for prisoners within cells opposed to providing showers within communal areas.

Within former DCA, the increase has resulted from the significant organisational changes that DCA underwent when the magistrate courts migrated from local authority rule on to the HMCS estate.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what property has been lost or stolen from his Department and its predecessor since 1997; and what the estimated cost of replacement was. [187478]

**Maria Eagle:** We have no recorded losses of assets against our asset register, which records individual assets capitalised at £10,000 and above. Our 'Loss of Accountable Stores' records identify the gross value of reported losses from 2002-03 as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 12,723.94 |
| 2003-04 | 9,994.25 |
| 2004-05 | 2,242.58 |
| 2005-06 | 378.82 |
| 2006-07 | 641.74 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 850.00 |

Security incident records compiled since 2002-03 identify a total of 489 incidents involving theft or loss. The nature or scale of the loss is not available from the statistics although 190 of the incidents involved theft of IT equipment, though most IT assets are provided by PFI providers. There is no separate record of associated replacement or cost.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183163]

**Mr. Straw:** Since the Ministry of Justice came into existence on 9 May 2007, the Ministry and its agencies have signed seven contracts with PR agencies at a cost of £210,000.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187504]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table below all ill health retirement figures within the Ministry of Justice's headquarters and agencies in each 12 month period from 1 January 2005.

*Ministry of Justice's agencies ill health retirements 1 January to 31 December 2005, 2006, 2007*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry Of Justice Headquarters | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Ministry of Justices' Agencies: | | | |
| Her Majesty's Prisons Service | [1]47 | [1]39 | 98 |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | [1]— | [1]4 | 30 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Tribunals Service | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Scotland Office and Offices of Advocate General | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform[2] | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| National Offender Management Service[2] | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Denotes a number below five. Code of practise does not follow figures to be published that would identify individuals.
[2] The database for National Offender Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, does not record information about the medical condition which led to retirement; it simply states 'Medical Retirement'. There have been no medical retirements in NOMS/OCJR over the last three years.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187870]

**Maria Eagle:** The Cabinet Office published a report on sickness absence in the civil service on 7 February 2008. The report included an analysis of the days lost due to sickness absence for each Department by reasons for absence. The following table sets out the figures for 2006-07 for the constituent parts of this Department, which were in place prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

| | *Total days lost (number)* | *Proportion lost to mental disorders[1] (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Magistrates Court Committee | 106,438 | 19 |
| HM Courts Service | 60,911 | 17 |
| Former Department for Constitutional Affairs | 9,689 | 14 |
| Tribunal Service | 7,681 | 13 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 1,066 | 38 |
| Scotland Office | 121 | 0 |
| Wales Office | 95 | 6 |
| National Offender Management Service | 11,135 | 20 |
| Office of Criminal Justice Reform | 1,347 | 29 |
| HM Prison Service[1] | 573,881 | 22 |

[1] 22 per cent. of working days lost recorded for the public sector Prison Service in 2006-07 were attributable to mental and behavioural disorders, which include stress-related conditions.

## Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [183301]

**Mr. Straw:** Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May 2007 my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs. The following table provides figures from the 2002-03 financial year to the end of the last full financial year. Information for the preceding five years is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Financial year* | *Total owned at end of year* | *Total purchased during year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 466 | 11 |
| 2003-04 | 279 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 89 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 41 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 91 | 42 |

I also refer the hon. Member to the response provided by the Department for Transport in respect of vehicles provided by GCDA.

## Legal Aid: Expenditure

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on average per head on legal aid in the last year for which figures are available; and what comparative assessment he has made of equivalent figures for other EU countries. [184493]

**Mr. Straw:** In 2006-07 average legal aid expenditure per head of population in England and Wales was £37. Ministry of Justice has not made a comparative assessment with other EU countries. However, all known studies suggest that England and Wales spend more per capita than any other jurisdiction.

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice published a report on European Judicial Systems in 2006, which included 2004 per head expenditure data. The following table shows a selection of countries.

| *Country* | *£ per head* |
|---|---|
| England and Wales | 38 |
| Northern Ireland | 32 |
| Scotland | 30 |
| Netherlands | 16 |
| Republic of Ireland | 8 |
| Germany | 4 |
| France | 3 |

The full report is available online at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/cepej/evaluation/2006/Report2006resume_en.pdf

## Life Imprisonment

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were serving life sentences as of 1 February 2008; and how many were serving such sentences on that day or the nearest date for which figures are available in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 1988. [187257]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of December 2007, the latest date for which the information is available, there were 6,700 prisoners serving life sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales. Equivalent figures for December 1998 and 1988 are not available however, at the end of *(a)* June 1998 there were 3,950 and *(b)* June 1988 there were 2,500 prisoners serving life sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and so have been rounded to the nearest 50.

## Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he or his officials have had with the Governments of non-EU states on *(a)* the deportation from the United Kingdom of their citizens in custody in the UK and *(b)* arrangements for their citizens to serve the remainder of their custodial sentence in their own countries in the last three years; and with which Governments such discussions have been held. [187107]

**Mr. Hanson:** In addition to our normal contact with other Governments over the deportation of individuals, where there are difficulties in obtaining documentation these issues are taken up directly with the respective embassy or high commission. The UK has now established safe routes and re-documentation arrangements with a significant number of countries and this is aiding our ability to return prisoners and other people at an improving pace. In particular we have recently signed a returns agreement with China and we are working ever more closely with Governments around the world to facilitate removals.

Since 2005, discussions on prison transfer agreements have taken place with St. Lucia, Tunisia, Yemen, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Argentina, Ghana, Libya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, Botswana, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Columbia, Laos and Lesotho. The United Kingdom currently has agreement with 98 countries.

### Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means, other than completion of a rehabilitation course, prisoners on indeterminate sentences may demonstrate that their level of risk is sufficiently reduced for them to be released. [188636]

**Mr. Hanson:** The release of a tariff expired indeterminate sentence prisoner is entirely a matter for the independent Parole Board. The statutory test applied by Parole Board panels in assessing risk in such cases, is whether they are satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined. Guidance on this matter is contained in Directions to the Parole Board on the Release and Recall of Life Sentence Prisoners, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

When determining whether or not such offenders should be released, the Parole Board will look at the relevant risk factors in the individual cases, the various ways in which these have been addressed during sentence, and the outcomes manifested. The ways might include formal accredited offending behaviour courses, one to one work on identified risk factors, educational or vocational interventions and achievements. The risk assessment and risk reduction processes are, of necessity, holistic ones, considering all relevant factors.

Ultimate responsibility for the offender satisfying the Parole Board that the level of risk is reduced to the extent that he may be safely released into the community rests with the offender.

### Post-Mortems: Children

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many post mortem examinations on children aged between five and 15 were not carried out by paediatric pathologists in each coroner's district in each of the last five years. [184749]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested. The Office of National Statistics collects data on the deaths of children in England aged between five and 15 years where a post mortem examination has been carried out. It is not broken down by coroner's district. The information available is shown in the following table.

*Death registrations in England by post mortem type, ages 5 to 15. Data from the Office of National Statistics*

| | *Post mortem authorised by a coroner* | *Post mortem authorised by a doctor* | *Not known by whom post mortem authorised* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 493 | 22 | 4 |
| 2005 | 533 | 18 | 5 |
| 2004 | 507 | 18 | 1 |
| 2003 | 579 | 19 | 2 |
| 2002 | 571 | 25 | 4 |

Information is not collected centrally on how many of those post mortem examinations were carried out by paediatric pathologists.

### Prison Sentences

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been detained on indeterminate sentences; and how many are currently so detained. [188637]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of December 2007 there were 3,700 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

No prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence may be considered for release until they have completed their tariff, that is, the period of imprisonment considered necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The Parole Board may direct a tariff-expired indeterminate sentence prisoner's release only if it is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

As at 31 January 2008, 17 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) have been released. 16 of these were on the direction of the Parole Board. In the seventeenth case the prisoner was released before tariff expiry on compassionate grounds due to ill health and has since died.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners on indeterminate sentences are detained although their minimum term has expired. [188638]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Public Protection Unit of the National Offender Management Service, the pre-release section (PRS) maintains a limited database on those offenders sentenced to imprisonment for public protection (IPP). This indicates that, as at 1 January 2008, 535 such offenders were being held in prison beyond their tariff expiry date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The Department is developing a new database that will allow it to accurately capture the information requested. It is expected that the new database will go live by April.

### Prison Service

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national procurement system for the Prison Service. [188989]

**Mr. Hanson:** The decision to introduce a national procurement system was taken following the production of a full business case.

The benefits anticipated in the business case have been reviewed annually by the Prison Service and the results independently validated by the National Audit Office.

### Prisoners

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each 10-year age cohort are in prison. [187452]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the population in prison establishments in England and Wales as at the end of June 2006, broken down by gender and age band:

| | *Total* | *Males* | *Females* |
|---|---|---|---|
| All ages | 63,493 | 59,981 | 3,512 |
| 15-17 | 1,865 | 1,814 | 50 |
| 18-20 | 5,992 | 5,720 | 272 |
| 21-24 | 10,176 | 9,624 | 552 |
| 25-29 | 12,069 | 11,361 | 708 |
| 30-39 | 17,945 | 16,851 | 1,094 |
| 40-49 | 9,975 | 9,368 | 606 |
| 50-59 | 3,706 | 3,517 | 189 |
| 60 and over | 1,765 | 1,725 | 40 |

The table is taken from table 8.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Females

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were imprisoned for theft in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each English region in each year since 1997. [187449]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table gives the number of women sentenced to immediate custody for theft and handling in England and Wales and each English region in each year since 1997.

*Women sentenced to immediate custody for theft and handling[1]—offences by region, 1997-2006*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police[2] | 536 | 598 | 627 | 677 | 592 | 728 | 679 | 549 | 508 | 514 |
| North West | 578 | 660 | 767 | 754 | 632 | 696 | 677 | 622 | 506 | 517 |
| North East | 304 | 366 | 585 | 626 | 705 | 708 | 702 | 509 | 376 | 373 |
| Midlands | 124 | 156 | 210 | 363 | 354 | 428 | 388 | 376 | 327 | 366 |
| Eastern | 113 | 202 | 261 | 288 | 313 | 335 | 314 | 319 | 234 | 231 |
| South East | 258 | 331 | 390 | 373 | 506 | 539 | 556 | 556 | 520 | 469 |
| South West | 93 | 145 | 208 | 165 | 178 | 226 | 185 | 187 | 169 | 156 |
| England | 2,006 | 2,458 | 3,048 | 3,246 | 3,280 | 3,660 | 3,501 | 3,118 | 2,640 | 2,626 |
| Wales | 82 | 92 | 113 | 126 | 123 | 117 | 105 | 121 | 129 | 113 |
| England and Wales | 2,088 | 2,550 | 3,161 | 3,372 | 3,403 | 3,777 | 3,606 | 3,239 | 2,769 | 2,739 |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Includes City of London

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were held in men's prisons in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [187450]

**Mr. Hanson:** Women prisoners are held in designated women's units and prisons. In exceptional individual circumstances women may be held separately within a male prison for a short period.

The following is a count of female prisoners by establishments in England and Wales as at 31 December 2007:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Askham Grange | 112 |
| Bronzefield | 422 |
| Downview | 346 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Drake Hall | 290 |
| East Sutton Park | 89 |
| Eastwood Park | 318 |
| Foston Hall | 248 |
| Holloway | 465 |
| Low Newton | 299 |
| Morton Hall | 355 |
| New Hall | 401 |
| Peterborough | 346 |
| Send | 211 |
| Styal | 428 |
| Total | 4,330 |

This information is published at the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-dec07.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on average per prisoner for *(a)* education, *(b)* provision of televisions, games consoles and computers in cells, and *(c)* food in each year since 1997. [187448]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested annual figures for prisoners in English and Welsh public sector prisons are as follows:

| Financial year | Spend[1] per prisoner on: | | Number of in-cell TV sets purchased |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Education[2] (£) | Food[3] (£) | |
| 1997-98 | 616 | 497 | — |
| 1998-99 | 669 | 549 | 10,388 |
| 1999-2000 | 764 | 545 | 4,938 |
| 2000-01 | 882 | 600 | 13,580 |
| 2001-02 | 966 | 636 | 8,488 |
| 2002-03 | 1,114 | 626 | 12,616 |
| 2003-04 | 1,789 | 661 | 5,975 |
| 2004-05 | 1,763 | 681 | 13,791 |
| 2005-06 | 2,037 | 702 | 9,171 |
| 2006-07 | 2,047 | 722 | 12,450 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest

[2] For 2001-02 to 2006-07 inclusive—based on DIUS (and its predecessors') spend on education and training for public prisons in England and Wales (adults, young offenders and juveniles) and includes libraries and funding provided for Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons. For 1997-98 to 2000-01 - based on HMPS spend on a similar basis and also includes libraries and education materials. This figure does not capture all education and training costs that occur in areas such as prison workshops as it is not possible to separate out specific costs relating to these activities in these functions as they are an integral part of the service.

[3] Cost of food not cost of catering. Figures for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are partly based on the estimated cost of providing fresh produce internally via prison farms and gardens.

Full expenditure data on games consoles and computers in cells is not held centrally and the collection of this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Since 1998 there has been a programme of purchasing television sets for prisoners' use in their cells. The number of sets purchased, in these circumstances is shown in the table with the exception of 1998-99 when £500,000 of public funds were used to start up the In-Cell TV initiative, all of these sets have been funded from the weekly rental charges collected from prisoners.

### Prisoners: Taxis

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1438W, on prisoners: taxis, how much the Prison Service spent on all taxi journeys in each of the last three years. [188293]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested can not be provided as the Prison Service does not capture data to that level of detail within its accounting system.

### Probation Boards: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the projected budget for 2008-09 is for each Director of Management within the probation and prison services. [188050]

**Maria Eagle:** The budgets for the Regional Offender Managers (ROM) / Directors of Offender Management (DOM) for 2008-09 are still subject to negotiation. The following table gives indicative figures for ROM / DOM budgets for prison and probation services as at 8 January 2008:

| Region | Resource budget 2008-09[1] (£) |
|---|---|
| ROM East Midlands | 253,411,316 |
| ROM East of England | 199,969,530 |
| DOM London | 275,540,688 |
| ROM North East | 143,261,062 |
| ROM North West | 306,360,777 |
| ROM South East | 342,149,791 |
| ROM South West | 197,621,424 |
| DOM Wales | 88,095,690 |
| ROM West Midlands | 220,903,450 |
| ROM Yorkshire and Humberside | 222,814,450 |

[1] indicative as at 8 January 2008

These figures do not include budgets for private prisons or centrally commissioned services such: as the high security estate. Please note, these figures are indicative and are subject to change.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183357]

**Mr. Straw:** The information is as follows.

*(a) Parking tickets*

Information relating to the exact number of tickets issued during each year is not held centrally and could

be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table provides figures for parking fines paid by our agent from 1999 to date.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 480.00 |
| 2000 | 1,141.50 |
| 2001 | 2,383.50 |
| 2002 | 3,665.00 |
| 2003 | 100.00 |
| 2004 | 1,470.00 |
| 2005 | 1,150.00 |
| 2006 | 347.50 |
| 2007 | 410.00 |
| 2008 | 0 |

*(b) Speeding fines*

The Ministry or its agents have paid no speeding fines. When a fixed penalty notice (or notice of impending prosecution) is received it is returned to the issuing authority with the driver's name and address. A central record is not kept of these occurrences.

I also refer the hon. Member to the response provided by the Department for Transport in respect of vehicles provided by GCDA.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* imprisonable and *(b)* non-imprisonable driving offences were committed by holders of European driving licences in the latest period for which figures are available. [187934]

**Maria Eagle:** Breaches of road traffic legislations can be dealt with by written warnings (including formal cautions), fixed penalty notices and court proceedings. The data held centrally by my Department on these actions are unable to distinguish offences committed by foreign licence holders.

**Sentencing: Domestic Violence**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders who were tried in a specialist domestic violence court received *(a)* bail, *(b)* fines and *(c)* non-custodial sentences in the last period for which figures are available. [187899]

**Maria Eagle:** There is no specific data available on court bail decisions for those defendants appearing in the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. As data are only collected on sentence on such cases at a local level where required to assist in implementation and maintenance of the model, a complete sentencing data set is not available.

**Sexual Harassment**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184689]

**Maria Eagle:** In the period January 2007 to December 2007 the following number of formal complaints on the grounds of sexual discrimination were received:

Ex-Department of Constitutional Affairs—4

National Offender Management Service—0

Office of Criminal Justice Reform—0

Total—4

In the ex-DCA complaints on the grounds of sexual harassment are recorded with other types of complaint under the general heading of "conduct". The system for logging complaints does not provide a separate category for sexual harassment, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The public sector Prison Service does not have systems in place that hold centrally validated information in respect of complaints of sexual harassment or discrimination and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Service recognises that sexual harassment is a serious issue and has agreed a series of actions to identify and address sexual harassment. One of the primary actions required under the agreement with EHRC is to review all complaints which have occurred in establishments from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006. This information is currently the subject to quality controls and validation.

**Statute Law (Repeals) Bill**

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward a Statute Law (Repeals) Bill in this session in response to the recent report from the Law Commission. [188255]

**Mr. Wills:** It is the Government's intention to introduce a Bill to give effect to the proposed Statute Law (Repeals) Bill as soon as possible in the current Session.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 26 February 2008*

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Double Reporting of Donations

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to facilitate the end of the double reporting of donations by hon. Members. [186095]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Administration Act 2006 contains amendments to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 which would remove the requirement on hon. Members to report certain donations and loans separately to the Electoral Commission.

However, these amendments cannot be brought into effect until the Commission is satisfied that the House has changed its own reporting procedures to require that hon. Members report the same information regarding gifts, donations and loans as they are currently required to report to the Commission under PPERA.

The Commission informs me that it has been working with the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards to achieve these changes to the reporting requirements as soon as possible.

### Efficiency Savings

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings the Electoral Commission made in each of the last three years. [186098]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that, during its first six years of operations, it did not record specific cashable and non-cashable efficiency savings because it was going through a period of organisational change. However, the Commission remained within its agreed budget throughout this period.

Following a review commissioned by the Speaker's Committee, the Commission now plans and records its efficiency savings and during 2007-08 has delivered £625,000 of recurrent cashable savings.

### Electoral Commission: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what budget has been set for the Electoral Commission for each of the next three financial years.[1] [186070]

**Peter Viggers:** The Speaker's Committee considered the Commission's budget for the four years 2007-08 to 2010-11 when it met in March 2007 and approved a cash flat resource budget of £3,995,000 (including the £2 million annual policy development grant budget) in each of the four years, subject to reconsideration only in the event that Parliament places new responsibilities upon the Commission during this period.

1. *[Official Report, 6 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 26MC.]*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Devon

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered in Devon as a result of tuberculosis infection in each of the last five years; how much compensation was paid to the farmers affected in each year; and if he will make a statement. [189048]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table sets out the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures in Devon in the last five calendar years. A breakdown of the amount of compensation paid in Devon is not available.

*Cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Devon county: 2003-07*[1]

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 3,767 |
| 2004 | 4,758 |
| 2005 | 6,660 |
| 2006 | 4,468 |
| 2007 | 5,383 |

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts. 2005-07 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Testing

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average length of time to test a badger for tuberculosis is. [189053]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There is currently no sensitive and reliable diagnostic test for bovine TB in live badgers in the field. Bovine TB is most reliably detected by post mortem examination or by the less sensitive method of taking clinical samples (for example, blood, urine, tracheal swabs and faeces) from anaesthetised live badgers. Tissue samples are then confirmed by culture of *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis* ) in the laboratory. However, *M. bovis* grows very slowly so culture results can take six weeks to several months to come through. Various blood tests can be used to measure the immune response to bovine TB, one of which takes about 30 minutes, and has about 80 per cent. sensitivity in detecting severely infected animals.

The drawback of these tests for live badgers is the need to anaesthetise the badger in order to sample it, hence they are suitable for research purposes only.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies on (i) official hospitality and (ii) staff entertainment in each year since 1997. [185182]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From information held centrally the amounts spent on hospitality by the core-Department are:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 140,588 |
| 2002-03 | 344,822 |
| 2003-04 | 576,829 |
| 2004-05 | 381,138 |
| 2005-06 | 457,523 |
| 2006-07 | 405,482 |
| 2007-08[1] | 291,585 |

[1] April to December

Direct year-on-year comparisons cannot be made because of Machinery of Government changes that have occurred.

The core-Department does not hold information centrally on hospitality expenditure by its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The core-Department holds no information centrally on the expenditure category of staff entertainment.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers and those of its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [183189]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary of the Duchy of Lancaster on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last 10 years. [183290]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From information held centrally the numbers of fleet vehicles owned by core-DEFRA for the financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08 to date are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 289 |
| 2002-03 | 390 |
| 2003-04 | 418 |
| 2004-05 | 376 |
| 2005-06 | 306 |
| 2006-07 | 298 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 221 |

From information held centrally the numbers of pool vehicles owned by core-DEFRA and the Animal Health Agency for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 to date are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 42 |
| 2006-07 | 41 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 42 |

The core-Department's Regional Development Service (RDS) had 157 pool vehicles in 2005-06 but these became the responsibility of National England when the RDS was absorbed into the non-departmental public body.

### Food: Procurement

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the purchase of food from local sources. [186435]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have helped to support local sourcing with funding for a range of measures, which allow regional and local food producers to overcome barriers to the effective marketing of their products. Examples include "meet the buyer" events, encouragement for food hubs and shared distribution facilities, and key training seminars.

Support from DEFRA has been boosted by the regional development agencies (RDAs), helping activities to do with the promotion of quality regional and local food culture. The level and type of RDA funding reflects each region's priorities as set out in regional economic strategies. RDAs also deliver aspects of DEFRA's rural development programme for England (RDPE). Support is available under the RDPE to improve the competitiveness of a wide range of rural businesses, which can include local and regional food producers.

We have also commissioned research aimed at enabling policy makers, support organisations and the supply chain to better understand the regional and local food sector. One of these projects will investigate the practicalities and benefits of local food production. Other work will examine consumer attitudes and actual purchasing behaviour. The results will be published on our website.

Finally, DEFRA's ongoing public sector food procurement initiative (PSFPI) was launched in 2003 to help deliver the Government's sustainable farming and food strategy. This aims to increase opportunities for small and local producers to tender for contracts to supply food to the public sector. Our funding for this initiative supports workshops for buyers and suppliers, regional pilot projects to develop the supply side, and a range of guidance materials aimed at both food producers and public sector buyers. More information on the PSFPI can be found on the DEFRA website.

### Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought under the provisions of the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 in the last 12 months. [185037]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Gangmasters' Licensing Act 2004 creates two main offences: operating as a gangmaster without a licence and entering into arrangements with an unlicensed gangmaster. It also creates offences in connection with false documents, such as a licence or a document issued by the Gangmasters' Licensing Authority (GLA) in connection with a licence. The GLA enforces the 2004 Act on behalf of DEFRA.

In the last 12 months, one prosecution has been brought for the offences created by the 2004 Act. This prosecution has been brought in Scotland by the Procurator Fiscal for the offence of acting as a gangmaster without a licence. The trial date has been set for March.

In addition, the GLA is investigating 105 cases where offences under the 2004 Act may have been committed. The GLA has said that from the 2008-09 financial year it will be placing increasing emphasis on enforcing the 2004 Act now that it has completed the task of designing and implementing the licensing scheme for gangmasters.

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of publicly procured food was of British origin in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [186340]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no central records for the years 2005 and 2006 giving the proportion of publicly procured food of British origin. We have however published data giving the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service for the period July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The report is available on the PSFPI web site at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf

and has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183386]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the calendar years 2002 to 2007 inclusive the recorded number held centrally of parking tickets and speeding fines are;

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 21 |
| 2003 | 68 |
| 2004 | 61 |
| 2005 | 53 |
| 2006 | 26 |
| 2007 | 60 |

Parking fines are not recorded separately from other fines. It is departmental policy that drivers are responsible personally for the payment of fines incurred by them while using a vehicle on departmental business.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in his Department since August 2005. [185532]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office has no record of such activities.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse. [187471]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

Since that date, the following have been reported as lost or stolen.

| | *Item* | *Lost* | *Stolen* | *Value at date reported lost/ stolen (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | Laptop | — | Yes | 733 |
| 2000-01 | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | Mobile Phone | Yes | — | n/a |
| 2003-04 | — | — | — | — |
| 2004-05 | — | — | — | — |
| 2005-06 | Multi Media Projector | — | Yes | 766 |
| | BlackBerry | Yes | — | 249 |
| 2006-07 | Mobile Phone | Yes | — | n/a |
| | BlackBerry | Yes | — | 141 |
| 2007 (to date) | — | — | — | — |

It is not possible to determine the value of the mobile phone handsets.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187498]

**David Cairns:** The staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from other Departments and the Office does not maintain personnel records of staff.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187871]

**David Cairns:** The staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from other Departments and the Office does not maintain personnel records of staff.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187913]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not record the information in the form requested.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Efficiency in Public Services Review: Written Questions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to investigate the reasons why *(a)* the Home Department and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence have been unable to provide answers to parliamentary questions, save at disproportionate cost, on redundancies and related costs arising from the conclusions of the Gershon review; and if he will take steps to bring the practice of these Departments on answering such questions into line with the other Departments. [189419]

**The Prime Minister:** Practice and procedures are set out in the February 2005 Cabinet Office guidance to Departments entitled Guidance to Officials on Drafting Answers to Parliamentary Questions. Copies of the guidance are available in the Libraries of the House.

## TRANSPORT

### A57

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the A57 at Snake Pass has been closed during January 2008; when she expects the road to re-open; and if she will make a statement. [188669]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The A57 Snake Pass is the responsibility of the Derbyshire county council as local highways authority.

I understand that the road was closed in the interest of road safety for a period of three weeks following a land slip which affected the road surface.

Following a period of stabilisation the road has been reopened with a 10 mph speed limit. Derbyshire county council is continuing to monitor the situation and, if no further movement occurs, will carry out resurfacing of the road in late spring.

### Aviation: Fuels

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with her foreign counterparts on the quality of fuel supplies at airports servicing British registered aircraft flying to the UK; and if she will make a statement. [187552]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Secretary of State has not had discussions with the authorities of other states regarding the quality of fuel at airports used by aircraft flying to the UK.

UK airlines are required to use fuel which meets the detailed specifications contained in the flight manuals of their aircraft. The quality of fuel used, including that supplied by through sub-contractors, is monitored through the airlines quality system.

### Biofuels

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the potential role of biomethane as a transport fuel. [186492]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** During 2006, the Department part-funded a research project to assess the potential role of biomethane as a renewable transport fuel, as well as commissioning a more detailed analysis of the potential benefits of including biogas in the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO). Copies of these reports have been made available in the House Libraries. The Government are also contributing funds to an International Energy Agency working group (IEA Task 37) which is considering the issues raised by biogas.

In recognition of the environmental benefits that it offers, biomethane already qualifies for a fuel duty incentive equivalent to around 40 pence per kilogramme. From April 2008, it will also be eligible for Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation.

### Bridges: River Thames

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the possible construction of a lower Thames crossing. [188211]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport has started the first phase of a study into longer-term crossing capacity in the Lower Thames.

As part of an earlier consultation on a revised charging regime for the existing Dartford Crossing, we announced our intention to commence a study to look at options for addressing rising demand in the longer-term. The start of this study fulfils that commitment.

This initial phase of the study will advise on the future need for additional crossing capacity and identify possible options. It will also update the transport models to better understand the impacts of current and future demand, and review previous work on what can be done to improve traffic flow through the existing crossing in the short to medium term.

This phase is planned to be completed around the end of this year and will ensure that we have the latest information and forecasts of demand to be able to make an assessment of potentially viable future options.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people over 60-years-old in Stockport will be eligible for the extended free bus travel scheme to be introduced on 1 April 2008. [189047]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of residents in the borough of Stockport aged 60 and over who, from 1 April 2008 will be entitled to free off-peak bus travel in any part of England, is around 64,000. In the parliamentary constituency of Stockport approximately 14,000 people will be eligible.

### Cycling: Accidents

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve the procedures for the collection of data on cycle safety to tackle the underreporting of the number of accidents. [188586]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** National and local government and police forces work closely to achieve a high reporting standard for road accident data. Very few, if any, fatal accidents do not become known to the police. However, research conducted on behalf of the Department has shown that an appreciable proportion of non-fatal injury accidents are not reported to the police. There is no legal duty in Great Britain to report personal injury road accidents to the police, provided the participants exchange details at the scene.

Research has also shown that pedal cycle casualties are underrepresented in the road accident data (STATS19). In particular, accidents in which the pedal cyclist is the only participant are not likely to be reported to the Police. Recent research using Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) shows that many accidents not recorded in the police data are the result of a person (often a child) falling from a bicycle with no other vehicle involved.

This research was published by the Department in an article in Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report (pages 60-72). A copy of the report has been deposited in the Libraries of the House or can be found at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2006v1.pdf

### Cycling: Safety Measures

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward legislative proposals to require all pedal bicycles to have a bell or other audible warning device fitted when being used. [188634]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Rule 66 of the Highway Code recommends the fitting and use of cycle bells. The 2003 Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations introduced various requirements relating to the supply and sale of cycles, including the obligation for a bell to be fitted at point of sale. While the regulations do not compel cyclists to keep a bell fitted to the bicycle after the machine has been purchased, it seems likely that many will retain it.

In view of the results of a previous public consultation exercise (2001-02), we consider that there is insufficient justification to make retrospective fitting of a bell obligatory on cycles already in use. Neither do we believe there is a strong enough case to require compulsory use of bells, as this would be impractical and difficult to enforce.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of her Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182984]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The requested figures are as follows. The majority of advertising investment by the Department and agencies is in support of the THINK! Road Safety, Act on $CO_2$ and Continuous Registration (vehicle taxation) campaigns.

| | *Total public expenditure (£ million)* | *Advertising expenditure (£ million)* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 11,726 | 18.8 | 0.16 |
| 2003-04 | 13,086 | 20.9 | 0.16 |
| 2004-05 | 13,391 | 18.9 | 0.14 |
| 2005-06 | 13,371 | 21.2 | 0.16 |
| 2006-07 | 15,838 | 24.0 | 0.15 |

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1007-8W, on departmental telephone services, how much revenue generated from 0870 telephone numbers of her Department's agencies came from Scottish landline numbers in each year. [187459]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Driving Standards Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are unable to identify the geographic origin of calls to them. As a result, they are unable to provide details of revenue generated from Scottish landlines.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on departmental vehicles, how many vehicles were leased by *(a)* the Highways Agency's Traffic Officer Service and *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what the cost to the public purse was in each of those years. [187896]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The requested information, where available, is as follows:

| Financial year | Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency total leased vehicles | Highways Agency total leased vehicles | Highways Agency leased vehicle cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1999-2000 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2000-01 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2001-02 | 14 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2002-03 | 18 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2003-04 | 47 | 11 | 140,632 |
| 2004-05 | 38 | 23 | 635,251 |
| 2005-06 | 48 | 166 | 1,639,178 |
| 2006-07 | 39 | 171 | 1,865,175 |
| 2007-08 | 41 | 267 | 1,171,038 |

[1] No data.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is unable to provide detailed information on costs as vehicle lease information is not recorded separately within their records.

Highways Agency data for 2007-08 is a year to date actual as of end of January 2008, not a full year forecast value.

### Derwent Valley Railway Line

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure adequate funding for the upgrading and maintenance of the Derwent Valley railway line. [188926]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Calls

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls were made to *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(b)* the Driving Standards Agency and *(c)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency from Scottish landline numbers in each of the last five years. [187456]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Driving Standards Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are unable to identify the geographic origin of calls to them, including those from Scottish landlines.

### Electric Vehicles

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the potential effect on the Government's road congestion targets of the use of electric personal assistive mobility devices; [188875]

(2) what assessment she has made of the changes to legislation necessary to permit the use of electric personal assistive mobility devices on *(a)* the public highway and *(b)* public footpaths; [188876]

(3) what discussions she has had with her counterparts in EU member states on the potential effect on *(a)* carbon emissions and *(b)* road congestion of the use of electric personal assistive mobility devices. [188877]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** If, as we understand, such devices are likely to be used mainly as an alternative to walking or cycling then their potential in terms of congestion relief and of carbon emission reduction is likely to be minimal. No detailed assessment of legislative requirements has been made but primary legislation would need to be amended to permit their use on public footpaths or on the pedestrian footway alongside the public highway. There is provision in section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 that would allow the Secretary of State to permit by way of an order their use on the vehicular part of the public highway. The Secretary of State has no plans to make such an order. The Secretary of State has had no discussions with her EU counterparts on this subject.

### Fuels: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage the formulation of standards of specification and performance for fuels from renewable sources. [188660]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Detailed specifications and performance standards for road fuels are specified in industry standards set in Europe through the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

In addition to the standards for petrol and diesel (EN 228 and EN 590 respectively), standards for ethanol used for blending in petrol (EN 15376) and for Fatty Acid Methyl Ester used as pure biodiesel or for blending in diesel (EN 14214) have already been adopted. Key environmental parameters for petrol and diesel are regulated in the EU fuel quality directive (98/70/EC as amended) and transposed in the UK by the Motor Fuels (Composition and Content) Regulations 1999. The Government and their European partners are currently considering a proposal by the European Commission to increase the level of ethanol in petrol permitted by the fuel quality directive.

The Government are also keen that mandatory sustainability standards should be applied to all biofuels and are pressing for the inclusion of robust sustainability criteria in the relevant European Union legislation. The Government's intention is that only those biofuels meeting certain minimum environmental standards should qualify for credits under the Road Transport Fuels Obligation.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were leased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) to each Government Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total cost of contracts between the GCDA and each Government Department for that year was. [187569]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 109-11WS. The statement gave information on the number and the contracted cost of ministerial cars and drivers provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) for 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available.

The number and contracted cost of official cars and drivers provided to senior officials in 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available, are as follows:

| *Department* | *Number of cars* | *Contracted cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Cabinet Office[1] | 5 | 268,100 |
| Commission for Equality and Human Rights | 1 | 27,400 |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 1 | 61,000 |
| Department for Constitutional Affairs | 1 | 24,600 |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | 1 | 63,100 |
| Department for Education and Science | 1 | 59,200 |
| Department for Trade and Industry | 1 | 63,100 |
| Department for Transport | 1 | 61,000 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | 1 | 57,700 |
| Department of Health | 3 | 61,400 |
| Export Credit Guarantees Department | 1 | 57,700 |
| HM Court Service | 1 | 56,300 |
| HM Inspectorate Of Constabulary | 2 | 61,500 |
| HM Revenue and Customs[2] | 2 | 89,600 |
| HM Treasury[2] | 2 | 92,800 |
| Home Office | 2 | 137,000 |
| Northern Ireland Office | 1 | 60,400 |
| Olympic Delivery Authority[3] | 1 | 27,200 |
| Office of Government Commerce | 1 | 52,800 |
| Office of Science and Technology | 1 | 60,700 |

[1] Figures for the Cabinet Office include the provision of an official car and driver for the Official Leader of the Opposition. Of the five cars and drivers that were provided during the year, one car and driver was provided for three months only.
[2] One allocated car and driver transferred from HMRC to HM Treasury in August 2006.
[3] GCDA services were provided to the Olympic Delivery Authority for five months only.

### Heavy Goods Vehicles

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1268-69W, on heavy goods vehicles, what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of heavy goods vehicle kilometres on roads accounted for by foreign heavy goods vehicles. [188897]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: There have been no further estimates made since 2003.

### Lorries: Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* major injuries were caused in 2006-07 by objects from unsecured freight vehicle loads falling onto people. [188908]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not available.

### M1: Milton Keynes

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of the Milton Keynes/South Midland growth area on the development of Junction 11a of the M1. [188299]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Milton Keynes/South Midlands growth area is included within the transport model used for the assessment of the A5-M1 link scheme and accordingly M1 Junction 11a which forms part of that scheme.

### M1: Speed Limits

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the 50 mph temporary speed limit remained in force on the M1 motorway in the vicinity of junction 32 after all lanes were re-opened to traffic. [188668]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The continued speed restrictions on the M1 Junctions 31 and 32 were kept in place until the final commissioning of the new electronic lane control signals was fully completed.

The electronic signals and signs were fully commissioned on 19 February and the speed restrictions were removed on the morning of 20 February.

### Marine Management Organisation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what licensing powers currently within her Department's responsibilities she expects to be transferred to the Marine Management Organisation, as proposed in the Marine Bill White Paper; and if she will make a statement. [188709]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We intend to transfer to the proposed Marine Management Organisation responsibility for decisions on Harbour Revision and Harbour Empowerment Orders.

### Motor Vehicles: Safety

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make the Code of Practice on Safety of Loads on Vehicles mandatory; and if she will make a statement. [188907]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** While the Code is not a legal document and there are no plans to make it mandatory, it can be used as an example of good practice to support a prosecution for non compliance with regulations.

### Network Rail: Portsmouth

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has made to Network Rail on signal failures in the Portsmouth area in 2008; what steps Network Rail has taken to prevent signalling problems during major works at Easter; and if she will make a statement. [188342]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Secretary of State for Transport has made no representations to Network Rail on signal failures in the Portsmouth area in 2008. The prevention of signalling problems during major works at Easter is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2EE.

### Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

**Mr. Atkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects refurbished rolling stock to be available for Northern Rail services on its Newcastle to Carlisle line; and when Pacer trains will be decommissioned. [188384]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Decisions on deployment of rolling stock rest with the franchisee, Northern Rail. The department understands there are no plans to withdraw Pacer trains from service.

### Parking Tickets

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1014-15W, on parking tickets, whether the figures provided include parking tickets issued on Government Car and Despatch Agency vehicles under lease to departments other than her Department at the time the ticket was issued. [187919]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The figures for the period 1999-2000 to 2006-07 quoted in the earlier reply include parking ticket costs for the entire Government Car and Despatch Agency's fleet, including those vehicles allocated to other Government Departments. Information before 1999-2000 is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Public Transport: Rural Areas

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve public transport links for those living in rural areas to nearby towns and cities. [188925]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Local and central government are currently spending £2.5 billion a year on bus services, including those linking rural areas with nearby towns and cities. This total includes bus service operators grant (BSOG), the costs of mandatory concessionary fares, local authority subsidy of non-commercial services and capital expenditure on bus-related infrastructure schemes.

It is for local authorities to decide which particular bus services to subsidise in their area and how much of the resources available to them to devote to supporting bus services.

These resources include funding we have provided to local authorities in the form of rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG). This grant is currently supporting some 2,000 services many of which provide the vital links to nearby towns. A total of around 38 million passenger journeys are made annually on RBSG supported services. This year's allocations total £55.6 million, bringing the grant's total to nearly £450 million since its introduction in 1998.

The Local Transport Bill, now before Parliament, will benefit rural areas and urban areas alike by modernising the regulatory framework for buses, giving local authorities a bigger role where this is necessary and providing strengthened arrangements for partnerships between local authorities and bus operators.

The Bill also contains measures to expand the role of community transport and to enable private hire vehicle operators to provide local bus services, extending the existing taxibus provisions to this sector for the first time. Both these measures are of particular relevance to meeting rural transport needs.

### Rail Accident Investigation Branch

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many external contracts the Rail Accidents Investigation Branch held with public relations companies in each year for which figures are available; and what the cost of those contracts was. [187575]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Rail Accident Investigation Branch was set up during 2005 and became fully operational from 17 October 2005. RAIB let a contract with Campaign Productions (Television Productions Ltd.) to produce a DVD for use by TV/media explaining the RAIB's role in investigating certain rail accidents and incidents. In financial year 2006-07, the cost was £13,618.15 and in FY 2007-08, the cost was £363.82.

### Railways

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her strategy is for increasing *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight capacity on the national rail network; and if she will make a statement. [188466]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport's strategy for increasing passenger and freight capacity through record investment in the railway is set out in the 2007 White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway". A copy of this White Paper is available in the House Library.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications for heritage railways of the railways and other guided systems regulations; and if she will make a statement. [188475]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is considering concerns raised by heritage railways about the application of the Railway and Other Guided Transport System (Safety) Regulations 2006. I expect to receive briefing from ORR in late March on progress in resolving these concerns.

### Railways: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the potential for ultra light rail to deliver a low carbon transport option. [186494]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has not made such an assessment. We are aware of the claims made for the potential benefits of ultra light rail, but in order to assess these properly we would need to see a business case supporting its application in a specific location. Local authorities are welcome to submit innovative proposals to the Department for funding as pilot or demonstration schemes within the major scheme funding regime.

### Railways: Llansamelet

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the Office of Rail Regulation visited railway track around Llansamelet station in 2006-07; and what assessment they made of public safety following those visits. [187460]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation made no visits to the railway track around Llansamlet railway station during 2006 or 2007. However, a Railway Inspectorate Contact Officer did visit the station in December 2007 to consider trespass risk.

### Railways: Public Participation

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to bring forward legislation to require Stakeholder Briefing Documents which lay out the specification against which bidders for future franchises are asked to submit their bids to include the results of a consultation exercise in which passengers have been consulted about their requirements, in accordance with the recommendations of the 14th Report of the Transport Committee on Passenger Franchising, Session 2005-06, HC 1354, para 34. [188467]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Government's response to the Select Committee's report (HC 265, published on 29 January 2007) explained that the Department for Transport already has a policy of consulting with a wide range of statutory and other bodies, including passenger representatives, before inviting tenders for passenger rail franchises. That remains our approach and we have no plans to legislate in this area.

### Railways: Watford

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of people affected by the decision to terminate trains on the Watford to Brighton line at Clapham Junction from winter 2008; and if she will make a statement. [187084]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** A recent survey showed that an average of around 70 passengers (per train operated) would require to change trains at Clapham Junction. Many times that number of people will benefit from the implementation of the full Thameslink service that is made possible by the service change.

### Roads

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the 1994 Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment report on trunk roads and the generation of traffic on the Department for Transport website. [188480]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is currently only available in paper format. We will scan this study and release it on the Department's website in March. We have identified a number of further reports, released before web publishing was the norm, which we will also release in electronic format alongside this SACTRA study.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account her Department takes of the 1994 Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment report in their assessment of individual new road proposals. [188482]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has ensured that the findings of the 1994 report are reflected in assessments through advising promoters about appropriate modelling techniques. For the largest proposals, using multi-modal models means analysis takes account of the impacts of generated traffic in assessments. For smaller schemes, the Department has recommended the use of more proportionate but robust approaches.

The specific guidance for road proposals is introduced in TAG Unit 2.9, 'Variable Demand Modelling—Advice Overview'. For the larger studies, the advice is introduced in TAG Unit 1.2.1, 'Multimodal Studies: Introduction to Guidance on Multi Modal Studies'. These are available at:

http://www.webtag.org.uk.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the final report of the research study examining accident statistics on the trunk road network will be

published; what assessment she has made of the results of the study for the continued use of stone mastic asphalt surfaces on roads; and if she will make a statement. [188661]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency publishes an annual report on the safety performance of the trunk road network based on an examination of the road traffic accident statistics contained in a database of personal injury road accidents known as STATS19. This can be found at www.dft.gov.uk. The current report, Accidents on the trunk road network - 2006, was published in October 2007.

The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) research report, 'Early Life Skid Resistance - An Assessment of Accident Risk', pertaining to the use of 'bespoke' proprietary thin surfacings on the trunk roads has been delivered to the Highways Agency to consider its recommendations and conclusions. The report will be available to the public and the highway authorities through TRL from April onwards. Stone mastic asphalt is not used on the trunk road network.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is undertaking on the modelling criteria for *(a)* new and *(b)* widened roads; what timescale is being applied to this work; and if she will make a statement. [188476]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department expects modelling for schemes to be robust and advice on criteria forms part of the New Approach to Appraisal. For road schemes, the details can be found on the transport analysis website at:

http://www.webtag.org.uk/

and also in the Highways Agency's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to improve roads in the Dorset area; and what funds are available for such improvements. [189171]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** For the South West region, the Government have provided almost £865 million, through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA), to be spent between 2007-08 and 2015-16 for regionally significant transport schemes, including road investment.

The region undertook a prioritisation exercise and the following road schemes within Dorset are currently programmed for funding:

| *Scheme* | *Scheme sponsor* | *DFT contribution (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Poole Bridge Regeneration Initiative | Poole | 13 |
| A354 Wey mouth Relief Road | Dorset | 71 |
| SE Dorset Bus Showcase Corridors, potentially including some road improvements | SE Dorset | 15 |

Additionally, the DFT has provided the following non-ringfenced capital allocations for the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-10 for routine highway maintenance in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset:

£000

| *Authority* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *20010-11* | *2008-09 to 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bournemouth | 932 | 1,025 | 1,179 | 3,135 |
| Dorset | 8,619 | 9,267 | 10,032 | 27,919 |
| Poole | 1,314 | 1,413 | 1,530 | 4,258 |
| Whole of Dorset area | 10,865 | 11,706 | 12,741 | 35,312 |
| Percentage of regional total | 9.9 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.1 |

The Highways Agency is responsible for the A31 and A35 through the Dorset area. There are currently no plans for improvements to the A31 within Dorset. However, on the A35 there are proposals to improve the capacity at three roundabouts before the 2012 Olympics. They are as follows:

| *Route* | *Improvement* | *Estimated cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| A35 | Weymouth Road Stadium roundabout | 1.8 |
| A35 | Stinsford roundabout | 0.7 |
| A35 | Bere Regis roundabout | 0.3 |
| Total | | 2.8 |

### Salisbury Station

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she received proposals from South West Trains under the Network Modifications (Closures) regime contained in the Railway Act 2005 to close the travel centre at Salisbury station; and when she expects to announce her decision. [187309]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The proposal was received by the Department on 20 November 2007. The decision to approve this minor modification has been made. The determination was issued on 25 February.

### Sea Rescue: Northern Ireland

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the effects on maritime safety and rescue in and around Northern Ireland waters of the decision of the Irish Republic to close the coast guard stations in Donegal; and if she will make a statement; [188554]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effects on measures against illegal and illicit shipping in and around Northern Ireland waters of the decision of the Irish Republic to close the coast guard stations in Donegal; and if she will make a statement. [188555]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Should the Irish authorities decide to close coastguard stations in Donegal, provision of maritime search and rescue services in the waters around Northern Ireland will be unaffected. HM Coastguard will continue to provide 24 hr co-ordination of Search and Rescue in and around Northern Ireland waters from its station in Bangor.

Regular operational search and rescue liaison meetings are held between HM Coastguard and the Irish Coast Guard.

### Seas and Oceans: Legislation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she last discussed the Marine Bill with her Cabinet colleagues; and if she will make a statement. [188710]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend regularly participates in Cabinet discussions on all aspects of the legislative programme, including the Marine Bill.

### South West Trains

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of decreasing the mainline express stock on the Portsmouth to Waterloo mainline outside peak hours. [188489]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport has made no such assessment and is not aware of any off-peak capacity issues on this particular route.

### Transport: Voluntary Work

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the merits of moving from a system of local authority grants for the provision of volunteer transport services to a system of contracts. [188332]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is for local authorities to make decisions on how they procure or support volunteer transport services, taking into account the legislative framework and their local circumstances. Information is available to local authorities about volunteer transport services, including a review commissioned by the Department of voluntary transport and carried out in close association with the Community Transport Association.

### Waterborne Freight Grant

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget was for, and what payments were made under, the waterborne freight grant in each year since its inception. [188894]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Prior to 2007, the Department funded both the waterborne freight grant (resource) and water freight facilities grant (capital) schemes from a budget of between £8-12 million.

In April 2007, the mode neutral sustainable distribution fund (SDF) was created to fund rail and water freight grants and road efficiency schemes. £18.5 million of resource and £7 million of capital funding has been available from the SDF this year.

No waterborne freight grants have been awarded by the Department since the scheme's inception in 2004. This is not due to a lack of available budget but to the fact that potential applicants have difficulty in satisfying constraints imposed by the European Commission when the Government sought State Aids clearance. These require schemes to be viable without grant support within a three-year period.

The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the waterborne freight grant scheme.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Sub-Committee on Health and Wellbeing

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will include subjective wellbeing in the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Health and Wellbeing. [188285]

**Phil Hope:** The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Health and Wellbeing already enable it to discuss subjective wellbeing.

### V: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much matching funding his Department has channelled through the charity V to date. [189110]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 743W.

## OLYMPICS

### Humanitarian Aid

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on domestic humanitarian assistance in each of the last three years, broken down by source budget. [187333]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* In my answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 136W, to the hon. Member I set out the budget for the Humanitarian Assistance Unit in each of the last three years. It is not possible to split this budget up in terms of support for domestic incidents and support for international incidents.

The funding for the Humanitarian Assistance Unit all comes from the budget allocated to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unmanned aerial vehicles have been lost or destroyed in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [187197]

**Des Browne:** A total of 27 Desert Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles operated by UK forces in Afghanistan have been lost in the past 12 months. This number

reflects the high operational tasking of this system. We continue to refine our operational procedures to minimise the loss rate, but it is inevitable that some losses will occur.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget change in his Department will be in each year of the 2008 to 2011 Comprehensive Spending Review period in cash terms. [189414]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The near-cash budget in nominal terms (equivalent to direct resource DEL plus capital DEL) for each year of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period is set out in table D14 of the CSR White Paper (Cm 7227), published in October 2007. For ease of reference the table is included as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Budget (£ million)* | *Change on previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 baseline | 29,411 | — |
| 2008-09 | 30,763 | 1,352 |
| 2010-11 | 31,921 | 1,158 |
| 2011-12 | 33,628 | 1,707 |

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, how many of the media assignments facilitated since April 2007 were for a single media outlet or organisation; and from which exclusive access to information arose. [170120]

**Des Browne:** Our records indicate that of the 52 media assignments to Iraq since April, 45 were for single individuals or media outlets. The others were group visits. All programmes take account of the operational situation at the time, security requirements and the preferences of the individual journalist or organisation and therefore differ from visit to visit.

### Territorial Army: Recruitment

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the decision to restrict recruiting for certain units in the Territorial Army over the next two financial years remains in place. [189183]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have nothing to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 703W.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Members: Correspondence

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 608W, on territorial waters: Northern Ireland, when he expects to write to the hon. Member for Thurrock; and if he will explain the reason for the delay. [187807]

**Paul Goggins:** I am sorry that it is taking a significant amount of time to prepare a response. The issue raised by the hon. Member are complex and cover both transferred and reserved matters.

Under Schedule 3 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the foreshore, sea bed and subsoil and their natural resources (except so far as affecting harbours) are reserved matters. Thus, marine nature conservation in the territorial waters is the responsibility of the Secretary of State. However, at operational level, his functions are carried out by the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland (Environment and Heritage Service).

Given the delay, I would be happy to meet with the hon. Member to discuss the issue in more detail.

## WALES

### Armed Forces: Training

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Defence on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, on the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme/BORONA programme, how many new net jobs Package 1 of the programme will be created in Wales. [187409]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The precise number of jobs to be created during the construction and operational phases of the project will not be known until current contractual negotiations between the MOD and Metrix have been completed.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187866]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** In the fiscal year 2006-07, five working days were lost by Wales Office staff to stress-related conditions.

### Environment Protection

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what environmental protection matters were discussed at the British-Irish Council Meeting on 14 February; and what agreements were made. [188167]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The British-Irish Council (BIC), held its 10th summit meeting on 14 February at the Royal hospital Kilmainham, in Dublin, Ireland. It is customary for each summit to focus on a single theme. The focus of this summit was on misuse of drugs, which is a workstream led by the Irish Government. The next summit meeting will be held in Edinburgh in September 2008.

The UK leads the Environment Workstream and the last ministerial meeting was held in Northern Ireland on 1 February 2008. At that meeting, it was agreed that BIC should continue to intensify co-operation and

exchange of information between the members on a number of important environmental areas including unavoidable climate change, understanding extreme weather events, integrated coastal zone management and managing radioactive waste. The next ministerial meeting of the BIC Environment will take place in Jersey in 2009.

### Young People: Advisory Services

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the use of the additional funding provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for *(a)* Connexions services and *(b)* the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds; and if he will make a statement. [187843]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular discussions with colleagues in the Welsh Assembly Government on all issues concerning education, including the provision of skills and opportunities for young people.

Connexions services are for England only. In Wales, Careers Wales, an independent organisation funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, provides this service. It has six local delivery companies providing a comprehensive careers advice and guidance service to people of all ages, operating across the Welsh regions. Similarly, the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds programmes also apply to England only. Youth service in Wales is provided through the Welsh Assembly Government via the National Youth Service Strategy, published in March last year.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with President Karzai on the appointment of a UN Secretary General Special Representative in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [188353]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The appointment of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Afghanistan is primarily a matter for the UN Secretary-General.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the matter with President Karzai during his visit to Afghanistan with US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, on 8 February 2008. On 25 January 2008, in the margins of the World Economic Forum at Davos, the matter was also discussed at a meeting between President Karzai, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said to the House in his statement on Afghanistan on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 307,

> "Britain continues to push for the next step in this process: the appointment of a strong, UN envoy to bring greater coherence across the international effort in security, governance and development—and in relations with the Afghan government."

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he anticipates that a Provincial Reconstruction Team will be established in *(a)* Dai Kundi and *(b)* Nimroz provinces in Afghanistan. [188231]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The establishment of provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) is a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-led process. The NATO Statement of Requirements identifies a need for PRTs in both Dai Kundi and Nimroz Provinces. There are no concrete plans at present to establish such PRTs.

### Burma: Constitution

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN Security Council counterparts on the referendum on the constitution in Burma in May 2008; and what role the UN is likely to play in monitoring the conduct of the referendum. [189418]

**Dr. Howells:** The UN Security Council has not yet discussed the constitutional referendum announced by the Burmese regime for May 2008. The UN Secretary-General hosted a meeting of the Group of Friends of Burma on 13 February which discussed the announcement. During the meeting, the UK and other members of the Security Council expressed concern that the proposed referendum would not be inclusive or genuine. The Group of Friends pressed for the early return of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Burma, Professor Gambari, to help facilitate national reconciliation and a genuine democratic process.

We will continue to work with our partners in the region, and in the Security Council, to bring about genuine progress towards democracy, national reconciliation and respect for human rights in Burma.

There are currently no plans for the UN to monitor the elections.

### Burma: Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the EU Special Envoy to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [189416]

**Dr. Howells:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn) met EU Special Envoy for Burma, Piero Fassino, at the margins of the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations summit on 22 November 2007 and hopes to be meeting him again in the near future, to discuss all aspects of the current situation in Burma, including the EU's role in supporting UN efforts to bring about a genuine process of national reconciliation which includes all Burma's opposition and ethnic groups.

### Burma: Elections

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support democratic elections in Burma. [188542]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK has been at the forefront of international efforts to bring about inclusive national reconciliation and the establishment of accountable, civilian government in Burma.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK has maintained the pressure for political change through active UN engagement and ensured that Burma remains on the Security Council's agenda. The UK is also a member of the UN Secretary-General's Group of Friends on Burma, which last met on 13 February. The group discussed the regime's recent call for a referendum in May 2008 and elections in 2010. We stressed the need for the regime to demonstrate fundamental change before there could be international support for the process. The Group of Friends pressed for the early return of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Burma, Professor Gambari, to help facilitate national reconciliation and a genuine democratic process.

In the EU, we have played a leading role in securing firm language on the newly announced referendum and election process at the February General Affairs and External Relations Council. The conclusions stated that only a process that involves the full participation of the opposition and ethnic groups will lead to national reconciliation and stability in Burma. The EU reiterated its call for the release of Aung Sang Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

We keep in close contact with partners in the region, including the Association of South East Asian Nations, to build up constructive pressure on the Burmese government and their continued engagement on the Burma related issues. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has raised Burma with the Chinese and Indians on his recent visits to both countries. My right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Meg Munn, also reiterated our concerns to the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 February.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Burma on the banning of the Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from standing in the 2010 election. [189417]

**Dr. Howells:** We have consistently made clear that only an inclusive process of national reconciliation can bring stability and prosperity to the country. The regime's attempts to exclude Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from the political process are alarming and will exacerbate tension and instability in Burma. In our contacts with the military government, and those who have influence over them, we are stressing the need for all political actors, including Aung San Suu Kyi, to be allowed to play their full part in shaping the country's future.

### Burma: Sanctions

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the introduction of financial sanctions against companies associated with Burma's military regime. [189420]

**Dr. Howells:** Discussions are ongoing, mainly at senior official level.

The EU listed companies with links to the military regime in its new package of measures agreed in October 2007.

EU member states are currently considering further restrictive measures against Burma, including a possible ban on all new investment and the imposition of restrictions on financial measures.

The UK is actively working with our EU partners to ensure a full discussion of further restrictive measures as agreed at the October 2007 General Affairs and External Relations Council.

### Burma: Sequestration of Assets

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Singapore on the freezing of the financial assets of Burmese leaders held in accounts in that country; and if he will make a statement. [189421]

**Dr. Howells:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Meg Munn, spoke to the Singaporean Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2nd Permanent Private Secretary Bilahari Kausikan, on 18 February to discuss recent developments in Burma.

Singapore, both nationally and in its current role as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) chair, has made clear its concerns about the violent repression carried out by the Burmese authorities last year, its wish to see the regime engaging in genuine dialogue with Burma's opposition parties, and its support for the UN Secretary-General's goodwill mission. But Singapore and its ASEAN partners do not support the application of sanctions at this time. We continue to discuss this and other aspects of the Burma situation with the Singaporean government on a regular basis.

### Cuba: Elections

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he intends to support the US Administration in its efforts to campaign for democratic elections in Cuba. [189189]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK and US share the same goal of transition to democracy in Cuba. UK policy is based on a 1996 European Common Position, which states that:

> "The main objective of the European Union in its relations with Cuba is to encourage a process of peaceful transition to a pluralistic democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as improvement in the living standards of the Cuban people"

and that

> "the EU will intensify the present dialogue with the Cuban authorities and with all sectors of Cuban society".

### Cuba: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the implications of the resignation of Fidel Castro. [189186]

**Dr. Howells:** We do not envisage the resignation of Fidel Castro leading to major change in Cuba. UK policy remains unchanged and has been based on the EU Common Position since 1996. This policy aims to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy, greater respect for human rights and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

### Cuba: Sanctions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the sanctions imposed upon Cuba by the US Administration. [189187]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK does not support US economic sanctions on Cuba and makes its opposition to them clear through its Annual vote at the United Nations General Assembly. The last vote took place on 30 October 2007. The sanctions have had little positive impact on the regime. The UK and the US share the same goal over Cuba, transition to democracy, but differ on how to achieve it. The UK, through the framework of the EU Common Position, engages in dialogue with the Cuban Government and aims to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy, greater respect for human rights and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on sanctions on Cuba. [189188]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK and the US discuss developments in Cuba regularly. The UK makes its opposition to the US embargo on Cuba clear through our vote every year at the United Nations General Assembly. The last vote took place on 30 October 2007. We also frequently reiterate our position through diplomatic channels with senior US representatives and will continue to do so.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1609W, on Departmental internet, what measures are in place to monitor and record the location of computers with access to his Department's intranet. [184974]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Full access to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office intranet (FCONet) is only possible using the FCO's secure IT infrastructure. This is regularly monitored, but it would be inappropriate to disclose these arrangements in detail. Staff working outside FCO buildings may also access a limited form of FCONet through the internet. Staff may use any external computer to do this and the FCO therefore does not monitor the location of these terminals. Control of this limited access is by user authentication (password) and, where necessary, checking transaction records.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187869]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Stress-related illness accounted for 8.5 per cent. of all working days lost to sickness absence by staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2007.

The FCO recognises the importance of identifying and reducing sources of stress in the workplace. Our occupational stress policy, which aims to protect staff health and welfare, gives detailed guidance for staff and managers. The FCO also offers welfare support for staff and families, who may be suffering from stress, including access to a 24/7 counselling service.

### Diplomatic Services: Forced Marriage

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines are issued to consular and embassy staff in relation to the handling of suspected cases of *(a)* forced and *(b)* arranged marriages; and if he will make a statement. [189113]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no role in relation to arranged marriages, where the families take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the spouses. But forced marriage, where one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved, is wholly unacceptable. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes forced marriage very seriously. If necessary, we will assist and repatriate British nationals forced into marriage overseas.

Consular staff overseas and staff of the Forced Marriage Unit, are trained to assist victims and potential victims of forced marriage. They are provided with written guidance on case handling.

### Eastern Europe: Human Trafficking

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Belarus and *(c)* Moldova on the combating of illegal migration and human trafficking. [189179]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had recent discussions with his counterparts in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova on these issues. However, we remain concerned about all forms of human trafficking globally and are committed to tackling it wherever possible. The issue is raised regularly at EU Councils and is discussed at both ministerial and official level between EU partners. In addition, UK law enforcement agencies work closely with foreign counterparts in many

source and transit countries, helping them to build enforcement capacity and to facilitate information exchanges. At the recent UN-Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Initiative on Fighting Trafficking forum held in Vienna, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Coaker) represented the Government, along with participants from the UK Human Trafficking Centre and HM Revenue and Customs.

**Embassies: Republic of Ireland**

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effect of the dispute concerning compulsory redundancies among the locally-engaged staff at the UK Embassy in Dublin on the UK's reputation in Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [188017]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Irish media coverage has reflected the fact that these redundancies were driven by UK Trade and Investment's wider restructuring of their global network in line with new strategic priorities; that our embassy in Dublin has acted in accordance with Irish Labour Law throughout; and that the redundancy package the embassy has offered reflects good employer practice.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason HM Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland declined to attend talks at the Labour Relations Commission in connection with the proposed compulsory redundancy of locally-engaged staff at the UK Embassy in Dublin; and if he will make a statement. [188026]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Labour Relations Commission had offered its conciliation services to discuss "proposed redundancies" at our embassy in Dublin. Since the redundancies had already been effected, our ambassador declined the offer.

Our embassy and Unite, acting on behalf of the embassy's Local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UK Trade and Investment section on 21 February.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how long the UK Embassy in Dublin has recognised the Unite trade union for industrial relations purposes in connection with the employment of locally-engaged staff; and if he will make a statement. [R] [188027]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The procedural agreement between our embassy in Dublin and Unite trade union was signed in 2003.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agreed negotiations procedures and *(b)* the recognition agreement between the UK ambassador to the Republic of Ireland and the Unite trade union in relation to the employment of and industrial relations relating to locally-engaged staff at the UK embassy in Dublin. [188028]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** A copy of the Procedural Agreement will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff it is proposed to make redundant at the UK embassy to the Republic of Ireland; how many of these will be compulsory redundancies; and if he will make a statement. [188034]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Three compulsory redundancies were made recently at our embassy in Dublin, as a result of UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) wider restructuring of their global network in line with their strategic priorities.

Our embassy and Unite, acting on behalf of the embassy's Local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UKTI Section on 21 February.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many years each member of locally-engaged staff proposed for redundancy at the UK embassy in Dublin has served; and if he will make a statement. [188067]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The three locally-engaged staff members at our embassy in Dublin had served for eight, six and four years when they were made redundant.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regard was paid to *(a)* length of service, *(b)* sex, *(c)* opportunities for retraining and *(d)* other factors when considering which locally-engaged staff at the UK embassy in Dublin should be proposed for redundancy. [188068]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Three compulsory redundancies were made recently at our embassy in Dublin, as a result of UK Trade and Investment's wider restructuring of their global network in line with their strategic priorities.

The redundancy package offered reflected the different lengths of service involved. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is an equal opportunities employer: gender was not a factor. The embassy looked at the opportunities for redeployment, which might have involved retraining, but there were none.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date and by whom the decision to make locally-engaged staff at the UK Embassy in Dublin redundant was taken; on what date this decision was first communicated to the Unite trade union; on what date consultations with the Unite trade union commenced; and if he will make a statement. [188069]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The decision of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) management in London to restructure the UKTI Section at our Embassy in Dublin was confirmed to the staff involved by the Ambassador on 11 January. Staff contacted the Unite trade union the same day and consultations began on 22 January.

Our Embassy and Unite, the union acting on behalf of the Embassy's Local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UKTI Section on 21 February.

### Entry Clearances

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance he has issued to visa sections on queue management of visa applicants and the prevention of unauthorised and unofficial queue managers, brokers and agents. [187422]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Operating Standards and Instructions issued by UKvisas to our posts abroad do not contain specific guidance on queue management, but instead offer suggestions on how procedures can be implemented and how problems should be addressed depending upon conditions and circumstances. Several ideas are mentioned to help alleviate the problems associated with queues, such as use of ticketing machines. UKvisas has recently expanded its commercial partnerships overseas. Most applications are now submitted at Visa Application Centres, in many cases by appointment. The need for applicants to arrive early to queue has been significantly reduced and, in some cases, removed.

Additionally, entry clearance managers are advised to monitor public reception areas regularly to ensure the best possible standards of customer service and conduct are maintained and to identify sudden surges in the volume of visa applications so that prompt action can be taken to avoid a build up of queues. All staff are required to sign the code of conduct which states that staff must

> "behave in a manner that demonstrates their complete impartiality and professionalism in dealing with visa applications"

so that, among other things, no favouritism is shown to one applicant above another.

A copy of these instructions is available on the UKvisas website, www.ukvisas.gov.uk

### Equatorial Guinea: Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how often it is planned that Simon Mann's welfare in Black Beach prison will be monitored by visits from UK representatives. [188530]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Our deputy high commission in Lagos provides consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea. In line with our consular policy, consular officials from Lagos will aim to visit Mr. Mann regularly and we are ready to provide further consular assistance to Mr. Mann including with regard to his treatment and welfare.

### Eritrea: Religious Freedom

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the treatment of religious minorities in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [188014]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* We monitor events in Eritrea closely and remain deeply concerned by reports of detentions of members of minority churches. While Orthodox Christians, Catholics and the major Protestant Churches (who make up an estimated 40-50 per cent. of the population of Eritrea) are usually able to worship openly, some church activities can be restricted and members of smaller churches are not free to pursue their faith.

This is unacceptable and contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party. Eritrea should allow all its citizens to worship as they wish, as set out in Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our ambassador in Asmara raises these issues with the Eritrean government at every suitable opportunity. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials do likewise with the Eritrean embassy in the UK. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, personally raised the issue of human rights abuses in Eritrea with the Eritrean ambassador on 18 February.

### European External Action Service

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what preparatory work has been undertaken by his Department on the European External Action Service since 1 June 2005; [186719]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the European External Action Service; and if he will make a statement; [186718]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Castle Point of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 968W, on the European External Action Service, whether any meetings on the organisation and funding of the European External Action Service have taken place; [186888]

(4) what meetings he plans to hold with European counterparts to discuss the organisation and funding of the European external action service in 2008; and if he will make a statement; [186862]

(5) how many of his Department's staff will be seconded to the European External Action Service in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [186713]

(6) what criteria will be used to nominate staff from his Department for secondment to the European External Action Service; [186714]

(7) what role personnel from his Department will play in the establishment and work of the European External Action Service; [186715]

(8) what estimate he has made of the size of the *(a)* staff establishment and *(b)* budget of the European External Action Service in each of the next three years. [186717]

**David Miliband:** There have been no discussions at ministerial or working level on the detailed organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS). The functioning and organisation of the EEAS will be the subject of negotiation among the member states before a final, unanimous decision to launch the service, after the Lisbon treaty enters force.

Negotiations are due to start later this year and no decision has been taken on the size, structure or funding of the EEAS, or of the criteria used to nominate staff for secondment to the EEAS.

### FCO Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take if the FCO Services Trading Fund does not attract sufficient third party income. [188025]

**Meg Munn:** Income from third parties is a relatively small proportion of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services business. It is considered unlikely that FCO Services will not attract sufficient third party income; however, if projected growth is not achieved, FCO Services has well conceived contingency plans for cost reduction and can scale down investment plans if necessary to meet down turns in third party opportunities.

### FCO Services: Data Protection

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures he has put in place to ensure that personal data held by the FCO Services Trading Fund are kept securely. [188024]

**Meg Munn:** Data security in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services receives the closest attention and care. The FCO and FCO Services have implemented the latest Cabinet Office guidance on storing personal data. FCO Services makes a unique selling point of its secure services, so security is at the heart of everything it does.

The organisation holds and processes personal data for a number of reasons and strong measures are in place to protect all data. Systems are only deployed after Government security accreditation has been completed.

Security measures and accreditation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- All sensitive data are held in secure conditions.
- Systems are managed according to Government protective data marking.
- Data transmission is minimised to essential levels and takes place across encrypted and protected networks.
- In limited circumstances, data are transported by disk, but only when passwords or data encryption techniques are applied. Carriage is consistent with FCO policy.
- Legitimate access to systems is restricted to authorised users by electronic and physical assurance processes.
- Audit processes are in place to oversee the effectiveness of the information security policy and data access is monitored by an independent security function.
- Laptops and hand held devices used for confidential data are installed with especially accredited and encrypted disks and secure communications facilities. Other laptops with unencrypted discs are used only for less sensitive material.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to work with other governments to reduce levels of human trafficking. [182003]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We remain concerned about all forms of human trafficking globally and are committed to tackling it wherever possible. The issue is raised regularly at EU Councils and is discussed at both ministerial and official level between EU partners. The Government's ratification of Albania's EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which will help reduce human trafficking and smuggling in the Balkans region, is a good example of our commitment to working with other governments. In addition, UK law enforcement agencies work closely with foreign counterparts in many source and transit countries, helping them to build enforcement capacity and to facilitate information exchanges; an initiative is currently taking place in a number of EU countries, led by the UK and Poland, under the auspices of the G6. The Government also part-funded the secondment of two Romanian police officers into a Metropolitan Police joint unit to exchange experience, skills and knowledge in the fight against the criminal exploitation and trafficking of Romanian children to the UK.

The Government raise human trafficking issues more widely at bilateral and international meetings beyond the EU. At the recent UN-Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Initiative on Fighting Trafficking forum held in Vienna, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Coaker) represented the Government, along with participants from the UK Human Trafficking Centre and HM Revenue and Customs.

### Iran: Capital Punishment

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the government of Iran in respect of human rights arising from specific instance of capital punishment carried out in Iran in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [187809]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government remain deeply concerned by the increasing use of capital punishment in Iran. We regularly make representations to the Government of Iran, in our bilateral contacts and through the EU, to express general concern about the use of the death penalty in Iran and to raise individual execution cases. In 2007, the EU presidency did this on more than 20 occasions in both meetings and public statements. The EU has issued two further declarations on the death penalty in Iran already this year. We also discuss human rights issues bilaterally with Iranian officials in London and Tehran. In the last 12 months we have raised serious concerns about the use of death penalty on seven separate occasions. This has included specific instances when capital punishment has been carried out in Iran, for example the executions of Mohammad Moussavi, Jafar Kiani, Makwan Moloudzadeh and Mohammad Reza Tork.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the circumstances surrounding executions conducted in Iran in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [187810]

**Dr. Howells:** We are extremely worried by the growing numbers of executions taking place in Iran. We understand that approximately 300 executions were carried out in 2007, compared with 177 in 2006 and 94 in 2005. This has included growing numbers of public and collective executions (eg the execution of two men in central Tehran in August 2007), and the first confirmed execution by stoning for five years in July 2007. Iran continues to execute juvenile offenders—at least four were put to death in 2007. We have concerns that not all death sentences are the result of a fair trial and that capital punishment continues to be applied for charges such as adultery, rape and drug related offences. The Government will continue to raise concerns with the Iranian authorities about executions and the use of the death penalty in Iran. We will continue to press Iran to uphold its international human rights obligations including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states that

> "in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, the sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes"

and that

> "no-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The EU presidency, with strong UK support, has issued two statements about the use of the death penalty in Iran this year.

### Kenya: Security

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the safety of UK citizens living and working in Kenya following recent events in that country. [188665]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* While calm has returned to most areas in Kenya, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) assesses that the security situation in the country remains highly volatile. The unpredictable nature of the current situation could lead to further outbreaks of violence. The FCO travel advice for Kenya remains under constant review. A full copy of the latest FCO travel advice is available at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel/kenya.

We are advising British nationals in Kenya to exercise extreme caution and avoid all public gatherings and meetings. British nationals intending to travel to Kenya should regularly check the travel advice. An easy way to do this is to subscribe at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel

to receive free travel advice updates via email alerts. To ensure we can effectively communicate any changes in travel advice and other relevant information, British nationals in Kenya are urged to register with our high commission in Nairobi. The FCO has been in regular contact with British tour operators about the situation in Kenya and our travel advice.

Like many other British diplomatic missions, our high commission in Nairobi holds a civil contingency plan. In compiling civil contingency plans, the FCO's objective is to protect British nationals in a situation that poses a serious threat to their safety and, in a worst case scenario, to assist their departure to a place of safety. As part of this process, FCO missions continually assess the risk to British nationals and plan accordingly. Our high commission in Nairobi's civil contingency plan was reviewed and updated in February 2008.

### Maldives: Politics and Government

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the constitutional and democratic reform process in the Maldives; and if he will make a statement. [187561]

**Dr. Howells:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has personally emphasised to President Gayoom the need to keep the reform process on track and the importance of the elections due this year being seen as free, fair, inclusive and enjoying the support of all the people of Maldives. As I made clear to the House during a debate on Maldives on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 935-42, we do not underestimate the challenges Maldives faces moving from a political system based heavily on patronage and state control to multi-party liberal democracy.

Officials from our High Commission resident in Colombo visit Maldives periodically. The UK has made clear our continued support for the reform process and willingness to provide practical support if that is the wish of the political parties in Maldives. We continue to underline the need for good faith among all political parties and for all to redouble efforts to implement democratic change in Maldives.

### Overseas Trade

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote UK industry and business through UK Trade and Industry in the Caribbean, Central America and South East Asia. [189190]

**Dr. Howells:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) operates an extensive network overseas that offers a full range of services to help British companies access business opportunities including in the Caribbean, Latin America and South East Asia. In line with UKTI's five-year strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World", key high-growth markets in South East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam) have benefited from additional resources to help achieve a step change in the UK's profile.

### Pakistan: Elections

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has received representations on the number of candidates from religious minorities in the elections in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement; [188022]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Pakistani government on the political representation of minorities in Pakistan. [188023]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* In our regular contact with the Government of Pakistan at ministerial and official level, bilaterally and through the EU, we have stressed the need for free and fair elections. The elections, which took place on 18 February, were an opportunity for the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic voice and participate fully in the process of electing their new government. We welcome the EU electoral observer mission (EOM) report, released on 20 February, which assessed that the elections were competitive, despite the well-documented procedural problems.

We will want to work with the new government to help build the institutional framework necessary for a sustained democratic transition and ensure that the fundamental rights of all Pakistani citizens particularly the most vulnerable (women, minorities and children) are guaranteed as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan and in accordance with international human rights standards. An important part of this will be addressing the weaknesses in the electoral system identified in the EU EOM's report.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials recently met with representatives from the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement, a non-governmental organisation working on behalf of Christians in Pakistan, as part of our ongoing engagement with stakeholder communities. Officials remain in regular contact with them on minority religious rights issues.

### Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has received on whether Mr. Simon Mann is being held in shackles in Black Beach prison. [189592]

**Dr. Howells:** Consular officials visited Mr. Mann in Black Beach prison on 12 February. He was being held in shackles at this time. Our deputy high commission in Lagos which provides consular assistance to British nationals in Equatorial Guinea, has urgently taken the matter up with the Equatorial Guinean authorities.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he will apply in deciding whether or not Mr. Simon Mann is being treated well in detention; and what specific conditions of treatment Mr. Mann should be entitled to to meet those criteria. [189593]

**Dr. Howells:** We are providing consular assistance to Mr. Mann, including with regard to his treatment and welfare. In considering whether he is being treated well, the Government will refer to international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Equatorial Guinea is a party. We will also refer to non-binding instruments, such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, that provide guidance for appropriate conditions of detention.

### South Africa: Power Failures

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of South Africa on the hardship caused to the citizens of that country and adjoining nation states as a result of recent substantial power cuts affecting the region. [188666]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The government of South Africa is acutely aware of the impact of power cuts and our high commission in Pretoria is following the situation. In his 20 February budget, Finance Minister Manuel allocated a further £60 billion Rand for energy infrastructure investment. The South African government has also committed itself to launch a large-scale energy saving campaign in the near future. At the Southern Africa Development Community Energy Ministers meeting last week, South Africa agreed to honour her contractual obligations with regard to the power supply to the rest of the region.

### Treaty of Lisbon

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his EU counterparts on the operation of the proposed investigatory powers in the Lisbon Treaty. [189114]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* Both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I, as well as our ministerial colleagues in the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, have regular discussions with our EU counterparts on a wide range of EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) issues, including the JHA provisions of the Lisbon treaty.

The UK has secured an across-the-board opt-in on all JHA issues. We will not opt-in to any proposal that is not in the UK national interest.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Criminal Investigation

**David Taylor:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance is available on the conduct of criminal investigations involving hon. Members by the police within the precincts of the parliamentary estate. [189220]

**Nick Harvey:** The Serjeant at Arms is always consulted regarding criminal investigations involving hon. Members which may involve police officers entering the parliamentary estate. The Metropolitan police acts as a conduit for matters involving other forces. In general, such issues are dealt with away from the parliamentary estate. The conduct of the inquiry would be a matter for the investigating force, however, the Serjeant is always concerned to ensure that no action should be taken within the estate which would be detrimental to the status and reputation of Parliament. No formal guidance exists but Mr. Speaker or the Clerk of the House would be consulted in exceptional circumstances.

### Hearing Impaired

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what services are provided within the parliamentary estate for hon. Members to facilitate meetings with constituents who are deaf; and if he will make a statement. [189486]

**Nick Harvey:** There are deaf loop facilities in all Committee Rooms in the Palace and in all Committee and Conference Rooms on the first floor of Portcullis House. Portable equipment is available for the smaller meeting rooms in both buildings. Deaf loop facilities are also provided in the Public Gallery of the House of Commons Chamber and in Westminster Hall Chamber.

When sign language facilities are required in meeting rooms, House staff liaise closely with the Member concerned to ensure that the best possible solution is achieved for the deaf person and the sign language interpreter, depending on which room is being used.

The House provides advice and assistance to Members, but does not meet the cost of providing sign language interpreter services directly from central funds. Members are entitled to reclaim the costs incurred in engaging and using interpreter services from their individual Incidental Expenses Provision. This is set out explicitly in the Green Book which states, in section 5.13.2, on Incidental Expenses Provision, that an allowable expenditure would be:

"Interpreting and translation services (this includes sign language, interpretation and Braille translation)".

The Diversity Manager in the Department of Resources can provide contact details at the RNID for obtaining sign language interpreter services, which cost between £120 and £160 for a two hour period.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Actis Capital LLP

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what value the Shareholder Executive currently places on its 40 per cent. share of Actis Capital LLP; and if he will make a statement. [189573]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department of International Development (DFID) holds the 40 per cent. share of Actis LLP and this is managed, on its behalf, by the Shareholder Executive within BERR.

Although a valuation was commissioned prior to the set up of Actis, the Shareholder Executive has not undertaken any subsequent valuation of the 40 per cent. share. However it is understood that the value of DFID's investment in Actis, reflected in DFID's resource accounts, is £1.677 million.

### Electronic Equipment: Waste Management

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the UK has fully implemented the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive; and what steps he is taking to ensure the continuing compliance with WEEE obligations. [188611]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive was transposed into UK law on 12 December 2006. The transposition into UK law centred on the requirement to establish a system of collective responsibility for the collection, treatment, reprocessing and environmentally sound disposal of historical WEEE—that is electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) placed on the UK market before 13 August 2005

Further consideration will be given to the transposition of article 8.2 of the directive, which requires the introduction of individual producer responsibility (IPR) for all EEE placed on the market after 13 August 2005. This will include discussion with the Commission and other member states on the precise requirement of this article and the practical consideration for the introduction of an effective and cost-efficient system.

The Government have established the WEEE Advisory Body (WAB), an independent non-governmental public body to provide advice on the issues arising from the implementation and operation of the UK WEEE system. One area for consideration will be recommendations by the WAB on how the UK can move to a system of IPR.

The Department will be monitoring compliance of the WEEE regulations and working with enforcement authorities who will be undertaking activities to raise awareness within the producer and retail sectors to ensure those affected by the WEEE regulations are aware of their requirements.

### Post Office: Personal Savings

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many depositors have withdrawn their savings from the Post Office network since 17 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [188496]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether compensation for the compulsory purchase of a community-owned post office branch is payable to *(a)* the not-for-profit company which owns the post office franchise and *(b)* the individual who rents and runs the franchise. [188654]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what provision there is for a community-owned post office branch earmarked for closure to remain open if *(a)* the local community is prepared to forego the post office salary and *(b)* a third party is prepared to pay the operating costs. [188656]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 397W, on post offices: closures, why Post Office Ltd has not released relevant financial information to Essex county council to help the council explore the viability of financially supporting some of those post offices set for closure. [188896]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Postal Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Post Office and the other major carriers over the future of the universal service obligation. [188298]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government consider the maintenance of a universal postal service to be of the highest importance. Under the terms of the Postal Services Act 2000, the universal service is a matter for the postal regulator (Postcomm), which has the primary statutory duty to ensure the provision of a universal postal service at an affordable uniform tariff.

BERR Ministers and officials regularly hold discussions with Royal Mail on strategic postal issues and also meet with other licensed operators to discuss their operations within the market.

The Government have commissioned an independent review of the postal services sector. One of the review terms of reference will consider how to maintain the universal service obligation. The review will provide all postal carriers with a formal opportunity to contribute their thinking on this and on the future of postal services in the UK.

### Regional Development Agencies: Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are employed by each of the regional development agencies; what each agency's expenditure was in each of the last five years; and what the staffing cost of each agency was in the last year for which figures are available. [188922]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following table shows staff employed and costs by RDAs in 2006-07.

| *RDAs* | *Staff employed* | *Staffing cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| AWM | 327 | 15,238 |
| EEDA | 223 | 11,382 |
| EMDA | 247 | 10,084 |
| LDA | 488 | 30,656 |
| NWDA | 402 | 19,321 |
| ONE | 446 | 15,394 |
| SEEDA | 342 | 17,248 |
| SWRDA | 303 | 13,538 |
| YF | 428 | 17,957 |

*Note:*
Costs include salaries, national insurance, pensions, staff and board members

The RDAs grant in aid budgets for the last five years is set out in the following table.

*£ million*

| *RDAs* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 204 | 240 | 217 | 310 | 281 |
| EEDA | 88 | 80 | 84 | 139 | 140 |
| EMDA | 101 | 117 | 119 | 168 | 161 |
| LDA | 295 | 317 | 328 | 371 | 416 |
| NWDA | 274 | 309 | 367 | 402 | 402 |
| ONE | 193 | 223 | 227 | 254 | 273 |
| SEEDA | 112 | 136 | 110 | 165 | 172 |
| SWRDA | 103 | 99 | 113 | 168 | 171 |
| YF | 211 | 244 | 288 | 310 | 313 |

### Sub-post Offices: Finance

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to sub-post offices of the *(a)* services and *(b)* electronic services provided to them by the Post Office was in the last 12 months period for which figures are available. [188898]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2004-05; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed on contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180707]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information on DWP expenditure with Capita Group plc and its known subsidiaries in each year since 2004-05 is provided in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 47.79 |
| 2005-06 | 53.10 |
| 2006-07 | 54.80 |
| 2007-08 (to December 2007) | 20.97 |

Total = £176.66 million which includes £23.79 million recoverable VAT.

Contracts awarded to Capita are as follows:

*Record storage*

In 2004, DWP awarded a contract for the provision of record storage services to Capita Business Services Ltd. The contract commenced on 1 July 2004 and is due to expire in June 2011. The contract was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). 39 organisations applied for the contract and three were shortlisted. Expenditure on this contract between July 2004 to December 2007 is £52.96 million.

*Occupational health services*

In December 2007, Capita Health Solutions was successful in a competitive re-tender exercise to identify an occupational health service provider for DWP. The competition was advertised in OJEU and a number of organisations expressed interest in the contract, eight were shortlisted and four bids were received. This service went live in April 2007. DWP and Capita mutually agreed to disengage from this arrangement with effect from 15 August 2007. Expenditure with Capita was £1.07 million. *Consultancy and Interim Personnel*

Capita Business Services Ltd. has a place within four lots on the DWP Consultancy and Interim Personnel framework. This framework was advertised through OJEU and went live in April 2004. Each requirement identified within the Department is competed within the appropriate lot of the framework or through other appropriate commercial arrangements e.g. PAN Government frameworks, CIPHER Communications Framework. Expenditure with Capita on consultancy and interim personnel from April 2004 to December 2007 is £5.63 million.

*The UNderpinning IT DeliverY (UNITY) Project*

In 2005, Capita Business Services Ltd. was one of 32 suppliers awarded a Framework Agreement under the Department's UNderpinning IT DeliverY (UNITY) project. The UNITY Project was designed to put in place commercial arrangements for the procurement of IS/IT services for DWP which complemented existing contracts. As a result of a formal competition, the UNITY suppliers were selected to compete for business within specific areas or lots. Capita Business Services Ltd. is eligible to compete for business in lot one (application development) and lot two (infrastructure development), if invited to do so by DWP. The procurement was conducted under public procurement regulations with a Contract Award Notice published in the OJEU on 31 May 2005.

Capita Business Services Ltd. is one of 23 suppliers that met those criteria in lot one and one of 12 suppliers successful in lot two. The Framework Agreement itself has no value attached to it, nor is there any guarantee that suppliers will be invited to compete for, or be awarded, any specific business for the four year duration of the Framework, which expires in 2009. To date no contract within the Framework Agreement has been awarded to Capita.

*Other spend with Capita*

Capita Business Solutions had a contract with DWP until March 2007 for the provision of office services in the north west, north east, Yorkshire and East and West Midlands. Expenditure from April 2004 to March 2007 was £85.38 million. Capita had a contract also for the delivery of winter fuel payments which ended in May 2005, following a re-competition. Expenditure from April 2004 to the end of the contract was £4.84 million.

DWP can access Cabinet Office contracts for the delivery of PCSPS payments (Capita) and their framework for senior level recruitment where Veredus (a Capita subsidiary) is a supplier. In addition, there has been ad-hoc expenditure with Capita for example for the provision of miscellaneous training, IS/IT, property services and access to work payments, to aid in the employment of disabled workers. Expenditure from April 2004 to December 2007 in these areas is £2.99 million.

All DWP contracts are awarded on a balance of quality and cost, to provide optimum value for money for the Department. All contracts are underpinned by key performance indicators and where appropriate, service credit regimes should performance not reach the required standard. DWP also has standard clauses in respect of formal breach of contract action.

### Child Support Agency: Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in bonus payments to staff at the Child Support Agency in each year since 2001. [185073]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was paid in bonus payments to staff at the Child Support Agency in each year since 2001. [185073]

The Child Support Agency is part of the Department for Work and Pensions and operates Departmental schemes. Over the period from 2001 to 2007, three separate schemes for payment of bonuses have operated within the Child Support Agency. Each of the three schemes have different criteria on how a bonus can be earned and the percentage of the pay budget that can be applied to it.

The figures provided in the attached table highlight the amounts paid as special, Makinson and individual performance bonuses.

Both the special bonus scheme and the individual performance bonuses were in operation for the entire period within all parts of the Department. The guidelines, policy funding and framework for these schemes are set by the Department.

The Makinson bonus scheme was undertaken as part of a Treasury initiative to enhance performance in the public sector by linking performance to reward. This scheme only ran for 2002-03 and 2003-04 and was trialled in three parts of the Department, one of which was the Child Support Agency. Incentive payments made under this scheme were funded directly by the Treasury.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The table below shows the sums paid to Agency employees as special bonuses, Makinson bonuses and individual performance bonuses between 2001-02 and 2006-07.

£000

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total special bonus paid | 395 | 457 | 455 | 450 | 559 | 394 |
| Total Makinson bonus paid | — | 9,190 | 3,440 | — | — | — |
| Total individual performance bonus paid | 420 | 1,793 | 1,870 | 3,318 | 3,314 | 3,340 |
| Total—all bonuses | 815 | 11,440 | 5,765 | 3,768 | 3,873 | 3,734 |

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data exchanges of sensitive personal data have taken place between his Department and local authorities in the last 12 months; and what datasets were collected. [176242]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department lawfully exchanges data with local authorities for a very wide range of purposes. Many of these exchanges are provided routinely on a day-to-day basis with local authority staff, and consequently details are not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181639]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information in the format requested is available only from April 2003 and is provided in the following table.

| | Overseas (£) (including EU) | Domestic (£) | Total (£) | Total as percentage of DWP overall DEL expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 753,218 | 29,399,320 | 30,152,538 | 0.491 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 1,018,150 | 29,654,766 | 30,672,916 | 0.477 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 1,195,396 | 31,435,816 | 32,631,212 | 0.528 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 742,112 | 29,458,446 | 30,200,558 | 0.500 |
| April 2007 to October 2007 | 466,289 | 18,181,514 | 18,647,803 | [1] |

[1] DEL expenditure for 2007-08 financial year will be available following publication of the Department's Resource Accounts later this year.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in departmental guidance.

## Housing Benefit: Newcastle Upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of housing benefit there were in *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private rented tenure sectors in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in each of the last five years; how many new customers there were in each tenure sector in each year; and what the average processing time was for new customers in each sector in each year. [189566]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Number of housing benefit (HB) recipients in Newcastle upon Tyne local authority in last five years*

| | Local authority HB recipients | Housing association HB recipients | Private rented sector HB recipients |
|---|---|---|---|
| *As at May:* | | | |
| 2003 | 20,600 | 4,300 | 4,700 |

*Number of housing benefit (HB) recipients in Newcastle upon Tyne local authority in last five years*

| | Local authority HB recipients | Housing association HB recipients | Private rented sector HB recipients |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 20,600 | 4,400 | 4,700 |
| 2005 | 20,300 | 4,400 | 4,400 |
| 2006 | 19,600 | 4,600 | 3,900 |
| 2007 | 19,300 | 5,000 | 3,600 |

*Notes:*
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Private tenants include all private rented tenure sectors excluding housing association.

*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in May 2003-07.

*Number of new housing benefit (HB) customers in each tenure in Newcastle upon Tyne in last five years*

| | Local authority new claims | Local authority average processing times (days) | Registered social landlord new claims | Registered social landlord average processing times (days) | Private rented sector new claims | Private rented sector average processing times (days) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 8,700 | 53 | 1,700 | 58 | 5,100 | 59 |
| 2003-04 | 9,200 | 51 | 1,800 | 51 | 5,200 | 58 |
| 2004-05 | 7,200 | 57 | 1,400 | 50 | 4,200 | 58 |
| 2005-06 | 4,200 | 57 | 980 | 53 | 2,500 | 72 |
| 2006-07 | 5,500 | 62 | 2,000 | 59 | 3,300 | 82 |
| 2007-08[1] | 2,500 | 39 | 1,000 | 33 | 1,500 | 55 |

[1] Quarter 1 to Quarter 2.

*Notes:*
1. Data limitations mean we are unable to establish the number of new customers each year. We have answered the question using figures for new claim. This will be close to the number of new customers, but will include customers who are re-claiming and therefore not new.
2. Data limitations mean we are unable to split housing association properties from the registered social landlord definition. However, the vast majority of HA properties are RSL properties.
3. New claims have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Processing times have been rounded to the nearest day.

*Source:*
Housing Benefit Operational Database, 2007-08 data.

## Industrial Health and Safety: Lorry Drivers

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to improve the provision of secure resting facilities for professional lorry drivers to improve their health and safety. [188385]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The delivery of parking and rest facilities, since 1992, has primarily been through the private sector together with local planning authorities. The Department for Transport has been facilitating meetings between representatives of the road haulage trade associations, the Highways Agency, Motorway Service Area operators and other lorry parking providers in order to identify the issues that can promote an increase together with improvement in these facilities.

The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency intend to undertake a national study into lorry parking with the objective of finding out the current and future demand for these facilities. This could better inform the local planning authorities on the need for these facilities and the potential providers of these facilities with their investment decisions.

The Highways Agency has published a guide to truck stops in England and has recently carried out a consultation with the aim of developing policies that maintain and improve the provision of service areas and other facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England, including those for lorry drivers.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for jobseeker's allowance were disallowed on the grounds of the claimant not actively seeking employment in each month since April 2006; and how many such decisions on claims were reversed on appeal. [183835]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* Information on appeals cannot be broken down by type of sanction. The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on pensioners per capita in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [186671]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the timetable for pension and benefits payments in the period leading up to Christmas 2007. [175079]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** My Department received a small number of representations about the arrangements for

making pension and benefits payments for Christmas 2007, from hon. Members and others.

The arrangements we put in place to make sure that everyone received their money before Christmas worked well and many (including around three quarters of pensioners) due to be paid over Christmas got their money on Friday 21 December.

### Poverty: Children

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of children lifted out of poverty of all parents receiving child maintenance and arrears payments due via the Child Support Agency. [186116]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is as follows.

The receipt of child maintenance payments, through all arrangement types including the Child Support Agency, currently lifts around 100,000 children out of poverty.

The Child Support Agency's operational improvement plan is expected to help lift further 30,000-40,000 children out of poverty.

The overall effect of the redesigned child maintenance system with more parents with care getting maintenance and enabling all parents with care to benefit from a significantly higher disregard will be to lift at least a further 100,000 children out of poverty.

### Social Security Benefits: Ireland

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Ireland on individuals claiming benefits in both countries. [186429]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Formal arrangements are in place between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland signed at Secretary of State level. Under these arrangements officials meet regularly with their counterparts from the Republic of Ireland. Procedures are in place for collaboration and joint working.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners aged 60 and over have claimed the winter fuel payment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception; [186667]

(2) how many pensioners aged 80 and over have claimed the higher rate winter fuel payment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [186666]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following tables. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

*Winter fuel payments made to people aged 60 or over*

| | *Jarrow constituency* | *South Tyneside* | *North-east* | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 15,980 | 30,140 | 461,690 | 10,084,130 |
| 2000-01 | 17,340 | 32,840 | 511,880 | 11,105,750 |
| 2001-02 | 17,320 | 32,740 | 513,460 | 11,201,900 |
| 2002-03 | 17,340 | 32,650 | 516,760 | 11,348,040 |
| 2003-04 | 17,390 | 32,600 | 519,060 | 11,468,240 |
| 2004-05 | 16,900 | 31,580 | 509,230 | 11,401,170 |
| 2005-06 | 16,750 | 31,220 | 511,630 | 11,514,760 |
| 2006-07 | 16,970 | 31 ,400 | 518,560 | 11,702,900 |

*Winter fuel payments made to people aged 80 or over*

| | *Jarrow constituency* | *South Tyneside* | *North-east* | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 3,120 | 6,290 | 95,150 | 2,334,400 |
| 2004-05 | 3,150 | 6,300 | 94,790 | 2,313,230 |
| 2005-06 | 3,170 | 6,300 | 96,000 | 2,342,010 |
| 2006-07 | 3,280 | 6,430 | 97,800 | 2,376,870 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies, Local Authorities and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. The increased winter fuel payment for people aged 80 or over was introduced in winter 2003-04.

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Betting: Fraud

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proposals the Government have considered to tackle the rigging of results in sport gambling; and how initiatives will be funded. [188712]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Gambling Commission published responses to its Sports Betting Integrity consultation in October 2007 and concluded that there was no evidence of a significant problem with sports betting integrity in this country. However, the Commission gathers intelligence on all gambling integrity issues and is keeping the situation under review. The Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) has also commissioned

research into this issue from the university of Salford and I await the outcome with interest.

The Government favour voluntary payments from the betting industry to support sports integrity initiatives.

### Camelot Group

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he expects Camelot to have raised £10.5 billion for good causes over the course of its licence; and if he will make a statement. [188947]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Camelot's current licence ends on 31 January 2009. It is not possible to predict accurately how much will be raised for good causes by that date and neither the Department nor the National Lottery Commission set targets for the net proceeds of the national lottery. However, we do share a statutory duty that requires us to do our best to ensure that they are maximised, subject to lottery games being operated with due propriety and the interests of participants being protected. The NLC stated in June 2001 that £10 billion for good causes would be a challenging amount for Camelot to raise during the course of the second licence.

### Convergence Think Tank

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 318W, on the Convergence Think Tank, how the figure of £300,000 for the costs of the Convergence Think Tank was arrived at. [188506]

**Andy Burnham:** The estimated cost of the Convergence Think Tank referred to in my answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, to the hon. Member for Wantage, was a rounded total based on an initial view of the costs of the principal elements of the Think Tank's work, excluding staff costs, namely

communications, including seven public seminars: £37,500;

external experts: £65,000;

research: £200,000.

These figures are estimates and are likely to vary according to the specific requirements of the Think Tank.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189083]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently does not employ any staff under 18 years of age.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188803]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Current DCMS salary ranges are shown in the following tables:

*Grades A-D*

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| D | 16,796 | 20,395 |
| C | 21,242 | 25,178 |
| HEOD | 27,560 | 35,335 |
| B | 27,560 | 35,335 |
| A | 42,770 | 52,985 |
| A(U) | 49,918 | 64,065 |

*Senior Civil Servants*

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| SCS1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCS1A | 65,280 | 127,000 |
| SCS2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

*Key:*
Grade A = Former Grades 6/7
Grade B = Former SEO/HEO/HEO(D) and equivalent grades
Grade HEOD = Fast Stream
Grade C = Former EO and equivalent grades
Grade D = Former AO/AA and equivalent grades

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Public and Commercial Services Union on the current year's pay settlement for staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Royal Parks Agency. [188923]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

### English Sports Council: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the current national lottery balance is of the *(a)* Sports Council (England) and *(b)* UK Sports Council. [189589]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** At close of business on 31 January 2008 the national lottery balances for Sport England and UK Sport were:

| | Lottery balance (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Sport England | 204.518 |
| UK Sport | 15.068 |

### Find your Talent Project: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £25 million announced for the Find your Talent project on 13 February 2008 will *(a)* be spent on establishing the Youth Culture Trust and *(b)* available to local authorities to run projects. [187175]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Youth Culture Trust will grow out of the existing Creative Partnerships programme. This programme was already in the process of separating from Arts Council England and establishing itself as an external organisation. The costs of this will be met from the core grant to Creative Partnerships and we are not anticipating using any of the recently announced £25 million for this purpose.

*(b)* Some costs will be incurred in managing the pilot programme. These are still being finalised at present but our intention is to keep the administration costs to the absolute minimum consistent with successful delivery and evaluation. In addition, there will be some costs involved in auditing the current level of provision and the take up of cultural activities by children and young people.

### Football: Community Relations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which football clubs receive Government funding to operate community schemes; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those schemes; and if he will make a statement. [189002]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following Government initiatives fund community schemes operated by, or in conjunction with, football clubs.

Playing for Success establishes out of school hours study support centres at professional football clubs and other sports clubs. 88 centres are based in football clubs, including all 20 clubs in the Premier League, to which the Department for Children Schools and Families will contribute £6 million in 2007-08.

The Home Office funds Positive Futures, a national sports-based social inclusion programme. Seven football clubs (Arsenal, Brentford, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Leyton Orient, Millwall and Portsmouth) have football in the community schemes affiliated to them that have successfully applied for Positive Futures programme funding. The 2007 annual monitoring and evaluation report on the entire Positive Futures programme was published in November 2007.

The Kickz scheme is currently delivered in partnership with 19 Premiership and 11 Football League clubs across the country. It offers positive evening activities for young people, including football leagues and education sessions. Evaluation of the four pilot Kickz projects showed that local crime had fallen by an average of 27 per cent. during those times that projects were being held.

The Football Foundation is investing £4.7 million into the Kickz scheme and the DCMS is investing £1 million via the Premier League's good causes fund. This investment over three years will expand the Kickz programme so that over 100 projects will be delivered by more than 30 professional clubs.

### Gambling Act 2005

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions since 1 September 2007 the Gambling Commission has been asked to consider a potential offence under section 42 of the Gambling Act 2005; and what action it has taken in each instance. [188376]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since 1 September 2007, 22 cases have been considered where the offence of cheating (section 42 of the Gambling Act 2005) at gambling may have some relevance to a greater or lesser degree. In all 22 cases the Commission is continuing its inquiries and considering what, if any, further action is necessary. Nine of the cases have been reported by the industry under conditions of their operating licences and 13, the majority of which mainly concern cheating by junior casino staff when they visit another casino, are likely to be dealt with by the application of the Commission's regulatory sanctions under the 2005 Act.

### Gambling: Internet

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings officials in his Department have had with *(a)* overseas online gambling operators, *(b)* UK online gambling operators and *(c)* counterparts in overseas governments on the issue of online gambling addiction since October 2006. [188985]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since October 2006, officials in my Department have not had any meetings with overseas or UK-based online gambling operators, nor with their counterparts in overseas jurisdictions, specifically on the issue of online gambling addiction. However, officials keep in close contact with the industry on issues relating to the regulation of remote gambling and socially responsible gambling.

Following the publication of the 2007 Prevalence Survey, the Gambling Commission have commissioned a programme of secondary analysis to look at a number of areas for further research, including internet gambling.

### National Lottery: Braintree

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was awarded to village halls in Braintree constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three year for which figures are available. [189345]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There is no definition on the DCMS lottery grants database of village halls. Information on the database records that the following organisations in Braintree constituency benefited from these lottery grants related to buildings with shared community use in the relevant years:

| *Organisation* | *Lottery grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2005* | |
| White Colne Village Hall Management Committee | 3,228 |
| Stisted Village Hall | 4,280 |
| Rayne Village Hall and Public Playing Fields | 63,023 |
| *2006* | |
| White Colne Village Hall Management Committee | 1,770 |
| Earls Colne Parish Council | 2,865 |
| Great Bardfield Town Hall Management Committee | 9,932 |

There are no grants recorded as meeting these criteria in 1997 or 2007. The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects in Braintree constituency have received community fund grants. [189347]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Community Fund has awarded 48 grants with a total award value of £2,292,497 to the Braintree constituency. The Community Fund merged with the New Opportunities Fund to become the Big Lottery Fund in June 2004. The Big Lottery Fund became fully functional on 1 December 2006.

Details of individual grants awarded by the Community Fund are listed in the table.

| *Recipient* | *Award date* | *Award amount* |
|---|---|---|
| First Stop Centre | 19 December 1995 | 54,756 |
| Foley House Trust | 19 December 1995 | 250,000 |
| Halstead Day Centre | 17 December 1996 | 314,750 |
| Tabor Centre For Physically Handicapped Adults | 17 December 1996 | 41,092 |
| Great Bardfield Pre School | 18 September 1997 | 123,206 |
| Witham Citizen Advocacy | 30 September 1998 | 7,583 |
| Feering Good Companions Club | 27 October 1998 | 3,092 |
| Braintee Physically Handicapped Club | 7 January 1999 | 1,500 |
| Essex Coalition of Disabled People | 3 March 1999 | 177,682 |
| The Gower Trust | 4 March 1999 | 578 |
| 1st Witham Guides Company | 20 April 1999 | 3,160 |
| Kelvedon Good Companions Club | 29 April 1999 | 3,000 |
| Wethersfield Village Hall | 29 April 1999 | 4,500 |
| Finchingfield Almshouse Trust | 29 April 1999 | 5,000 |
| Blackmore End Village Hall | 29 April 1999 | 5,000 |
| Braintree Friday Circle Over 60's Club | 18 August 1999 | 1,000 |
| 1st Finchingfield Scout Group | 20 October 1999 | 4,925 |
| Braintree and Uttlesford District Special Needs Playscheme | 25 November 1999 | 4,765 |
| 4th Braintree Scout Group | 10 December 1999 | 3,678 |
| Kelvedon Community Association | 9 February 2000 | 5,000 |
| Kelvedon Good Companions Club | 12 April 2000 | 1,000 |
| 3rd Bocking Guides | 12 April 2000 | 1,320 |
| Braintee Physically Handicapped Club | 14 June 2000 | 1,500 |
| Braintree and District Social Club for the Blind | 14 June 2000 | 1,560 |
| Arthritis Care—Braintree Branch | 14 June 2000 | 1,320 |
| Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA) | 4 July 2000 | 209,015 |
| Great Bardfield Pre-School | 19 October 2000 | 2,600 |
| Great Bardfield Town Hall Management Committee | 19 October 2000 | 2,500 |
| Tabor Centre For Physically Handicapped Adults | 1 March 2001 | 462,875 |
| Kelvedon Good Companions Club | 8 June 2001 | 750 |
| Braintree Friday Circle Over 60's Club | 8 June 2001 | 710 |
| 158 Braintree and District Air Training Corps | 25 July 2001 | 1,505 |
| Rayne Village Hall and Public Playing Fields | 26 July 2001 | 17,500 |
| Essex Coalition of Disabled People | 5 December 2001 | 16,583 |
| Feering Good Companions Club | 21 January 2002 | 897 |
| Braintee Physically Handicapped Club | 20 March 2002 | 2,000 |
| Braintree and District Social Club for the Blind | 20 March 2002 | 2,091 |
| Essex Coalition of Disabled People | 23 May 2002 | 200,717 |
| Braintree and District Citizens Advice Bureau | 24 May 2002 | 72,678 |
| Shalford Village Hall | 18 July 2002 | 33,565 |
| Feering Good Companions Club | 26 September 2002 | 6,570 |
| Braintree and Bocking Community Association | 1 August 2003 | 18,095 |
| Tabor Centre | 12 August 2004 | 17,067 |
| Witham Citizen Advocacy | 6 October 2004 | 44,693 |
| Tabor Centre | 9 December 2004 | 18,000 |
| Braintree, Halstead and Witham Citizens Advice Bureau | 9 December 2004 | 52,556 |
| Witham Housing Association | 8 June 2005 | 25,590 |
| Rayne Village Hall and Public Playing Fields | 14 December 2005 | 63,023 |

The information is location specific. That is the list includes only grants that are specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

## National Lottery: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much income the National Lottery

raised in each local authority area in England for each of the last three years for which figures are available. [187817]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Revenue raised by the National Lottery is measured nationally and not by local authority or any other geographical area.

Proceeds from National Lottery sales represent the vast majority of revenue. In addition, there are other operator-related proceeds (mainly unclaimed prizes) together with investment earnings on the overall balance held for distribution to the good causes.

### National Lottery: Northern Ireland

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was granted by the National Lottery *(a)* to schemes in Northern Ireland and *(b)* per head of the population in Northern Ireland in each financial year since 1997. [189437]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number and value of grants awarded by the Lottery Distributing Bodies in each financial year since 1997, in Northern Ireland, is given in the following table. The figures are derived from the DCMS lottery grants database. The population figure used throughout is 1,741,600, which is the mid-2006 estimate of the Office for National Statistics.

| *Financial year* | *Number of Grants* | *Total value of grants (£)* | *Per capita value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 (to date) | 498 | 37,518,712 | 21.54 |
| 2006-07 | 1,501 | 43,297,488 | 24.86 |
| 2005-06 | 1,905 | 73,717,565 | 42.33 |
| 2004-05 | 1,479 | 50,417,962 | 28.95 |
| 2003-04 | 1,177 | 48,468,452 | 27.83 |
| 2002-03 | 1,635 | 74,139,886 | 42.57 |
| 2001-02 | 1,356 | 57,949,621 | 33.27 |
| 2000-01 | 948 | 45,372,133 | 26.05 |
| 1999-2000 | 972 | 67,638,796 | 38.84 |
| 1998-99 | 692 | 60,909,678 | 34.97 |
| 1997-98 | 630 | 95,550,031 | 54.86 |
| Total | 12,793 | 654,980,324 | — |

The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

### Pigeon Racing

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria must be satisfied for pigeon racing to become a sport. [185324]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The principal criteria against which the Sports councils assess activities is whether or not the activity meets the definition of sport contained in the Council of Europe's European Sports Charter 1993. This defines sport as:

> "Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels".

The other criteria include: the essential purpose of the activity, sustainability, rules and organisation and uniqueness.

The full guidelines governing the recognition of sporting activities can be found via the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/recognition_of_activities.htm

### Tourism

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the 10 most popular tourist attractions in England in each of the last 10 years are publicly owned. [187780]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department does not maintain central records of the most popular tourist attractions in the UK.

However VisitBritain and its sector partners have over the last seven years carried out periodical surveys of regional attractions across Britain.

The 10 most popular tourist attractions for England are listed in the table and the publicly supported attractions are indicated by *.

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Blackpool Pleasure Beach |
| 2 | British Museum* | National Gallery* | Tate Modern* | Albert Dock | Albert Dock | British Museum* | Tate Modern* |
| 3 | National Gallery* | British Museum* | British Museum* | British Museum* | National Gallery* | National Gallery* | British Museum* |
| 4 | Albert Dock | British Airways London Eye | National Gallery* | National Gallery* | British Museum* | Tate Modern* | National Gallery* |
| 5 | Tate Modern* | Tate Modern* | British Airways London Eye | Tate Modern* | Tate Modern* | BA London Eye | Natural History Museum* |
| 6 | British Airways London Eye | Tower of London | Natural History Museum* | British Airways London Eye | British Airways London Eye | Natural History Museum* | Science Museum* |
| 7 | Tower of London | Eastbourne Pier | Science Museum* | Science Museum* | Natural History Museum* | Science Museum* | Victoria and Albert Museum* |
| 8 | Pleasureland Theme Park | Pleasureland Theme Park | Victoria and Albert Museum* | Natural History Museum* | Xscape Castleford | Tower of London | Tower of London |
| 9 | Natural History Museum* | Natural History Museum* | Pleasureland Theme Park | Victoria and Albert Museum* | Science Museum* | Victoria and Albert Museum* | St Paul's Cathedral |
| 10 | Victoria and Albert Museum* | Victoria and Albert Museum* | Tower of London | Pleasureland Theme Park | Victoria and Albert Museum* | Tate Britain* | National Portrait Gallery* |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the non-emergency 101 number. [188137]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Assessment of the 101 service in the initial live areas found that the service has successfully improved public access to and satisfaction in community safety services. Through greater partnership working and better information from the public about what problems are happening where, the 101 service has helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve the delivery of those services to the public. We welcome Sir Ronnie Flanagan's endorsement of these benefits in the final report of his review of policing, particularly in support of better neighbourhood management.

While it was decided not to continue centrally to fund local areas, a difficult but necessary decision in the context of important competing pressures and priorities, we remain keen to see the benefits and good practice from 101 taken up as widely as possible. It is for this reason that we will be continuing to provide funding for the national 101 infrastructure, as well as providing a tool kit to help local areas to improve local services and develop locally funded 101 services where possible.

I welcome the work currently being taken forward to this effect by the Greater London Assembly together with London councils, individual boroughs and the Metropolitan Police in their plans to pilot the 101 service locally.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent retailers selling alcohol to under-age children. [188122]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Successive Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (2004-06) and Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaigns (2006-07) have reduced the test purchase failure rate from approximately 50 per cent. to approximately 15 per cent.

The Home Office will continue to address the problem of underage drinking through co-ordinating the utilisation of existing legislation in relation to underage sales and confiscation of alcohol through national campaigns.

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations within the Animal Procedures Committee's (APC) 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals; what response she has made to the APC's Recommendation 9 on enhancements to the types of information recorded within the statistics. [188561]

**Meg Hillier:** We will provide a further response to recommendation 9 of the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals when the European Commission publishes revised statistical reporting requirements as part of the current review of Directive 86/609/EEC, which the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 transposes into UK law.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Crawley

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisocial behaviour in Crawley. [188129]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* We have provided practitioners with a toolkit to tackle antisocial behaviour, which they operate according to local priorities and a practitioner website and advice line. In Crawley, a multidisciplinary antisocial behaviour team operates many initiatives, based on prevention and enforcement that engage, educate and promote awareness among young people, engage with residents and tackle antisocial behaviour in families.

### Burglary: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for domestic burglary was in Tamworth in each of the last five years. [179491]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available centrally for Tamworth. While detections data is available for basic command units (BCUs), Tamworth is not a BCU.

### Cannabis

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the outcome of the review on cannabis will be announced. [185323]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Government will consider carefully the findings of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs when it submits its advice in late April 2008. A decision whether or not to bring a proposal to Parliament to reclassify the drug from class C back to class B under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 will then follow.

### Crime

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to make membership of a gang *(a)* an offence and *(b)* a factor to be taken into account in sentencing. [183950]

**Jacqui Smith:** We have no plans to make membership of a gang, in and of itself, an offence. The Sentencing Guidelines Council has already declared that, where an offender operates in a group or gang, this should be regarded as an aggravating factor, indicative of a higher than usual level of culpability, to be taken into account in sentencing (Guideline on Overarching Principles: Seriousness, 16 December 2004).

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has evaluated on the link between crime and unhappiness. [187589]

**Mr. Coaker:** Research has not been commissioned specifically looking at the link between crime and unhappiness.

However, the British Crime Survey (BCS) asks about the impact of crime and fear of crime on quality of life. The latest analysis, from the 2006-07 BCS, shows victims of crime were more likely to report that crime and fear of crime had a high or moderate impact on their quality of life than those who had not been victims. This analysis can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales 2006-07, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

## Crime: Cars

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many car-related crimes there were in *(a)* Cambridgeshire police authority area and *(b)* each division within the authority in each of the last three years, broken down by category. [187208]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is given in the table.

Recorded crime statistics have been provided for Cambridgeshire police force area and for the three Basic Command Units (BCUs) within. BCUs equate to police divisions.

*Offences against vehicles broken down by Basic Command Unit in Cambridgeshire police force area*

| Basic Command Unit | Offence Description and Code | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire Central | Vehicle interference and tampering (126) | 284 | 217 | 195 |
| Cambs Central (after April 2006) | Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) | 54 | 33 | 26 |
| | Theft from vehicle (45) | 1,517 | 1,452 | 1,444 |
| | Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) | 657 | 584 | 575 |
| | Total offences against vehicles | 2,512 | 2,286 | 2,240 |
| Cambridgeshire Northern | Vehicle interference and tampering (126) | 531 | 442 | 519 |
| Cambs Northern (after April 2006) | Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) | 67 | 46 | 58 |
| | Theft from vehicle (45) | 3,013 | 2,718 | 2,905 |
| | Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) | 1,185 | 949 | 890 |
| | Total offences against vehicles | 4,796 | 4,155 | 4,372 |
| Cambridgeshire Southern | Vehicle interference and tampering (126) | 235 | 251 | 225 |
| Cambs Southern (after April 2006) | Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) | 69 | 43 | 36 |
| | Theft from vehicle (45) | 1,919 | 1,910 | 2,080 |
| | Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) | 688 | 610 | 762 |
| | Total offences against vehicles | 2,911 | 2,814 | 3,103 |
| Cambridgeshire Police Force Area total | Vehicle interference and tampering (126) | 1,050 | 910 | 939 |
| | Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) | 190 | 122 | 120 |
| | Theft from vehicle (45) | 6,449 | 6,080 | 6,429 |
| | Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) | 2,530 | 2,143 | 2,227 |
| | Total offences against vehicles | 10,219 | 9,255 | 9,715 |

## Crime: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes there have been in crime rates in Tamworth in *(a)* the last year and *(b)* the last five years, broken down by category of offence. [187757]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information relates to percentage changes in crimes recorded in the Tamworth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and is given in the following table. Data for 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years. Therefore the percentage change between 2002-03 and 2006-07 has been provided.

*Percentage change in offences recorded by the police in Tamworth*

| Offence group | Percentage change between 2002-03 and 2006-07 | Percentage change between 2005-06 and 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 16 | 4 |
| Sexual offences | 7 | -11 |
| Robbery | -22 | -15 |
| Burglary | -28 | 0 |
| Offences against vehicle | -26 | -10 |
| Other theft offences | -7 | -15 |
| Fraud and forgery | -42 | -11 |
| Criminal damage | 4 | -3 |
| Drug offences | 191 | 25 |
| Other miscellaneous offence | 35 | -2 |
| Total | -4 | -4 |

### Crime: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime rates were in Warrington in each of the last five years, broken down by category of offence. [189488]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is given in the table.

*Offences recorded by the police in the Warrington crime and disorder reduction partnership area, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| *Offence group* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 1,843 | 2,491 | 3,204 | 3,901 | 3,694 |
| Sexual offences | 205 | 237 | 253 | 235 | 228 |
| Robbery | 116 | 148 | 137 | 111 | 153 |
| Burglary | 2,570 | 2,505 | 2,264 | 2,207 | 1,995 |
| Offences against vehicles | 3,160 | 2,900 | 2,753 | 2,615 | 2,603 |
| Other theft offences | 3,966 | 4,313 | 3,979 | 4,597 | 4,586 |
| Fraud and forgery | 644 | 840 | 1,026 | 586 | 594 |
| Criminal damage | 3,657 | 4,334 | 5,011 | 4,938 | 4,375 |
| Drug offences | 323 | 335 | 322 | 477 | 469 |
| Other offences | 190 | 210 | 171 | 251 | 260 |
| Total | 16,674 | 18,313 | 19,120 | 19,918 | 18,957 |

### Departmental Catering

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on ordering refreshments for meetings held by her Department in the last year. [185291]

**Jacqui Smith:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 923-24W. Further detail on the cost of ordering the refreshments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Rents

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much rent was paid by her Department to private landlords in each of the last five years; and what proportion of this rent in each year was paid for properties previously owned by her Department. [186927]

**Jacqui Smith:** Aggregated information on how much rent was paid by the Home Office to private landlords, including rent paid on properties previously owned, in each of the past five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of her Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181533]

(2) how many overseas visits by officials in her Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181607]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department's expenditure on travel within and outside the UK in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-00* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-UK | 1.18 | 0.89 | 1.43 | 1.38 | 2.07 | 2.35 | 4.45 | 5.47 | 6.88 | 10.60 |
| UK | 3.84 | 3.47 | 3.56 | 4.93 | 6.83 | 8.30 | 11.14 | 13.65 | 15.46 | 16.75 |
| Total | 5.02 | 4.35 | 4.99 | 6.31 | 8.90 | 10.65 | 15.59 | 19.13 | 22.34 | 27.35 |
| Percentage of overall expenses | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.20 |

The difference in costs over the period reflects the changing nature of the Home Office's business, in particular the growth of international terrorism, migration and international travel. Collaboration and information exchange both domestically and internationally on counter-terrorism activities and border control have become increasingly critical to the effective discharge of the Department's responsibilities for asylum, immigration and national security.

This has involved higher levels of overseas and UK travel.

Details on the number of overseas visits and the countries visited could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The numbers include both official and ministerial travel. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

### Deportation

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations on grounds that a person remaining in the UK would not be conducive

to the public good have taken place in the last 12 months. [178113]

**Mr. Byrne:** In his public announcement of 14 January, I provided the most robust and accurate information available on foreign national prisoners. I confirmed that in 2007 over 4,200 foreign national prisoners have been removed or deported from the United Kingdom.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations of persons seeking asylum were not completed because the receiving country refused to accept them *(a)* before and *(b)* after the flight returning them had left the UK in the last 12 months. [185626]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

**Employment Agencies**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184918]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not hold this information centrally and to obtain the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

**Identity Cards**

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Identity Cards Scheme Cost report published in November 2007, if she will provide a break down by main budget heading of the £38 million in set-up costs for providing identity cards to foreign nationals from October 2007 and October 2017. [182356]

**Jacqui Smith:** The set-up cost estimates for providing identity cards to foreign nationals cannot be broken down further until we conclude commercial processes.

As with all cost estimates covering a 10-year period the estimates contained in the Identity Cards Cost Report November 2007 are subject to change in light of new information or assumptions.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the identity cards scheme cost report published in November 2007, if she will provide a break down by main budget heading of the £144 million in operational costs for providing identity cards to foreign nationals from October 2007 and October 2017. [182357]

**Jacqui Smith:** The operational cost estimates for providing identity cards to foreign nationals cannot be broken down further until we conclude commercial processes.

As with all cost estimates covering a ten year period the estimates contained in the identity cards cost report November 2007 are subject to change in light of new information or assumptions.

**Immigration: Detainees**

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-criminal prisoners are detained under the Immigration Act 1971; and for how many weeks they have been detained following the completion of their sentence. [187288]

**Jacqui Smith:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the chairman of the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November 2007. She reported that there are around 1,500 foreign nationals whose sentences have expired and are detained by the Agency or Prison Estate and who are awaiting deportation.

**Judicial Review**

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's decisions were challenged by judicial review in each parliamentary session since 1997; and in how many cases *(a)* her Department's decision was upheld by the court, *(b)* the court found for the applicant, *(c)* her Department accepted the judgment and *(d)* her Department appealed successfully against the decision. [187286]

**Jacqui Smith:** Because of the complexity and sensitivity of the issues the Home Office deals with, its decisions are frequently subject to challenge by judicial review; and this has been so for many years. Most of these challenges fall at the first hurdle and permission to bring proceedings is refused by the court; and many challenges are withdrawn by the applicants before there is a judicial determination. The exact figures for the total number of cases brought, and the outcomes in every case, are not held centrally. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Offensive Weapons**

**Mr. Duncan Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for restricting the policy on prosecuting everyone carrying a knife to London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool. [179819]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Government do not intend to restrict their plans for the presumption to prosecute those found carrying a knife to the areas referred to in the question.

The Metropolitan Police Service in London are already adopting a positive charging policy, and we are working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Crown Prosecution Service and police forces to see how the arrangements agreed in London might be extended more widely. These proposals were announced on 18 February as part of the Government's Tackling Violence Action Plan.

**Offensive Weapons: Crime**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what areas she has designated as knife crime hot spots. [183009]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government have not designated any specific knife crime hot spots. However the Government have announced on 18 February a range of measures to tackle knife crime, as part of the tackling violence action plan.

### Offensive Weapons: Homicide

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of reported murders were committed with knives in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181759]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available information relates to offences recorded that are currently classed as homicide where the apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument', and was included within 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006-07' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08, page 12). As of 12 November 2007, 35 per cent. of the homicides recorded by police in England and Wales during 2006-07 involved the use of a sharp instrument.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases involving foreign prisoners claiming to have been wrongfully detained at the end of their sentence have been brought in the last five years; and what the outcome has been of each of those cases in which legal proceedings are no longer active. [183036]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual cases in order to identify the specific reason for the commencement of judicial proceedings at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months with the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners and will continue to do so as required.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the organisation of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency; and if she will make a statement. [188865]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are no plans to review the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

### Shoplifting

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce shoplifting. [187098]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are working in partnership with retail organisations to tackle retail crime including shoplifting. As part of this work we have set up a National Retail Crime Steering group to provide an opportunity for discussion of retailers' crime concerns and to devise strategies to deal with these.

We have made a commitment to raise the profile of crimes against businesses, make provision for better information about them and produce guidance to support local partnerships in their efforts to tackle the crimes which affect them.

The Home Office has also provided funding to the Perpetuity Group to develop a crime reduction tool for small and medium sized retailers to design out crime in their stores and significantly reduce the opportunities for shop thieves to operate.

Priority-setting and monitoring the performance of local authorities is a devolved matter in Wales.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Homelessness

11. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of using privately rented accommodation for housing homeless people. [188694]

**Caroline Flint:** We have commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector which includes looking at the sector's role in meeting housing need and what can be done to ensure it is effectively managed. Over 200 local authorities use rent deposit schemes as a successful homelessness prevention measure.

### Local Area Agreements

12. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the progress of local area agreement negotiations. [188695]

**Hazel Blears:** Local area agreement negotiations are progressing well. We have a good match between the priorities local areas and Government are proposing—70 per cent., even at this early stage of negotiations. What is emerging is a strong sense that many areas share the same desire as Government to tackle the most difficult challenges in their communities.

### Sub-national Review

13. **Gwyn Prosser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to implement the proposals in the issues paper, "Taking Forward the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration". [188696]

**John Healey:** We intend to publish a consultation paper shortly on implementation of the new single regional strategy, the creation of a local authority economic assessment duty and possible statutory arrangements for sub-regional collaboration between local authorities.

### Eco-towns

14. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution eco-towns are expected to make to the supply of housing, with particular reference to affordable homes. [188697]

**Caroline Flint:** Eco-towns offer an exciting opportunity to provide desperately needed new homes for families and first time buyers, in a way that is consistent with our climate change objections. Eco-towns must have at least 30 per cent. affordable housing, but I am keen to see if we can achieve even more with some developments pushing towards 50 per cent.

18. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce the location of the proposed eco-towns. [188701]

**Caroline Flint:** We have received almost 60 bids for EcoTowns across the country. We have been rigorously assessing these bids, particularly against tough criteria on environmental and transport standards. I will soon be publishing a shortlist of proposals. There will then be a full public consultation.

23. **Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on establishing the new eco-towns. [188706]

**Caroline Flint:** We have received almost 60 expressions of interest and are now carrying out an initial sift across Government and their agencies. This will give a preliminary indication of the sustainability and infrastructure aspects of these schemes in relation to the criteria set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, including their approach to transport and the environment. We are also contacting local authorities and regional bodies, in areas where schemes look to have good potential and we will then publish a shortlist for consultation. We expect to publish this shortlist in the near future for extensive consultation with the public, wider stakeholders and local authorities.

### Concessionary Bus Fares

15. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the cost to local authorities of concessionary bus fares. [188698]

**Hazel Blears:** My Department keeps in regular contact with the Department for Transport at ministerial and official level on the issue of the funding of local authorities' statutory responsibilities for concessionary fares.

16. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Chelmsford borough council on its concessionary bus fares scheme. [188699]

**John Healey:** I have had no discussions with Chelmsford borough council on the issue of its concessionary fares scheme.

### Sharia

17. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of Sharia law practices for community cohesion. [188700]

20. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of Sharia law practices for community cohesion. [188703]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Community cohesion is about building better relationships between people from different backgrounds including those from new and settled communities. The use of religious courts, such as Sharia councils, to resolve private family and contractual disputes is well established, and we do not consider that it has an impact on community cohesion. Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales. There is no intention to change this.

### Heritage Trees

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to protect heritage trees. [188702]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Heritage trees are already protected through a range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms.

Proposed changes to the Tree Preservation Order system will deliver more effective protection. We intend to introduce new regulations which will limit the exemptions allowing work to protected trees without consent, and we will update departmental guidance to clarify the powers already available to local planning authorities to protect heritage trees.

### Social Home Buy Scheme

22. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed housing transactions there have been under the social home buy scheme. [188705]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There were 156 completed Social HomeBuy sales up to January 2007, mainly by 13 of the early pilot Housing Associations most of whom joined in late 2006. Since 1997 the Government have helped over 95,000 households (including social tenants, key workers and other first time buyers) get onto the housing ladder.

### Adult Education: Elderly

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in England provide concessionary rates for adult education to those over 60 years of age. [187255]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect data on how many local authorities in England provide concessionary rates for adult education to those over 60 years of age.

### Caravan Sites: Licensing

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a requirement for a licensee of a mobile home site to be a fit and proper person. [189211]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We are continuing to develop our policy on how to secure a more effective and robust licensing scheme for mobile home sites which takes account of management standards and the suitability of a person to hold a licence. I am examining the specific matter mentioned in the question.

### Community Centres: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 839-40W, on community centres: valuation, within which larger categories village halls and community centres fall into for the purposes of the rating lists. [189410]

**John Healey:** The larger category is "Hall and premises".

### Community Development: Expenditure

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on *(a)* Housing Supply and Demand, *(b)* Decent Places to Live, *(c)* Tackling Disadvantage, *(d)* Better Services and *(e)* Development of English Regions initiatives in 2006-07. [187331]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table sets out the amount that the Department spent on *(a)* Housing Supply and Demand, *(b)* Decent Places to Live, *(c)* Tackling Disadvantage, *(d)* Better Services and *(e)* Development of English Regions in 2006-07.

| *Programme* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Housing Supply and Demand | 3,353,840 |
| Decent Places to Live | 1,292,808 |
| Tackling Disadvantage | 2,334,622 |
| Better Services | 266,613 |
| Development of English Regions | 1,595,411 |

These figures are consistent with Note 2 on page 36 of the published Communities and Local Government Resource Accounts 2006-07 (HC 836, July 2007).

### Council Tax Benefits

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the production of a form for automatic claims of council tax and housing benefits. [188684]

**Hazel Blears:** I have frequent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about a range of issues. I very much welcome the efforts of his Department to make these benefits more accessible: simplifying the claims process for pensioners is part of this drive.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many ministerial residences were available to her Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183185]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property was lost or stolen from her Department and its predecessors since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187474]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table contains information about items valued at £100 or more and reported as stolen or lost for the years detailed. Information for years before 2002-03 is not held. Information on items stolen or lost and valued at less than £100 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Stolen* | | *Lost* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Item* | *Total value (£)* | *Item* | *Total value (£)* |
| 2002-03 | Two laptops | 600 | — | — |
| 2003-04 | Two laptops | 600 | One mobile phone | 200 |
| 2004-05 | Two laptops | 500 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | Seven laptops | 2,100 | — | — |
| | One mac600 mobile light | 800 | — | — |
| | Two mac250+ mobile lights | 980 | — | — |
| | One official black leather briefcase | 100 | — | — |
| | One desktop PC and monitor | 350 | — | — |
| 2006-07 | Seven laptops | 2,100 | — | — |

| | Stolen | | Lost | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Item | Total value (£) | Item | Total value (£) |
| | Four desktop PCs | 2,700 | — | — |
| | One iPAQ projector | 800 | — | — |
| | One mobile phone | 200 | — | — |
| | One PC base unit | 400 | — | — |
| 2007-08 | Eight laptops | 5,600 | — | — |
| | Two mobile phones | 200 | — | — |

This answer does not include property owned by the Government Offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments, but does include CLG Agencies.

None of the information contained in the laptops or PCs above was classified. However, each laptop and desktop PC was password protected.

### Domestic Visits

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which stakeholders were met by Regional Ministers during official visits to regions. [188733]

**Mr. Dhanda:** All Regional Ministers have taken part in a number of high level engagements within their regions including meetings with local authorities, regional bodies and other organisations, attendance at stakeholder events and visits to local projects and communities. To provide further details would incur disproportionate costs.

### Empty Property: North West

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department is on course to meet the targets to reduce the rate of long-term vacant dwellings *(a)* in the North West to 1.65 per cent. and *(b)* in Yorkshire and the Humber to 1.35 per cent. [187339]

(2) what intermediate targets have been set for the reduction of the rate of long-term vacant dwellings in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humber ahead of the 2016 target. [187340]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* Overall, since 2003 there has been a reduction in long term vacancy rates in Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West, and they are broadly on trajectory. For a number of years up to 2003 vacancy rates in the North West were increasing. However, since 2004 the vacancy rate trend in the North West shows a marked improvement. We expect long term vacancy rates in housing market renewal pathfinder areas both in Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West to fall as they move into the next phase of their interventions.

The Department's annual report for 2007 includes a trajectory which illustrates the intermediate stages towards achieving the targets by 2016.

### Geographical Information Systems

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector companies were consulted on the draft of the UK location strategy before it was submitted to Ministers. [188655]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The process of drafting the UK Location Strategy involved two consultation phases:

(i) Initial information gathering and consultation arranged and facilitated by consultants who were commissioned by the UK Geographic Information Panel (GI Panel) to draft the strategy;

(ii) Wide consultation across Government during preparation and iteration of the draft, and following recognition that it was appropriate for the strategy to focus on public sector information.

During the first consultation phase, the consultants arranged three workshop sessions. An open invitation to participate was extended for the first of these events. It was attended by over 90 delegates of whom more than 50 per cent. were from the private sector. Two further closed sessions involved delegates selected and invited by the consultants because of their personal knowledge and expertise: 16 of the 44 invitees to these sessions were employed in the private sector. The consultants also extended an open invitation for further contributions via the GI Panel website and invited written submissions and the opportunity for personal interview by one of the consultants. The consultants received a number of written statements including contributions from three private sector trade associations and 13 individuals.

In addition, the GI Panel itself includes representatives from the Association of British Insurers, the Demographic User Group, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Association for Geographic Information, together representing the views of the wider UK geographic information, including over 50,000 companies and individual professionals from the private sector.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government funding streams are available to the Government Offices for the Regions; and if she will make a statement. [188909]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government Offices for the Regions have specific responsibility for an administration running cost budget and a capital budget.

Programme budgets administered by the Government Offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. The Departments delegate authority to the Regional Directors to spend against their programmes, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on Government Offices for the Regions: finance, what the total expenditure was of each of the Government offices in 2006-07. [189236]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total running cost expenditure in each of the Government offices in 2006-07 is as follows:

| *Government office* | *Amount (£000)* |
|---|---|
| North East | 12,730.25 |
| North West | 16,933.67 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 10,676.64 |
| West Midlands | 14,925.87 |
| East Midlands | 11,490.17 |
| East | 12,211.64 |
| South East | 13,677.13 |
| South West | 14,570.49 |
| London | 17,595.20 |
| Total | 124,811.78 |

## Housing: Debt

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much historic housing debt each housing authority owed at the latest date for which figures are available; and what proportion of social housing in each housing authority area met the decent homes standard on that date. [186843]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No distinction is drawn between 'historic debt' (for instance debt entered into in previous financial years) and 'non-historic debt' (for instance debt entered into in the current financial year). Reported housing debt and the percentage of their housing stock that meets the decent homes standard for each authority in 2006-07 is given in the following table:

| *Local authority* | *Housing debt (£)* | *Proportion of own stock meeting decent homes standard (percentage)* | *Proportion of RSL stock in area meeting decent homes standard (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adur | 10,103,430 | 90 | 97 |
| Alnwick | 6,822,649 | 100 | 93 |
| Arun | 2,342,000 | [redacted] | 86 |
| Ashfield | 78,537,341 | 94 | 97 |
| Ashford | 8,576,926 | 100 | 96 |
| Babergh | 3,451,371 | 88 | 96 |
| Barnet | 23,940,000 | 70 | 90 |
| Barnsley | 222,117,473 | 87 | 97 |
| Barrow | 9,010,011 | 89 | 66 |
| Basildon | 131,162,202 | 49 | 92 |
| Bassetlaw | 23,522,109 | 69 | 98 |
| Birmingham | 507,339,430 | 66 | 97 |
| Blackpool | 17,582,302 | 89 | 98 |
| Blyth Valley | 59,666,366 | 98 | 96 |
| Bolsover | 6,873,586 | 55 | 91 |
| Bolton | 187,535,588 | 91 | 82 |
| Bournemouth | 11,228,327 | 98 | 96 |
| Brent | 307,786,298 | 100 | 92 |
| Brighton and Hove | 87,687,965 | 44 | 96 |
| Bristol | 173,394,667 | 86 | 78 |
| Broxtowe | 5,854,424 | 96 | 96 |
| Bury | 16,062,052 | 72 | 85 |
| Cambridge | 893,250 | 85 | 96 |
| Camden | 415,234,013 | 52 | 90 |
| Cannock Chase | 18,081,647 | 68 | 96 |
| Canterbury | 4,517,386 | 80 | 82 |
| Caradon | 2,379,682 | 76 | 95 |
| Carrick | 11,738,498 | 75 | 82 |
| Castle Morpeth | 11,607,218 | 27 | 93 |
| Cheltenham | 9,940,435 | 90 | 87 |
| Chesterfield | 21,631,176 | 74 | 97 |
| Chester-le-Street | 13,583,000 | 54 | 91 |
| Chorley | 2,498,568 | [redacted] | [redacted] |
| City of London | 12,373,791 | 64 | 88 |

| Local authority | Housing debt (£) | Proportion of own stock meeting decent homes standard (percentage) | Proportion of RSL stock in area meeting decent homes standard (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| City of York | 14,668,846 | 90 | 85 |
| Colchester | 40,777,838 | 78 | 93 |
| Corby | 1,475,569 | 83 | 81 |
| Croydon | 54,042,154 | 85 | 95 |
| Darlington | 26,400,171 | 100 | 88 |
| Derby | 186,993,960 | 99 | 94 |
| Derwentside | 29,883,628 | [—] | [—] |
| Doncaster | 113,914,967 | 37 | 94 |
| Dudley | 48,433,000 | 83 | 99 |
| Durham | 18,297,360 | 66 | 81 |
| Ealing | 147,515,335 | 68 | 92 |
| Easington | 55,637,051 | 11 | 98 |
| Eastbourne | 25,798,203 | 23 | 93 |
| Ellesmere Port | 3,016,000 | 84 | 96 |
| Enfield | 36,391,000 | 76 | 93 |
| Fareham | 3,921,330 | 91 | 96 |
| Fenland | 4,461,834 | 86 | 97 |
| Gateshead | 95,529,000 | 75 | 98 |
| Gloucester | 16,267,257 | 25 | 94 |
| Great Yarmouth | 15,686,358 | 90 | 92 |
| Greenwich | 361,352,000 | 62 | 90 |
| Guildford | 4,229,110 | 92 | 92 |
| Hackney | 563,039,701 | 62 | 95 |
| Hammersmith | 213,483,000 | 68 | 91 |
| Harborough | 1,128,932 | 70 | 93 |
| Haringey | 358,681,149 | 57 | 87 |
| Harrogate | 4,069,356 | 78 | 84 |
| Harrow | 28,060,487 | 28 | 78 |
| Havering | 3,757,010 | 69 | 100 |
| High Peak | 15,710,536 | 92 | 87 |
| Hillingdon | 37,415,174 | 91 | 89 |
| Hounslow | 229,030,000 | 100 | 73 |
| Ipswich | 28,221,765 | 86 | 98 |
| Islington | 587,840,525 | 55 | 88 |
| Kensington | 162,317,044 | 76 | 81 |
| Kettering | 3,682,000 | 91 | 90 |
| Kings Lynn | 8,355,000 | [—] | [—] |
| Kingston upon Hull | 192,104,158 | 36 | 97 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7,744,806 | 77 | 94 |
| Kirklees | 231,399,881 | 91 | 90 |
| Lambeth | 456,512,939 | 71 | 49 |
| Lancaster | 15,303,171 | 100 | 95 |
| Leeds | 534,290,000 | 66 | 93 |
| Leicester | 187,185,456 | 85 | 88 |
| Lewes | 9,878,725 | 99 | 70 |
| Lewisham | 309,321,090 | 53 | 97 |
| Lincoln | 28,081,574 | 62 | 90 |
| Liverpool | 522,979,000 | 38 | 94 |
| Luton | 11,008,727 | 83 | 95 |
| Manchester | 675,918,668 | 44 | 87 |
| Mansfield | 35,190,886 | 66 | 96 |
| Medway Towns | 19,417,880 | 73 | 79 |
| Melton | 2,362,609 | [—] | 82 |
| Mid Suffolk | 13,647,641 | 87 | 99 |
| Milton Keynes | 76,520,037 | 65 | 31 |
| NE Derbyshire | 23,188,000 | 87 | 87 |
| New Forest | 1,897,105 | 87 | 94 |
| Newark | 22,786,982 | 55 | 57 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 374,107,537 | 12 | 97 |
| Newham | 396,944,177 | 42 | 95 |
| North Cornwall | 2,588,084 | 92 | 87 |

| Local authority | Housing debt (£) | Proportion of own stock meeting decent homes standard (percentage) | Proportion of RSL stock in area meeting decent homes standard (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Kesteven | 11,715,865 | 89 | 86 |
| North Lincoln | 25,508,220 | [—] | [—] |
| North Norfolk | 10,739,462 | [—] | [—] |
| North Shropshire | 225,381 | 83 | 89 |
| North Tyneside | 104,950,497 | 46 | 98 |
| Norwich | 52,552,003 | 79 | 96 |
| Nottingham | 209,606,996 | 66 | 98 |
| Nuneaton | 4,881,324 | 84 | 96 |
| NW Leicester | 3,335,280 | 73 | 94 |
| Oldham | 178,286,947 | 76 | 91 |
| Oswestry | 1,084,619 | 22 | 98 |
| Oxford City | 11,222,867 | 75 | 73 |
| Pendle | 5,601,000 | [—] | [—] |
| Plymouth | 59,405,576 | 51 | [—] |
| Poole | 12,181,412 | 56 | 90 |
| Portsmouth | 29,258,032 | 64 | 90 |
| Reading | 36,868,279 | 88 | 91 |
| Ribble Valley | 3,342,390 | 83 | 88 |
| Richmondshire | 958,421 | 94 | 93 |
| Rochdale | 220,263,858 | 95 | 89 |
| Rochford | 10,117,502 | 79 | 96 |
| Rotherham | 67,099,885 | 35 | 90 |
| Rugby | 1,665,034 | [—] | 94 |
| Salford | 241,090,208 | 49 | 91 |
| Salisbury | 2,977,736 | 91 | 92 |
| Sandwell | 124,638,000 | 56 | 97 |
| Sedgefield | 9,714,036 | 62 | 98 |
| Sefton | 48,826,511 | [—] | [—] |
| Sheffield | 488,985,576 | 51 | 94 |
| Shepway | 14,271,314 | 75 | 95 |
| Solihull | 51,086,808 | 77 | 80 |
| South Derby | 2,282,999 | 94 | 98 |
| South Holland | 124,972 | 85 | 98 |
| South Kesteven | 2,159,000 | 97 | 96 |
| South Tyneside | 84,455,246 | 40 | 82 |
| Southampton | 88,427,128 | 75 | 97 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 22,298,055 | 37 | 86 |
| Southwark | 585,951,770 | 67 | 96 |
| St. Albans | 6,156,024 | 100 | 93 |
| Stockport | 37,059,000 | 68 | 91 |
| Stockton | 71,900,136 | 76 | 87 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 75,479,296 | 75 | 92 |
| Swindon | 11,915,108 | 94 | 92 |
| Tamworth | 20,994,770 | 90 | 94 |
| Tandridge | 2,093,760 | 96 | 95 |
| Taunton Deane | 14,291,342 | 85 | 94 |
| Teesdale | 2,602,590 | [—] | [—] |
| Tendring | 15,583,154 | 77 | 89 |
| Thanet | 15,451,354 | 99 | 91 |
| Torridge | 1,154,954 | 79 | 94 |
| Tower Hamlets | 334,267,161 | 41 | 92 |
| Waltham Forest | 168,460,127 | 36 | 86 |
| Wandsworth | 45,190,560 | 99 | 87 |
| Wansbeck | 17,311,095 | 50 | 96 |
| Warrington | 32,904,522 | 84 | 95 |
| Waveney | 10,333,309 | 84 | 91 |
| Waverley | 3,512,243 | 48 | 84 |
| Wealden | 10,835,556 | 96 | 98 |
| Wear Valley | 29,336,503 | 70 | 90 |
| Wellingborough | 8,379,375 | 59 | 93 |
| Westminster | 205,082,422 | 100 | 95 |

| Local authority | Housing debt (£) | Proportion of own stock meeting decent homes standard (percentage) | Proportion of RSL stock in area meeting decent homes standard (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | 217,594,804 | 87 | 88 |
| Winchester | 10,130,515 | 91 | 92 |
| Woking | 20,532,952 | 91 | 93 |
| Wokingham | 1,171,151 | 92 | 88 |
| Wolverhampton | 149,719,979 | 41 | 95 |
| England | 14,492,541,935 | — | — |

[1] No data

*Note:*

Data on debt are taken from local authorities' third subsidy claim form for 2006-07. The data for Decent Homes are taken from their Business Plan Statistical Appendix Annual Monitoring form and the Regulatory Statistical Return from registered social landlords.

## Housing: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage housing associations to meet the needs of vulnerable tenants. [183446]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code expects registered social landlords to provide vulnerable and marginalised residents with appropriate responsive housing services. They should also ensure that support and care arrangements (including liaison with other agencies) are in place, where appropriate.

The Corporation's strategic approach is set out in their "Housing for Vulnerable People: Strategy Statement". As a result the Government, through the Corporation's affordable housing programme, have allocated £385 million during 2006-08 for housing for vulnerable people, almost doubling the investment during the previous two years.

In July 2007, the Housing Corporation produced the follow-up publication 'Investing in Independence: Housing for Vulnerable People Strategy'. This sets out how the Housing Corporation will engage with housing providers and support them in responding to the needs of vulnerable people, working in partnership with local and central government.

The Corporation is currently assessing bids for their 2008-11 affordable housing programme. They have set out in their prospectus for the programme that they expect to fund more supported housing than they did in the 2006-08 programme.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much social housing stock there was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979; and what percentage of overall housing stock was social housing in each area in each year. [186998]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The figures requested are tabulated as follows and present the numbers of social rent dwellings that are owned or managed by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs).

*Levels of social rented stock (local authority plus registered social landlords) and as percentage of total stock: Cornwall, South West and England*

| | 1981 | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cornwall* | | | | | | |
| Social rent dwellings | 30,166 | 27,893 | 25,778 | 26,680 | 27,062 | 26,977 |
| Percentage of total stock | 17 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| *South West* | | | | | | |
| Social rent dwellings | 371,552 | 339,159 | 308,990 | 311,638 | 301,965 | 300,564 |
| Percentage of total stock | 22 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 |
| *England* | | | | | | |
| Social rent dwellings | 5,139,638 | 4,903,720 | 4,514,396 | 4,452,228 | 4,236,312 | 3,991,850 |
| Percentage of total stock | 29 | 26 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 17 |

*Note:*

Cornwall is defined as the district areas of Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith, Restormel and the Isles of Scilly.

*Source:*

Includes local authority stock from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities, and Registered Social Landlords stock from the regulatory statistical return as reported by Registered Social Landlords

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent on the provision of affordable housing in settlements of 10,000 or more in each year since 1997; [188588]

(2) how much money was spent on the provision of affordable housing in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people in each year since 1997. [188601]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme is currently held by the Corporation at local authority level and therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown of spend in all settlements with a population below or above 10,000. However, we expect this position to change in future years through the greater use of map technology.

### Housing: Planning

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 691-92W, on housing: planning, if she will consult hon. Members on bids for housing growth points on occasions when they are not consulted by their local authorities. [186001]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* It is for local authorities to consult with hon. Members regarding the content of their housing growth point expressions of interest. The growth will be developed through the statutory planning process so that there will be good opportunity for future consultation as plans and individual proposals are developed. I would expect hon. Members to be fully involved in this process.

### Housing: Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many teachers have purchased houses through the Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme in each year for which data are available. [188372]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the number of teachers who have purchased homes through the Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme in each year as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 57 |
| 2002 | 1,221 |
| 2003 | 1,890 |
| 2004 | 959 |
| 2005 | 2,572 |
| 2006 | 1,741 |
| 2007 [1] | 984 |

[1]As at January 2008

### Immigration: Rural Areas

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on public services in rural communities of immigration from countries acceding to the EU in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007. [188599]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My Department has recently established a new directorate with a remit to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the impacts of migration on communities and local services. Communities and Local Government will work across government to maximise the benefits of migration and support local providers to address any transitional impacts on public services in local areas, including rural communities.

### Local Government

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has commissioned or supported on the performance of enhanced two-tier working of local authorities. [188321]

**John Healey:** An independent, six-year evaluation covering both Unitary restructuring and enhanced two-tier working in local authorities is currently being commissioned by Communities and Local Government. Work will commence in March 2008, once contract negotiations are finalised.

### Local Government Finance: Ashfield District Council

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much grant Ashfield district council received in 2001-02; how much is planned for 2008-09; and what the percentage change has been in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms. [188248]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the amount of formula grant Ashfield district council received in 2001-02 and will receive in 2008-09, along with the percentage change in real and cash terms.

| | *Local authority cash terms (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 Formula grant | 7.714 |
| 2008-09 Formula grant | 11.049 |
| *(a)* Percentage change real terms | 17.86 |
| *(b)* Percentage change cash terms | 43.23 |

Formula grant comprises Revenue support grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula police grant, SSA reduction grant (SSA Review), SSA reduction grant (police funding review) and central support protection grant where appropriate.

The real terms increase has been calculated using the Treasury's latest GDP deflator, which is the only measure of inflation that is forecast in advance. This figure for 2008-09 is 2.75 per cent.

These percentage increases may not be on a like-for like basis because they cannot take account of changes in function and funding that have occurred over the years.

### Local Government Finance: Newcastle Upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the area based grant (ABG) was for the City of Newcastle in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 with its component grants; and what the predecessor grants were for ABG for 2007-08. [189536]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I have him on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1226-27W.

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of pursuing Pathfinder Status was for each local authority in Suffolk. [187604]

**John Healey:** This information is not held by Communities and Local Government. Expenditure on pursuing Pathfinder Status is a matter for each of the local authorities concerned to determine.

### Minister for the South West

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Minister for the South West has met representatives of the South West Regional Development Agency since his appointment in June 2007. [188881]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the South West has met members or officials from the South West Regional Development Agency on seven occasions.

### Minister for the West Midlands: Manpower

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dedicated full-time equivalent staff of each grade work for the Minister for the West Midlands in his capacity as such; and what the cost of these staff is expected to be in 2007-08. [181930]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government office for the west midlands supports the role of the regional minister. This support was provided by one full-time equivalent staff when the role was created and has now expended into two full-time equivalent staff to manage the delivery of the Minister's priorities in the region at an average salary cost of £94,000. It can also call on Government specialists in the field to provide support regarding Government priorities as appropriate.

### Regional Government: Ministers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 372W, on regional government: Ministers, how many times Regional Ministers have met to discuss their work since appointment. [188952]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The network of Regional Ministers has met three times since being established in July 2007 and it is intended that it will continue to meet every two months. The network of Regional Ministers operates under the joint chairmanship of the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, with officials from these departments providing a secretariat.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 372W, on regional government: Ministers, how many officials from her Department work in the secretariat for the network of Regional Ministers. [188953]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There is presently the equivalent of one full time member of staff working in the secretariat for the network of Regional Ministers.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1533W, on regional government: Ministers, on how many occasions the Minister for the South West has visited each of the South West constituencies referred to in the answer. [188955]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the South West has visited each listed constituency once except for Bournemouth, East, Bournemouth, West and Taunton where he has been twice and Exeter four times as Regional Minister.

### Regional Government: Public Participation

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W, on regional government: public participation, what meetings the Minister for the West Midlands has had with local authorities. [181700]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the West Midlands has had the following meetings with local authorities since being appointed: Shropshire, Coventry, Staffordshire, Newcastle, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire, Birmingham, Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stoke on Trent, Sandwell and Warwickshire.

### Regional Ministers

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the contribution of regional Ministers to the development of Government policy. [188772]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: Regional Ministers are engaging actively in their region and are working with other regional partners to ensure that the key issues facing their region are reflected in the development of government policy. No formal assessment has yet been made of this contribution, although it will be a key consideration as their role develops.

### Regional Ministers: Accountancy

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to put in place interim reporting and accountability guidelines for regional Ministers before the Modernisation Committee produces its report on regional accountability. [188771]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: The Government are currently preparing their evidence on their preferred means of strengthening regional accountability and have no plans to put in place any interim reporting and accountability guidelines before the report of the Modernisation Committee is published.

### Regional Ministers: Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of time each Regional Minister has spent on *(a)* regional matters and *(b)* other departmental work since appointment. [188882]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Regional Ministers divide their time between their roles as Regional Minister, Departmental Minister and constituency Member of Parliament. The amount of time devoted to each role varies from week to week according to events in the region and the Minister's other commitments.

### Regional Ministers: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial and other resources are available to regional Ministers to support them in the discharge of their duties. [188768]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: Regional Ministers are not allocated separate budgets and their support costs are funded by their own Departments and the Government Office Network from within existing budgets. To provide a breakdown of the financial costs to support each regional Minister would incur disproportionate costs. In addition to the staff in their departmental Private Offices and Government Offices, each regional Minister, with the exception of the Minister for the North East of England, also has 40 hours per month from a dedicated GNN press officer.

### Regional Planning and Development: Greenbelt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals for reviews or changes to green belt land are contained within the draft regional spatial strategies. [171497]

**Caroline Flint:** Green belts have performed an important role in preventing urban sprawl and protecting the countryside for 50 years and Government have no plans to change its policy on the green belt set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2. Green belt boundary reviews are matters for local planning authorities and regional planning bodies. Boundaries can only be changed in exceptional circumstances and after public consultation and public inquiry through the development plan process. Nationally, the amount of green belt land continues to grow, with an 80,000 acre increase since 1997.

The relevant policies in draft regional spatial strategies which currently refer to green belt land are as follows:

*North East—Policy 6.5*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/ourregion/regional_strategies/

*North West—Policy RDF5*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

*Yorkshire and Humber —Policy YH9*

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report/

*East Midlands—Policy 27*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/psc/suscom/rss/eastmidlandsplan/

*West Midlands*

West Midlands Phase 1—no reference to green belt

West Midlands Phase 2—no reference to green belt

West Midlands Phase 3—currently under preparation

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47

*East of England—Policy SS7*

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

*South East—Policy CC10a*

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html

*South West—Policy 3.35*

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836 (Draft)

*London—No review of the green belt proposed*

http://www.london.gov.uk/thelondonplan/

### Regional Planning and Development: Public Bodies

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-ministerial departments have responsibility for regional strategy and funding. [188910]

**John Healey:** Regional Development Agencies, which have a budget of over £2.2 billion in 2007-08, are the lead strategic non-departmental public body in each region. They are sponsored by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

My Department published details of the public bodies it sponsored as at 31 March 2007 in its report, The Department for Communities and Local Government's Public Bodies 2007, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Of these bodies, English Partnerships, The Housing Corporation and The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation have particular responsibility for contributing to regional strategy and funding.

In addition, Government Offices deliver a wide range of Government policies and programmes on behalf of Whitehall departments, including my Department.

### Regional Planning and Development: South East

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish her response to the draft South East Plan; and if she will make a statement. [188730]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Secretary of State's proposed changes to the draft regional spatial strategy (RSS) for the South East will be published for consultation later this year. It is difficult, at this stage, to commit to a precise publication date for the proposed changes given

the complexity of the issues involved. Our aim, as it stands now, is to publish the proposed changes before the summer recess.

The Secretary of State will make a statement to the House when they are being published.

We will also undertake a full 12-week public consultation to provide an opportunity for all interested parties to make representations on the proposed changes.

### Thames Gateway

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 589-91W, on the Thames Gateway, whether the Olympics Delivery Authority is involved in the development. [189405]

**Caroline Flint:** The Olympic Delivery Authority is developing the Olympic Park, and other sporting venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These provide a unique contribution to the wider Thames Gateway regeneration programme. There is close liaison between the Thames Gateway Executive and the ODA, with regard to both 2012 delivery and legacy planning, to ensure that the two projects reinforce one another in the most effective way.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189077]

**Gillian Merron:** There are no staff under the age of 18 years employed by the Department for International Development.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187961]

**Gillian Merron:** DFID's total spend on entertainment within administration cost budgets in the last 12 months was £265,360. We do not have any agencies.

It is not possible to disaggregate specific entertainment costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187502]

**Gillian Merron:** None.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187515]

**Gillian Merron:** It is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the cost of sickness pay without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187916]

**Gillian Merron:** DFID appoints temporary administrative staff predominantly through two Recruitment Agencies (one based in London and one in East Kilbride). The average rates are as detailed in the following table but are only available in London from 2002 and in East Kilbride from 2005 without incurring disproportionate costs:

*Agency/charge rate*

£

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Pre-April 2007 | Post-April 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 10.40 | 10.40 | 10.40 | 10.40 | 10.40 | 10.80 | 11.36 |
| East Kilbride | n/a | n/a | n/a | 7.30 | 7.30 | 7.74 | 9.27 |

For more specialist staff, e.g. IT and communications specialists, records are held by different budget holders across the department, and it is not possible to provide hourly rates without disproportionate costs.

### Developing Countries: Clinical Trials

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* governments of developing countries and *(b)* international organisations on cases where UK-based pharmaceutical companies' clinical trials on medicinal products in developing countries have caused death, injury or blindness; and if he will make a statement; [188827]

(2) if his Department will provide support to people in developing countries who have been adversely affected, or have had close relatives killed, in pharmaceutical trials of medicinal products of UK-based pharmaceutical companies. [188828]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government regulates clinical trials run by the pharmaceutical industry through the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. DFID has had no reason to have discussions with developing countries' governments or international organisations about cases where clinical trials run by UK-based pharmaceutical companies have caused death, injury or blindness.

All clinical trials that receive DFID funding are run according to good clinical practice and are also listed on the international clinical trials register. To protect people taking part in clinical trials funded by DFID, each trial has its own Independent Data Monitoring Committee, which looks at the data collected as the trial progresses, and a separate independent Trial Steering Committee (which oversees and monitors the trial). These committees have the power to stop the trial at any time and at the earliest indication of harm.

Clinical trials run by pharmaceutical companies have insurance, to make provision for anyone harmed in research, and no-fault compensation schemes. DFID is not involved in any UK-based pharmaceutical company trials and therefore can not make provision for anyone claiming to have been harmed by participation.

### Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that economic growth in developing countries has a positive impact on infant mortality; and if he will make a statement. [187775]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Economic growth means that governments have more resources to invest in critical services. The Department for International Development (DFID) works with countries to improve the quality of spending allocations and public service delivery to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared equally. DFID pioneered the International Health Partnership (IHP) which was launched in September 2007. By committing partners to work together to support Government's health plans, the IHP will seek to remove obstacles to stronger health systems. DFID is now supporting the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Bank and other international health agencies to implement the IHP in the eight first wave countries and in encouraging more countries to join.

### Family Planning

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to *(a)* Marie Stopes International, *(b)* International Planned Parenthood Federation, *(c)* British Pregnancy Advisory Service, *(d)* United Nations Population Fund and *(e)* Family Planning Association (UK) for (i) abortion, (ii) family planning and (iii) other reproductive health services in each of the last five years; what the total of grants made to each organisation in each of the last five years was; what restrictions there are on the use of these funds; and if he will make a statement. [186368]

**Gillian Merron:** Details on DFID's core contributions to each organisation over the last five years are laid out in the following table.

*DFID programme 2002-03 to 2006-07*

*£000*

| *Organisation* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| International Planned Parenthood Federation | 4,500 | 10,500 | 6,000 | — | 7,500 |
| UN Population Fund | 9,000 | 18,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |

Core contributions are provided in support of an organisation's overall development activities and are disbursed at the discretion of the organisation and can therefore not be broken down into sectors.

Project specific funding is also delivered via Marie Stopes International, the UN Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Consolidated records on the amount of project specific funding delivered via intermediary organisations are not held centrally.

No funding was provided to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service or the Family Planning Association (UK).

DFID does not promote abortion as a method of family planning. However, if a woman decides to have an abortion, she should be able to access care and services that are safe. Where it is legal, DFID works to ensure the saving of women's lives through abortion services that are safe. DFID also promotes awareness of unsafe abortion as a serious women's health issue.

### Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what technical support his Department is providing to countries with high incidences of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to *(a)* submit proposals for grants to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and *(b)* build internal capacity to maximise value for money from such grant funding. [187432]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government support health-related technical assistance in several developing countries. DFID also supports a variety of organisations, including UN agencies, such as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), World Health Organisation (WHO) and Stop TB and Roll Back Malaria, which help countries to develop proposals for grants to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Through the International Health Partnership, the UK is also working with the Global Fund and others to minimise the administrative burden on countries of funding from external donors.

### Infant Mortality

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of progress towards meeting Millennium Development Goal 4; and if he will make a statement. [187777]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The latest assessment of progress towards Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 is included in the annual "State of the World's Children Report" by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) published in January 2008. Overall in 2006, global child deaths reached a record low of 9.7 million, down from 13 million in 1990. The report showed that solid progress has been made in a number of countries such as Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The report also highlighted that a concentrated push is required to accelerate progress in West Africa and parts of Asia to cut child deaths. MDG 4 is inextricably linked to MDG 5 (to improve maternal health) as 40 per cent. of children under the age of five are dying within a few days of birth. This is why the Prime Minister has called for 2008 to be a year of action towards meeting the MDGs especially those concerned with child mortality (MDG 4) and maternal health (MDG 5), which remain the most off-track.

### Overseas Aid: Health

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the development of international health partnership compacts between international development partners and the governments of *(a)* Burundi, *(b)* Cambodia, *(c)* Ethiopia, *(d)* Kenya, *(e)* Mozambique, *(f)* Nepal, *(g)* Zambia and *(h)* Mali; whether he has identified inadequate funding as a hindrance in the development of any such compact; and what arrangements his Department has in place to overcome any such hindrance. [187434]

**Gillian Merron:** The international health agencies, under the leadership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank, are now implementing the International Health Partnership (IHP). At the country-level, the governments are working with these agencies and other donors to develop country compacts. We do not have specific information on the progress in each of the IHP countries. There will be a meeting in Lusaka, Zambia this month to review progress in individual countries. Early indications are positive. WHO expects the first set of compacts to be ready by September 2008.

The health agencies have identified a budget of £7 million over two years in order to implement the IHP. To date £4 million has already been provided, with the UK funding £3.5 million and Norway £0.5 million. The WHO and the World Bank are approaching other countries to provide the balance of costs in year two of this work. Part of these funds are earmarked to offset the costs involved in developing country compacts.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### College of Chiropractors: Royal Charters

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to support the application by the College of Chiropractors to the Privy Council for a Royal Charter. [175202]

**Bill Rammell:** Decisions as to whether to grant a Royal Charter are matters for the Privy Council, who assess applications against the published criteria. Each petition is considered on its own merits and it would not be appropriate for me to make a policy statement concerning individual Charter petitions.

### Education: Pharmacy

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will add pharmacy courses to the list of courses exempt from the forthcoming changes to equivalent or lower qualifications students. [175744]

**Bill Rammell:** The vast majority of pharmacy students already study the subject as a first degree rather than as an equivalent or lower level qualification. The redistribution of £100 million by 2010 would enable the same number of pharmacy students to be funded as now but with even more studying the subject as a first degree. In that way we will increase and widen participation which is our top priority. We also value those who have already got a first HE qualification and who want to retrain in a different subject. There will be opportunities for them available, for example, through Foundation Degrees and employer co-funded provision.

In addition, there will be a review mechanism each year to look at individual subjects of particular economic or social importance. We are asking the Funding Council each year to look at levels of demand for subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and to advise us on the best way forward. The first such review should take place starting in December 2008, in the light of entry data for the 2008/09 academic year. That would be an opportunity to have another look at pharmacy and other subjects in the light of the data that will then be available.

### Foreign Students: Fees and Charges

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanisms are in place to collect retrospective tuition fees from students at UK universities from EU countries once they return to their home countries. [186620]

**Bill Rammell:** The Student Loans Company has established payment arrangements for borrowers from other European Union countries who dropped out of their studies and became due to make repayment in April 2007, or who have graduated and become eligible to repay from April 2008. These existing arrangements will continue to apply when the first full cohort of borrowers from EU countries enters into repayment in April 2010.

The SLC has written to all EU borrowers due to start repayment and asked them to confirm the address where they expect to reside after graduation. If they are staying in the UK, they will be expected to obtain a national insurance number and make repayments through the UK tax system. If they are going abroad they will be asked to supply an address and complete an overseas assessment form to allow repayments to be scheduled. These borrowers have been made aware of the variety of methods of repayment available to them.

So that all who can pay contribute to the costs of their education we have put in place variable threshold bands which are dependent on where the borrower lives. Effective collection across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

In support of the EU repayment process the SLC is developing an enforcement strategy for borrowers who move abroad but who do not provide income details. This work is focussing on the collection of penalties, arrears and the movement of borrowers into litigation where this is appropriate. The SLC is piloting work in these areas and expects to have final arrangements in place by April 2009.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of those who gained A-levels enrolled on a degree course at a higher education institution in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [186618]

**Bill Rammell:** Administrative data sources do not currently allow us to calculate the proportion of those who gained A Levels and enrolled on a degree course at higher education.

Some rates of entry to higher education by prior qualification are available from the Youth Cohort Study (YCS). The latest available figures are based on 19-year-olds in

2006-07:

82 per cent. of those with academic Level 3 qualifications at age 18 are in HE by age 19.

47 per cent. of those with vocational Level 3 qualifications at age 18 are in HE by age 19.

Although the YCS cannot reliably be used to make comparisons over time, the data do suggest that conversion rates from A level to HE have been reasonably constant at above 80 per cent.

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students applied for a university place on completion of their A-levels in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [186628]

**Bill Rammell:** Administrative data sources do not currently allow us to calculate the proportion of those who gained A-levels who applied for a university place, nor is application information for 18-year-olds available by smaller areas.

The latest available information on all 18-year-old applicants is given in Table 1.

*Table 1: Number of English domiciled 18-year-old applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK*

| Year of entry | Applicants |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 151,060 |
| 2001 | 156,240 |
| 2002 | 157,585 |
| 2003 | 161,480 |
| 2004 | 160,450 |
| 2005 | 175,405 |
| 2006 | 173,805 |
| 2007 | 176,305 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Figures are not available for earlier years than 2000. Also, figures for Cornwall and the South West are not available, only for England as a whole. It is not possible to separate applicants who have completed A-levels as opposed to other qualifications. Therefore figures for all English domiciled 18-year-old university applicants have been provided. Latest figures for 2008 entry show that, as at 15 January, 18-year-old applicants from England were up by 5 per cent.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation in higher education is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. An 18-year-old rate can be derived from this, and the available figures are shown in Table 2:

*Table 2: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)*

| | 17-30 age group | Percentage 18-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 39.3 | 19.3 |
| 2000/01 | 39.7 | 19.5 |
| 2001/02 | 40.2 | 19.6 |
| 2002/03 | 41.2 | 19.7 |
| 2003/04 | 40.3 | 19.2 |
| 2004/05 | 41.3 | 19.6 |
| 2005/06 | 42.8 | 21.3 |

*Source:*
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000 to 2005/06 (Provisional)" Statistical First Release, published by DfES.

Figures are not available for earlier years than 1999/2000. Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level. The HEIPR does not distinguish between students who have completed A-levels as opposed to other qualifications.

For information, the percentage of 17-year-olds achieving one or more A-level has changed over the period 1994 to 2007 as follows:

*17-year-olds achieving one or more GCE/VCE/Applied A-levels (or equivalent[1])*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 29.1 |
| 1995 | 30.5 |
| 1996 | 31.0 |
| 1997 | 30.8 |
| 1998 | 33.3 |
| 1999 | 33.8 |
| 2000 | 34.9 |
| 2001 | 37.3 |

*17-year-olds achieving one or more GCE/VCE/Applied A-levels (or equivalent[1])*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 39.0 |
| 2003 | 38.9 |
| 2004 | 39.4 |
| 2005 | 38.8 |
| 2006 | 39.0 |
| 2007 | 38.8 |

[1] Includes Advanced GNVQ between 1998 and 2001.

*Note:*
Figures relate to 17-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools and colleges.

*Source:*
The figures are taken from the 2006/2007 SFR, published on 9 January, and can be found at http://www. dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

## Higher Education: Student Numbers

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many additional places for first-time students will be funded in 2008-09 as a result of the shift in funding away from students on courses that are equivalent or lower to qualifications they already hold. [187238]

**Bill Rammell:** The January 2008 Grant Letter to HEFCE set out our expectations for growth in student numbers. As a result of the 2 per cent. real terms increase in funding for HE we are making available over the next three years, and our decision to redistribute grant away from students doing second degrees or other HE qualifications at an equivalent or lower level (ELQs) in order to fund more first degree students, there is scope overall to fund significant growth. In full-time equivalent terms, we expect a growth in core-fundable students of 20,000 in 2008-09 (on a full-time equivalent basis) either entering higher education for the first time or progressing to higher degrees of which some 5,000 are attributable to our decision to redistribute funding which would otherwise have funded ELQ students.

## Higher Education: Student Wastage

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students under 22 years old withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001. [162122]

**Bill Rammell:** The information available on non-continuation of young higher education students is shown in Tables 1 and 2. The figures are taken from the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Table 1 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled young (under 21) full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England, who do not continue in higher education after their first year. Table 2 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled young (under 21) full-time other undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England who do not continue in higher education after their first year.

*Table 1: Percentage of UK-domiciled young (under 21) full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| Academic year | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 7.0 |
| 2002/03 | 7.3 |
| 2003/04 | 7.2 |
| 2004/05 | 6.8 |

*Source:*
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

*Table 2: Percentage of young (under 21) full-time other undergraduate entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year*

| Academic year | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 16.3 |
| 2002/03 | 16.1 |
| 2003/04 | 17.5 |
| 2004/05 | 16.6 |

*Source:*
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

Figures for 2005/06 will become available in 2008.

HESA do not publish figures on the percentage of part-time students not continuing in higher education after their first year.

According to the 2004 figures published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the overall completion rate of 78 per cent. for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is the fifth highest among the OECD countries, after Japan, Ireland, Korea and Greece, and is above the OECD average of 70 per cent.

## Higher Education: Terrorism

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many reports have been made to the Government by higher education providers about extremism on campus in the last 12 months. [175745]

**Bill Rammell:** No formal written reports have been submitted to HMG by higher education providers on extremism on campus in the last 12 months. However, there is a regular on-going dialogue between officials and Ministers in the DIUS and higher education providers, Universities UK, the NUS and the University and College Union concerning the issue of violent extremist activity in higher education.

All higher education providers have regular contact with their local police force and have ongoing discussions about issues and concerns within their HEI.

## Postgraduate Education: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether public funding is available for students studying for a masters in research degree who already hold a level 7 qualification. [187239]

**Bill Rammell:** Public funding for research degrees is distributed through the research grant we give to HEFCE which will rise by 18 per cent. in cash terms from under £1.4 billion this year to over £1.6 billion over the next three years. Funding for research has been and will

continue to be allocated selectively on the basis of excellence. Students already holding level 7 qualifications will as now continue to be funded for a Masters Research degree provided they are studying in a department rated 4 and above in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise.

### Students: Finance

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of part-time *(a)* first degree and *(b)* second degree students who had their fees paid by an employer in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [186616]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is given in the table.

*Number and proportion of part-time first degree and postgraduate students who had their fees paid by an employer, English Higher Education Institutions, academic year 2006/07*

| | First degree | | Postgraduate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Major source of tuition fees* | *Number* | *Percentage of known* | *Number* | *Percentage of known* |
| Employer[1] | 19,190 | 11.1 | 42,845 | 20.4 |
| Other | 154,855 | 89.3 | 170,850 | 81.2 |
| Total known | 173,380 | 100.0 | 210,430 | 100.0 |
| Unknown | 665 | — | 3,260 | — |
| Total | 174,045 | — | 213,695 | — |

[1] Employer as major source of tuition fees includes students who were recorded as having their tuition fees paid by "student's employer" and "UK industry/commerce".

*Note:*
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Economic competitiveness demands knowledge-intensive, innovating, organisations, with highly skilled and knowledgeable workforces. Substantial numbers of learners already receive support for first and subsequent degrees with employers paying their fees and often providing other support. We recently announced plans to deliver real growth in higher education co-funded with employers. We are making the public investment—rising to at least £50 million in 2010-11—and look to employers to work with us to deliver.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of people making repayments of student loans were also claiming the working tax credit or child tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion were higher rate income tax payers. [166864]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested is not held centrally.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students have entered into individual voluntary arrangements since their introduction. [166887]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government's student finance package is designed to ensure that finance should not be a barrier to a higher education course. Student loans from the Government are not like commercial loans: interest is paid at the rate of inflation, so in real terms students only pay back what they borrowed. For income contingent loans available since 1998, repayment is linked to earnings and borrowers only repay if their earnings are over £15,000; from April 2012 they will be able to take up to five years 'Repayment Holiday' and those taking out a student loan from 2006 have their debt cancelled after 25 years.

During the passage of the Enterprise Act in 2002 there was a growing awareness about student loan borrowers declaring themselves bankrupt. There was a rise in the number of bankruptcies/Individual Voluntary Agreements (IVAs) notified in 2003. In addition, one of the effects of the Enterprise Act itself was to reduce the period of discharge from bankruptcy from three years to one. Provisions were therefore included in the Higher Education Act 2004 to prevent student loans being written off on bankruptcy. Currently student loans are not exempt from IVAs.

The increase in student loan borrowers with bankruptcies and IVAs should be seen in the context of the increases in the general population. Figures from the Insolvency Service show that between 2002 and 2006 the number of individual bankruptcies in England and Wales more than doubled; the number of IVAs increased seven-fold.

Until 2004 IVAs and bankruptcies were not recorded separately in SLC data. After the change in legislation, only IVAs are recorded, as student loans are excluded from bankruptcy debts and are not written off on discharge from bankruptcy.

Available data are shown in the following tables.

*English domiciled borrowers with publicly-owned student loans who notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their bankruptcy or Individual Voluntary Agreement (IVA)[1]—calendar year of bankruptcy or IVA 1997 to 2004*

| *Calendar year* | *Borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA* | *Percentage of all borrowers UK*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 70 | n/a |
| 1998 | 90 | n/a |
| 1999 | 120 | n/a |
| 2000 | 130 | 0.017 |
| 2001 | 230 | 0.023 |
| 2002 | 270 | 0.027 |
| 2003 | 800 | 0.057 |
| 2004 | 1,170 | 0.072 |

n/a = not available.

[1] Bankruptcies and IVAs are not separately identified in the data. There may be delays between borrowers becoming bankrupt/taking an IVA and notifying SLC, therefore figures can increase overtime, particularly for the most recent years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] UK borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA in the calendar year as a percentage of all UK borrowers in the March of each year.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

*English domiciled borrowers with publicly-owned student loans who notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their Individual Voluntary Agreement (IVA)[1]—calendar year of IVA 2005 and 2006*

| Calendar year | Borrowers with IVAs | Percentage of all borrowers England[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 (provisional) | 820 | 0.039 |
| 2006 (provisional) | 1,060 | 0.047 |

[1] There may be delays between borrowers taking IVAs and notifying SLC, therefore figures can increase over time, particularly for the most recent years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] English domiciled borrowers with bankruptcy or IVA in the calendar year as a percentage of all English domiciled borrowers in the March of each year.
*Source:*
Student Loans Company

Early indications suggest the numbers of IVAs are reducing after 2006.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of qualifications which count towards the Skills for Life target are *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly funded by the Learning and Skills Council. [166890]

**Mr. Lammy:** For the Skills for Life 2010 PSA target, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has adopted the aim of achieving the whole of the PSA target and therefore aims to deliver 2.25 million learner achievements by 2010. Prior to 2007-08, there were contributions from Jobcentre Plus and the Offender Learning, for which LSC now has assumed responsibility for planning and funding.

The data on Skills for Life achievements to July 2006 indicate that a total of 1,759,000 people have achieved a first Skills for Life qualification since 2001. Of those achievements, 1,610,000 were delivered by the LSC, 138,000 were delivered through the Offender Learning and 12,000 were delivered through programmes for Jobcentre Plus clients funded by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The LSC has also committed to funding 100 per cent. of the new Skills for Life targets indicators for 2011, as agreed through the 2007 comprehensive spending review and set out in the LSC's statement of priorities published in November 2007.

Adult literacy and numeracy courses which contribute to the target are fully funded by the LSC and are free to learners.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria are required to be met for a qualification to be considered as qualifying for the Skills for Life target. [166891]

**Mr. Lammy:** The generic criterion is that all qualifications that count to national targets have to be accredited by QCA for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework and approved by the Secretary of State under Sections 96 and 97.

For the 2010 Skills for Life PSA target this includes GCSE in maths and English, key skills in communication and application of number and the certificates in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL skills for life and will include the newly developed functional skills in English and maths, when achieved at entry level 3, level 1 and level 2.

For the 2011 adult literacy and numeracy indicators this will continue, although measurement of progress towards the target will only count those people achieving a qualification at functional levels—level 1 for literacy and entry level 3 for in numeracy.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients who attended accident and emergency services in the most recent period for which figures are available he estimates were in priority group *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five as defined by the Manchester Triage System. [189597]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally. Clinical decisions on the care and treatment given to patients are a matter for local clinicians.

Recently-published figures show that, for the period October to December 2007, there were 4,625,426 attendances at all types of accident and emergency department in England.

### Air Purification

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of air purification equipment in the NHS. [188718]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Building regulations require that all enclosed workspaces be ventilated by either natural or mechanical means. The Department's detailed guidance documents, "Health Technical Memorandum 03-01: Specialised ventilation for healthcare premises (parts A and B)", provide comprehensive advice and guidance to health care management, design engineers, estates managers and operations managers on the legal requirements, design implications, maintenance and operation of specialised ventilation in all types of health care premises. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

Ventilation is used extensively in all types of health care premises to provide a safe and comfortable environment for patients and staff. It can include filtration and purification systems that are aimed at diluting and controlling airborne pathogenic material.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions via accident and emergency to NHS hospitals for alcohol-related conditions there were in 2006-07. [186146]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* In 2006-07 there were 162,080 finished admission episodes via Accident and Emergency (A&E) where the primary or secondary diagnosis was alcohol related. This figure describes activity in national health service

hospitals England and activity in the English independent sector, commissioned by English NHS.

*Notes:*

*Finished admission episodes (FAE)*

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*All diagnoses count of mentions*

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

*Emergency admission*

These are the emergency admission codes to specify in more detail how the patient was admitted to hospital.

21 = Emergency: via A and E services, including the casualty department of the provider

28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider

*Alcohol related diagnoses*

F10 - Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol.

T51 - Toxic effect of alcohol.

K70 - Alcoholic liver disease.

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

### Ambulance Services: Cirencester

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week Cirencester is without Cirencester-based ambulance cover due to ambulances *(a)* taking patients to hospitals in and *(b)* being called to emergencies in other towns. [186274]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department expects ambulance trusts to plan their resources to ensure that there is an appropriate provision of ambulance coverage for the communities they serve.

Therefore, this is a local matter for the Great Western Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust.

### Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many emergency incidents were responded to by ambulance services in England in each year since 1997-98, broken down by NHS ambulance trust; [189225]

(2) how many emergency calls to ambulance services there have been in each year since 1997-98 *(a)* for England in total and *(b)* broken down by strategic health authority area. [189596]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information about the number of emergency incidents responded to by ambulance services in England are contained in the KA34 Statistical Bulletin published annually by the Information Centre. Table 4 of the bulletin "Ambulance Services, England 2001-02" gives the figures from 1997-98 to 2001-02.

Table 4 of "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07" gives the figures from 2002-03 to 2006-07. However, it should be noted that there were mergers of the majority of national health service trusts providing ambulance services in 2006, with the data in this table being split by ambulance trust configuration for comparability purposes.

Information about the number of emergency calls for England are also contained in the KA34 Statistical Bulletin "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07". Data on emergency calls are collected by NHS Ambulance Trust level not by strategic health authority area.

Copies of the bulletins are available in the Library and the bulletin for 2006-07 is available at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

### Arthritis: Drugs

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what drug treatments are available on the NHS to treat patients with rheumatoid arthritis who have not responded to rituximab or may not take it for clinical reasons. [188139]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Details of licensed drug treatments for rheumatoid arthritis are contained in the British National Formulary.

### Bowel Surgery

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for *(a)* establishing and *(b)* evaluating a pilot training programme for laparoscopic bowel surgery; and what criteria he will use in making a decision about national implementation. [183986]

**Ann Keen:** The pilot training programme for laparoscopic colorectal cancer is currently being set up. Following a tender exercise, carried out by the national cancer action team, nine training centres have been selected and were appointed in January 2008. The pilot is due to run for a period of 18 months with an evaluation being carried out towards the end of the project. The evaluation will make recommendations for the future and among the success criteria will be patient outcomes and satisfaction, the competency of surgical training, assessment, accreditation and value for money.

### Breast Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what timetable he has set for extending breast screening to nine screening rounds between the ages of 47 and 73 years. [183978]

**Ann Keen:** Paragraph 3.21 of the Cancer Reform Strategy stated that the extension of the national health

service breast screening programme to nine screening rounds between the ages of 47 and 73 years will start from April 2008, with full implementation expected by the end of 2012.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to increase numbers taking up breast and cervical cancer screening. [188539]

**Ann Keen:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar), on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have spent on recruitment of breast screening radiographers and radiologists in the last five years. [188540]

**Ann Keen:** The number of breast screening radiographers and radiologists recruited each year is not collected centrally. Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce they need.

The annual NHS Workforce Census does not separately identify the number of breast screening radiographers and radiologists employed from the rest of the radiography and radiology workforce.

The Department does collect the number of radiographers and radiologists working in the NHS. The number of qualified radiographers employed in the NHS has increased by 2,793 (23.72 per cent.) since September 1997.

The number of diagnostic radiographers has increased by 2,171 (20.9 per cent.) since 1997.

The number of therapeutic radiographers has increased by 622 (44.2 per cent.) since 1997.

The number of consultant radiologists has increased by 632 (42.9 per cent.) since 1997.

*NHS hospital and community health service (HCHS): scientific, therapeutic and technical staff by type, England as at 30 September each year*

*Headcount*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Qualified allied health professions* | | | | | | | | | | |
| All radiographers | 11,771 | 12,118 | 12,330 | 10,478 | 10,655 | 13,031 | 13,344 | 13,900 | 14,539 | 14,564 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diagnostic radiography | 10,364 | 10,645 | 10,839 | 9,169 | 9,264 | 11,489 | 11,687 | 12,147 | 12,700 | 12,535 |
| Therapeutic radiography | 1,407 | 1,473 | 1,491 | 1,309 | 1,391 | 1,542 | 1,657 | 1,753 | 1,839 | 2,029 |

*Notes:*
1. New occupation codes for health care scientists were introduced in 2003. As a result, a small number of staff previously included under diagnostic radiography are now classified within medical physics.
2. More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. Although this represents less than 1 per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons. These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses, 368 support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 21 in other areas.
3. The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent numbers has been minimal with the removal of 507.

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care.

*HCHS medical and dental consultants (including Directors of Public Health) by specialty group, England at 30 September*

*Number*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Radiology | 1,473 | 1,514 | 1,540 | 1,616 | 1,683 | 1,745 | 1,860 | 1,928 | 2,058 | 2,105 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer screenings there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [189168]

**Ann Keen:** The requested information is set out in the following table:

*Breast screening programme: women screened by specified breast screening unit, 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Breast screening unit* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All ages 45 and over | 36,232 | 35,191 | 35,367 | 38,123 | 40,007 |
| East Lancashire | 13,268 | 12,290 | 15,019 | 16,317 | 15,920 |
| North Lancashire | 22,964 | 22,901 | 20,348 | 21,806 | 24,087 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| Ages 50-64 | 33,162 | 31,815 | 29,671 | 30,116 | 29,741 |
| East Lancashire | 12,356 | 10,851 | 11,420 | 12,641 | 12,259 |
| North Lancashire | 20,806 | 20,964 | 18,251 | 17,475 | 17,482 |

*Notes:*
1. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64, but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.
2. There are some women in the age range 45-49 who are invited to be screened, most of whom are women aged 49 who have been called for their first routine screening a few months early.

*Source:*
KC62 (parts 1, tables A to F2), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Cancer

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, by what means he plans to determine whether Britain's cancer services are among the best in the world by 2012. [183967]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy sets out a programme of action to improve cancer services in England rather than the whole of Britain.

As the strategy is implemented, we will track our progress in relation to other countries on issues such as survival and mortality, awareness, early detection, access to different forms of treatment, clinical outcomes, patient experience and costs.

However, these comparisons are not simple and the National Cancer Intelligence Network will be asked to develop a framework to allow for accurate comparisons with other countries.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, by what means he plans to measure the extent to which local NHS organisations follow advice contained in the strategy; and what sanctions there will be on NHS organisations which do not follow the advice. [183968]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy was developed in the context of changes in the relationship between the centre and those working at a local level in the national health service, and the understanding that decisions are increasingly made locally whenever possible. The strategy contains a range of advice, guidance and expectation and implementation will be monitored in a number of ways.

As part of their performance management role, strategic health authorities will be expected to monitor the performance of primary care trusts and specialist commissioning group in relation to cancer commissioning, against the key criteria set out in the strategy and in the forthcoming commissioning guide.

The Healthcare Commission, and the future Care Quality Commission, will continue to play an important role in assessing whether cancer services are delivered in accordance with national guidance and standards. Improved data on clinical outcomes will also enable us to monitor the implementation of existing guidelines and these results will be shared with the regulator.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he plans to evaluate the impact of the strategy to tackle obesity on cancer incidence; and by what means. [183970]

**Ann Keen:** It was acknowledged in the Cancer Reform Strategy that obesity is now the most preventable risk factor for cancer and accounts for 10 per cent. of all cancer deaths among non-smokers.

'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' committed to annual reviews on progress towards meeting the New Ambition on Healthy Weight. In addition to indicators of body mass index, the Government are seeking to develop further indicators of success in achieving the New Ambition.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for launching a national awareness and early diagnosis initiative; when he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of such an initiative; and by what means. [183980]

**Ann Keen:** The national awareness and early diagnosis initiative will be composed of several separate but related components, including the development of key messages about cancer risks and symptoms, development of an awareness assessment tool, a survey of public awareness, pilots of different approaches to raise awareness, and an audit of general practitioner referrals. Each component has its own timescale and will be evaluated separately.

The specific details of the initiative are currently being developed but it is anticipated that work will be beginning imminently.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for undertaking a national audit in primary care of newly-diagnosed cancers. [183981]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is currently in discussion with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the National Patient Safety Agency about setting up and running the national audit in primary care of newly diagnosed cancers. The audit tool will be developed and tested in 2008.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy (1) when he plans to extend the 31 day standard to cover all cancer treatments; how often he plans to measure achievement of this standard; and what sanctions will be imposed on NHS organisations which do not meet the standard; [183982]

(2) when he expects all patients with suspected cancer detected through national screening programmes to enter the 62 day pathway; how often he plans to measure performance against this standard; and what sanctions there will be for NHS organisations which do not meet the standard; [183983]

(3) what the timetable is for ensuring that hospital specialists are able to ensure that patients who were not referred urgently by their GP, but who have symptoms indicating a high suspicion of cancer, are managed on the 62 day pathway; how often he plans to measure performance against this standard; by what means; and what sanctions will be imposed on NHS organisations which do not meet the standard; [183984]

(4) what the timetable is for ensuring that all patients referred to a specialist with breast symptoms, even if cancer is not suspected, will be seen within two weeks of referral; how often he plans to measure the achievement of this standard; and what sanctions will be imposed on NHS organisations which do not meet the standard. [183985]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy (December 2007) proposed an extension to the current cancer waiting times standards that were introduced by the National Health Service Cancer Plan (September 2000). The proposed implementation timescales for these extended standards are:

| *Standard* | *Implemented from* |
|---|---|
| Patients referred to a specialist with breast symptoms (where cancer is not initially suspected) should be seen within two weeks of referral | December 2009 |
| All patients with suspected cancer detected through national screening programmes should be seen within 62 days | December 2008 |
| All patients who receive radiotherapy as a second or subsequent treatment should begin within 31 days | December 2010 |
| All patients who receive radiotherapy as a second or subsequent treatment should begin within 31 days | December 2008 |
| All patients who receive chemotherapy or surgery as a second or subsequent treatment (including treatments for recurrent conditions) should begin treatment within 31 days | December 2008 |
| Hospital specialists will have the right to ensure that patients who were not referred urgently by their GP, but who have symptoms or signs indicating a high suspicion of cancer, are managed on the 62 day pathway | Implementation date to be confirmed, but guidance on monitoring will be circulated in 2008 |

The Department will monitor NHS progress towards delivery, and achievement of these extended standards by NHS organisations on a quarterly basis. The mechanism to be used for monitoring progress and achievement is currently under consideration by a joint departmental and NHS expert group.

The sanctions imposed will depend on the performance of the healthcare organisations concerned. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are funded to meet the healthcare needs of their populations, which will include the provision of cancer services. PCTs are expected to plan for and commission services, and monitor delivery of those services against local agreements. Commissioners of cancer services will be subject to the wider assurance system being developed under the 'world class commissioning' programme, and managed by strategic health authorities. The Healthcare Commission also provides an independent assessment of both providing and commissioning healthcare organisations to ensure that they are providing a high standard of care.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for *(a)* launching and *(b)* evaluating (i) tumour specific national information pathways and (ii) implementation of the information prescriptions. [183992]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy said that to improve information for cancer patients, our immediate next step is for cancer networks to adopt and implement the tumour specific national information pathways which will be launched by the National Cancer Director on 21 July 2008. This will make nationally agreed information available to frontline cancer health professionals to offer to patients at key points in their cancer journey.

We are also introducing information prescriptions, personalised prescriptions which will draw on local as well as national knowledge and information and will guide people to relevant websites, telephone numbers and support groups for their condition, as well as providing information directly to patients at appropriate times during their care pathway. The evaluation of the pilot programme, of which four sites are focusing on cancer, will take place during 2008. The evaluation will inform national implementation of information prescriptions for all people with long-term conditions, including cancer.

To support the introduction of information prescriptions, the national cancer action team is working in partnership with cancer charities to develop a system to enable health professionals to generate tailored information prescriptions at any point in the cancer pathway. The system will draw on high quality national content, while making sure local details can be added. The project will be developed in 2008 for roll out in 2009.

Providers will wish to consider how they can best audit information delivered to individual patients and whether this is meeting patients' needs. Commissioners should specify to providers through robust service specifications their requirements around patient information, which should be measurable and monitored through the quality monitoring of contracts at primary care trust level.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects commissioners to have robust systems in place to ensure that patients experience good continuity of care; by what means he plans to monitor progress towards this objective; and what sanctions will be imposed on NHS organisations which do not make sufficient progress. [183993]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy said that commissioners will want to work with providers to ensure they have robust systems in place to ensure that cancer patients experience good continuity of care. Commissioners should specify to providers through robust service specifications their requirements around continuity of care for cancer patients, which should be measurable and monitored through the quality monitoring of contracts at primary care trust level.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what timetable he has set for introducing a national cancer survivorship initiative; when he plans to evaluate the performance of such an initiative; and by what means. [183995]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy is a five year plan. The precise timetable for the introduction of the national cancer survivorship initiative has not yet been finalised. The new National Health Service Cancer

Patient Experience Survey Programme will help to inform the evaluation of the initiative but full plans for evaluation have yet to be developed.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for introducing a National Cancer Equality initiative; when he plans to evaluate the performance of such an initiative; and by what means. [183996]

**Ann Keen:** In recognition of the challenge to reduce inequalities in cancer, the national cancer director will begin a National Cancer Equality Initiative, bringing together key stakeholders from the professions, voluntary sector, academia and equality groups to develop research proposals on cancer inequalities, test interventions and advise on the development of wider policy. The national cancer director is currently scoping the initiative, and a representative advisory group is currently being established. The advisory group will meet for the first time in spring 2008, and will report directly to the Department's Cancer Programme Board.

This is a new initiative, and details of monitoring performance of the initiative and by what means will be decided as the work progresses.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects to deliver a programme of work on inpatient management to support local implementation of new cancer service models; and by what means he plans to monitor implementation of such cancer service models. [183998]

**Ann Keen:** There is already a programme of work in place across many cancer networks and primary care trusts (PCTs). In June, the cancer action team will be providing cancer networks and PCTs with benchmarked data to support local reviews of inpatient bed usage.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for developing national surveys to collect information on *(a)* awareness of cancer (i) risk factors and (ii) symptoms among different groups within society and *(b)* patients' experience of treatment. [183999]

**Ann Keen:** Cancer Research UK is developing a modular assessment tool to assess levels of awareness of cancer risk factors and symptoms. The tool is expected to be validated in the autumn 2008.

The Department will use the tool to conduct national surveys of cancer symptom awareness across a random section of the population. The first survey of cancer symptom awareness is likely to be in late 2008 or 2009. It will then be repeated at least every two years.

The national surveys on cancer symptom awareness are only intended to assess the public's knowledge levels and are entirely separate from any surveys looking at patient experiences.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he plans to establish a National Cancer Intelligence Network; when he plans to evaluate the performance of such a network; and by what means. [184000]

**Ann Keen:** A small coordinating team is already in place, based initially at the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI). An initial meeting of the coordinating team and the major funding stakeholders took place in January 2008. A formal steering group, to oversee the development of the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN), will be set up in the first half of 2008. Once established the NCIN will be accountable, via its steering group, to the board of the NCRI.

As the funders of research and analytical services in the United Kingdom, the partner organisations within the NCRI board will determine priorities for routine analyses at a national level and for research.

Good quality information and data enhance patient choice, drive up service quality and underpin stronger commissioning. The performance of the NCIN will be measured by changes to clinical outcomes and patient experience, detailed in annual reports from the NCIN.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, how often he plans to evaluate the quality of support offered to primary care trusts by cancer networks; and by what means. [184001]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) will want to evaluate the quality of support they receive from cancer network teams as well as review the effectiveness of the cancer network and the contribution from its participants as a whole.

The team in the cancer network is usually accountable to a nominated lead PCT chief executive for the cancer network who has responsibility for assessing individual and team performance against objectives set collectively by the PCTs in the network. The Cancer Reform Strategy makes clear that strategic health authorities will be expected to monitor the performance of their PCTs. PCTs in cancer networks will therefore be assessed at a national level against their performance on a range of national requirements and on-going existing commitments, for example cancer improving outcomes guidance.

The cancer action team will also support cancer networks and their constituent PCTs to assess their individual and collective performance against a range of indicators that will be of local interest through the presentation of benchmarked information for England on the cancer commissioning toolkit which will be available in June 2008.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects to publish a guide for cancer commissioners; by what means he plans to measure the extent to which commissioners follow advice contained in the strategy; and what sanctions will be imposed on commissioners who do not follow that advice. [184002]

**Ann Keen:** Working with the national cancer action team, we plan to publish guidance for cancer commissioners later this year.

Commissioners of cancer services will be subject to the wider assurance system being developed under the "world class commissioning" programme and managed by the strategic health authorities. The Healthcare Commission will also provide an independent assessment of provider and commissioner health care organisations to ensure that they are providing a high standard of care.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for making changes to payment by results taking account of findings from the review of payment by results and cancer. [184003]

**Ann Keen:** The review is not yet complete, and has yet to produce final recommendations. The initial findings of the review were incorporated into the Cancer Reform Strategy, and are reflected in paragraphs 9.32-9.34. Work on a timetable for changes to payment by results for cancer services will be undertaken once the final recommendations of the review have been received and considered. We expect the recommendations to be received shortly.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he plans to publish the first annual report on progress towards objectives contained in the strategy. [184006]

**Ann Keen:** No date has been set for the publication of the first annual progress report towards objectives contained in the Cancer Reform Strategy.

### Cancer: Drugs

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects the National Cancer Director to publish his evaluation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved cancer drug usage. [183989]

**Ann Keen:** As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, the National Cancer Director will repeat his evaluation of NICE approved cancer drug usage during 2008. It is expected that the evaluation report will be published before the end of the year.

### Cancer: Finance

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what new funding he plans to make available for cancer services in each of the next five years. [184004]

**Ann Keen:** Alongside the Cancer Reform Strategy, we have published an Impact Assessment (IA) that sets out our estimated costs of implementing the strategy in each year. A copy of the IA is available in the Library. The funding to meet these expected costs is mainly being provided through primary care trusts' (PCT) general allocations, with some costs met centrally. PCT allocations are not broken down into funding streams for individual services, and it is for the national health service to decide locally how best to deliver the outcomes set out in the strategy, and the actual level of resources required to do so.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he plans to ensure that expenditure which does not benefit patients is eliminated; and by what means. [184005]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy provides advice, support and examples of best practice to local commissioners and providers on how to deliver high quality, cost-effective cancer services and how cancer expenditure should be prioritised.

Chapter 10 of the strategy highlights factors that local commissioners should consider when making decisions about cancer expenditure, to reduce inefficiencies and allow for reinvestment of expenditure in local cancer services.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 997-8W, on cancer: health services, how many finished consultant episodes there were for *(a)* all cancer treatments, *(b)* radiotherapy treatment for cancer and *(c)* chemotherapy treatment for cancer (i) between October 2005 and September 2006 and (ii) between October 2006 and September 2007; [180840]

(2) how many patients were given *(a)* radiotherapy and *(b)* chemotherapy treatment for cancer (i) between October 2005 and September 2006 and (ii) between October 2006 and September 2007. [180841]

**Ann Keen:** The Department currently only collects figures on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs), we do not have figures for the total number of cancer patients treated with radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy.

The following table sets out the number of FCEs for all cancer treatments and FCEs for radiotherapy and chemotherapy for cancer.

| | *2005-06 (OPCS 4.2 codes)* | *2006-07 (OPCS 4.2 and 4.3 codes)* |
|---|---|---|
| FCEs with a primary diagnosis of cancer and neoplasms | 1,520,547 | 1,562,085 |
| FCEs with a primary diagnosis of cancer and neoplasms, a secondary diagnosis of 'radiotherapy session' and a 'radiotherapy procedure code' | 1,519 | 6,747 |
| FCEs with a primary diagnosis of cancer and neoplasms, a secondary diagnosis of 'chemotherapy session' and a 'chemotherapy procedure code' | 372,744 | 378,440 |

*Notes:*
*FCE*
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Cancer treatments i.e. radiotherapy and chemotherapy could take place in other settings, for example a patient could be classed as a 'regular attender' or these treatments may occur in out-patients.
*Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Primary diagnosis codes used for cancer and neoplasms: C00-D48
*Secondary Diagnoses*
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care. Secondary diagnosis codes used for Radiotherapy session: Z51.0
Secondary diagnosis codes used for Chemotherapy session: Z51.1
*Changes to Coding Classifications—OPCS4*
Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07. 2006-07 data use OPCS4.3 codes, whereas earlier data use OPCS4.2 codes. All codes that were in OPCS4.2 remain in OPCS4.3, however the OPCS4.3 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in OPCS4.2. In particular OPCS 4.3 codes additionally includes high cost drugs and diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. You may also find that some activity may have been coded under different codes in OPCS4.2. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain any growth over time. More information about OPCS4 changes are available on the Connecting for Health website www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk
*Main Procedure/Intervention*
The main procedure/intervention is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode.
*Secondary Procedure*
As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (three prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.
*Data Quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

## Cancer: Psychiatry

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects good psychological support services to be available throughout the cancer journey; by what means he plans to monitor progress towards this objective; and what sanctions will be imposed on NHS organisations which do not make sufficient progress. [183994]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy said that it is important for all service providers to have established pathways to enable patients to access specialist psychological support as and when they need it. Commissioners will need to ensure that adequate provision is available so that all patients, families and carers can access the appropriate psychological support for them. This will include establishing service level agreements with local mental health services for more advanced support.

Providing support for patients experiencing distress is a key component of the role of the cancer nurse specialist. Yet delivering this effectively will require appropriate training and support. Commissioners should work collaboratively to ensure that this is available.

Commissioners should specify to providers through robust service specifications their requirements around psychological support for cancer patients, their families and carers, which should be measurable and monitored through the quality monitoring of contracts at primary care trust level.

## Cancer: Urinary System

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will provide an update on the progress made by cancer networks in implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers, published in September 2002, setting out *(a)* which cancer networks have agreed an action plan with the Department of Health and *(b)* the expected date for full implementation in each cancer network; [184266]

(2) with reference to the Answer of 16 April 2007 to the hon. Member for Tyne Bridge, *Official Report*, column 325W, on Cancer: Urinary System, if he will place in the Library copies of the action plans submitted to his Department by strategic health authorities which demonstrate how they will implement the guidance on improving outcomes in urological cancers; which cancer networks reported at December 2006 that the guidance on Improving Outcomes in urological cancers would not be fully implemented by December 2007; what series of measures incorporated into the Manual of Cancer Services 2004 were translated from the Improving Outcomes in urological cancers guidance; and if he will make a statement. [184467]

**Ann Keen:** As at 31 June 2007 the following cancer networks had action plans agreed by the national health service cancer action team for implementing the urological cancers improving outcomes guidance:

North London
South East London
South West London
West London
North East London
Number and Yorkshire Coast
Yorkshire
North Trent
Greater Manchester and Cheshire
Lancashire and South Cumbria
Merseyside and Cheshire

Central South Coast
Thames Valley
Sussex
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire
Three Counties
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire
Dorset
Peninsula
Mid Trent
Derby and Burton
Leicestershire,
Northamptonshire and Rutland
Arden
Pan Birmingham
Greater Midlands
North of England (formerly Cancer Care Alliance and Northern)
Anglia (formerly Norfolk and Waveney and West Anglia)
Essex (formerly Mid Anglia and South Essex)
Mount Vernon

The Department does not hold a set of these local plans as they were submitted to the NHS cancer action team for approval. Copies should be available from individual cancer networks.

The reporting system in use in December 2006 did not provide sufficient information to identify with confidence those networks that did not expect to achieve full implementation of the urological cancers guidance by December 2007. A stock take therefore took place in Spring 2007 to strengthen the information base and subsequent data collections.

The most recent data are based on strategic health authority (SHA) June 2007 reporting plus intelligence from the NHS cancer action team. It shows that in summer 2007:

14 networks were already reporting implementation of this guidance;

Nine networks were reporting that they were on schedule for implementation by 31 December 2007;

Six networks were reporting that they were not on schedule to implement the guidance by 31 December 2007 (Humber and Yorkshire Coast, Yorkshire, Central South Coast, Mid Trent, Greater Midlands and Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire)

One network was still to submit an approved plan (Kent)

The cancer action team continue to work closely with cancer networks on this matter. In addition, the Department's Recovery and Support Unit is liaising with SHAs where deadlines are unlikely to be met to ensure recovery plans are in place.

SHAs have recently submitted information confirming the position for 31 December 2007. This is currently being analysed and will provide a clearer national position including the expected implementation date for any networks that had not fully implemented this guidance by the end of 2007.

The measures included in the Manual for Cancer Services based on the urological cancers Improving Outcomes Guidance have been placed in the Library.

### Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to promote cervical cancer screening. [186385]

**Ann Keen:** Women invited to participate in the National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme need to understand the potential benefits and harms in doing so and to be able to make an informed choice about whether or not they wish to take part in the Programme.

This is why all eligible women receive a national information leaflet on cervical screening, "Cervical Screening—The Facts". This leaflet is included with each screening invitation and contains comprehensive and understandable information about cervical screening. It can be viewed at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/in-04.html

The "Cancer Reform Strategy" noted concerns about the fall in the number of young women taking up their invitation to be screened. That is why the NHS Cancer Screening Programme have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level targeting this age group. The lessons learned from this work, due in 2009, will be shared with strategic health authorities and local screening programmes to develop best practice.

The NHS Cancer Screening Programme's press office is developing an information pack to be issued to all local screening programmes and also developing a public relations strategy, including articles in appropriate media publications, posters etc. In addition, Cancer Research UK have commissioned research on this issue, which we will monitor closely and will share the findings.

Continued local action in this area is also essential and we will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/Information Centre for health and social care annual cervical screening statistical bulletin.

### Chemotherapy

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for asking all chemotherapy service providers to return an agreed dataset on all patients receiving chemotherapy. [183990]

**Ann Keen:** The chemotherapy dataset is currently being defined by the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group. Work on the dataset should be completed by October 2008 and reporting is due to begin from October 2009.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he expects primary care trusts *(a)* to undertake a review of cancer chemotherapy and *(b)* to develop a strategic framework for chemotherapy services. [183991]

**Ann Keen:** As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, a National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (NCAG) has been established and is considering all aspects of chemotherapy.

Publication of the NCAG report is expected in the spring and will recommend next steps for chemotherapy services. The Department and the cancer action team will then work with cancer networks and primary care trusts to take forward NCAG's recommendations where appropriate.

### Childbirth

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the *(a)* prediction and *(b)* prevention of premature births. [171939]

**Ann Keen:** We are funding research linked to premature births from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. Some parts of this research, for example, big trials, have received additional funding from agencies such as the Medical Research Council. In general terms, keeping healthy and maintaining good nutrition during pregnancy is important for the wellbeing of both the mother and baby.

### Childbirth: Social Security

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that parents whose child is premature and is in neo-natal care are made aware of all financial and other support schemes available to them; and if he will make a statement; [185559]

(2) if he will improve existing financial and other support schemes available to parents whose child is premature and is in neo-natal care; and if he will make a statement. [185560]

**Ann Keen:** The "Pregnancy Book" (given to all first time mothers by their midwife at an early appointment after they become pregnant) and "Birth to Five" both give detailed information on the financial and other sources of help and advice available to parents of a newborn child. The financial help available includes the sure start maternity grant, statutory maternity pay and the maternity allowance. We understand there are no plans to increase this financial help at this time.

This help will be supplemented from 2009 by the health in pregnancy grant (HiPG). The HiPG will be a one-off payment of £190 available to all expectant mothers ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, which can be claimed from the 25th week of pregnancy. The grant will provide flexible financial help to support the general health and well-being of women in the later stages of pregnancy, which will contribute to the health of the baby, and to help meet wider costs in the run up to birth.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181811]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department reduced its overall carbon emissions by 15.4 per cent. between 1999-2000 and 2005-06. This exceeds the target set for departments in 2006, to reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11. We continue our activities to reduce our emissions further.

All the electricity purchased for our London administrative estate comes from renewable sources. We have been working with the Carbon Trust over the last 18 months to identify energy saving measures, and we have recently appointed a consultant to work with us to implement a Carbon Management Programme throughout our core estate and in our arm's length bodies.

We continue to expand provision of video conferencing, which helps to reduce the emissions associated with business travel. Over the past 12 months we have introduced a new managed print service where existing printers, photocopiers and fax machines have been replaced by multi-function devices. This has reduced the number of print devices by three-quarters. The ratio of staff to printers has reduced from 3:1 to an average of 10:1.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the Prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182194]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

### Eyesight: Children

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of reducing the upper age limit for children's free eye examinations. [186126]

**Ann Keen:** Children aged under 16 and those aged 16, 17 and 18 in full-time education have been entitled to free sight tests since 1948. No changes to the age limits for children have been made in this time.

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the long-term health effects of adding fluoride to drinking water; and if he will make a statement. [188254]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Fluoride offers the best prospect for reducing inequalities in oral health. The benefits to oral health from the fluoridation of water have been welcomed, but we have received representations from people concerned that there may be harmful side effects. The Department monitors relevant research and also commissions its own research and the Department is pleased to say there is no evidence of any risk to people's general health from the fluoridation of water at the 1 part per million level used in fluoridation schemes in the United Kingdom.

### Food Poisoning

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for food poisoning in the last year for which figures are available. [188578]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The estimated number of people that were treated for indigenous food-borne disease in England and Wales in 2006 is given in the following table:

| 2006 | |
|---|---|
| | *Number* |
| General practitioner presentations | 282,000 |
| Hospital admissions | 17,000 |
| Hospital bed days | 77,000 |

*Note:*
Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 for all cases.
*Source:*
Figures were estimated by the Health Protection Agency using the methodology described in Adak G K, Long S M, O'Brien S J. Gut 2002; 51: 832-41. This methodology uses available surveillance data, special survey data, and hospital episode statistics to estimate the burden of indigenous food-borne disease in England and Wales.

## Food: Labelling

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department *(a)* has taken in each of the last two years and *(b)* plans to take in each of the next two years with food manufacturers to improve the labelling of food; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement; [186398]

(2) which organisations and individuals the Food Standards Authority Agency *(a)* consulted in each of the last six months and *(b)* plans to consult in the next six months about improving food labelling information; and if he will make a statement; [186400]

(3) what *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation regulates the labelling of food; what changes have been made to each since enactment; what further amendments are planned; and if he will make a statement. [186404]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Food labelling, including nutrition labelling, is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency, which reports to Parliament through Health Ministers.

Food labelling rules are largely harmonised at European Union level and implemented in the United Kingdom by the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) (the FLR). The FLRs were made under the Food Safety Act 1990 and have been amended 32 times since inception.

The agency actively and regularly engages with a wide range of stakeholders and a range of food labelling issues including the Government favoured traffic light system, as required in the development of UK policy. This includes the formal and informal consultation of over 1,100 individuals on the agency's interested parties list, consumer groups, manufacturers, retailers, enforcement and other Government Departments. The agency has carried out four formal consultations using this database over the last six months. Further consultations will take place on the European Commission's (EC) proposal during the next six months. We have also been working with the retail sector to carry out an independent evaluation of front of pack signpost labels.

The agency has also recently consulted on and issued best practice guidance on country of origin labelling; clear labelling; use of marketing terms; allergen labelling and fish and meat labelling.

## Health Services: Rossendale

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the North West Strategic Health Authority on the bid from the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust for funding for a health hub in Rossendale. [185028]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is aware of the plans by the East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust for the development of a specialist health hub in Rossendale. However, no formal discussions have taken place on funding and no plans have yet been submitted to the Department for consideration.

## Health: Climate Change

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research the Government have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of climate change on public health in the last five years. [188904]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* At the request of the Department, an expert panel on climate change and health in the United Kingdom was formed, which included experts from a range of relevant fields, to advise and report from a wide range of available evidence, on the likely impact of climate change on health, and implications for the national health service.

Their resulting report Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK was published in 2002.

More recently, the Department commissioned another panel of independent scientific experts to focus on areas that had changed since the original report, based on the latest information and predictions about climate change. Their resulting update report was published jointly by the Department and the Health Protection Agency on 12 February 2008.

Both reports are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080702

Copies of the first report are available in the Library and copies of the update report have been placed in the Library.

## Health: Telephone Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to develop Payment by Results into the area of telephone consultations. [189594]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The "Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11" consultation document put forward proposals for developing a tariff for non-face-to-face consultations by 2010-11. We are putting in place the 'building blocks' that would enable this type of tariff to be introduced. No decision has yet been made for the date of its implementation.

## Hospital Wards: Gender

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which new hospitals opened in each of the last five financial years; and what proportion of beds in each were in single rooms. [180856]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information for hospital build schemes with a capital value over £25 million is in the table.

Information is not held centrally for schemes below this threshold and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2001, the Department's guidance is that the proportion of single rooms in new hospital developments should aim to be 50 per cent., but should not fall below 20 per cent. and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single bed provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions and affordability as well as clinical and operational restrictions. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

*New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opened in each of the last five financial years*

| *National health service organisation* | *Capital value (£ million)* | *Scheme description* | *Proportion of beds in single rooms - (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2003-04* | | | |
| Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (FT) | 30 | Construction of new mental health facility at Fairmile | 1 |
| West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 60 | New District General Hospital | 25 |
| Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust | 55 | Redevelopment of Hexham General Hospital | 75 |
| South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 122 | Site redevelopment and centralisation of acute hospital services at James Cook University Hospital | 40 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 46 | Neuro cardiac unit | 20 |
| Camden and Islington NHS Trust | 26 | Adult Mental Health Unit | 100 |
| Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 29 | The provision of a local care centre at Farnham Hospital | 100 |
| *2004-05* | | | |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 40 | Maternity and gynaecology unit at Royal Preston Hospital | 1 |
| Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust | 25 | A and E Children's development at Royal Albert Edward Infirmary | 18 |
| Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust | 35 | Mental health facilities at Woofield Road and St Charles | 1 |
| Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust | 57 | Heart and Lung Centre | 27 |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 32 | Total site redevelopment | 1 |
| Barnet PCT | 40 | Edgware Community Hospital development | 37 |
| *2005-06* | | | |
| Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust | 137 | Redevelopment and rationalisation | 36 |
| University College London Hospitals NHS Trust | 422 | Rationalisation of sites | 34 |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 36 | Dangerous and severe personalities Unit at Broadmoor | 100 |
| Guys and St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust | 50 | Evelina Children' Hospital | 1 |
| Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust | 25 | Renal Centre | 22 |
| Kirklees PCT | 27 | Provision of six Primary Care Centres | 2 |
| Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | 26 | Ambulatory Care Centre at City Hospital | 2 |
| East London NHS Foundation Trust | 34 | Mental Health unit in Tower Hamlets | 1 |
| Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 31 | South West Cardiothoracic Unit Centre | 100 |
| The Cardiothoracic Centre Liverpool NHS Trust | 49 | Cardiac Centre in Liverpool | 43 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 75 | Redevelopment of Queen Mary's Roehampton. Including specialist rehabilitation and amputee services | 59 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 69 | Modernisation of Central Middlesex Hospital | 33 |
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre NHS Trust | 45 | Cardiac Centre | 40 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 47 | Partial redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville Hospital | 30 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 32 | Reprovision of Mental Health services at St. George's Hospital Morpeth | 100 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 30 | Burnley Hospital development—Phase V | 32 |
| Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 83 | Redevelopment of Mental Health facilities, community care services and crisis homes | 100 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 110 | Closure of Blackburn Royal Infirmary and expansion of Queen's Park hospital | 31 |
| Newham University Hospital NHS Trust | 55 | Reprovision of Acute Services from St. Andrew's to Newham General Hospital | 39 |

*New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opened in each of the last five financial years*

| National health service organisation | Capital value (£ million) | Scheme description | Proportion of beds in single rooms (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | 379 | New District General Hospital at Walsgrave | 30 |
| Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | 53 | Cardiac Centre | 50 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 28 | Danetre Community Hospital in Daventry | 37 |
| The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 32 | Redevelopment of Acute Hospital services | 55 |
| The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 72 | Redevelopment of University Hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures | 21 |
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 238 | Rationalisation of two sites onto one adjacent to the existing Oldchurch Hospital in Romford | 20 |
| Hampshire PCT | 36 | Redevelopment of Lymington Hospital | 50 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | 134 | Reprovision of specialist services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to a new build on the John Radcliffe Hospital site | 65 |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust | 37 | Orthopaedics/medicine redevelopment | 33 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 35 | New Hadfield Wing to replace Victorian Vickers wards | 50 |
| Cambridge University Hospital NHS Trust | 76 | Elective Care Centre, Genetics and Diabetes at Addenbrookes | 38 |
| Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust | 36 | Relocation of Royal Alexandra Hospital for sick Children | 46 |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 27 | Women's enhanced medium secure services | 100 |
| Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 59 | Essex Heart and Lung Centre | [2] |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 33 | Redevelopment of Kingston Hospital | 23 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 265 | Regional Oncology and Cancer centre at St. Jame's University Hospital | 42 |

[1] These schemes are at FTs for which the Department does not hold the requested information. Information for these organisations can be obtained by contacting the chairman of the FTs.
[2] No in-patient services.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexual assaults have been reported on mixed sex wards since 1997. [183821]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds are located in single sex wards. [183822]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

### Hospitals: Cleaning Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the policy of hospital deep cleaning covers hospital supplied accommodation for nurses and junior doctors. [187112]

**Ann Keen:** The details of each trust's deep clean plan will vary according to local need and the configuration of local services. All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims relating to healthcare associated infections the NHS Litigation Authority has dealt with in each year since 1997. [184513]

**Ann Keen:** Not all claims related to health care associated infection (HCAI) can be identified. The following table shows those claims where methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and/or *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) are regarded as one of the injuries.

Information on HCAI-related claims prior to 1999 is not available due to the coding systems in place at that time, which do not allow analysis for HCAIs.

Claims data by notification year (notified to trust) for claims where MRSA and/or *C. Difficile* are recorded as one of the injuries (as at 31 December 2007) are as follows.

*Number*

| Notification year | Open claims | Claims closed with no damages | Claims settled with damages | Total claims |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2000-01 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| 2002-03 | 3 | 15 | 24 | 42 |
| 2003-04 | 4 | 34 | 28 | 66 |
| 2004-05 | 10 | 47 | 15 | 72 |
| 2005-06 | 35 | 50 | 12 | 97 |

| Notification year | Open claims | Claims closed with no damages | Claims settled with damages | Number Total claims |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 90 | 26 | 12 | 128 |
| 2007-08[1] | 101 | 5 | 4 | 110 |
| Total | 243 | 180 | 107 | 530 |

[1] Denotes data to date for current period.

*Source:*
NHS Litigation Authority.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of healthcare associated infections were voluntarily reported to the Healthcare Protection Agency in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* type of infection and *(b)* trust. [184515]

**Ann Keen:** The following table gives data collected from the voluntary reporting system from 2002 to 2006 for the nine most common causes of bacteraemia (bacterial bloodstream infections) and for *Clostridium difficile (C. difficile)*, which is associated with diarrhoea and not the blood stream. These data are not available by trust or by financial year.

These organisms are associated with infections that are transmitted mainly or partly within hospitals.

| Organism | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Escherichia coli* | 12,709 | 15,052 | 15,741 | 16,961 | 18,079 |
| Coagulase negative staphylococci | 6,604 | 8,609 | 10,091 | 11,708 | 14,943 |
| *Staphylococcus aureus* | 12,895 | 14,603 | 14,173 | 14,065 | 13,648 |
| MRSA (Percentage) | 42.5 | 41.2 | 39.7 | 39.6 | 37.9 |
| Enterococcus spp | 4,421 | 5,611 | 5,887 | 6,477 | 7,109 |
| Klebsiella spp | 3,515 | 4,169 | 4,639 | 4,853 | 5,198 |
| *Streptococcus pneumoniae* | 4,163 | 5,135 | 4,526 | 4,971 | 4,553 |
| Pseudomonas spp | 2,382 | 2,969 | 2,897 | 3,069 | 3,477 |
| Enterobacter spp | 1,874 | 2,256 | 2,284 | 2,314 | 2,418 |
| Proteus spp | 1,662 | 1,882 | 1,818 | 1,805 | 1,845 |
| *C. difficile* | 26,357 | 33,201 | 40,414 | 47,022 | 51,145 |

*Source:*
Healthcare Protection Agency laboratory reports (voluntary reporting system).

The increase in bacteraemias is partly due to better reporting, surveillance and testing and may also reflect a changing hospital population, with more patients who are vulnerable to infection through conditions which compromise their immune systems being treated.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses have been received to the consultation on Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances; and if he will make a statement. [189022]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has received 140 responses to the consultation on Arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care which closed on 28 December 2007.

### Leukaemia: Drugs

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the South West Surrey and Hampshire Cancer Network recommends Dasatinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia. [186265]

**Ann Keen:** Dasatinib has been licensed for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) with resistance or intolerance to imatinib mesylate. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published guidance on the use of Dasatinib. Until NICE guidance is published, it is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to make decisions based on the evidence that is available on whether to fund drugs locally.

South East Coast strategic health authority has advised officials that Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire Cancer Network has not produced any formal recommendations on the use of Dasatinib. It does, however, provide advice and recommendations to PCTs on an individual patient basis when requested to do so.

### Maternity Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 875W, on maternity services, which trusts provided maternity services in each of the five years before 2005-06. [178009]

**Ann Keen:** We do not collect this information centrally. However, data for 2004-05 are in "NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2004-05" copies of which are available in the Library. Copies of the 2002-03, 2001-02 reports are also available in the Library.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Nuneaton (Mr. Olner) of 5 February 2008, *Official*

*Report*, column 784, on maternity services, what the evidential basis is for his statement that the UK is the safest country in the world in which to deliver babies. [186874]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The United Kingdom is one of the safest countries in the world in which to deliver babies. The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health's publication, "Saving Mothers' Lives: Reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer—2003-2005" published in December 2007 (copies of which have been placed in the Library) indicated that there were just under seven maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the UK in the three years to 2005. The UK is very near to the top in any league table, with much lower death rates than the United States or France.

### Maternity Services: Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 2.50 of the NHS in England's Operating Framework for 2008-09, how his Department defines 'sufficient numbers of maternity staff and neo-natal teams to meet local needs' in terms of *(a)* the population of a primary care trust and *(b)* the number of births at a maternity unit. [178304]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts and national health service trusts to decide locally how to use their resources to provide services for the people for whom they are responsible, in line with the NHS Operating Framework. Staffing levels in maternity services vary throughout the country and are dependent on a range of factors including model of care and skill mix such as the use of maternity support workers.

### Medical Records: Indian Subcontinent

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of NHS correspondence and typing of health service records of consultations that were sent to the Indian sub-continent for processing in the most recent period for which figures are available. [186657]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The effective management of patient records is the responsibility of the individual NHS organisation that creates them. Information is not held centrally on the number of national health service organisations that currently outsource aspects of patient record management, including the typing of patient records, to the Indian sub-continent. It is therefore not possible to make such an estimate.

### Medical Treatments

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance to health care professionals on the involvement of patients in decisions on changing their medicinal regimes. [188289]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is good practice for health professionals to involve patients in the decisions about their treatment, taking account of their values and beliefs.

While the Department has not issued guidance itself, the establishment of Medicines Partnership promotes the concept of concordance—or shared decision making—to help patients take their medicines better and to help them get the most from their medicines. Medicines partnership has, over the years, worked both with professionals and members of the public to promote shared decision making.

The Department also supports Ask About Medicines Week, which continues to develop initiatives to empower members of the public to ask questions of health care professionals about the medicines prescribed for them and be involved in the decisions about the medicines prescribed for them.

### Medical Treatments Abroad: Transplant Surgery

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who travelled abroad for an organ transplant in the last year for which data are available. [185299]

**Ann Keen:** Information is only held for kidney transplants where we have a record of their being followed up in a United Kingdom hospital. In 2006, there were 31 UK residents who were transplanted with a kidney overseas and are being followed up in the UK. Two were from deceased donors, 28 from a living donor and one donor type not recorded. The majority were transplanted in Pakistan.

### National Chemotherapy Advisory Group

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the membership of his Department's National Chemotherapy Advisory Group is; what areas of responsibility each member has; and if he will publish the membership on his Department's website. [184558]

**Ann Keen:** Membership of the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group is shown in the following table:

| *Member* | *Area of responsibility* |
|---|---|
| *Co-chairs* | |
| Professor Mike Richards | National Cancer Director Co-chair |
| Dr. Peter Clark | Medical Oncologist Co-chair |
| *Members* | |
| Adrian Newland | President of Royal College of Medical Oncologist Pathologists |
| Alison Jones | Medical Oncologist |
| Andrew Stanley | Pharmacist |
| Ann Fox | Network Nurse Director |
| Charles Wilson | Royal College of Radiologists |
| Colin Trask | Clinical Oncologist |
| David Smith | Medical Oncologist |
| Deborah Tomalin | Network Director |
| Don Milligan | Haematologist |
| Elizabeth Porterfield | Observer for Scottish Assembly Government |
| Jane Hanson | Observer for Welsh Assembly Government |
| Elspeth MacDonald | Network Director |

| Member | Area of responsibility |
|---|---|
| Jane Barrett | Clinical Oncologist |
| Johnathan Joffe | Medical Oncologist—Lead |
| Marie Palmer | CSCIP Project Manager |
| Mary Maclean | Pharmacist |
| Roger James | Clinical Oncologist |
| Tim Root | Pharmacist |
| Will Steward | Oncologist |
| Anonymous | Patient Representative |
| Anonymous | Patient Representative |
| *NHS Cancer Action Team/Department of Health* | |
| Teresa Moss | National Cancer Action Team |
| Jane Whittome | National Cancer Action Team |
| Cheryl Cavanagh | Department of Health Cancer Policy Team |
| Justine Windsor | Department of Health Cancer Policy Team |
| Glenis Freeman | Department of Health Cancer Policy Team |

The group collectively provide advice based on their areas of personal expertise and interest. This group has not yet reported. Membership of the advisory group will be included as an annex to their report due to be submitted in spring 2008.

## NHS: Drugs

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue revised guidance to health trusts on the storage and use of medicinal drugs to ensure that patients are not given the wrong drug or the wrong amount of drug; and if he will make a statement. [187950]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the safe handling and use of medicines is available to national health service trusts from a variety of sources including:

comprehensive guidance on the handling, storage and administration of medicines, "The Safe And Secure Handling Of Medicines: A Team Approach", was issued by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in March 2005. This updated guidance previously issued by the Department;

guidance on good practice in the management of controlled drugs in primary care was issued by the National Prescribing Centre in February 2007 and the Department issued revised guidance for secondary care in October 2007;

the National Patient Safety Agency provides a range of practical resources to support NHS organisations and independent health care providers in learning from medication errors and reducing risk; and

prescribers also have access to a wide variety of impartial, trustworthy information resources on prescribing and the use of medicines such as the British National Formulary, British National Formulary for Children, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance and information and advice.

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of a new drug treatment within the appraisal and authorisation process conducted by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement.. [188140]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) draws on a number of different sources of information to appraise the clinical and cost-effectiveness of drugs assessed through its Multiple Technology Appraisals (MTA) process. The different sources of information are set out in more detail in NICE'S "Guide to the methods of technology appraisal" which can be found at

www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/TAP_Methods.pdf

When a single drug for a single indication is being appraised through NICE'S Single Technology Appraisals (STA) process, it is the responsibility of the drug's manufacturer to provide a submission that demonstrates the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the drug concerned.

In both the MTA and STA processes, the cost effectiveness models are independently reviewed by an academic group.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of patient and public involvement in Lord Darzi's reviews of *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* NHS London; [185580]

(2) how many requests Lord Darzi has received to meet members of the National Association of Patients' Forums; and how many times Lord Darzi has met members of the National Association of Patients' Forums in the course of his reviews of the NHS to hear their views on delivering effective patient and public involvement. [185581]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service "Our NHS, our future" next stage review is primarily a local process. Eight clinical pathway groups in each strategic health authority (SHA) region outside London are currently considering how to improve models of care across eight pathways from maternity and newborn care to end of life care. Local events are being held to ensure that the views and experiences of the public and patients inform the thinking of each clinical working group.

A second nationwide day of consultative events was held on 24 January 2008 to test the emerging findings of the clinical pathway groups with around 1,000 staff, patients and members of the public across the regions. The findings from the consultation events will contribute to each SHA's vision for healthcare due to be published in the spring.

An online questionnaire has also been launched to capture the views of patients and the public. This is available on the review's website at:

www.nhs.uk/ournhs

NHS London SHA undertook a similar process of engagement during the development of the "Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action" report. This included a telephone poll of 7,000 people, two deliberative events in February and March 2007 attended by over 100 people on each date and two feedback meetings in May and June 2007 attended by more than 60 people on each date.

Following the publication of the report, NHS London has convened a Patient and Public Advisory Group to contribute to the consultation, received over 12,000 visitors to their website, commenced a programme of 40 roadshows and met with stakeholder groups including patient and public involvement forums.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi of Denham) has received three representations from the National Association of Patient Forums on engaging with the NHS Next Stage Review. Since July, Lord Darzi has visited and spoken to large numbers of stakeholders, including patient groups, and members of the public about the review. Thousands of people have already contributed their views at consultative events, via letter, email and other online channels. Representatives of patient groups also attended an International Clinical Summit in November 2007 to share ideas of leading edge care from the United Kingdom and around the world.

## NHS: Social Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to monitor the level of contributions made by local authority social services departments to NHS local information networks. [183745]

**Ann Keen:** The level of the local authority contribution to the local involvement network (LINk) is a matter for individual councils. Government funding for local authorities' responsibilities in this area has been added into Area Based Grant.

As part of its annual reporting to the Secretary of State, a LINk will be asked to declare the amount of funding made available to it in order that it might carry out its activities as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

## Obesity

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's estimate is of the average body mass index in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Suffolk, *(d)* Bedfordshire, *(e)* Cambridgeshire, *(f)* Essex, *(g)* Hertfordshire and *(h)* Norfolk. [187678]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the exact format requested.

The latest data on average body mass index (mean BMI) for England and for the East of England Government Office Region can be found in the Health Survey for England 2006, in the cardiovascular disease and risk factors adults, obesity and risk factors children—Volume 1 Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults, published 31 January 2008, a copy is available in the Library. In England in 2006, the mean BMI for men aged 16 and over was 27.2 kg/m$^2$ and for women it was 26.8 kg/m$^2$. The Mean BMI for men and women aged 16 and over in the East of England Government Office Region in 2006 was 27.2 kg/m$^2$ and 26.9 kg/m$^2$ respectively.

Data for Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk are not available.

## Obesity: Surgery

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role surgery has in the treatment of severe obesity in the NHS; and what assessment he has made of the potential to increase the use of surgery in such cases. [187696]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives, the Government's strategy for promoting healthy weight, published in January 2008, reaffirmed the commitment that local health services should provide surgical interventions for obese patients where it is deemed clinically appropriate.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends that surgery should only be considered in adults with severe obesity if they have a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or more or between 35 and 40 and other significant disease (for example, type two diabetes, high blood pressure), and after all appropriate non-surgical measures have failed to achieve or maintain adequate clinically beneficial weight loss, and only be considered as a last resort. Surgery can be considered as a first-line option for adults with a BMI of more than 50. NICE do not generally recommend surgery for children or young people and it should only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Regarding the potential to increase the use of surgery to treat obesity, it is up to local areas to decide the best types of treatments, including the level of weight loss surgery, to provide for their own populations, in line with NICE guidance.

## Pregnancy: Streptococcus

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* incidence and *(b)* rate per 1,000 live births of group B streptococcal infection has been in babies aged (i) 0 to six days and (ii) seven to 90 days in each strategic health authority since 1997. [188906]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* We do not collect this information centrally. The incidence rate of confirmed early-onset Group B streptococcal (GBS) infection in the newborn in the UK has been estimated from recent studies to range from 0.48-0.6 per 1,000 live births. There are about 600,000 live births in England each year.

A study of confirmed cases, published in 2003 by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG), identified 311 cases of early onset Group B streptococcus in England a year (0.5 per 1000 live births), of which 39 died. Since then, RCOG has produced "Prevention of Early Onset Neonatal Group B Streptococcal Disease in UK Obstetric Units: An audit of reported practice in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland", which is available from the RCOG website.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on *(a)* the incidence and *(b)* the rate per 1,000 live births of group B Streptococcal infection in babies aged (i) 0 to 6 days and (ii) 7 to 90 days in each strategic health authority area since 1997. [181924]

**Ann Keen:** We do not collect this information centrally. The incidence rate of confirmed early-onset group B Streptococcal infection in the newborn in the United Kingdom has been estimated from recent studies to range from 0.48–0.6/1,000 live births. There are about 600,000 live births in England each year. A study published in 2004 of confirmed cases, identified 311 cases of early onset group B Streptococcus in England a year (0.5 per 1,000 live births) of which 39 died.

### Primary Care Trusts: ICT

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated under GP Systems of Choice to each primary care trust (PCT) in England for IT infrastructure upgrades; and what proportion such funding represents of the IT budget of each such PCT. [187204]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the funding allocated for GP Systems of Choice to each primary care trust (PCT) has been placed in the Library. However, the budgetary information on information technology for each PCT that is needed to calculate the requested proportion is not held centrally.

### Primary Care Trusts: Maternity Services

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date primary care trusts are expected to have published their annual prospectuses, including their local vision for maternity services under the Maternity Matters strategy. [185018]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service operating framework for 2007-08 states that primary care trusts (PCTs) should produce their first prospectus during 2007-08. The prospectuses should include PCT proposals for increasing choice and improving maternity services as outlined in 'Maternity Matters'.

It is for strategic health authorities to ensure that PCTs complete their prospectuses and publish them.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of prostate cancer he estimates there will be in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2016 and *(c)* 2021; how many cases of prostate cancer there were in 2006; and what estimate he has made of the (i) inpatient, (ii) outpatient and (iii) other costs of treating prostate cancer in (A) 2006, (B) 2011, (C) 2016 and (D) 2021. [184258]

**Ann Keen:** Estimates for cases of prostate cancer in individual years are not available, but estimates for the average annual registrations over a five year period are available:

| *Time period* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| 2009-13 | 29,625 |
| 2014-18 | 33,026 |
| 2019-23 | 36,703 |

These estimates are projected from incidence rates from 1974-2003. Projections are not given for individual years because these would be subject to wide uncertainty.

The number of cases of prostate cancer in 2006 is not currently known, the most recently available data are for 2005, in which there were 28,886 registrations.

*Source:* Office for National Statistics.

The estimate of inpatient costs for prostate cancer are:

| *Time period* | *Average annual cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-13 | 67.4 |
| 2014-18 | 74.9 |
| 2019-23 | 82.7 |

All the cost estimates are in 2005-06 prices. The inpatient cost figures relate to admissions with a primary diagnosis of prostate cancer, and excludes chemotherapy and radiotherapy costs. It is not possible to provide reliable estimates of any other element of prostate cancer treatment costs because of the lack of appropriate data.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the mean waiting time for a patient with prostate cancer between *(a)* their first clinic appointment and *(b)* diagnosis in each year since 1997. [184263]

**Ann Keen:** Information on average waiting times between first outpatient attendance and diagnosis for cancer patients are not collected centrally and have not been estimated. The Department currently receives aggregate data on cancer waiting times that relate to the standards within the National Health Service Cancer Plan (2000).

For those patients following the 62-day referral to treatment pathway the Department monitors the time taken to complete the entire pathway. Performance against this standard for the most recent period for which figures are available (July, August and September 2007-08) was 97.2 per cent.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* actual and *(b)* optimum workloads of sites offering prostatectomies, expressed in terms of the number of operations per site. [184278]

**Ann Keen:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance on "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers" in September 2002. It stated that:

> "ideally, all radical prostatectomies undertaken in each network should be carried out by a single team. Radical prostatectomy should not be carried out by teams which carry out fewer than 50 radical operations (prostatectomies and cystectomies) for prostate and bladder cancers per year".

The guidance went on to recommend that

> "surgeons who currently carry out fewer than five radical prostatectomies per year should refer patients to designated surgeons who will become more specialised in this type of surgery."

This guidance was converted into a series of measures for inclusion in the "Manual of Cancer Services 2004" against which cancer networks are peer reviewed. The Manual includes measures to assess:

the total number of radical prostatectomies and, separately, the total number of total cystectomies, performed by the multidisciplinary teams during the year prior to the team's review; and

the total number of radical prostatectomies and, separately, the total number of total cystectomies, performed by individual surgical members of the team.

If teams were not compliant with the criteria set out in the improving outcomes guidance during the peer review, the peer review team would have raised this as an immediate risk with the trust chief executive or their representative on the day of the visit following up this concern in writing. A trust would be expected to address this concern as a matter of urgency.

Individual cancer networks' performance against these measures in the 2004 to 2007 round of the national cancer peer review would be set out in their local peer review reports. These reports are available on the Cancer Quality Improvement Network System website at:

www.cquins.nhs.uk/published_reviews.php

A summary report of the 2004 to 2007 national cancer peer review process will be issued shortly.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of prostate cancer patients who are cared for by a multidisciplinary team. [184279]

**Ann Keen:** The recent round of cancer peer review (2004 to 2007) found that in 92 per cent. of local urology teams and 98 per cent. of specialist urology teams, all new patients with urological cancer, including prostate cancer, were reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team.

### Prostate Cancer: Staff

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on prostate cancer: staff, when the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust plans to initiate its pilot to enhance multi-disciplinary team working and improve the quality of surgical techniques available to prostate cancer patients; when he expects the pilot to conclude; whether any interim findings have emerged from the development of the pilot; when he expects a final report on the pilot to be published; what funding his Department has provided in support of the pilot in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; what funding his Department plans to provide in support of the pilot in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [184463]

**Ann Keen:** The prostate cancer multi-disciplinary team training programme was started in February 2007 with the appointment of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver the pilot programme. The trust has been recruiting the necessary staff to develop and evaluate the research elements of the programme with the first training courses due to be delivered in spring 2008. The evaluation report is to be delivered at the end of the 18 month training programme. The pilot is funded by London strategic health authority on behalf of the national cancer action team with £190,000.00 being made available in 2006-07. Future funding levels will be agreed with the trust based on planned deliverable training activity.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on prostate cancer: staff, in what ways *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Healthcare Commission monitors progress against the action plans submitted by strategic health authorities to implement the improving outcomes in urological cancers guidance; what progress has been made to date; and if he will make a statement. [184465]

**Ann Keen:** Strategic health authorities (SHAs) submit six monthly reports to the Department to confirm whether their cancer networks have met any improving outcomes guidance (IOGs) milestones that had been due in the preceding six month period and also to confirm if future milestones are on schedule to be met.

The national health service cancer action team works closely with the cancer networks and the Department's Recovery and Support Unit liaises with SHAs where deadlines are unlikely to be met to ensure recovery plans are in place.

The Healthcare Commission expects primary care trusts (PCTs) to support the development of agreed action plans within cancer networks as well as to ensure services are commissioned in line with agreed action plans to achieve full implementation of these IOGs. The Department shares information on progress with the Healthcare Commission. The Commission use this information to inform the ratings they give to individual PCTs.

### Radiotherapy: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when he estimates that NHS providers will have sufficient capacity to meet the 31 day waiting time standard for all radiotherapy; and what the timetable is for ensuring that the recommendations set out in the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group's report are achieved. [183987]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy set a deadline for extension of the 31-day waiting time standard of December 2008 for chemotherapy and surgery. The deadline for extension of the 31-day standard for radiotherapy is December 2010. The later date for radiotherapy is in recognition of the length of time needed to increase radiotherapy capacity, for example building bunkers and purchasing and installing machinery.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group recommended that radiotherapy services should be developed to deliver up to 54,000 fractions per million population throughout the country by 2016, with an interim aim of delivering 40,000 fractions per million population by 2010. In addition, all departments were, as an immediate aim, to deliver at least 8,000 fractions per linac (linear accelerator) per year; increasing to at least 8,300 fractions per linac per year by 2010-11, and at least 8,700 fractions per linac per year by 2016.

Mechanisms for reviewing progress are under discussion. A national radiotherapy dataset is being developed and will be used from April 2009 to help monitor progress in radiotherapy centres around the country.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Drugs

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recorded cases of drug resistant gonorrhoea have been confirmed in each of the last five years; what steps he has taken to tackle drug resistant gonorrhoea; whether he has received representations on *(a)* penicillin, *(b)* tetracycline and *(c)* fluoroquinolone resistant gonorrhoea; how many representations he has received on antibiotic resistance relating to the treatment of gonorrhoea; and if he will place in the Library copies of such representations. [187202]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Gonococcal Resistance to Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (GRASP) funded by the Department and run by the Health Protection Agency, monitors gonococcal antimicrobial resistance at a number of sentinel sites in England and Wales. The percentages of gonorrhoea isolates from genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic patients submitted to GRASP in England and Wales between 2002 and 2006 which had confirmed resistance to penicillin, tetracycline and ciprofloxacin (a fluoroquinolone) are contained in the following table:

*Percentage of isolates resistant to specific antimicrobials, 2002-06*

| *Antimicrobial* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Percentage 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penicillin (MIC> = 1 mg/l) | 9.8 | 9.7 | 11.4 | 17.9 | 9.5 |
| Tetracycline (MIC> = 2 mg/l) | 44.8 | 38.2 | 44.4 | 48 | 36.9 |
| Ciprofloxacin (MIC> = 1 mg/l) | 9.8 | 9.1 | 14.0 | 21.7 | 26.5 |

*Notes:*
1. MIC means minimum inhibitory concentration and is defined as the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will inhibit the visible growth of a micro-organism after overnight incubation. The MICs shown for the specific antimicrobials define the cut-off for resistance to these antimicrobials.
2. Due to variations in the retrieval and confirmation of isolates submitted in different years, the data on resistance prevalence are statistically weighted. This is done to avoid resistance estimates being under representative of sites that have a low retrieval rate and over representative of sites that have a high retrieval rate.

*Source:*
GRASP from specimens collected at genito-urinary medicine clinics.

Data from GRASP provide the evidence-base for treatment guidelines in the management of gonorrhoea. In 2002, this led to prescribing policy being updated to recommend that gonorrhoea should be treated with third generation cephalosporins, ceftriaxone or cefixime. Further information is contained in the GRASP annual report (year 2006 collection) which has been placed in the Library. No specific representations have been received by the Department on this issue.

### Skin Cancer

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age is of *(a)* the youngest and *(b)* the oldest skin cancer patient who have been diagnosed where use of sunbed salons has been a contributing factor in their condition. [187729]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 26 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the age is of *(a)* the youngest and *(b)* the oldest skin cancer patient who have been diagnosed where use of sunbed salons has been a contributing factor in their condition. I am replying in her absence. [187729]

The use of sunbed salons as a contributing factor in skin cancer is not recorded. The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2005. The *(a)* youngest and *(b)* oldest patients were aged one and 103 respectively when newly diagnosed with malignant melanoma of skin in 2005. Figures by age group are available in a first release on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Productasp?vInk=7720

Earlier figures are published in the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations (Series MB1) available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/Statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

### Testicular Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to promote screening for testicular cancer. [188541]

**Ann Keen:** There is no effective screening method for testicular cancer, therefore no action has been taken to promote screening for testicular cancer.

Testicular cancer is almost always curable if found early and the Department has collaborated with Cancer Research UK in the production of a testicular self-awareness leaflet, "Testicular Cancer: Spot The Symptoms Early". Over 300,000 copies of this leaflet are printed each year.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Death

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died in each region from an alcohol-related illness in each year since 1997. [186173]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died in each region from an alcohol-related illness in each year since 1997. (186173)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in each government office region in England, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], government office regions in England[2], 1997 to 2006[3]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| *Area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 323 | 331 | 307 | 326 | 337 | 337 | 387 | 426 | 402 | 435 |
| North West | 860 | 878 | 922 | 931 | 1,040 | 1,054 | 1,105 | 1,166 | 1,173 | 1,209 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 405 | 431 | 446 | 419 | 489 | 475 | 573 | 615 | 643 | 679 |
| East Midlands | 322 | 307 | 394 | 410 | 408 | 434 | 482 | 482 | 506 | 505 |
| West Midlands | 497 | 583 | 578 | 588 | 655 | 697 | 737 | 743 | 776 | 801 |
| East of England | 319 | 404 | 390 | 426 | 441 | 456 | 484 | 485 | 492 | 556 |
| London | 732 | 773 | 806 | 794 | 787 | 832 | 826 | 758 | 744 | 824 |
| South East | 607 | 646 | 664 | 700 | 824 | 808 | 870 | 832 | 874 | 921 |
| South West | 372 | 409 | 428 | 450 | 495 | 489 | 517 | 529 | 581 | 587 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following boxes.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] All figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Box 1: alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)*

| *Cause of death* | *ICD-9 code(s)* |
|---|---|
| Alcoholic psychoses | 291 |
| Alcohol dependence syndrome | 303 |
| Non-dependent abuse of alcohol | 305.0 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | 425.5 |
| Alcoholic fatty liver | 571.0 |
| Acute alcoholic hepatitis | 571.1 |
| Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver | 571.2 |
| Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified | 571.3 |
| Chronic hepatitis | 571.4 |
| Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol | 571.5 |
| Other chronic nonalcoholic liver disease | 571.8 |
| Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol | 571.9 |
| Accidental poisoning by alcohol | E860 |

*Box 2: alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| *Cause of death* | *ICD-10 code(s)* |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

## Breast Cancer: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many diagnoses of breast cancer there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [189167]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 26 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of

breast cancer there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. [189167]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for female patients diagnosed with breast cancer in Lancashire county for the years 2001 to 2005 are in the table below.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], females, Lancashire county, 2001-05*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 842 |
| 2002 | 812 |
| 2003 | 829 |
| 2004 | 902 |
| 2005 | 893 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Carbon Markets Expert Group

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the first summit of the Carbon Markets Expert Group was held; which organisations were represented; what matters were discussed; and what decisions were taken. [188819]

**Angela Eagle:** The first meeting of the Carbon Markets Experts Group was held on 19 February 2008 and was attended by representatives from:

Barclays Capital;
Cameo Global;
Cantor Co2e;
CEAG Ltd;
Citigroup;
City of London Corporation;
Climate Change Capital;
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
Ecosecurities;
European Climate Exchange;
Financial Services Authority;
HM Treasury;
JP Morgan plc;
KPMG;
Lehman Brothers;
Merrill Lynch;
Morgan Stanley;
Natsource Europe Ltd;
TFS;
UBS.

The meeting covered London's role in the global carbon market, the EU 2020 energy and climate change package and the progress of Phase II of the EU ETS. There was a detailed discussion on the opportunities and areas for further growth within the UK and market views on developing UK and European policy. Attendees generally supported the broad thrust of the EU's recent proposals, and welcomed the greater certainty they provide for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme post 2012. There was also discussion of the limits that the EU package proposes on the use of project credits. The group was encouraged to respond to the current Government consultation on UK plans for auctioning Phase II EU allowances.

The next meeting will be held in the summer.

### Census: Data Protection

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to ensure that all census data collected by private contractors will remain confidential. [188175]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking if the Office for National Statistics will ensure that all census data collected by private contractors will remain confidential. (188175)

The data collected in the Census is owned by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Crown. ONS has a well-established reputation of maintaining Census confidentiality which it intends to uphold. Safeguarding data confidentiality and security has carried the highest priority in defining all the legal and contractual arrangements for the 2011 Census.

Confidentiality is an overriding concern, and ONS has a stringent security policy which includes specific measures to safeguard the confidentiality of personal data provided by respondents to Census Tests and to a Census. These measures cover the physical, IT, communications and internet security requirements, and comply with all relevant Government policies and standards. As for previous censuses independent security reviews will be carried out at key stages of the Census operation.

All staff working with, or having access to, Census data, including any contracted service provider, will sign a confidentiality declaration to confirm their understanding and commitment to their legal confidentiality undertakings.

Currently, legal protection is afforded by the Census Act 1920 as amended by the Census (Confidentiality) Act 1991 which makes it a criminal offence for any person to disclose personal information from the Census without lawful authority. Census information is also generally protected in UK law by the provisions of the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

From April 2008 when the power to conduct a Census and other statistical functions of my post as Registrar General for England and Wales are transferred to the newly formed Statistics Board, data confidentiality will be protected by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (SRSA) which will replace the confidentiality provisions of the Census Act.

Any breach of the SRSA confidentiality provisions would be a criminal offence, subject to possible imprisonment and fines.

### Debts

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made by *(a)* the Bank of England, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* the Financial Service Authority of the effects of the problems in the US monoline debt default insurance sector on UK financial and economic stability. [188176]

**Angela Eagle:** The Bank of England and the FSA monitor developments related to the monoline insurance industry and assess the impact for financial and economic stability, in line with their responsibilities. The Bank of England and the FSA share assessments of risks to financial and economic stability with the Treasury. Such assessments may also, where relevant, be published in the Bank of England's Financial Stability Report and the FSA's Financial Risk Outlook.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189074]

**Angela Eagle:** Presently HM Treasury has no employees under the age of 18.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187996]

**Angela Eagle:** The documents that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Department, associated agencies and non-department public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English are provided in the following list.

*Treasury*

The Treasury translated the Budget and pre-Budget report leaflet into Welsh.

The Euro preparations leaflet was translated in Welsh.

The translation of other documents is done on an ad hoc basis as requests are received.

*HMRC*

Documents available in languages other than English (or Welsh) include:

Factsheet on Child Trust Fund accounts (in seven languages in addition to English and Welsh);

Helpsheet on working and paying tax in the UK (in 13 languages plus English);

Helpsheet on the Construction Industry Scheme (in 13 languages plus English);

Miscellaneous airport and port notices;

Correspondence relating to the seizure of cash;

Questionnaires for lorry drivers entering the UK;

Letters to traders relating to VAT requirements;

Notices to detained persons;

Forms P46, P85, P85(S), P86, P91, CWF1;

Race Equality Scheme Monitoring Form;

Customs seizure letters;

Information about requirements for making a tax credit/child benefit appointment;

Tax credit overpayment note to arrange a discussion in a minority language and

Double taxation forms.

*NS&I*

All of its literature (brochures and after sales communications) including the NS&I Website area translated into Welsh. NS&I does not provide translation into any other language.

*ONS*

The information is not held centrally and an answer could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*VOA*

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) publishes documents in Welsh for taxpayers and ratepayers in Wales. It makes use of Language Line to provide interpreter and translation services where needed in relation to other languages.

*DMO*

Nil response.

*GAD*

Nil response.

*OGC*

Nil response.

*OGC Buying Solutions*

Nil response.

*Royal Mint*

Nil response.

## Employment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate was for *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* disabled people and *(c)* people aged over-50 in each year since 1997. [189320]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mow', dated 26 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the employment rate for (a) lone parents, (b) the disabled and (c) the over-50s in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (189320)

The attached table gives the employment rates for the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1997 for disabled workers and 1998 and 2000 for all categories.

A historical series of lone parent employment rates is published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release, which is available on the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas those in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Employment rate[1] of lone parents, disabled workers and people aged 50 and over, three months ending June each year, 1997-2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | *Lone parents[2,3]* | *Disabled workers[2,4]* | *People aged 50 and over* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 44.6 | [5] | 32.9 |
| 1999 | 47.9 | 46.2 | 34.3 |
| 2001 | 51.4 | 46.6 | 35.3 |
| 2002 | 53.2 | 47.9 | 35.8 |
| 2003 | 52.9 | 48.8 | 37.0 |
| 2004 | 54.2 | 49.7 | 37.2 |
| 2005 | 56.0 | 49.7 | 37.6 |
| 2006 | 56.3 | 50.0 | 38.2 |
| 2007 | 57.1 | 49.7 | 38.4 |

[1] Expressed as the total number of people in employment in each category as a percentage of the total number of people in each category. The base for the lone parent percentages excludes people with unknown employment status.

[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[3] Working age people with dependant children under 16 and those children aged 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

[4] Includes those who have a long term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a long term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.

[5] Comparable estimates for 1997 are not available for disabled people.

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

## Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will freeze duty on beer; and if he will make a statement; [188940]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of duty on beer on the viability of the brewing industry; [188941]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution made to the economy by the brewing and public house industry. [188943]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on the taxation of beer are made by the Chancellor at Budget taking all relevant factors into consideration, including the state of the industry and its contribution to the economy.

## Foreign Workers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many foreign workers in the United Kingdom were aged *(a)* 16 to 21, *(b)* 22 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50, *(e)* 51 to 60 and *(f)* over 61 years in the most recent period for which figures are available. [188462]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many foreign workers in the UK were aged *(a)* 16 to 21, *(b)* 22 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50, *(e)* 51 to 60 and *(f)* over 61 years in the most recent period for which figures are available. (188462)

The attached table gives the number of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas data in the Labour Market First Release is based on more up to date figures.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Foreign born population in employment by age group, three months ending December 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Thousand |
|---|---|
| Total | 3,496 |
| 16-21 | 142 |
| 22-30 | 897 |
| 31-40 | 1,016 |
| 41-50 | 812 |
| 51-60 | 490 |
| 61 and over | 139 |

*Note:*
It should be noted that the estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months;
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent;
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. Hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc);
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more;
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003;
which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of foreign workers worked in each English region in the latest period for which figures are available. [188463]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 26 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the percentage of foreign workers who worked in each English region in the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (188463)

The attached table gives the number of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women) and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas those in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Working age[1] foreign born population in employment by English government office regions: Three months ending December 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Thousands | Percentage[2] |
|---|---|---|
| England | 3,124 | 100 |
| North East | 46 | 2 |
| North West | 225 | 7 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 174 | 6 |
| East Midlands | 182 | 6 |
| West Midlands | 221 | 7 |
| Eastern | 310 | 10 |
| London | 1,287 | 41 |
| South East | 475 | 15 |
| South West | 203 | 7 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Number of foreign born of working age in employment in each region as a percentage of foreign born of working age in employment in the whole of England.
*Note:*
It should be noted that the estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months;
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent;
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.);
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more;
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003;
which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

## Hospitals: Death

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in hospitals were recorded on each day of *(a)* August 2007 and *(b)* August 2006. [189135]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 26 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in hospitals were recorded on each day of (a) August 2007 and (b) August 2006.I am replying in her absence. (189135)

Data for deaths which occurred in 2006 and 2007 are not yet available, and we are therefore currently unable to provide daily counts of deaths for those years.

## Job Creation

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs were created in the UK in the last 12 months, broken down by sector. [188557]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many jobs were created in the UK in the last 12 months, broken down by sector. (188557)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in jobs from year to year.

The Workforce Jobs estimates combine Employee Jobs figures with self employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey, as well as HM Forces jobs figures and the number of Government sponsored trainees.

Attached is a table showing Workforce Jobs by industry for the UK for the latest available period, September 2007, and for September 2006.

Workforce Job statistics are published as part of the Labour Market Statistics First Release and can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8286

*Workforce jobs by industry: United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted*

*Thousands*

| | *All jobs* | *Agriculture and fishing* | *Energy and water* | *Manufacturing* | *Construction* | *Distribution, hotels and restaurants* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SIC 92 sections | A-O | A-B | C, E | D | F | G,H |
| September 2007 | 31,599 | 449 | 181 | 3,205 | 2,229 | 7,069 |
| September 2006 | 31,312 | 445 | 174 | 3,241 | 2,189 | 6,994 |
| Change September 2006 to September 2007 | 287 | 4 | 7 | -36 | 40 | 75 |

| | *Transport and comms.* | *Finance and business services* | *Public Admin., education and health* | *Other services* | *Total services* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SIC 92 sections | I | J-K | L,N | O | G-O |
| September 2007 | 1,832 | 6,650 | 7,980 | 2,004 | 25,535 |
| September 2006 | 1,850 | 6,449 | 7,958 | 2,012 | 25,263 |
| Change September 2006 to September 2007 | -18 | 201 | 22 | -8 | 272 |

*Notes:*

1. Workforce jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For example, if a person holds two jobs, each job will be counted in the workforce jobs total.
2. Workforce jobs figures come from a variety of sources, and where possible, from the employer rather than the individual. Employee jobs (which is much the largest component of workforce jobs) come from quarterly surveys of employers carried out by ONS.
3. Other data sources are as follows:

Self-employment jobs are provided by the Labour Force Survey
HM Forces figures are provided by the Ministry of Defence (MOD)
Government-supported trainees are provided from Administrative Sources.

## Low Incomes

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings were of those on low incomes in employment in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by decile. [188559]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average earnings were of those on low incomes in employment in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by decile. (188559)

Levels of earnings for Standard Occupation Classification, including medians, deciles and quartiles, are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results for 2007 can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings of those in employment in each of the two poorest deciles were in each of the last five years. [188560]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 February 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what average earnings of those in employment in each of the two poorest deciles were in for each of the last five years. (188560)

Levels of earnings, including deciles, are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of

earnings information in the United Kingdom. ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

**Mortgages: Fraud**

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has collected evidence of fraudulent mortgage lending as a result of identity theft. [188301]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Treasury does not collect evidence of this kind.

**Northern Rock Foundation**

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that the guaranteed funds for the Northern Rock Foundation will go to funding arts and heritage projects. [188892]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* As part of the Government's decision to take Northern Rock plc into temporary public ownership, on 17 February the Treasury announced that the Northern Rock Foundation will receive from Northern Rock a minimum of £15 million a year in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The distribution of funds is a matter for the trustees of the Northern Rock Foundation.

**Northern Rock: Freedom of Information**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Freedom of Information requests the Treasury has received in respect of Northern Rock. [189111]

**Angela Eagle:** 31.

**Tax Office: Dorchester**

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the future of the Dorchester tax office. [188227]

**Jane Kennedy:** No decisions have yet been taken on the future of the Dorchester Tax office. HMRC will announce plans to consult on all offices that have not yet been consulted on shortly after the Budget.

**Taxation: Pensioners**

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners in Luton paid tax in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* the last financial year. [188245]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of taxpayers with pension income in Luton can be found in Table 3.14 'Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority' or Table 3.15 'Income and tax by parliamentary constituency' at the HM Revenue and Customs website http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314. The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2004-05 is the latest available.

Similar information is not available for 1996-97 as sample sizes were too small to base reliable estimates on.

**Voluntary Work**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what programmes his Department has in place to encourage volunteering among its employees. [189138]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury actively promotes employee volunteering, including by: providing special leave entitlements to enable staff to take a limited amount of time off each year to volunteer; holding regular events with voluntary sector organisations to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities; providing information on volunteering via an internal website; supporting a staff-led Volunteers Group.

## JUSTICE

**Absent Voting**

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of votes were postal in *(a)* the 2005 general election, *(b)* the 2005 local elections and *(c)* the 2006 local elections; and how many postal vote applications were disallowed per local authority in each case. [188468]

**Bridget Prentice:** Research conducted by the Electoral Commission on turnout at the 2005 general and local elections concluded that 12.1 per cent. of the electorate opted to have a postal vote at those elections, and that postal votes accounted for 15 per cent. of all votes cast. The information for the 2006 local elections is not held centrally by Government.

The Government do not hold figures for how many postal vote applications were disallowed per local authority, though this may be held by local authorities.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to *(a)* raise the awareness of postal voting availability and *(b)* reduce levels of disallowed postal votes. [188469]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government have prescribed that the annual canvass form that is sent to every household each autumn contains a provision allowing an elector to request a postal vote application form. The Government have expanded the information that is included on the poll card that is sent to electors at an election, and it now includes information about how to apply for a postal vote and the deadline for making a postal vote application at the forthcoming election.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 brought forward measures to increase the security of postal voting. While this increased the amount of data needed when electors completed their forms, this was balanced by the removal of the requirement for a witness signature. The available information suggests that the levels of disallowed postal votes remain low. We will wish to keep the matter under review and to explore the issues involved with the Electoral Commission and Association of Electoral Administrators.

**Crime: Internet**

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what prosecutions there have been involving the posting

or accessing of illegal content online in which legal proceedings are complete in each of the last three years. [188322]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for various offences relating to the publication, possession or distribution of obscene matter, and indecent photographs (including of children), in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for various offences relating to the publication, possession or distribution of obscene matter, and indecent photographs (including of children), in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006*[1,2]

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *Proceeded against* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Obscene Publications Act 1959 Sec 2(1) as amended by Obscene Publications Act 1964 Sec 1(1) | Prohibition of publication of obscene matter | 30 | 35 | 29 |
| Protection of Children Act 1978 Section 1 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 84 and Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1) | Take, permit to be taken, or to make distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children | 1,097 | 1,101 | 937 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 | Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph | 159 | 160 | 162 |
| Total | — | 1,286 | 1,296 | 1,128 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

There is no specific offence of the posting or accessing of illegal content online as the UK prosecutes the offence, such as the creation or publication of illegal imagery, rather than the medium used. All published material is subject to the Obscene Publications Act 1959. Under the Protection of Children Act 1978 (as amended), the UK has an absolute prohibition on the production, circulation and possession with a view to distribution of any indecent photograph of a child under 18.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187520]

**Maria Eagle:** It is estimated that the cost of sick pay within the public sector Prison Service during 2007 was £68 million. Estimated costs for other parts of the Department are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office published a report on sickness absence in the civil service on 7 February 2008. The report included an analysis of the days lost due to sickness absence. The report included an estimate of £887.66 for 2006-07 as the cost of absence per staff year in respect of all civil servants.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average hourly rate his Department and its predecessors paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187909]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 therefore my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs. The following table provides figures from 2001 to the end of the last full financial year. Information for the preceding financial years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My Department and its predecessor has a national framework contract with Kelly Services that began in April 2001 for the supply of agency staff.

Information relating to workers employed through other employment agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on average hourly rates paid to agency staff employed through Kelly Services appears as follows.

| | *Average hourly rate (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 10.41 |
| 2002 | 10.43 |
| 2003 | 10.53 |
| 2004 | 10.86 |
| 2005 | 10.57 |
| 2006 | 9.89 |

### Domestic Violence: Rehabilitation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* average and *(c)* shortest waiting period for domestic violence perpetrators programmes was for each probation area in the latest period for which figures are available. [188270]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is contained in the following table. It covers the period from April 2006 to March 2007.

Offenders waiting for a place on a domestic violence programme are under the supervision of their offender manager from the day of sentence. The offender manager will monitor the risk posed by the offender and actively manage it. Additionally the offender manager will normally

prepare offenders for the programmes by carrying out set work. This can take between six and 12 weeks.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The data take no account of time that elapses because of the need to deliver other requirements of the sentence, or because the offender is recalled into custody, for example.

The domestic violence programmes are still relatively new and demand from the courts has exceeded expectations. A series of measures are in place to reduce the period of time before an offender can start a programme.

*Domestic violence programmes: time to commencements*

| *Area* | *Mean time to commence group* | *Minimum time to commence group* | *Maximum time to commence group* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Weeks* |
| *England* | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 39.0 | 9 | 101 |
| Bedfordshire | 20.8 | 4 | 146 |
| Cambridgeshire | 36.5 | 7 | 95 |
| Cumbria | 24.8 | 4 | 52 |
| Derbyshire | 30.6 | 6 | 68 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 41.4 | 7 | 200 |
| Dorset | 31.1 | 4 | 79 |
| County Durham | 25.1 | 1 | 57 |
| Essex | 39.5 | 10 | 77 |
| Gloucestershire | 32.3 | 7 | 91 |
| Hampshire | 25.0 | 2 | 79 |
| Hertfordshire | 30.0 | 2 | 57 |
| Humberside | 23.0 | 2 | 47 |
| Kent | 29.2 | 11 | 67 |
| Lancashire | 27.9 | 4 | 208 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 39.4 | 1 | 130 |
| Lincolnshire | 24.5 | 7 | 72 |
| London | 31.8 | 4 | 173 |
| Merseyside | 25.7 | 2 | 86 |
| Norfolk | 19.4 | 4 | 89 |
| Northamptonshire | 29.3 | 7 | 85 |
| Northumbria | 32.2 | 7 | 72 |
| Nottinghamshire | 12.9 | 4 | 49 |
| Staffordshire | 13.7 | 3 | 52 |
| Suffolk | 20.2 | 5 | 80 |
| Surrey | 28.1 | 12 | 59 |
| Sussex | 27.4 | 1 | 74 |
| Teesside | 25.2 | 9 | 43 |
| Thames Valley | 36.5 | 8 | 126 |
| Warwickshire | 19.9 | 5 | 60 |
| West Mercia | 13.0 | 4 | 33 |
| West Midlands | 28.6 | 5 | 78 |
| Wiltshire | 34.9 | 2 | 103 |
| Yorkshire North | 16.1 | 1 | 53 |
| Yorkshire South | 42.5 | 1 | 77 |
| Yorkshire West | 28.4 | 1 | 161 |
| *Wales* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys | 19.2 | 6 | 61 |
| Gwent | 40.8 | 12 | 101 |
| North Wales | 37.1 | 9 | 76 |
| South Wales | 23.2 | 4 | 63 |

*Note:*
Comparable data from Cheshire and Greater Manchester areas are not available due to incompatible IT systems.

## Information Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how he proposes to ensure that all providers of supervisory services for which his Department has responsibility have the same level of access to information and support systems. [188337]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Data Share project, in the new NOMIS Programme, will allow public prisons and probation areas access to a simple read-only database containing important case information held by the separate case management systems, to further support the management of offenders.

Information on violent and sexual offenders, managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection

Arrangements (MAPPA) will be shared across supervisory services (including the police) through a single, secure system; ViSOR. Once the deployment of the system is complete in spring 2008, ViSOR will become the first IT system to be jointly shared across probation, prison and police services.

## Land Registry: Pay

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses paid to each of the directors of HM Land Registry were in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [188339]

**Mr. Wills:** The table, taken from Land Registry's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, covers all taxable pay in 2006, including any performance or corporate bonus, if awarded. In accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual issued by HM Treasury, Land Registry is required to seek permission from each director before disclosing his/her salary, including any allowances, in bands of £5,000. Such permission is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The directors' salary details for 2007-08 will be available in similar bandings when this year's annual report and accounts has been audited. Copies will be laid before Parliament before the summer recess.

| | *2006-07* |
|---|---|
| Chief Land Registrar and Chief Executive | £150,000 to £155,000 |
| Deputy Chief Executive and Business Development Director | £125,000 to £130,000 |
| Director of Operations | £120,000 to £125,000 |
| Director of Legal Services | £120,000 to £125,000 |
| Director of Human Resources | £95,000 to £100,000 |
| Finance Director | £90,000 to £95,000 |
| Director of Information Systems | £90,000 to £95,000 |

## Magistrates Courts: Sentencing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of sentences from magistrates courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188160]

(2) how many and what proportion of offenders convicted in magistrates courts were given custodial sentences of *(a)* three months or less, *(b)* three to six months and *(c)* six to 12 months in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [188205]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following tables show the number of custodial sentences handed down at the magistrates court, split by age and gender, and there associated proportions to the totals.

This information can also be found in table 2.1 of "Sentencing Statistics 2006", available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

*Persons sentenced to immediate custody at magistrates courts by length of sentence and average custodial sentence length, 1996-2006, England and Wales*

*Number of persons and percentages*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All offences* | | | | | | |
| Total persons sentenced | 1,351,789 | 1,293,961 | 1,376,514 | 1,320,751 | 1,339,986 | 1,266,634 |
| Number given immediate custody | 41,166 | 46,517 | 52,615 | 57,974 | 59,975 | 61,868 |
| Percentage given immediate custody | 3.0 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.9 |
| Up to and including 3 months | 26,649 | 30,875 | 35,078 | 38,529 | 37,300 | 37,396 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 65 | 66 | 67 | 66 | 62 | 60 |
| Over 3 months and less than 6 months | 11,026 | 12,326 | 13,854 | 15,387 | 17,212 | 18,440 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 27 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 29 | 30 |
| 6 months | 3,491 | 3,316 | 3,640 | 3,974 | 4,549 | 4,696 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Over 6 months[1] | * | * | 43 | 84 | 914 | 1,336 |
| Proportion (percentage) | * | * | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Average custodial sentence length (months) | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 |

*Number of persons and percentages*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All offences* | | | | | |
| Total persons sentenced | 1,334,439 | 1,403,921 | 1,460,707 | 1,397,675 | 1,336,501 |
| Number given immediate custody | 64,913 | 63,396 | 61,384 | 57,250 | 53,431 |
| Percentage given immediate custody | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 |
| Up to and including 3 months | 39,476 | 37,856 | 36,798 | 34,377 | 32,254 |

*Number of persons and percentages*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion (percentage) | 61 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Over 3 months and less than 6 months | 19,370 | 19,835 | 19,161 | 18,365 | 16,839 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 30 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 32 |
| 6 months | 4,553 | 4,413 | 4,173 | 3,336 | 3,018 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Over 6 months[1] | 1,514 | 1,292 | 1,252 | 1,172 | 1,320 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Average custodial sentence length (months) | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |

[1] Over 6 months sentences relate to secure training orders given to juveniles (introduced in 1998) and replaced by detention and training orders in April 2000.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of prison sentences handed down by *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts has been in each year since 1993, broken down by type of crime. [188161]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the available information which can also be found in Tables 1.3 and 1.4 of "Sentencing Statistics 2006", available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

*Average custodial sentence lengths (months)[1] for immediate custody, broken down by court and type of crime[2], 1996 to 2006*

| | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Magistrates' courts* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Sexual offences | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Burglary | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Robbery | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 6.6 | 8.0 | 9.7 | 9.1 | 9.4 | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| Fraud and forgery | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Criminal damage | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Drug offences | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| Other (excl. motoring offences) | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Motoring offences | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.0 |
| All indictable | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Summary non-motoring offences | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Summary motoring offences | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| All summary offences | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| All offences | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| *Crown courts* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 23.8 | 22.8 | 22.1 | 21.7 | 21.6 | 22.6 | 23.9 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 24.5 | 23.2 |
| Sexual offences | 38.6 | 39.9 | 40.9 | 39.7 | 41.1 | 40.7 | 43.4 | 43.8 | 43.4 | 44.4 | 44.1 |
| Burglary | 19.1 | 20.7 | 20.2 | 20.5 | 20.8 | 22.3 | 23.5 | 24.0 | 24.6 | 24.7 | 24.4 |
| Robbery | 40.2 | 40.9 | 37.3 | 37.3 | 38.3 | 38.4 | 41.3 | 41.7 | 41.1 | 38.0 | 35.7 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 11.5 | 12.4 | 11.7 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 11.1 | 11.5 | 12.1 | 12.3 | 12.8 | 12.7 |
| Fraud and forgery | 15.2 | 14.7 | 15.1 | 13.6 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 15.6 | 15.4 | 13.7 | 13.4 |
| Criminal damage | 28.6 | 31.7 | 25.3 | 25.6 | 24.6 | 26.4 | 28.2 | 28.8 | 28.3 | 27.2 | 25.3 |
| Drug offences | 30.7 | 31.7 | 30.9 | 33.4 | 34.5 | 37.2 | 39.5 | 40.0 | 41.3 | 40.4 | 38.8 |
| Other (excl. motoring offences) | 12.5 | 12.4 | 11.8 | 12.0 | 11.9 | 13.3 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 15.5 | 15.7 |
| Motoring offences | 9.3 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 10.7 |
| All indictable | 22.4 | 22.8 | 22.2 | 22.5 | 22.8 | 24.5 | 26.3 | 26.8 | 27.0 | 25.9 | 25.2 |
| Summary non-motoring offences | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| Summary motoring offences | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| All summary offences | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.9 |

*Average custodial sentence lengths (months)[1] for immediate custody, broken down by court and type of crime[2], 1996 to 2006*

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All offences | 22.1 | 22.5 | 21.8 | 22.1 | 22.4 | 24.2 | 25.9 | 26.3 | 26.5 | 25.5 | 24.7 |

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[2] Principle offence basis.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

## Ministry of Justice

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will give the dates of any meetings he had with *(a)* the Labour Party Registered Treasurer or Representative Officer, *(b)* the Conservative Party Registered Treasurer or Representative Officer or *(c)* the Liberal Party Registered Treasurer or Representative Officer since December 2006, other than those which took place during meetings with Hayden Phillips. [178769]

**Mr. Straw:** In my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice, I have not held any meetings with political party representatives since December 2006.

In addition to the information in the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 156W, I have met with representatives of political parties on party funding (including those of my own party), in my capacity as one of my party's representatives at the cross-party talks.

## Offenders: Databases

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to ensure the effective *(a)* capture and *(b)* communication of relevant data throughout the offender management system. [188336]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisons and probation have agreed a core dataset of relevant offender information to be captured and communicated at specified points in the offender journey, using a system of jointly agreed offender management forms, secure e-mail and dedicated offender management mailboxes.

Data on violent and sexual offenders, managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) will be shared across the offender management system through the ViSOR system. Once the deployment of the system is complete in spring 2008, ViSOR will become the first IT system to be jointly shared across probation, prison and police services.

Going forward, the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS programme will continue the roll-out of the prison NOMIS database to public prisons. At the same time, the programme will be replacing at-risk case management systems in probation areas, as well as providing a simple read-only database, that will allow staff in both services to have access to important information held on each others' systems to support the management of offenders. In addition, the OASys project, as well as improving the offender risk assessment systems in both prisons and probation, will also provide, for the first time, a single national database of offenders who fall within the agreed scope of offender management.

## Offenders: Housing

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the total cost was of providing bail and home detention accommodation through *(a)* the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, *(b)* ClearSprings Management and *(c)* other private contractors in each month for which figures are available; and what the average cost per person per night was in each category over the latest period for which figures are available; [188347]

(2) how many people on *(a)* bail and *(b)* home detention curfew were provided with accommodation by (i) the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, (ii) ClearSprings Management and (iii) other private contractors in each month since July 2007; [188454]

(3) how many beds are available through the Bail Accommodation and Support Service; in how many properties; and how many of these are run by *(a)* ClearSprings Management and *(b)* other private contractors. [188455]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Bail Accommodation and Support Service (BASS) is provided by one contractor: ClearSprings Management Ltd. The total cost of providing the scheme and the cost of the services provided by ClearSprings are given in the following table for each month from June to December 2007:

| 2007 | Total BASS | £000 ClearSprings |
|---|---|---|
| June | 115 | 102 |
| July | 406 | 390 |
| August | 560 | 547 |
| September | 566 | 551 |
| October | 641 | 544 |
| November | 596 | 495 |
| December | 587 | 441 |

The average cost per person per night through BASS and ClearSprings Management for the latest period (December 2007) in which figures are available is £81 and £61 respectively.

I will provide as soon as possible information on the numbers of defendants and offenders released each month into accommodation provided by the ClearSprings Bail Accommodation and Support Service.

As at 20 February 2008 ClearSprings had supplied 539 bed spaces in 135 properties across England and Wales for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service.

Many more offenders, including some on Home Detention Curfew, are released into accommodation provided by other private landlords, local authorities, housing associations and the voluntary sector. The cost of the accommodation provided by these providers does not fall on NOMS and it is not possible to provide a total or unit cost. Nor is it possible to provide the number of those released into accommodation. The numbers of beds and properties available from other sources, including other private contractors, is not defined and no numbers can be given. NOMS has invested £14.5 million since 2003 to help prisoners access accommodation on release. The percentage of released prisoners without accommodation to go to has fallen from 46 per cent. in 2003-04 to 13 per cent. for 2006-07.

### Open Prisons

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent changes he has made to the criteria for allocating prisoners to open prisons; and if he will make a statement. [189191]

**Mr. Hanson:** Public safety remains paramount and there is no relaxation of standards. The Prison Service Instruction issued in November 2007 identified additional measures to ensure suitable prisoners are allocated to open conditions. This includes: arrangements to ensure that categorisation reviews take place at six monthly intervals for all prisoners in the last 30 months of their sentence; reviews after successful completion of Release on Temporary licence; and that prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months in custody be considered as soon as possible after sentencing.

### Prison Services: Travelling People

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by HM Prison Service on raising awareness of Gypsy and Traveller issues in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [188290]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures for monies spent by HM Prison Service on raising awareness of Gypsy and Traveller issues are not available centrally for individual establishments.

To collect the information required would require contacting all public sector prisons in England and Wales individually and for each establishment to conduct a manual check of their local records. To do so would be at disproportionate cost.

### Prisoner Escapes

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each contracted-out prison *(a)* escaped from prison and *(b)* escaped from escorts in each of the last five years. [188307]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the number of escapes from prison and escapes from escort at each contracted prison is provided in the following tables for each financial year to 31 March and for the current year until 31 January 2008.

*Escapes from prisons*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ashfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bronzefield[1] | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dovegate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Bank | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lowdham Grange | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Parc | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peterborough[2] | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rye Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wolds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

In the end of year Performance Report on Offender Management Targets 2006-07 (PROMT) published in July 2007 on the NOMS website, targets for the rate of escape from prison and prison escorts below 0.05 per cent. of the average population, were met by both the public sector and the contracted estate.

The target for fewer than one in 20,000 escapes from prison and prison escorts was also met.

*Escapes from prison escort*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ashfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bronzefield[1] | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dovegate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Bank | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lowdham Grange | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parc | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peterborough[2] | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rye Hill | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wolds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] HMP Bronzefield did not become operational until 4 June.
[2] HMP Peterborough did not become operational until March 2005

### Prisoners Release

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners on indeterminate sentences have been released following the completion of rehabilitation courses; [188639]

(2) how many prisoners on indeterminate sentences have been released despite not having access to pre-release rehabilitation courses; and how many of those were sex offenders. [188640]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) may be considered for release by the independent Parole Board once they have completed the period of imprisonment considered necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence (the tariff period). This period is set in open court by the trial judge when passing sentence. The Parole Board may direct the release of such a prisoner only if it is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined. The Secretary of State may release such prisoners at any time only if exceptional circumstances exist which justify release on compassionate grounds.

As at 31 January 2008, 17 IPP prisoners have been released on licence. The IPP licence will remain in force for at least 10 years, at which point the licensee can apply to have it cancelled. Similar applications can be made annually thereafter. Of those 17 cases, 16 were released on the direction of the Parole Board. One prisoner was released by the Secretary of State prior to tariff expiry on compassionate grounds.

Consideration of the files of the 16 prisoners released on the direction of the Parole Board indicates that 11 had completed courses specifically aimed at addressing identified risk factors. Such work could also continue as appropriate during the post release licence period.

**Prisoners: Food**

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the daily food allowance for prisoners in each contracted-out prison in each of the last five years. [188345]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the cost of the daily food allowance for prisoners in each of the last five years for each contracted prison is provided in the table as follows.

*Cost of daily food allowance for prisoners*

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | £[1] 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 2.18 | 2.23 | 2.24 | 2.19 | 2.10 |
| Ashfield | 2.81 | 2.84 | 2.63 | 2.63 | 2.63 |
| Bronzefield [2] | 3.45 | 3.73 | 3.93 | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | 2.40 | 2.33 | 2.23 | 2.18 | 2.17 |
| Dovegate | 2.25 | 2.25 | 2.22 | 2.17 | 2.15 |
| Forest Bank | 2.91 | 2.93 | 2.93 | 2.85 | n/a |
| Lowdham Grange | 2.25 | 2.25 | 2.22 | 2.17 | 2.15 |
| Parc[3] | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 |
| Peterborough [4] | 2.95 | 3.18 | 4.42 | n/a | n/a |
| Rye Hill | 2.15 | 2.17 | 2.20 | 2.12 | 2.06 |
| Wolds | 2.17 | 2.18 | 2.15 | 2.09 | 2.05 |

[1] Due to information not being held centrally data have been supplied by each of the four contractors Serco, Kalyx, G4S and GSL.
[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
[3] Information provided by Parc is the actual daily allowance per day, however the actual food cost varies over the period between £2.45 and £2.60.
[4] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005. Data also include providing free staff meals, as it is not possible for the contractor to provide a separated cost.

**Prisoners: Skilled Workers**

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each contracted-out prison started a work skills award in each of the last five years; and what percentage of these completed a work skills award. [188304]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of completed work skills awards against the target in each contracted prison in each of the last five years is provided in the following table. Information is not centrally available for the number of prisoners who started work skills awards and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

*Target and actual key work skill awards in each contracted prison[1]*

| | 2006-07 | | 2005-06 | | 2004-05 | | 2003-04 | | 2002-03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target |
| Altcourse | 977 | 752 | 1,090 | 663 | 591 | 400 | 506 | 200 | 342 | 17 |
| Ashfield | 5,204 | 630 | 931 | 630 | 616 | 500 | 1,689 | 150 | — | — |
| Bronzefield[2] | 1,935 | 800 | 1,177 | 800 | 630 | 150 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | 961 | 470 | 1,041 | 440 | 783 | 320 | 411 | 240 | 238 | 241 |
| Dovegate | 2,014 | 1,137 | 1,134 | 1,010 | 994 | 825 | 753 | 800 | 554 | 200 |
| Forest Bank | 1,042 | 844 | 837 | 782 | 804 | 600 | 771 | 300 | 317 | 300 |
| Lowdham Grange | 1,221 | 1,208 | 1,102 | 1,071 | 1,056 | 354 | 265 | 221 | — | — |
| Parc | 2,210 | 1,400 | 2,067 | 1,060 | 1,150 | 750 | 866 | 165 | 637 | 154 |
| Peterborough[3] | 1,830 | 760 | n/a | — | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rye Hill | 334 | 330 | 354 | 330 | 408 | 320 | 229 | 300 | 144 | 150 |
| Wolds | 674 | 345 | 386 | 305 | 642 | 250 | 164 | 150 | 231 | 149 |

[1] Information has been obtained from the PSimon reporting system. Data have also been published in the Prison Service annual report, Office for Contracted Prisons Statement of Performance and the Regional Commissioning and Partnerships annual report available on the HMPS and NOMS website.
[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
[3] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005. Data for 2006-07 are provided from the Commissioning and Partnerships annual report 2006-07: East of England as data are not available on PSimon. Data have been combined for the male and female prison sites.

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each contracted-out prison started *(a)* entry level, *(b)* level one and *(c)* level two basic skills awards in each of the last five years; and what percentage of these completed (i) entry level, (ii) level one and (iii) level two basic skills awards. [188305]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of completed basic skills awards against the target in each contracted prison in each of the last five years is provided in the following tables. Information is not centrally available for the number of prisoners who started basic skills awards and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

*Entry level basic skill award*[1]

| | 2006-07 | | 2005-06 | | 2004-05 | | 2003-04 | | 2002-03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* |
| Altcourse | 135 | 242 | 194 | 194 | 379 | 200 | 114 | 50 | 47 | 20 |
| Ashfield | 326 | 315 | 282 | 378 | 313 | 300 | 0 | 100 | n/a | n/a |
| Bronzefield[2] | 113 | 90 | 106 | 90 | 22 | 25 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | 82 | 120 | 125 | 112 | 129 | 120 | 66 | 40 | 33 | 20 |
| Dovegate | 345 | 290 | 291 | 264 | 191 | 170 | 185 | 90 | 62 | 50 |
| Forest Bank | 265 | 220 | 241 | 215 | 244 | 210 | 71 | 40 | 59 | 40 |
| Lowdham Grange | 69 | 95 | 96 | 95 | 121 | 66 | 47 | 40 | 38 | 40 |
| Parc | 388 | 252 | 266 | 237 | 230 | 200 | 252 | 140 | 143 | 140 |
| Peterborough[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rye Hill | 85 | 99 | 104 | 99 | 136 | 105 | 26 | 25 | 2 | 40 |
| Wolds | 216 | 180 | 190 | 180 | 212 | 200 | 210 | 90 | 183 | 89 |

*Level one basic skill award*[1]

| | 2006-07 | | 2005-06 | | 2004-05 | | 2003-04 | | 2002-03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* |
| Altcourse | 355 | 181 | 283 | 148 | 280 | 138 | 170 | 110 | 193 | 26 |
| Ashfield | 244 | 105 | 181 | 126 | 120 | 100 | 88 | 50 | n/a | n/a |
| Bronzefield[2] | 81 | 40 | 60 | 40 | 24 | 30 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | 311 | 220 | 218 | 206 | 125 | 120 | 62 | 40 | 39 | 26 |
| Dovegate | 269 | 242 | 275 | 212 | 198 | 90 | 160 | 180 | 94 | 150 |
| Forest Bank | 239 | 220 | 234 | 210 | 222 | 200 | 127 | 100 | 190 | 40 |
| Lowdham Grange | 233 | 210 | 247 | 210 | 136 | 103 | 83 | 61 | 63 | 61 |
| Parc | 410 | 257 | 269 | 242 | 210 | 205 | 166 | 160 | 203 | 153 |
| Peterborough[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rye Hill | 107 | 63 | 64 | 63 | 62 | 60 | 64 | 45 | 52 | 35 |
| Wolds | 175 | 172 | 181 | 172 | 193 | 170 | 127 | 27 | 116 | 27 |

*Level two basic skill award*[1]

| | 2006-07 | | 2005-06 | | 2004-05 | | 2003-04 | | 2002-03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* | *Actual* | *Target* |
| Altcourse | 270 | 249 | 199 | 198 | 204 | 195 | 144 | 130 | 183 | 120 |
| Ashfield | 127 | 42 | 79 | 50 | 63 | 40 | 19 | 20 | n/a | n/a |
| Bronzefield[2] | 40 | 40 | 46 | 40 | 20 | 30 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | 232 | 210 | 207 | 197 | 170 | 170 | 140 | 140 | 129 | 105 |
| Dovegate | 101 | 365 | 333 | 333 | 220 | 200 | 187 | 80 | 67 | 70 |
| Forest Bank | 114 | 80 | 88 | 78 | 87 | 75 | 121 | 120 | 153 | 90 |
| Lowdham Grange | 148 | 134 | 148 | 134 | 64 | 61 | 37 | 30 | 43 | 30 |
| Parc | 261 | 226 | 244 | 212 | 168 | 150 | 144 | 140 | 247 | 140 |
| Peterborough[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rye Hill | 62 | 77 | 73 | 77 | 43 | 50 | 35 | 45 | 44 | 35 |
| Wolds | 189 | 120 | 121 | 120 | 130 | 100 | 68 | 67 | 90 | 66 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] Information has been obtained from the PSimon reporting system. Data have also been published in the Prison Service annual report, Office for Contracted Prisons Statement of Performance and the Regional Commissioning and Partnerships annual report available on the HMPS and NOMS website.
[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
[3] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005.

## Prisoners: Suicide

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each contracted-out prison *(a)* committed suicide, *(b)* attempted suicide and *(c)* deliberately self-harmed in each of the last five years. [188306]

**Maria Eagle:** In response to parts *(a)* and *(c)* of the question, the following tables list (i) the numbers of self-inflicted deaths and (ii) the numbers of self-harm incidents, for the 11 contracted prisons in England and Wales. Regarding part *(b)* of the question, attempted suicide is not recorded in prisons as it is not possible to measure suicidal intent.

*(i) Self-inflicted deaths*[1]

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Ashfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bronzefield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Dovegate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Forest Bank | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lowdham Grange | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Parc | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Peterborough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rye Hill | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wolds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Percentage of all self-inflicted deaths | 4 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 2 |

[1] The Prison Service/NOMS definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

*(ii) Recorded self-harm incidents*[1]

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 168 | 166 | 122 | 219 | 215 |
| Ashfield | 286 | 239 | 172 | 224 | 142 |
| Bronzefield | 0 | 274 | 831 | 1,165 | 1,743 |
| Doncaster | 318 | 370 | 336 | 276 | 266 |
| Dovegate | 163 | 160 | 174 | 210 | 156 |
| Forest Bank | 214 | 257 | 200 | 333 | 317 |
| Lowdham Grange | 4 | 16 | 19 | 30 | 42 |
| Parc | 326 | 251 | 368 | 285 | 199 |
| Peterborough | 0 | 0 | 973 | 1,329 | 1,245 |
| Rye Hill | 46 | 147 | 198 | 85 | 86 |
| Wolds | 10 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 19 |

[1] The Prison Service/NOMS defines self-harm as any incident where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of method, intent or severity of any injury. The numbers of self-harm incidents reported here are based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. Many self-harm incidents often involve the same individuals, and changing numbers of incidents at different prisons can reflect the movement of such prisoners. Self-harm is a high volume incident that can be subject to technical and recording problems. While the system provides a sensible indication of the scale of self-harm the numbers of incidents should not be treated as absolute.

## Prisons: Drugs

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners in each contracted-out prison were subject to yearly mandatory drug testing in each of the last five years; and *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of those tested positive for drugs. [188348]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners are subject to both random and targeted mandatory drug testing. The figures[1] for contracted out prisons in each of the last five years are given in the following tables. Some prisoners will have been tested more than once in any year.

*Random MDT testing*

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Prison* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* |
| Altcourse | 1,172 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 1,182 | 9.9 | 12.0 | 1,155 | 10.0 | 14.7 | 1,136 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 1,204 | 9.7 | 13.0 |
| Ashfield | 330 | 10.3 | 11.5 | 297 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 339 | 9.6 | 7.4 | 365 | 9.2 | 3.6 | 442 | 9.8 | 1.8 |
| Bronzefield[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 283 | 8.4 | 17.0 | 384 | 7.6 | 9.9 | 277 | 5.5 | 5.8 |
| Doncaster | 1,266 | 9.4 | 9.7 | 1,262 | 9.5 | 10.7 | 1,305 | 9.9 | 8.2 | 1,309 | 10.1 | 6.2 | 1,339 | 10.0 | 8.5 |
| Dovegate | 788 | 8.7 | 11.7 | 817 | 8.0 | 17.5 | 922 | 9.2 | 15.2 | 829 | 8.5 | 16.0 | 807 | 8.1 | 12.5 |
| Forest Bank | 1,263 | 10.4 | 14.9 | 1,298 | 10.8 | 21.4 | 1,225 | 10.0 | 21.0 | 624 | 5.1 | 21.0 | 640 | 5.1 | 9.5 |
| Lowdham Grange | 315 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 309 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 311 | 5.1 | 8.4 | 310 | 5.0 | 10.3 | 327 | 5.0 | 14.4 |
| Parc | 539 | 4.6 | 14.3 | 583 | 5.0 | 23.8 | 599 | 5.0 | 15.2 | 597 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 628 | 4.9 | 5.4 |
| Peterborough Female[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 266 | 13.9 | 10.5 | 387 | 15.8 | 7.8 |
| Peterborough Male[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 411 | 8.9 | 16.1 | 507 | 4.9 | 21.5 |
| Rye Hill | 393 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 396 | 5.0 | 7.3 | 386 | 5.0 | 14.0 | 356 | 5.0 | 16.3 | 367 | 5.1 | 15.8 |
| Wolds | 465 | 10.2 | 3.2 | 419 | 10.1 | 3.3 | 425 | 10.3 | 1.4 | 361 | 10.2 | 1.4 | 403 | 9.9 | 5.5 |

*Targeted MDT testing*

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Prison* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* | *Tests* | *% pop* | *% +* |
| Altcourse | 211 | 1.8 | 37.9 | 152 | 1.3 | 33.6 | 197 | 2.9 | 47.1 | 309 | 2.7 | 32.4 | 137 | 1.1 | 24.8 |
| Ashfield | 201 | 6.3 | 32.3 | 163 | 4.9 | 43.4 | 197 | 5.7 | 43.1 | 154 | 3.9 | 42.2 | 217 | 4.8 | 43.3 |
| Bronzefield[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 69 | 2.0 | 43.5 | 101 | 2.0 | 34.7 | 153 | 3.0 | 27.5 |
| Doncaster | 923 | 6.9 | 26.2 | 1284 | 9.6 | 23.8 | 1398 | 10.6 | 19.8 | 1350 | 10.5 | 18.1 | 1088 | 8.1 | 28.3 |
| Dovegate | 177 | 2.0 | 18.6 | 403 | 4.0 | 15.1 | 383 | 3.9 | 15.7 | 931 | 5.7 | 24.7 | 612 | 6.1 | 22.1 |
| Forest Bank | 699 | 5.4 | 138.1 | 678 | 5.6 | 51.2 | 682 | 5.6 | 49.9 | 1134 | 9.2 | 54.1 | 1273 | 10.0 | 42.9 |
| Lowdham Grange | 511 | 8.2 | 7.0 | 602 | 9.6 | 8.3 | 549 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 542 | 8.9 | 16.8 | 636 | 9.5 | 12.9 |
| Parc | 26 | 0.2 | 53.8 | 77 | 0.6 | 49.4 | 47 | 0.4 | 17.0 | 107 | 0.9 | 19.6 | 118 | 1.0 | 16.9 |
| Peterborough Female[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 236 | 12.3 | 27.1 | 444 | 18.1 | 17.3 |
| Peterborough Male[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 135 | 2.9 | 39.3 | 340 | 3.3 | 35.9 |
| Rye Hill | 142 | 1.8 | 23.4 | 129 | 1.7 | 26.4 | 30 | 0.4 | 40.0 | 37 | 0.6 | 45.9 | 221 | 3.0 | 34.4 |
| Wolds | 65 | 1.4 | 21.5 | 120 | 3.0 | 18.3 | 122 | 2.9 | 14.8 | 125 | 3.5 | 18.4 | 128 | 3.1 | 10.2 |

[1] % pop = percentage of prisoners tested based on total of monthly population figures over twelve months; % + = percentage of tests that tested positive.
[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
[3] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005.

*Notes:*
1. Information has not been provided for the total number of tests that tested positive as this can be calculated by using the percentage of positive tests and the number of tests carried out.
2. There are two types of MDT—random and targeted. The random MDT positive rate is one of the prison service's key performance indicators. Initially, 10 per cent. of every prison's population was tested each month under the random programme, but since 1999 prisons with a population of 400 or above have tested 5 per cent. The reduced level of random testing was expected to be compensated for by an increase in targeted testing. Due to contractual obligations, some contracted out prisons have continued to test at the 10 per cent. random level.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what quantity of drugs has been detected by passive drug detection dogs since their introduction in each of the prisons in which they have been deployed. [188377]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Records of passive drug dog indications and subsequent drug finds are held locally, so to obtain the information required would mean consulting all prisons that are operating or have operated passive drug dogs.

### Prisons: Procurement

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is considering allowing individual prisons to procure goods and services other than through the national procurement system where it can be demonstrated that better value for money is achieved in so doing. [189091]

**Maria Eagle:** Acquisition of goods and services in the Prison Service is now undertaken by procurement professionals utilising the national procurement system as part of the process. This model has been introduced to improve value for money and allows decisions to purchase on a local basis where that makes sense. It has been designed to allow front line staff to concentrate on the core business of managing prisoners rather than being diverted by procurement activity. There are no proposals to change the current model.

### Probation: Databases

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place *(a)* for staff in the National Probation Service to record relevant offender management information on the C-NOMIS database and *(b)* for offender information held on C-NOMIS to be transferred between the Prison Service and the National Probation Service. [188335]

**Mr. Hanson:** There are currently no arrangements in place for staff in probation areas to read or record offender management information directly to or from the prison NOMIS database.

Relevant offender information held on prison NOMIS is transferred between the prison and probation service staff using a system of jointly agreed offender management forms, secure e-mail and dedicated OM mailboxes.

The newly revised and deliverable NOMIS programme, will, through its constituent projects, provide a simple read-only database, that will allow staff in the community to have access to important information from prison NOMIS in support of offender management.

### Probation: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on offender management rollout of the planned reductions in funding to the National Probation Service over the next three years. [188334]

**Mr. Hanson:** Three phases of Offender Management have now been successfully rolled out. These cover offenders sentenced to Community Orders, Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection, Prolific and Priority Offenders and high/very high risk offenders in custody. An assessment will be carried out later this year of our capacity to rollout further phases.

## Safety: Females

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women's safety workers there are in each probation area. [188269]

**Maria Eagle:** Information about the number of women's safety workers in each probation area is not held centrally.

The cognitive behavioural programmes delivered by probation areas to tackle domestic violence are accredited by an independent panel of experts. The accreditation for the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme and the Community Domestic Violence Programme requires that, in order for probation areas to deliver the programme as a component of a wider risk management system, they employ women safety workers either directly or under local partnership arrangements. A recent self-audit indicated that all probation areas were complying with this requirement.

## Sentencing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of tariff for indeterminate sentences has been since their inception; and if he will make a statement. [188159]

**Mr. Hanson:** A research study into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006, showed that the median tariff (minimum term) given to these prisoners was 30 months. Findings from the research were published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems and data returns from prison establishments which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of sentences from Crown courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement: [188202]

(2) how many and what proportion of offenders convicted in Crown courts were given custodial sentences of *(a)* six months or less, *(b)* six to 12 months, *(c)* one to two years, *(d)* two to four years, *(e)* four to six years, *(f)* six to 10 years and *(g)* 10 years or more in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [188206]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the available information which can also be found in table 2.2 of "Sentencing Statistics 2006", available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

*Persons sentenced to immediate custody at the Crown court by length of sentence, 1996 to 2006: England and Wales*

*Number of persons and percentages*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All offences* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total persons sentenced | 73,578 | 79,417 | 80,262 | 77,035 | 74,202 | 71,888 | 76,065 | 75,891 | 76,119 | 75,600 | 76,439 |
| Number given immediate custody | 44,083 | 47,324 | 47,951 | 47,349 | 46,212 | 44,405 | 46,694 | 44,274 | 44,938 | 43,986 | 42,586 |
| Percentage given immediate custody | 59.9 | 59.6 | 59.7 | 61.5 | 62.3 | 61.8 | 61.4 | 58.3 | 59.0 | 58.2 | 55.7 |
| Up to and including 3 months | 4,003 | 4,179 | 4,349 | 4,530 | 4,285 | 3,488 | 3,066 | 2,898 | 2,909 | 2,723 | 2,458 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months | 6,303 | 6,575 | 6,820 | 6,842 | 6,753 | 5,894 | 5,496 | 5,250 | 5,158 | 5,055 | 4,565 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Over 6 months and less than 12 months | 5,502 | 5,808 | 5,920 | 5,489 | 5,505 | 5,001 | 5,076 | 4,746 | 5,094 | 5,290 | 5,081 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| 12 months | 5,259 | 5,641 | 5,837 | 5,677 | 5,316 | 5,019 | 5,130 | 4,800 | 4,811 | 5,001 | 4,775 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months | 6,812 | 7,071 | 7,417 | 7,061 | 6,575 | 6,323 | 6,769 | 6,297 | 6,150 | 6,079 | 6,060 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |

*Persons sentenced to immediate custody at the Crown court by length of sentence, 1996 to 2006, England and Wales*

*Number of persons and percentages*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Over 18 months and up to and including 3 years | 9,639 | 10,822 | 10,573 | 10,378 | 10,232 | 10,254 | 11,205 | 10,541 | 10,676 | 10,366 | 10,343 |
| Pa. portion (percentage) | 22 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Over 3 years and less than 4 years | 780 | 935 | 1,096 | 1,222 | 1,354 | 1,617 | 1,969 | 1,861 | 2,082 | 1,745 | 1,533 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 4 years | 1,795 | 1,886 | 1,754 | 1,737 | 1,789 | 1,917 | 2,251 | 2,128 | 2,146 | 1,745 | 1,607 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Over 4 years and up to and including 5 years | 1,384 | 1,553 | 1,511 | 1,539 | 1,536 | 1,748 | 2,099 | 2,090 | 2,161 | 1,920 | 1,670 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Over 5 years and up to and including 10 years | 1,973 | 2,113 | 1,973 | 2,054 | 2,091 | 2,332 | 2,679 | 2,747 | 2,772 | 2,658 | 2,190 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Over 10 years and less than life | 294 | 374 | 307 | 237 | 369 | 369 | 399 | 403 | 409 | 353 | 309 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Indeterminate sentence[1] | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 426 | 1,448 |
| Proportion (percentage) | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 1 | 3 |
| Life | 338 | 367 | 394 | 483 | 467 | 503 | 555 | 513 | 570 | 625 | 547 |
| Proportion (percentage) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

[1] Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what objectives he has set for sentence planning by offender managers for the next three years. [188333]

**Mr. Hanson:** The objectives for completion of sentence plans by offender managers are laid out in the National Standards for the Management of Offenders 2007. The standards specify that offender managers should complete a sentence plan on all offenders under their supervision in the community, and upon those covered by phases 2 and 3 of the roll-out of the Offender Management Model. The standards also specify the time scales for completion and review of sentence plans. A target of 90 per cent. has been set for the timely completion of sentence plans on offenders in the community.

## Sentencing: First Time Offenders

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of first time offenders brought before Crown courts were given custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188204]

(2) how many and what proportion of first time offenders given custodial sentences from Crown courts were reconvicted within two years of release from custody in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188937]

(3) how many and what proportion of first time offenders given custodial sentences by magistrates' courts were *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adults in each year since 1993; how many and what proportion of each category were reconvicted within two years of release in each of those years; and if he will make a statement; [188938]

(4) how many and what proportion of first time offenders sentenced by magistrates courts were given custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [188939]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table 1 shows the number of first time offenders sentenced at Crown and magistrates courts from 2000-05 based on a sample of

offenders, and the percentage of these given custody. The sample is all offenders sentenced in the first quarter of each year. A first time offender is defined as an offender with no previous convictions or cautions.

*Table 1: Number of first time offenders sentenced at Crown and magistrates courts and percentage given custody, 2000-05*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Crown courts* | | | | | | |
| Total number sentenced | 2,964 | 2,900 | 3,110 | 2,980 | 3,033 | 2,903 |
| Number given custody | 1,440 | 1,508 | 1,680 | 1,490 | 1,566 | 1,550 |
| Percentage given custody | 49 | 52 | 54 | 50 | 52 | 53 |
| *Magistrates courts* | | | | | | |
| Total number sentenced | 7,386 | 6,785 | 6,109 | 6,317 | 6,254 | 5,936 |
| Number given custody | 351 | [425 | 372 | 437 | 488 | 409 |
| Percentage given custody | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 |

Data are not available before 2000.

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of first time offenders given custodial sentences at magistrates courts who were *(a)* juvenile and *(b)* young adults.

*Table 2: Juvenile and young adult first time offenders given custodial sentences at magistrates courts*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juveniles (aged 10-17) | 23 | 37 | 29 | 30 | 34 | 35 |
| Percentage of all first time offenders given custodial sentences | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| Young adults (aged 18-20) | 46 | 81 | 48 | 46 | 53 | 45 |
| Percentage of all first time offenders given custodial sentences | 13 | 19 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 11 |

Data on proven re-offending rates are not available for this breakdown of offenders.

## Sentencing: Young People

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to *(a)* juveniles and young adults of each sex, from magistrate courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188138]

(2) how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to adult *(a)* males and *(b)* females from magistrate courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188200]

(3) how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adults of each sex, from Crown courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement; [188201]

(4) how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to adult *(a)* males and *(b)* females from Crown courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [188203]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the available information.

*Number of offenders sentenced and given immediate custody, by court gender and age band, 1996-2000*

| | | Male | | | | Female | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1996* | | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 62,792 | 122,891 | 911,573 | 1,097,256 | 7,901 | 16,925 | 229,707 | 254,533 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 3,973 | 6,783 | 28,28 | 39,040 | 129 | 267 | 1,730 | 2,126 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 3,641 | 11,665 | 51,845 | 67,151 | 263 | 817 | 5,347 | 6,427 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 2,300 | 7,422 | 32,084 | 41,806 | 95 | 278 | 1,904 | 2,277 |
| | Proportion | 63 | 64 | 62 | 62 | 36 | 34 | 36 | 35 |
| *1997* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 65,127 | 126,496 | 892,539 | 1,084,162 | 9,043 | 16,352 | 184,404 | 209,799 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 3,963 | 7,272 | 32,271 | 43,506 | 166 | 341 | 2,504 | 3,01 |

*Number of offenders sentenced and given immediate custody, by court gender and age band, 1996-2000*

| | | Male | | | | Female | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* |
| *1996* | | | | | | | | | |
| | Proportion | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 4,520 | 12,633 | 55,077 | 72,230 | 402 | 978 | 5,807 | 7,187 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 2,812 | 7,871 | 34,146 | 44,829 | 142 | 301 | 2,052 | 2,495 |
| | Proportion | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 35 | 37 | 35 | 35 |
| *1998* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 71,075 | 135,054 | 942,411 | 1,148,540 | 10,445 | 18,256 | 199,273 | 227,974 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,294 | 8,191 | 36,250 | 48,735 | 221 | 489 | 3,170 | 3,880 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 4,421 | 12,814 | 55,507 | 72,742 | 353 | 998 | 6,169 | 7,520 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 2,587 | 7,961 | 34,716 | 45,264 | 115 | 362 | 2,210 | 2,687 |
| | Proportion | 59 | 62 | 63 | 62 | 33 | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| *1999* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 74,856 | 134,660 | 898,664 | 1,108,180 | 10,543 | 17,392 | 184,636 | 212,571 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,654 | 9,166 | 39,648 | 53,468 | 275 | 579 | 3,652 | 4,506 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 4,406 | 12,343 | 52,850 | 69,599 | 355 | 1,017 | 6,064 | 7,436 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 2,590 | 7,882 | 33,879 | 44,351 | 134 | 384 | 2,480 | 2,998 |
| | Proportion | 59 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 38 | 38 | 41 | 40 |
| *2000* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 76,863 | 130,703 | 883,668 | 1,091,234 | 10,561 | 18,202 | 219,989 | 248,752 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,811 | 9,597 | 40,624 | 55,032 | 324 | 700 | 3,919 | 4,943 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 3,707 | 12,121 | 51,036 | 66,864 | 349 | 1,064 | 5,925 | 7,338 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 2,157 | 7,727 | 33,371 | 43,255 | 122 | 417 | 2,418 | 2,957 |
| | Proportion | 58 | 64 | 65 | 65 | 35 | 39 | 41 | 40 |
| *2001* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 81,020 | 128,085 | 827,247 | 1,036,352 | 11,063 | 16,975 | 202,244 | 230,282 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 5,440 | 9,391 | 42,030 | 56,861 | 329 | 673 | 4,005 | 5,007 |
| | Proportion | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 3,067 | 11,834 | 49,772 | 64,673 | 335 | 1,013 | 5,867 | 7,215 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 1,707 | 7,491 | 32,153 | 41,351 | 120 | 393 | 2,541 | 3,054 |
| | Proportion | 56 | 63 | 65 | 64 | 36 | 39 | 43 | 42 |
| *2002* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 79,792 | 128,871 | 874,896 | 1,083,558 | 10,896 | 17,394 | 222,591 | 250,591 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,910 | 8, 770 | 45,652 | 59,332 | 340 | 622 | 4,619 | 5,581 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 3, 6394 | 12,043 | 52,914 | 68,351 | 466 | 1,076 | 6,172 | 7,714 |

*Number of offenders sentenced and given immediate custody, by court gender and age band, 1996-2000*

| | | Male | | | | Female | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1996* | | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* | *10-17* | *18-20* | *21+* | *All ages* |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 1,976 | 7,520 | 33,948 | 43,444 | 190 | 451 | 2,609 | 3,250 |
| | Proportion | 58 | 62 | 64 | 64 | 41 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 78,292 | 132,064 | 940,769 | 1,151,125 | 11,339 | 17,687 | 223,770 | 252,796 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,362 | 7,854 | 45,479 | 57,695 | 287 | 596 | 4,818 | 5,701 |
| | Proportion | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 2,546 | 11,301 | 54,223 | 68,070 | 354 | 1,015 | 6,452 | 7,821 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 1,414 | 6,611 | 33,140 | 41,165 | 137 | 377 | 2,595 | 3,109 |
| | Proportion | 56 | 58 | 67 | 60 | 39 | 37 | 40 | 40 |
| *2004* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 80,672 | 126,530 | 982,123 | 1,189,325 | 12,476 | 17,624 | 241,282 | 271,382 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,326 | 7,171 | 44,351 | 55,848 | 339 | 478 | 4,719 | 5,536 |
| | Proportion | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 2,741 | 11,202 | 54,073 | 68,016 | 299 | 1,043 | 6,761 | 8,103 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 1,555 | 6,646 | 33,519 | 41,720 | 105 | 341 | 2,772 | 3,218 |
| | Proportion | 57 | 59 | 62 | 61 | 35 | 33 | 47 | 40 |
| *2005* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 80,087 | 116,149 | 927,117 | 1,123,353 | 13,420 | 17,709 | 243,193 | 274,322 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,087 | 6,761 | 41,290 | 52,138 | 375 | 486 | 4,251 | 5,112 |
| | Proportion | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 2,378 | 11,153 | 53,777 | 67,308 | 3183 | 1,040 | 6,934 | 8,292 |
| | Crown court | 1,425 | 6,590 | 32,802 | 40,817 | 128 | 394 | 2,647 | 3,169 |
| Immediate custody | Proportion | 60 | 59 | 61 | 61 | 40 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | Magistrates court | 77,766 | 111,825 | 877,482 | 1,067,073 | 13,437 | 17,989 | 238,092 | 269,428 |
| Immediate custody | Magistrates court | 4,209 | 6,560 | 37,851 | 48,620 | 363 | 497 | 3,951 | 4,811 |
| | Proportion | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Total sentenced | Crown court | 2,370 | 11,835 | 53,950 | 68,155 | 233 | 1,045 | 7,006 | 8,284 |
| Immediate custody | Crown court | 1,521 | 6,486 | 31,546 | 39,553 | 90 | 354 | 2,589 | 3,033 |
| | Proportion | 64 | 55 | 58 | 58 | 39 | 34 | 37 | 37 |

*Source:*
Ministry of Justice

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies in any large scale recording system.

## Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value was of each grant provided by his Department and its predecessors, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184099]

**Maria Eagle:** The only grants made by the Department to the Councils listed have been in relation to electoral matters. The grants have been paid under

section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 which allows for Ministers to provide support to local authorities towards expenditure incurred in implementing the collection of personal identifiers (under Section 14 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006) and in delivering electoral modernisation pilots.

*(i) 2006-07*

Section 31 grant for collection of personal identifiers 2006-07

*(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham—£10,708.25

*(b)* Shropshire—nil

*(c)* Telford and the Wrekin—£35,471.20

Section 31 grant for electoral pilot scheme 2006-07

*(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham - 39,500

*(ii) 2007-08*

Section 31 grant for checking of personal identifiers 2007-08

*(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham—£9,086.22

*(b)* Shropshire—nil

*(c)* Telford and the Wrekin—£34,493.58

Section 31 grant for electoral pilot scheme 2007-08

*(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham—£1,096,165

*(iii) 2008-09*

Section 31 Grants are planned to be paid to Shrewsbury and Atcham and Telford and Wrekin borough councils for electoral registration data standards in 2008-09 but the exact amounts payable have yet to be finalised.

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

### Suicide: Internet

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will meet representatives of the Papyrus charity to discuss action to reduce incidents of internet-related suicides. [188280]

**Maria Eagle:** I will be meeting representatives of Papyrus to discuss their concerns very shortly.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of successful prosecutions for online promotion of suicide there have been. [188296]

**Maria Eagle:** Data collected on prosecutions for assisting or attempting to assist suicide do not differentiate between online and off-line actions but the overall number of prosecutions for these offences is low.

### Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint has been used in young offender institutions and secure training centres in England and Wales since April 2007. [188318]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table, which is based on information supplied by the Youth Justice Board, shows the number of restraints by month in young offender institutions and secure training centres from April to December 2007. Data for January 2008 are not yet available.

| | *YOI* | *STC* |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| April | 273 | 170 |
| May | 269 | 270 |
| June | 276 | 276 |
| July | 345 | 386 |
| August | 306 | 313 |
| September | 281 | 202 |
| October | 296 | 242 |
| November | 320 | 211 |
| December | 267 | 201 |

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Adoption

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* nought to two, *(b)* two to 10 and *(c)* over 10 years old were adopted in each of the last five years. [186750]

**Kevin Brennan:** Statistical information on the total number of adoptions in England and Wales by age of child for the years 1996 to 2006 is included in Table 2a of the document "Adoptions 2006", published by the Office for National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available in the House Library and on the National Statistics website at:

http://www. statistics. gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk= 15049.

Data on the number of children adopted cannot be produced for the age groups requested by the hon. Member.

### Adoption: Finance

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has budgeted for *(a)* adoption support and *(b)* special guardianship as part of children's services grant for each of the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. [179807]

**Kevin Brennan:** Local authorities fund adoption and special guardianship services from their formula grant allocations. This grant, which is paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government, is unhypothecated and does not identify funding for any specific area of local authorities' activity.

The children's services grant, which in 2006-07 and 2007-08 included an element of funding to support implementation of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, has been subsumed within the formula grant from 2008-09. The formula grant has been increased to reflect this transfer.

## Antisocial Behaviour: Bournemouth

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future funding of Bournemouth's Respect zone. [189170]

**Beverley Hughes:** The future funding allocated to Bournemouth borough council to tackle antisocial behaviour and provide parenting support is outlined in the following table.

£

| *Funding stream* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Family Intervention Project | 79,412.90 | 55,589.00 | 38,912.30 |
| Parenting Practitioner | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Area Based Grant | 35,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 |

## Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since its establishment; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172231]

(2) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172574]

**Kevin Brennan:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy products with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

## Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180669]

**Kevin Brennan:** The total amount paid to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000 is set out in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 26,365,741 |
| 2001-02 | 42,377,830 |
| 2002-03 | 27,050,920 |
| 2003-04 | 35,895,108 |
| 2004-05 | 211,887,690 |
| 2005-06 | 198,944,409 |
| 2006-07 | 114,262,373 |
| 2007-08 | 96,520,046 |

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries. The figure for 2007-08 is for amounts credited up to December 2007.

A complete answer to the question which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the latest available date; what the cost was of each contract; what the length was of each contract could be supplied only at disproportionate cost as the Department does not maintain a central record of all contracts.

I can tell you, however, from the records that the Department does hold on Capita and its subsidiaries the following information on contracts (this may not be a comprehensive list):

| *Contract* | *Year let* | *Contract length (year)* | *Contract value (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Individual Learning Accounts | 2000-01 | [1]5 | 55 |
| Connexions Card | 2001-02 | [2]6 | 109 |
| Education Maintenance Allowances | 2003-04 | [3]5 | 48 |
| Teachers' Pensions | 2003-04 | 7 | 61 |
| Management Consultancy Framework | 2003-04 | 5 | [4]— |
| London Challenge | 2004-05 | 1 | 0.1 |
| National Strategies | 2005-06 | 5 | 180 |

| Contract | Year let | Contract length (year) | Contract value (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Criminal Records Bureau checking service for Day Care providers | 2005-06 | 5 | [4] |
| Children's Services Improvement Framework | 2006-07 | 4 | [4] |
| Project Management Framework for Academies | 2007-08 | 4 | [4] |
| Special Educational Needs Framework | 2007-08 | 3 | [4] |

[1] Terminated October 2002
[2] Terminated August 2006
[3] Contract novated to Learning and Skills Council April 2005
[4] This is a framework agreement and the value of the overall contract is dependant on the number of individual contracts awarded to Capita.

Project management and construction project management services for Academies let in 2004 for a period of 4 years (these are framework agreements and the value of the overall contract is dependant on the number of individual contracts awarded to Capita);

The supply of interim personnel and consultants for the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC). Information on contracts is supplied as follows (this may not be a comprehensive list).

| Contract | Year let | Contract length (year) | Contract value (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Local Authority Liaison | 2006 | 2 | 0.75 |
| Sponsor brokerage | 2006 | 1.5 | 0.34 |
| Sponsor brokerage | 2007 | 1 | 0.29 |

An answer to the questions what penalties for default were imposed on contract provisions; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

## Children in Care: Housing

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average cost of housing a looked-after child in an independent children's home is in 2007-08; [186700]

(2) how many looked-after children are housed in *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* independent children's home; [186701]

(3) how many children have been placed for adoption with an extended family member in each of the last five years; [186702]

(4) how many children were adopted in each local authority in each of the last five years; [186749]

(5) how many adoption placements were made with extended family members in each of the last five years; [186752]

(6) how many children born to children in care were *(a)* taken into care and *(b)* adopted in each of the last five years; [186808]

(7) how many children in care were born to mothers aged under 16 years, broken down by age of mother, in the last 12 months; [186809]

(8) how many children have been *(a)* in foster placements and *(b)* in children's homes for over a year, broken down by age of child. [186810]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information is as follows:

*PQ 186700*

Information on the average annual cost of housing a looked-after child in an independent children's home is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

*PQ 186701*

Information on the number of children looked after that are housed in *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* independent children's homes is not collected centrally by the DCSF.

*PQ 186702*

Information on the number of children who have been placed for adoption with an extended family member in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF. However, table A2 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007' shows the number of children looked after by English local authorities (LAs), who were placed for adoption at 31 March for each year from 2003 to 2007. The SFR is located at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml and table A3 can be found within the first set of excel tables on the website.

*PQ 186749*

Information on the number of children who were adopted in each LA in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF. However, the number of children looked after by English LAs, who were adopted in each LA in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 can be found in table LAE1 at the same aforementioned link. Table LAE1 can be found within the third set of excel tables on the website.

*PQ 186752*

Information on the number of adoption placements that were made with extended family members in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF. Please see the first aforementioned paragraph answering PQ 186702 for the most readily available data.

*PQ 186808*

Information on the number of children born to children in care who were *(a)* taken into care and *(b)* adopted in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF.

*PQ 186809*

Information on the number of children in care that were born to mothers aged under 16 years, is not collected centrally by the DCSF.

*PQ 186810*

Information on the number of children looked after in English LAs who have been *(a)* in the same foster placement and *(b)* in the same children's home for over a year, broken down by age at 31 March 2007 is shown in tables 1 and 2, as follows:

*Table 1: Children looked after for over one year in the same foster placement at 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3], England*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| All children looked after for over one year in the same foster placement at 31 March 2007[1, 2] | 23,900 |
| Age at 31 March 2007 (years) | 23,900 |
| 1 | 630 |
| 2 | 530 |
| 3 | 570 |
| 4 | 610 |
| 5 | 670 |
| 6 | 790 |
| 7 | 920 |
| 8 | 1,100 |
| 9 | 1,300 |
| 10 | 1,600 |
| 11 | 1,800 |
| 12 | 2,100 |
| 13 | 2,100 |
| 14 | 2,300 |
| 15 | 2,200 |
| 16 | 2,400 |
| 17 | 2,100 |
| 18 | — |

*Table 2: Children looked after for over one year in the same children's home at 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3], England*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| All children looked after for over one year in the same children's home at 31 March 2007[1, 2] | 2,100 |
| Age at 31 March 2007 (years) | 2,100 |
| 1 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 |
| 3 | — |
| 4 | 0 |
| 5 | — |
| 6 | — |
| 7 | — |
| 8 | 10 |
| 9 | 20 |
| 10 | 70 |
| 11 | 80 |
| 12 | 140 |
| 13 | 190 |
| 14 | 280 |
| 15 | 430 |
| 16 | 500 |
| 17 | 340 |
| 18 | 10 |
| 19 | — |

[1] *Source:*
SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[3] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in national tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a long dash '—'. It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by a means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item provided its value is strictly less than 20.

## Children in Care: Social Workers

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in care have a named qualified social worker assigned to them. [185459]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]*: The percentage of children in care who have a named qualified social worker assigned to them in England has increased from 94.8 per cent. in 2005-06 to 95.5 per cent. in 2006-07.

## Children: Databases

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the ContactPoint database will be operational; whose details will be included on it; who will have access to it; how much it will cost to establish and maintain; and if he will make a statement. [186261]

**Kevin Brennan:** ContactPoint is a key element of the Every Child Matters programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention. Its goal is to improve outcomes and the experience of public services for all children, young people and families. It will provide a quick way for practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person.

ContactPoint will be deployed to the 'Early Adopter' local authorities and two of our seven national partners in October 2008. It will be deployed to all other local authorities and national partners by May 2009.

The information that must or may be included on ContactPoint is set out in the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 made under section 12 of the Children Act 2004.

ContactPoint will contain records for all children and young people in England who are under the age of 18. To help support the transition to adult services, there is provision for records of young people leaving care or with learning disabilities to remain on ContactPoint up to the age of 25 but only with their consent.

Access to ContactPoint will be limited strictly to those who need it to do their job (currently estimated at around 330,000 practitioners). Before being granted access, users must complete mandatory face-to-face training, have obtained security clearance (including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance) and have a user name, a password, a PIN and a security token to control their access to ContactPoint.

When accessing a child's record, all users will have to state a clear reason why they are accessing ContactPoint. All use of the system will be monitored and audited and every access to a child's record will be detailed in the ContactPoint audit trail. This will be regularly monitored by local authorities, using on-line user activity reports, to ensure that any misuse is detected and that appropriate action is taken.

One-off implementation costs will total £224 million. Operating costs will be £41 million per year, most of which will pay for the additional staff needed to ensure the on-going security, accuracy and audit of ContactPoint.

### Children: Day Care

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the impact of proposed changes to registration and annual childminder fees on the future supply of registered childminders; [188193]

(2) if he will give consideration to the merits of phasing the increases in registration and annual fees for pre-schools and full-day nursery care centres. [188567]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* We published impact assessments on the proposed changes to the child care registration and fee arrangements as part of the consultation exercises. On the registration requirements, our assessment did not show an effect on the supply of childminders as we are making only minor adjustments to the existing arrangements. The new system of regulation will provide Ofsted with the information it needs to determine whether essential standards of child welfare have been met and our proposals were supported by a majority of respondents in our consultation exercise last year.

On the proposed fee changes we expect the impact on numbers of childminders to be small. As we made clear in the impact assessment and the consultation document, we are not proposing to remove the current subsidy for registration and inspection costs and we would intend to phase in changes to the fee arrangements over three years, with the changes not complete until 2010. Local authorities are required to secure sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of working parents and have allied powers to assist providers. The fees consultation exercise closed on 20 February 2008 and we will carefully consider all the responses before publishing the Government's response in the spring.

### Children: Voluntary Organisations

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to include the third sector in strategies to improve the lives of children. [188537]

**Kevin Brennan:** The third sector has played and continues to play a key role in the development and delivery of Every Child Matters. The sector is strongly represented on the Children's Plan Expert Groups which were set up in autumn 2007 to support the Department with developing the Children's Plan and to consider its implementation and the challenges to delivery.

Third sector organisations have been instrumental in the development of many individual policies, for example, Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC), the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services. They continue to be key partners as we implement the AHDC programme and are represented on the Ministerial Implementation Group that oversees the programme.

Other groundbreaking areas of the Department's business where the third sector engagement has been very influential include support for parents, particularly fathers, early years provision, services for children in care and the provision of positive activities for young people. The sector's capacity to deliver innovative services, to reach out to some of the most disadvantaged and disengaged and to provide a voice for children, young people and families is highly valued by the Department.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173506]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not currently have a policy, but will undertake a review and where appropriate will move away from incandescent light bulbs to LED lights for festive decorations on the five buildings occupied by my Department.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total number of absence days of staff in his Department was in 2007. [187891]

**Kevin Brennan:** The total number of sickness absence days taken by staff in the Department in the period July to December 2007 is 10,404 days.

It is not possible to provide a figure for the whole calendar year as the Department was created as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. The total provided here is based on the six-month period 1 July to 31 December 2007 (the latest information available). The rolling average of working days lost per staff member at 31 December 2007 was 7.7. The Department is on target to achieve year on year sickness absence targets agreed with Cabinet Office, including a 2010 target to reduce sickness absence levels to 7.0 days per full-time equivalent member of staff.

### Departmental Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179036]

**Kevin Brennan:** Historical figures are not available for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold a central record for the Department and its agencies, and cannot provide detailed information on the nature of all contracts, consultancies and other services placed with the stated companies. To do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Our records for the Department for Education and Skills show the following departmental spend:

| *Company* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deloitte and Touche | 940,245.80 | 670,095.55 | 241,806.08 | 1,852,147.43 |
| Ernst and Young | 111,301.40 | 135,544.41 | 467,155.43 | 714,001.24 |
| KPMG | 106,297.10 | 0 | 241,898.28 | 348,195.38 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 5,684,974.11 | 5,085,915.36 | 4,335,763.97 | 15,106,653.44 |
| PA Consulting | 543,832.85 | 607,789.42 | 2,282,954.23 | 3,434,576.50 |

## Departmental ICT

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff working in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181398]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an information collection exercise that would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, to be helpful, some information is available.

Central procurement records show that the following quantities of personal digital assistants have been purchased by the Department, and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, since 2001.

There is no information available centrally to show the number of devices in use by *(a)* male or *(b)* female members of staff.

| *Calendar year* | *Number of PDAs purchased* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 104 |
| 2002 | 66 |
| 2003 | 104 |
| 2004 | 45 |
| 2005 | 90 |
| 2006 | 39 |
| 2007 | 2 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to staff in his Department or its predecessor were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184349]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of items reported as lost, missing, or stolen are as follows:

| | *Mobile telephone* | *Laptop* | *Desktop* | *PDA* | *Blackberry* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 2006/07 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2005/06 | 3 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004/05 | 6 | 37 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 2003/04 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002/03 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001/02 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each year since establishment. [182526]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and employs the full-time equivalent of 20.5 press officers and 68.4 communication officers.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182713]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The first bonuses are due to be paid on 1 April 2008.

## Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the percentage turnover of staff was in his Department in *(a)* the last

12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169030]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the period February 2006 to January 2007, 202 staff have joined and 653 staff have left my Department. 252 staff joined and 354 left in the following 12 month period to January 2008. Information about turnover rates is not available in the form requested.

### Departmental Logos

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of introducing his Department's new logo; what the reasons were for the decision to change his Department's logo; and if he will make a statement. [188394]

**Kevin Brennan:** We now have a version of the Department's logo which features a rainbow. This cost £5,460 (excluding VAT) to introduce.

The logo is intended to make a quick visual link between DCSF and the Children's Plan, which itself uses a rainbow illustration to convey the principle of 'building brighter futures'.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons were for the choice of the new logo featuring a rainbow for his Department; how many alternative logos were designed before the choice was made; and if he will make a statement. [188395]

**Kevin Brennan:** We now have a version of the Department's logo which features a rainbow. This is intended to make a quick visual link between DCSF and the Children's Plan, which itself uses a rainbow illustration to convey the principle of 'building brighter futures'.

We commissioned three options for this logo, one of which was chosen as the final design.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [163208]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given on 6 December, *Official Report*, column 1369W.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184362]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer my hon. Member to the reply given on 16 January 2008 *Official Report*, column 1269W.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163610]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department is responsible for eight Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and three Advisory NDPBs. Details of the budget and remit of each NDPB, the name of the chairman and their remuneration is published in the Department's Annual Report 2007 and in Public Bodies 2007, which are available on my Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/pdfs/deptreport2007.pdf

and

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ndpb/

The following NDPBs are the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families:

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency;

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service;

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy;

National College for School Leadership;

Office of the Children's Commissioner;

Partnerships for Schools;

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority;

School Food Trust;

School Teachers Review Body;

Teachers' TV Board of Governors;

Training and Development Agency for Schools.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171544]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *Count* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 2,437 | 1715488.74 |
| 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 | 2,383 | 2202508.58 |
| 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 | 2,064 | 2235833.43 |
| 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 | 2,499 | 2595262.10 |

Information for previous years is not held.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185795]

**Kevin Brennan:** This information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165233]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department currently has one full-time corporate brand and publications manager, and 16.7 full-time equivalent staff working across a wide range of marketing functions. Information about staffing in arms length bodies is not held centrally.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department, its predecessors and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167311]

**Kevin Brennan:** Due to a major recent reorganisation of how the Department handles its communications function, historical information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department is currently spending an annual equivalent of £801,710 on staff working on marketing and £33,417 on staff working on branding.

Information about staffing in arms length bodies is not held centrally.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179874]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's recruitment policy will not be affected. Recruitment to the civil service on the grounds of nationality is statutorily based and supported by the Civil Service Commissioners Rules.

## Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174408]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's environmental management systems ensure that our waste is managed in a responsible and legally compliant manner. We:

Reduce the need to recycle and make recycling easier;

Identify materials which may be reusable or recyclable;

Feed back re-usable waste into the Department's own management systems;

Re-use, recycle segregate and legally store and dispose of waste;

Keep reviewing this policy to ensure it aligns with Government intent and adopt any new initiatives, where appropriate;

Encourage the generation of new ideas by staff to improve our waste handling;

Learn from our peers in the public sector and benchmark our progress; and

Work with our recycling suppliers to develop more sustainable methods and reward innovation.

In the Department's Sustainable Development in Government return for 2005/06 we were pleased to report 43 per cent. of our waste recycled and the 2010 target already met. The Departments return for 2006/07 is due for publication by the Sustainable Development Commission soon.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [170786]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* To provide a full breakdown of reviews, consultations and taskforces for which the Department is responsible would incur disproportionate cost. The consultations currently being carried out by the Department's central consultation unit are as follows:

| *Consultation/ review name* | *Summary/purpose* | *Start date* | *End date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Childcare Act 2006— Future Approach to Fees and Subsidies | Seeks views on the proposed structure and level of fees payable to Ofsted by child care providers joining the Early Years Register or compulsory part of the Ofsted Childcare Register from September 2008 as well as proposals for changes to the subsidy arrangements. | 21 November 2007 | 20 February 2008 |
| Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006: Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme Consultation | The implementation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme, under the terms of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will introduce the most stringent vetting and barring service yet. The scheme will protect both children and vulnerable adults by preventing those who are known to pose a risk of harm accessing these groups through their work. The consultation seeks views on a wide range of policy issues that will ensure the successful implementation of the Act. This consultation is jointly published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office, and the Department of Health. | 14 November 2007 | 20 February 2008 |
| Draft Guidance To Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords On The Use of Parenting Orders and Parenting Contracts | This consultation seeks views on the draft guidance on the use of parenting orders and contracts by Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords in respect of antisocial behaviour. | 16 November 2007 | 15 February 2008 |

| Consultation/ review name | Summary/purpose | Start date | End date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Confidence in Standards: Regulating and Developing Qualifications and Assessment | Consultation on proposals to establish an independent regulator of qualifications and tests in England | 17 December 2007 | 10 March 2008 |
| Home Access to Technology | This consultation seeks views on the proposed Home Access programme that aims to ensure every family with 5 to 19-year-old learners in England has access to learning where and when they need it through access to ICT resources and support at home. | 9 January 2008 | 2 April 2008 |
| Call for evidence – Youth Sector Support arrangements | To consult those working for the benefit of young people about how to improve the capacity, coherence and quality of support arrangements for youth sector professionals, volunteers and organisations. | 11 January 2008 | 9 April 2008 |
| Independent School Inspectorates | This consultation covers proposed future arrangements and criteria for appointing inspectorates other than Ofsted to inspect independent schools. | 21 January 2008 | 14 April 2008 |
| Get Cooking campaign | In conjunction with his announcement that from 2011, every 11 to 14-year-old will be given, hands-on lessons in how to cook cheap, healthy dishes from simple, fresh ingredients, Ed Balls asked people to e-mail suggestions for simple, healthy recipes which young people could learn to cook. | 22 January 2008 | 1 March 2008 |

## Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182208]

**Kevin Brennan:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187893]

**Kevin Brennan:** The percentage of working days lost by my Department's staff attributed to stress-related conditions during the six months from July to December amount to 15 per cent. of all working days lost due to sickness absence. The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, so the percentage is based on figures from 1 July to 31 December 2007 (the latest information available).

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and support from the Department's Employee Assistance Provider, Right Corecare. The Department has piloted a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Stress Questionnaire in one part of the organisation and conducted Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them. It will shortly be launching a comprehensive Stress Prevention Policy, based on HSE Management Standards.

## Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187994]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was established in June 2007. The average hourly rate paid by my Department to employment agencies for agency staff in the financial year 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

*Average hourly charge rate*

| Grade | £ Adecco | Hays | Reed |
|---|---|---|---|
| AA[1] | 8.65 | — | — |
| AO[1] | 10.64 | — | — |
| EA[1] | — | 8.48 | 9.86 |
| EO | 14.42 | 15.49 | 12.13 |
| Personal Secretary | 15.64 | — | — |
| Senior Personal Secretary | 16.38 | — | — |
| HEO | 18.82 | 20.45 | 14.82 |
| SEO | — | 24.66 | 18.10 |

[1] Grades AA and AO have now been replaced by EA.

## Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last 10 years. [183292]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of vehicles owned and purchased by the Department for Children, Schools

and Families and its predecessor is as follows and is subject to a statutory disposal schedule of seven years.

| | *Vehicles owned* | *Vehicles purchased* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 75 | 9 |
| 2001-02 | 54 | 10 |
| 2002-03 | 46 | 11 |
| 2003-04 | 52 | 14 |
| 2004-05 | 40 | 13 |
| 2005-06 | 39 | 2 |
| 2006 -07 | 32 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 9 | 0 |

### Disabled: Computers

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided to young people with disabilities to assist them with learning to use computers in each year since 2001. [185038]

**Kevin Brennan:** Over £3.9 billion has been spent on technology in education since 2001. My Department does not disaggregate that figure for disability.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184922]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was established on 28 June 2007. The costs paid to recruitment agencies for senior civil service (SCS) recruitment this financial year is £206,402.76. The costs for vacancies below SCS level are not recorded in the same way and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183876]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has an agreement with our catering supplier that a selection of fair trade food and drink products shall be available throughout all their catering operations.

### Family Group Conferencing

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to expand the use of family group conferencing. [186766]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government recognise that Family Group Conferences (FGCs) can be important and useful mechanisms to assist decision making and planning around an individual child or children. While the use of FGCs is for local authorities or other agencies to determine in individual cases, the Government have taken steps to encourage their use where appropriate.

The Government's statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" explains how FGCs can be used as part of systems to plan for children in need and to help in safeguarding children. It is clear that, where there are plans to use FGCs in situations where there are concerns about possible harm to a child, they should be developed and implemented under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

FGCs are specifically commended in the revised Children Act 1989 Court Orders statutory guidance, published earlier this year, and included in the practice flowchart. In all applications for care proceedings, local authorities will be required to show what efforts have been made to enable the child to live with wider family and friends. An FGC would be an excellent means for a local authority to demonstrate how they have fulfilled this duty.

An FGC is a complex service to provide and requires high levels of skill and competence. We have responded to concerns from stakeholders that there is a lack of skill and knowledge available in the field to deliver effective family group conference services. For this reason, we announced in "Care Matters: Time for Change" that we would fund a programme of regional training events to equip managers and practitioners with the necessary skills to develop and sustain the family group conference model.

### Foster Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many private fostering arrangements have been registered cumulatively in each of the last five years. [186699]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on notification of private fostering arrangements has been collected centrally only since 2004-05. The available information can be found in the following table.

| | *Number of new private fostering arrangements that began during the year* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,420 |
| 2005-06 | 1,100 |
| 2004-05 | 630 |

*Notes:*
1. Based on year ending 31 March.
2. Where a child has had more than one private fostering arrangement during the year, each arrangement has been counted.
3. Numbers rounded to the nearest 10.
4. These figures are based on the PF1 collection which was introduced in 2004/05; figures for earlier years are not available.

These figures have been taken from SFR 37/2007 'Private Fostering Arrangements in England, year ending 31 March 2007', which was published on 8 November 2007 and is available on the Department's website here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000758/index.shtml

### Health Education

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the introduction of well-being classes in schools. [187586]

**Kevin Brennan:** Schools have a statutory duty to promote pupils' well-being. An important contribution to this is developing pupils' social and emotional skills. To help schools do this, the Department is rolling out the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme, a comprehensive whole-school approach which includes a focus on school climate, learning opportunities for whole classes, learning and teaching approaches and continuing professional development for the whole staff of a school. Since the primary SEAL programme was launched in June 2005, over 60 per cent. of primary schools have started to implement SEAL, and we expect the first 15 to 20 per cent. of secondary schools to implement SEAL by July 2008. By July 2011, all schools will have had the opportunity to be supported to implement SEAL.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools that participated in the social and emotional aspects of learning programme showed an improvement on emotional well-being measures included in Ofsted TellUs surveys. [187587]

**Kevin Brennan:** The TellUs survey provides an indicator of the quality of children's services at national and local authority level. It cannot be used to measure the progress of individual schools participating in the SEAL programme.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187132]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department records those individuals who have been considered for state and non state honour nominations by the Department and the outcomes. Our records show that there are eight senior civil servants in the Department for Children, Schools and Families who have received an honour.

The Department does not routinely keep records on the numbers of awards held by individuals, or awards that are not related to official duties, or awards already held by staff before joining the Department, or the former Department for Education and Skills.

### Institute of Education: Finance

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid from public funds in each of the last five years to the Institute of Education. [186430]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of the amount paid to the Institute of Education by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in each of the last five financial years are set out as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 7,643,724.08 |
| 2004-05 | 11,597,487.50 |
| 2005-06 | 7,741,306.91 |
| 2006-07 | 7,662,021.35 |
| 2007 to 31 January 2008 | 6,541,994.12 |

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's Integrated Financial Information System and credited against the Institute of Education. The expenditure recorded for financial years 2003 to 2007 covers both the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The expenditure recorded for 2007 to 31 January 2008 also includes the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. This response only relates to those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills. To extract details of expenditure solely relating to DIUS would incur disproportionate cost.

### Learning Disability: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children entered moderate learning difficulty schools in Essex in each of the last five years. [178837]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* Data on the number of children who entered a moderate learning difficulty school in Essex in each of the last five years are not collected and could be derived only at a disproportionate cost.

### Overseas Students

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list in tabular form by each UK university the proportion of post-graduate students who are from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EEA and *(c)* the rest of the world; and what assessment he has made of trends in such figures over the last 10 years. [163680]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The available information is given in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Over the last 10 years, there has been significant growth in the overall number of students from all domiciles undertaking post-graduate studies in the UK. The trend has been for the proportion of post-graduate students from overseas to increase in relation to UK domiciled students. There has been a smaller increase in the proportion of post-graduate students from the European economic area (EEA).

*Postgraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions, by domicile[1], 2005/06*

| Higher education institution | Total | Percentage | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | UK | EEA[2] (excluding the UK) | Other overseas |
| *English Institutions* | 454,435 | 68.4 | 9.0 | 22.7 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 3,930 | 80.3 | 7.5 | 12.2 |
| Aston University | 2,410 | 55.6 | 11.9 | 32.5 |
| Bath Spa University | 2,300 | 97.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Birkbeck College | 3,540 | 87.0 | 5.0 | 8.0 |
| Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies | 440 | 19.4 | 11.9 | 68.7 |
| Bishop Grosseteste College | 515 | 99.4 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| Bournemouth University | 2,575 | 45.5 | 10.9 | 43.6 |
| Brunel University | 5,000 | 51.9 | 17.8 | 30.3 |
| Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College | 565 | 78.9 | 3.9 | 17.2 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 3,210 | 93.7 | 2.2 | 4.1 |
| Central School of Speech and Drama | 370 | 78.5 | 8.1 | 13.4 |
| City University | 9,260 | 61.0 | 15.1 | 23.9 |
| College of St. Mark and St. John | 1,570 | 95.7 | 1.6 | 2.7 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 50 | 64.0 | 22.0 | 14.0 |
| Courtauld Institute of Art | 255 | 53.5 | 15.6 | 30.9 |
| Coventry University | 2,835 | 58.2 | 11.2 | 30.6 |
| Cranfield University | 4,075 | 56.0 | 24.7 | 19.3 |
| Cumbria Institute of the Arts | 40 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Dartington College of Arts | 100 | 73.3 | 11.9 | 14.9 |
| De Montfort University | 3,670 | 81.5 | 5.1 | 13.4 |
| Edge Hill University | 4,785 | 98.7 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Goldsmiths College | 2,585 | 72.1 | 12.5 | 15.4 |
| Harper Adams University College | 95 | 69.1 | 8.2 | 22.7 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 4,570 | 55.7 | 19.8 | 24.5 |
| Institute of Education | 7,000 | 84.2 | 5.2 | 10.6 |
| King's College London | 7,005 | 69.6 | 12.6 | 17.9 |
| Kingston University | 4,670 | 75.3 | 7.1 | 17.7 |
| Leeds College of Music | 10 | 90.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 4,330 | 78.3 | 4.8 | 16.9 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 1,990 | 70.3 | 7.7 | 22.1 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 4,180 | 77.4 | 5.8 | 16.8 |
| London Business School | 1,455 | 34.3 | 18.1 | 47.6 |
| London Metropolitan University | 7,235 | 59.9 | 11.4 | 28.7 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 4,950 | 22.3 | 26.8 | 50.8 |
| London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 975 | 44.4 | 14.7 | 41.0 |
| London South Bank University | 5,205 | 73.0 | 6.4 | 20.7 |
| Loughborough University | 5,715 | 55.6 | 8.2 | 36.2 |
| Middlesex University | 5,545 | 56.1 | 6.5 | 37.4 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 365 | 95.1 | 4.9 | 0.0 |
| Norwich School of Art and Design | 95 | 95.9 | 3.1 | 1.0 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 5,015 | 74.0 | 6.9 | 19.2 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 3,055 | 51.0 | 13.3 | 35.7 |
| Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication | 35 | 35.1 | 10.8 | 54.1 |
| Roehampton University | 1,725 | 75.9 | 10.7 | 13.3 |
| Rose Bruford College | 55 | 64.2 | 13.2 | 22.6 |
| Royal Academy of Music | 420 | 52.3 | 19.1 | 28.6 |
| Royal Agricultural College | 255 | 65.6 | 3.1 | 31.3 |
| Royal College of Art | 850 | 59.9 | 25.0 | 15.1 |
| Royal College of Music | 265 | 47.2 | 25.7 | 27.2 |
| Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 2,135 | 62.1 | 11.4 | 26.5 |
| Royal Northern College of Music | 210 | 49.0 | 16.7 | 34.3 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 7,105 | 76.2 | 5.1 | 18.7 |
| Southampton Solent University | 755 | 68.2 | 5.3 | 26.5 |
| St. George's Hospital Medical School | 565 | 86.4 | 4.8 | 8.8 |
| St. Martin's College | 3,270 | 96.1 | 3.0 | 0.9 |
| St. Mary's College | 840 | 84.5 | 13.0 | 2.5 |
| Staffordshire University | 3,370 | 64.7 | 5.3 | 30.0 |
| Thames Valley University | 1,990 | 83.8 | 2.9 | 13.4 |
| The Arts Institute at Bournemouth | 25 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| The Institute of Cancer Research | 235 | 64.8 | 15.0 | 20.2 |
| The Manchester Metropolitan University | 5,995 | 87.1 | 4.2 | 8.7 |
| The Nottingham Trent University | 5,895 | 84.0 | 4.4 | 11.6 |

*Postgraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions, by domicile[1], 2005/06*

| Higher education institution | Total | Percentage | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | UK | EEA[2] (excluding the UK) | Other overseas |
| The Open University | 17,465 | 99.7 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| The Royal College of Nursing | 185 | 97.8 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| The Royal Veterinary College | 395 | 67.5 | 16.1 | 16.4 |
| The School of Oriental and African Studies | 2,095 | 44.8 | 18.1 | 37.1 |
| The School of Pharmacy | 625 | 79.4 | 7.5 | 13.1 |
| The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury | 220 | 53.2 | 18.0 | 28.8 |
| The University of Bath | 5,025 | 56.7 | 13.1 | 30.2 |
| The University of Birmingham | 11,960 | 66.7 | 7.5 | 25.8 |
| The University of Bolton | 1,695 | 80.4 | 2.2 | 17.4 |
| The University of Bradford | 4,135 | 47.0 | 9.8 | 43.1 |
| The University of Brighton | 4,450 | 77.6 | 9.6 | 12.8 |
| The University of Bristol | 7,785 | 67.5 | 9.6 | 23.0 |
| The University of Buckingham | 195 | 33.3 | 8.7 | 57.9 |
| The University of Cambridge | 9,170 | 58.7 | 12.9 | 28.4 |
| The University of Central Lancashire | 4,175 | 77.5 | 4.4 | 18.1 |
| The University of Chichester | 1,615 | 92.4 | 5.5 | 2.1 |
| The University of East Anglia | 3,620 | 66.9 | 8.4 | 24.7 |
| The University of East London | 5,195 | 73.2 | 7.0 | 19.8 |
| The University of Essex | 2,900 | 38.9 | 19.8 | 41.3 |
| The University of Exeter | 4,620 | 61.7 | 10.7 | 27.6 |
| The University of Greenwich | 6,700 | 68.5 | 4.8 | 26.6 |
| The University of Huddersfield | 3,555 | 82.7 | 3.5 | 13.8 |
| The University of Hull | 4,125 | 61.6 | 8.1 | 30.2 |
| The University of Keele | 3,260 | 72.9 | 6.1 | 21.0 |
| The University of Kent | 4,525 | 74.8 | 8.8 | 16.4 |
| The University of Lancaster | 3,610 | 64.2 | 11.4 | 24.4 |
| The University of Leeds | 8,900 | 60.7 | 8.3 | 31.0 |
| The University of Leicester | 6,495 | 67.2 | 6.2 | 26.5 |
| The University of Lincoln | 1,565 | 77.3 | 7.3 | 15.3 |
| The University of Liverpool | 3,700 | 63.7 | 8.1 | 28.2 |
| The University of Manchester | 11,075 | 64.2 | 9.4 | 26.4 |
| The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 5,410 | 53.4 | 11.0 | 35.6 |
| The University of Northampton | 1,455 | 75.3 | 1.6 | 23.1 |
| The University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 5,635 | 66.1 | 4.6 | 29.3 |
| The University of Nottingham | 7,945 | 56.4 | 10.0 | 33.6 |
| The University of Oxford | 7,970 | 44.0 | 15.6 | 40.4 |
| The University of Plymouth | 5,415 | 88.3 | 4.7 | 7.0 |
| The University of Portsmouth | 4,095 | 64.1 | 12.2 | 23.6 |
| The University of Reading | 4,025 | 66.6 | 11.3 | 22.1 |
| The University of Salford | 4,035 | 70.0 | 7.0 | 23.0 |
| The University of Sheffield | 7,300 | 60.2 | 8.6 | 31.2 |
| The University of Southampton | 7,145 | 64.7 | 11.4 | 23.8 |
| The University of Sunderland | 3,035 | 57.7 | 10.1 | 32.2 |
| The University of Surrey | 6,225 | 52.5 | 16.8 | 30.8 |
| The University of Sussex | 3,300 | 61.5 | 13.3 | 25.2 |
| The University of Teesside | 2,325 | 85.0 | 5.2 | 9.2 |
| The University of Warwick | 10,050 | 56.5 | 12.7 | 30.8 |
| The University of Westminster | 7,355 | 63.1 | 11.3 | 25.5 |
| The University of Winchester | 1,240 | 97.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| The University of Wolverhampton | 4,310 | 74.6 | 3.7 | 21.6 |
| The University of Worcester | 1,440 | 96.3 | 1.3 | 2.4 |
| The University of York | 4,195 | 56.3 | 12.2 | 31.5 |
| Trinity and All Saints College | 350 | 93.1 | 3.2 | 3.7 |
| Trinity Laban | 245 | 64.5 | 19.6 | 15.9 |
| University College Falmouth | 205 | 86.5 | 6.3 | 7.2 |
| University College London | 9,650 | 58.8 | 16.2 | 25.0 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 1,735 | 42.7 | 10.2 | 47.0 |
| University of Central England in Birmingham | 4,090 | 84.5 | 2.7 | 12.8 |
| University of Chester | 2,845 | 93.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| University of Derby | 2,515 | 88.1 | 3.8 | 8.1 |
| University of Durham | 5,295 | 64.2 | 8.2 | 27.6 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 1,680 | 88.6 | 3.3 | 8.1 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 4,340 | 63.9 | 3.8 | 32.3 |

*Postgraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions, by domicile[1], 2005/06*

| *Higher education institution* | *Total* | *Percentage* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *UK* | *EEA[2] (excluding the UK)* | *Other overseas* |
| University of London (Institutes and activities) | 350 | 56.0 | 17.5 | 26.4 |
| University of the Arts, London | 2,250 | 59.2 | 15.4 | 25.4 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 5,475 | 85.2 | 4.9 | 9.9 |
| Wimbledon School of Art | 85 | 82.1 | 8.3 | 9.5 |
| York St John University College | 830 | 97.3 | 0.7 | 1.9 |
| *Welsh Institutions* | 25,275 | 70.5 | 7.7 | 21.8 |
| Cardiff University | 7,450 | 65.0 | 8.9 | 26.2 |
| Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama | 125 | 79.0 | 8.9 | 12.1 |
| Swansea Institute of Higher Education | 1,185 | 93.6 | 4.5 | 1.9 |
| The North-East Wales Institute of Higher Education | 435 | 74.7 | 7.1 | 18.2 |
| The University of Wales, Lampeter | 1,695 | 61.0 | 12.9 | 26.1 |
| The University of Wales, Newport | 1,850 | 89.0 | 1.8 | 9.1 |
| Trinity College, Carmarthen | 410 | 96.8 | 1.2 | 2.0 |
| University of Glamorgan | 2,925 | 71.5 | 6.8 | 21.7 |
| University of Wales Institute, Cardiff | 2,330 | 60.9 | 2.6 | 36.5 |
| University of Wales, Aberystwyth | 2,570 | 67.1 | 13.7 | 19.2 |
| University of Wales, Bangor | 1,835 | 78.7 | 8.4 | 12.9 |
| University of Wales, Swansea | 2,470 | 68.8 | 6.8 | 24.4 |
| *Scottish Institutions* | 53,985 | 67.5 | 8.7 | 23.8 |
| Bell College | 150 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Edinburgh College of Art | 365 | 43.3 | 19.5 | 37.3 |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | 3,375 | 77.8 | 5.6 | 16.6 |
| Glasgow School of Art | 260 | 61.4 | 15.8 | 22.8 |
| Heriot-Watt University | 4,620 | 58.4 | 13.3 | 28.3 |
| Napier University | 3,165 | 66.7 | 8.9 | 24.4 |
| Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh | 1,100 | 74.5 | 11.8 | 13.7 |
| Scottish Agricultural College | 75 | 79.2 | 14.3 | 6.5 |
| The Robert Gordon University | 3,975 | 53.4 | 7.4 | 39.2 |
| The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama | 120 | 58.2 | 19.7 | 22.1 |
| The University of Aberdeen | 3,660 | 67.7 | 8.3 | 23.9 |
| The University of Dundee | 5,535 | 67.1 | 6.4 | 26.5 |
| The University of Edinburgh | 6,585 | 63.4 | 13.0 | 23.6 |
| The University of Glasgow | 4,785 | 70.3 | 8.0 | 21.7 |
| The University of Paisley | 1,635 | 78.7 | 6.8 | 14.5 |
| The University of St Andrews | 1,885 | 44.8 | 14.8 | 40.4 |
| The University of Stirling | 2,030 | 66.1 | 7.3 | 26.6 |
| The University of Strathclyde | 9,765 | 79.5 | 5.6 | 14.9 |
| UHI Millennium Institute | 275 | 94.1 | 1.8 | 4.0 |
| University of Abertay Dundee | 635 | 37.9 | 7.7 | 54.4 |
| *Northern Irish Institutions* | 11,670 | 75.1 | 16.2 | 8.7 |
| St. Mary's University College | 120 | 97.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| Stranmillis University College | 160 | 96.8 | 3.2 | 0.0 |
| The Queen's University of Belfast | 5,395 | 76.3 | 12.2 | 11.6 |
| University of Ulster | 5,995 | 73.1 | 20.4 | 6.5 |

[1] Domicile is the student's permanent residence prior to starting his or her course.
[2] European Economic Area. Figures include Switzerland.
*Note:*
Figures are on a standard registration population basis. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

## Playgrounds: Capital Investment

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding was allocated to playgrounds in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [187068]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government do not collect statistics on or otherwise monitor how much capital is spent on playgrounds by local authorities. We do not separately identify individual capital grants that finance capital expenditure. Only the total used to finance expenditure in a year is collected.

In the Children's Plan, we recently announced £190 million capital funding to be spent on open-access, free play environments. Every local authority in England will receive funding by 2010-11. In addition, local authorities already receive substantial funding to

support maintenance of public space. BIG lottery has just invested £124 million to 2010-11 to support play in local authorities.

### Pre-school Education: Finance

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding was provided to each local education authority to provide free nursery education for three and four-year-olds in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06 as part of the under-fives sub-block of authorities' education formula spending; and if he will make a statement. [187095]

**Beverley Hughes:** In 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 local authorities received funding to provide free nursery education for three and four-year-olds through the under-fives sub-block of their education formula spending (EFS). The funding figures broken down by local authority are as follows:

*£ million*

| *LA name* | *Funding through EFS under five block* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15.1 | 15.4 | 16.0 |
| Barnet | 21.5 | 22.4 | 24.9 |
| Barnsley | 12.3 | 12.4 | 13.2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 8.9 | 8.9 | 9.6 |
| Bedfordshire | 23.2 | 23.7 | 26.2 |
| Bexley | 15.0 | 15.6 | 17.2 |
| Birmingham | 80.4 | 83.0 | 90.6 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 11.8 | 12.1 | 13.1 |
| Blackpool | 8.7 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| Bolton | 18.1 | 18.8 | 20.4 |
| Bournemouth | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6.3 | 6.7 | 7.1 |
| Bradford | 36.0 | 38.2 | 43.0 |
| Brent | 20.7 | 21.7 | 23.4 |
| Brighton and Hove | 12.7 | 13.2 | 13.8 |
| Bristol, City of | 23.8 | 23.5 | 26.2 |
| Bromley | 20.0 | 20.4 | 21.8 |
| Buckinghamshire | 27.7 | 29.6 | 32.5 |
| Bury | 11.3 | 11.8 | 12.7 |
| Calderdale | 13.2 | 13.6 | 14.9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 31.4 | 32.6 | 35.2 |
| Camden | 14.4 | 15.8 | 17.1 |
| Cheshire | 37.7 | 38.3 | 41.7 |
| City of London | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Cornwall | 23.8 | 25.0 | 27.0 |
| Coventry | 20.2 | 20.4 | 22.3 |
| Croydon | 25.0 | 25.6 | 27.1 |
| Cumbria | 26.2 | 26.5 | 28.6 |
| Darlington | 6.4 | 6.5 | 7.1 |
| Derby | 15.5 | 16.2 | 18.0 |
| Derbyshire | 41.6 | 42.8 | 45.8 |
| Devon | 35.2 | 34.6 | 39.8 |
| Doncaster | 18.5 | 18.9 | 18.7 |
| Dorset | 18.2 | 18.7 | 19.7 |
| Dudley | 18.8 | 19.0 | 20.9 |
| Durham | 28.8 | 29.4 | 31.0 |
| Ealing | 23.4 | 24.7 | 26.7 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 16.2 | 16.8 | 17.8 |
| East Sussex | 25.5 | 25.8 | 27.6 |
| Enfield | 22.0 | 23.0 | 24.4 |
| Essex | 76.8 | 78.9 | 85.3 |
| Gateshead | 11.6 | 11.8 | 12.4 |
| Gloucestershire | 31.2 | 32.3 | 34.9 |
| Greenwich | 20.5 | 21.5 | 23.2 |
| Hackney | 22.3 | 23.6 | 26.4 |
| Halton | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 11.6 | 12.8 | 4.1 |
| Hampshire | 73.1 | 74.8 | 80.4 |
| Haringey | 20.3 | 21.0 | 21.6 |
| Harrow | 14.4 | 14.7 | 15.7 |
| Hartlepool | 6.1 | 6.2 | 7.0 |

£ million

| LA name | Funding through EFS under five block 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | 14.2 | 14.9 | 15.8 |
| Herefordshire | 9.1 | 9.4 | 10.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 69.4 | 71.8 | 75.2 |
| Hillingdon | 18.9 | 20.0 | 21.9 |
| Hounslow | 17.0 | 16.9 | 18.6 |
| Isle of Wight | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.9 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Islington | 16.9 | 17.7 | 19.0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 9.3 | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| Kent | 82.2 | 84.5 | 90.5 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.7 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 9.0 | 9.6 | 10.2 |
| Kirklees | 26.8 | 28.4 | 29.7 |
| Knowsley | 12.2 | 12.0 | 12.9 |
| Lambeth | 24.5 | 25.3 | 27.0 |
| Lancashire | 67.0 | 68.2 | 73.6 |
| Leeds | 43.0 | 44.1 | 47.3 |
| Leicester | 21.8 | 22.8 | 24.2 |
| Leicestershire | 32.5 | 33.8 | 37.3 |
| Lewisham | 23.2 | 23.4 | 25.5 |
| Lincolnshire | 34.8 | 36.7 | 39.4 |
| Liverpool | 31.1 | 30.9 | 32.8 |
| Luton | 14.5 | 15.6 | 16.7 |
| Manchester | 32.2 | 33.1 | 35.8 |
| Medway | 16.6 | 6.7 | 17.7 |
| Merton | 12.5 | 12.9 | 14.6 |
| Middlesbrough | 10.1 | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| Milton Keynes | 13.1 | 15.8 | 17.5 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 16.3 | 16.2 | 17.1 |
| Newham | 29.6 | 30.2 | 32.6 |
| Norfolk | 41.2 | 42.8 | 45.7 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 10.1 | 10.0 | 11.4 |
| North Lincolnshire | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.8 |
| North Somerset | 9.7 | 10.5 | 11.4 |
| North Tyneside | 11.4 | 11.8 | 12.3 |
| North Yorkshire | 30.0 | 30.3 | 32.4 |
| Northamptonshire | 39.8 | 40.9 | 44.0 |
| Northumberland | 16.9 | 17.4 | 18.8 |
| Nottingham | 17.3 | 17.9 | 18.9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 37.4 | 38.3 | 41.0 |
| Oldham | 16.7 | 17.2 | 19.1 |
| Oxfordshire | 31.1 | 32.6 | 35.2 |
| Peterborough | 11.6 | 11.9 | 12.9 |
| Plymouth | 14.4 | 14.5 | 15.3 |
| Poole | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| Portsmouth | 11.7 | 11.7 | 12.3 |
| Reading | 7.9 | 8.0 | 9.3 |
| Redbridge | 18.7 | 19.2 | 20.6 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.4 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 9.6 | 10.7 | 12.0 |
| Rochdale | 15.1 | 15.6 | 16.5 |
| Rotherham | 16.4 | 16.8 | 18.0 |
| Rutland | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Salford | 14.8 | 14.9 | 15.7 |
| Sandwell | 21.0 | 21.7 | 23.6 |
| Sefton | 16.5 | 16.5 | 17.4 |
| Sheffield | 31.6 | 32.7 | 34.9 |
| Shropshire | 13.6 | 13.6 | 14.7 |
| Slough | 9.4 | 9.6 | 10.4 |
| Solihull | 12.5 | 13.0 | 13.9 |
| Somerset | 27.1 | 27.8 | 29.1 |
| South Gloucestershire | 15.2 | 15.5 | 16.4 |
| South Tyneside | 9.4 | 9.4 | 10.0 |

£ million

| LA name | Funding through EFS under five block 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Southampton | 13.2 | 14.8 | 13.8 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 10.3 | 11.2 | 11.9 |
| Southwark | 26.3 | 27.2 | 28.8 |
| St. Helens | 11.0 | 11.4 | 12.1 |
| Staffordshire | 45.1 | 46.0 | 48.8 |
| Stockport | 16.7 | 16.8 | 18.0 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 11.7 | 11.8 | 13.1 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 15.3 | 15.1 | 16.6 |
| Suffolk | 34.2 | 34.6 | 37.0 |
| Sunderland | 17.4 | 17.7 | 18.7 |
| Surrey | 60.3 | 65.0 | 69.9 |
| Sutton | 10.0 | 12.3 | 13.2 |
| Swindon | 11.5 | 12.0 | 13.0 |
| Tameside | 13.8 | 14.0 | 15.3 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 10.1 | 11.4 | 12.1 |
| Thurrock | 9.9 | 10.5 | 11.1 |
| Torbay | 6.7 | 7.1 | 7.6 |
| Tower Hamlets | 24.4 | 26.1 | 28.4 |
| Trafford | 12.9 | 13.1 | 14.7 |
| Wakefield | 17.8 | 18.4 | 20.4 |
| Walsall | 17.8 | 18.8 | 20.6 |
| Waltham Forest | 17.2 | 18.2 | 19.5 |
| Wandsworth | 20.7 | 21.9 | 23.9 |
| Warrington | 11.8 | 12.1 | 13.3 |
| Warwickshire | 28.9 | 30.1 | 32.4 |
| West Berkshire | 8.0 | 8.4 | 9.7 |
| West Sussex | 40.4 | 41.9 | 45.8 |
| Westminster | 13.0 | 13.8 | 15.1 |
| Wigan | 18.3 | 18.3 | 20.1 |
| Wiltshire | 25.2 | 25.9 | 28.8 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 7.3 | 7.4 | 8.5 |
| Wirral | 19.6 | 19.7 | 21.2 |
| Wokingham | 8.0 | 7.9 | 8.9 |
| Wolverhampton | 16.9 | 17.3 | 18.6 |
| Worcestershire | 29.6 | 30.7 | 33.1 |
| York | 9.1 | 9.1 | 10.1 |
| Total | 3,106.4 | 3,208.1 | 3,456.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Price base: cash.
2. All figures include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. These figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Education formula spending was not ring-fenced, so funding for education (including the notional under-fives funding) could be spent on other sectors and vice versa.

### Primary Education: Pupil Exclusions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has collected on the number of fixed period exclusions from primary schools in 2005-06; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [185803]

**Kevin Brennan:** Prior to 2005-06 information on fixed period exclusions was collected via the Termly Exclusions Survey. For the 2005-06 academic year the collection of fixed period exclusions data was transferred to the School Census, which is collected termly, and the Termly Exclusions Survey discontinued. For the 2005-6 academic year the new termly School Census was completed by secondary schools only. This does present a gap in the information collected from primary schools on fixed period exclusions. For the 2006-07 academic year primary schools will make School Census returns termly and information on fixed period exclusions will be available.

Information published as SFR 21/07, Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England 2005-6, has been placed in the Library.

### Primary Education: Truancy

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary school pupils took unauthorised absence in primary schools with *(a)* fewer than and *(b)* more than 100 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [185399]

**Kevin Brennan:** The latest available absence rates relate to autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 and are shown in the table:

*Maintained primary schools[1], pupil absence by number of enrolments: autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007*

| | Number of pupil enrolments[3] | Percentage of half days missed[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Authorised absence | Unauthorised absence | Overall absence |
| Schools with less than 100 pupil enrolments[2] | 230,420 | 4.70 | 0.31 | 5.01 |
| Schools with 100 or more pupil enrolments[2] | 3,197,960 | 4.74 | 0.54 | 5.27 |
| All primary schools | 3,428,390 | 4.73 | 0.52 | 5.26 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total.
[3] Number of pupil enrolments in primary schools between 1 September 2006 and 9 April 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school.
*Source:*
School Census

**Pupil Exclusions**

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils received a fixed period exclusion from schools with *(a)* more and *(b)* fewer than 2,000 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available; [185396]

(2) how many and what proportion of secondary school pupils received a fixed period exclusion from schools with fewer than 1,000 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [185397]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information showing numbers of fixed period exclusions is shown in the table. It should be noted that some pupils will have more than one episode of fixed period exclusion.

*All secondary schools [1,2]—Number of fixed period exclusions by size of school—2005/06*

| | Number of fixed period exclusions | Percentage of the school population[3] |
|---|---|---|
| *Size of school: [4]* | | |
| Up to 1,000 pupils | 153,021 | 12.31 |
| Between 1,000 and 2,000 pupils | 190,573 | 9.65 |
| Over 2,000 pupils | 3,557 | 7.89 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes Local Authority Maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2006.
[4] Based on headcount of pupils as at January 2006, excludes dual registrations.
*Source:*
School Census

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals had been excluded from school in the previous year in the latest period for which figures are available; [185782]

(2) how many pupils in each constituency have been given *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed period exclusions in the latest period for which figures are available. [185783]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Pupil Exclusions: Finance**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional funding has been allocated since June 2007 to support head teachers in exercising their function of excluding pupils. [185186]

**Kevin Brennan:** Since September 2007 schools and local authorities have been required to arrange suitable full-time education from the sixth day of any period of exclusion. We made £9.3 million available in 2007-08 (to cover seven months) and £16 million from 2008-09 within the dedicated schools grant.

**Pupil Exclusions: Offensive Weapons**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed term exclusions occurred due to (i) possession of and (ii) violence involving (A) knives and (B) firearms in school in each of the last 10 years. [184780]

**Kevin Brennan:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

**Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils who were permanently excluded had special educational needs in each year since 2001. [188399]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information is shown in the table:

*Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN), England, 1997-98 to 2005=06 (estimates)[3]*

| | Permanent exclusions | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of exclusions | Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | Percentage of school population[5] |
| 2000-01[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 810 | 9 | 0.33 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,330 | 91 | 0.11 |
| All pupils | 9,140 | 100 | 0.12 |
| 2001-02[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 1,140 | 12 | 0.48 |

*Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN), England, 1997-98 to 2005=06 (estimates)[3]*

| | Permanent exclusions | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of exclusions | Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | Percentage of school population[5] |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,400 | 88 | 0.11 |
| Of which: | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 4,700 | 49 | 0.35 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 3,700 | 39 | 0.06 |
| All pupils | 9,540 | 100 | 0.12 |
| 2002-03[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 1,030 | 11 | 0.43 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,260 | 89 | 0.11 |
| Of which: | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 5,140 | 55 | 0.46 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 3,120 | 34 | 0.05 |
| All pupils | 9,290 | 100 | 0.12 |
| 2003-04[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 1,040 | 11 | 0.44 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,840 | 89 | 0.12 |
| Of which: | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 5,240 | 53 | 0.46 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 3,600 | 36 | 0.06 |
| All pupils | 9,880 | 100 | 0.13 |
| 2004-05[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 850 | 9 | 0.37 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,590 | 91 | 0.12 |
| Of which: | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 4,620 | 49 | 0.40 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 3,970 | 42 | 0.06 |
| All pupils[7] | 9,440 | 100 | 0.12 |
| 2005-06[3] | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 880 | 10 | 0.39 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[6] | 8,280 | 90 | 0.11 |
| Of which: | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 5,280 | 58 | 0.43 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 3,000 | 33 | 0.05 |
| All pupils[8] | 9,170 | 100 | 0.12 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data. See Notes to Editors 4.
[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
[5] The number of excluded pupils by SEN stage expressed as a percentage of all pupils with the same SEN stage in primary, secondary and all special schools (excludes dually registered pupils) in January.
[6] The introduction of the new SEN Code of Practice means that the number of children with SEN without statements reported in 2000/01 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years. Includes pupils with no SEN and pupils with SEN without statements. See Notes to Editors 6.
[7] There was one permanent exclusion for which stage of SEN was not known—this was included in total for 'all pupils' only.
[8] There were 17 permanent exclusion for which stage of SEN was not known–these were included in total for 'all pupils' only.

*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
School Census

## Pupils: Intimidation

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned on methods used in different schools to tackle bullying; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of different methods of preventing bullying; and what steps his Department is taking to tackle the causes of bullying in schools. [187848]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has taken a wide range of measures to tackle the causes of bullying and is providing around £1.7 million for anti-bullying programmes this year. Through the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme, we are developing skills in pupils including empathy, a sense of social responsibility and assertiveness which directly contribute to a school climate in which bullying cannot thrive.

Prevention is also a key theme of the guidance entitled "Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools" which we issued in September 2007. This includes specific advice on homophobic bullying and cyberbullying, and links to guidance on bullying around racism, religion and culture that we issued in 2006. We are currently preparing further advice on how to prevent and tackle the bullying of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

We have placed a legal duty on head teachers to determine measures to promote good behaviour, respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils as part of their overall behaviour policy. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also provides head teachers with the power, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off-site or not under the control or charge of a member of staff.

We have issued the Anti-Bullying Charter, which includes a detailed list of questions for the school community to consider when formulating its anti-bullying policy. We have worked with and funded a number of partners, including the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), who arrange the annual Anti-Bullying Week and provide a range of advice and support to local authorities; ParentLine Plus, who run a helpline for parents whose children are being bullied and provide other resources through their 'Be Someone to Tell' campaign; and ChildLine in Partnership with Schools (CHIPS) who currently run peer mentoring schemes for the Department. We also fund awards for anti-bullying work as part of the Princess Diana Memorial Awards scheme.

We have asked the National Strategies and Anti-Bullying Alliance to work with schools and local authorities to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground and we are monitoring this very closely. We have also asked the National Strategies to provide challenge and support to those schools which have been identified as weak or ineffective in their approach to dealing with bullying.

My Department has gone out to tender on research into the effectiveness of anti-bullying strategies. This should help inform any further development of Government policy in this area as well as helping schools decide which anti-bullying strategies are most effective in a range of circumstances. Our partners in the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and the National Strategies work at a local level to advise schools on their anti-bullying policies and monitor the implementation of the various anti-bullying strategies.

### Schools: Crime

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what definition of a school-specific offence his Department uses; and if he will list those school-specific offences recognised by his Department. [187878]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not use any particular definition of a school-specific offence. If 'school-specific offence' means an offence created by or under the Education Acts in relation to schools, or an offence framed by reference to schools, the offences listed as follows would seem to be relevant in relation to England. References are to sections of the Acts mentioned unless otherwise stated.

*Education Act 1996*

336(5) (failure to comply with requirement imposed by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in respect of the discovery or inspection of documents or giving of evidence)

434(6) (contravention or failure to comply with any requirement imposed by regulations on registration of pupils)

443(1) (failure of parent to comply with the requirements of school attendance order)

444(1) (failure of parent to secure regular attendance at school of registered pupil)

444(1A) (knowing failure of parent to secure regular attendance at school of registered pupil)

506(2) (failure of parent of pupil to present pupil for examination by medical practitioner in accordance with notice)

525(1) (neglecting the cleanliness of pupil)

547(1) (causing or permitting nuisance or disturbance to the annoyance of persons who lawfully use school premises)

559(3) (employing child in contravention of prohibition or restriction imposed by local education authority or for failure to provide the authority with information for the purpose of ascertaining the circumstances of employment)

323(5) and paragraph 5 of schedule 26 (failure of parent to comply with requirements of a notice served by local education authority considering whether to make an assessment of special educational needs)

*Education Act 2002*

159(1) (conducting an independent school which is not a registered school)

159(6) (wilfully obstructing the Chief Inspector in inspecting premises and taking copies of documents, in relation to offence of conducting an independent school which is not a registered school)

162B(4) (intentionally obstructing a person in the exercise of his functions in relation to an inspection of a registered school)

165(9) (failure of proprietor to comply with an order of registration authority requiring the proprietor to cease using part of the school premises, to close part of the school's operation or to cease to admit any new pupils)

167(9) (failure of proprietor to comply with an order of Care Standards Tribunal requiring the proprietor to cease using part of the school premises, to close part of the school's operation or to cease to admit any new pupils)

168(2) and regulation 10 Education (Provision of Information by Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003 (failure of proprietor to comply with requirement to provide a return within the first three months of operation, an annual return, to report the facts of a dismissal, or to provide information requested by the Secretary of State relevant to his function of prohibiting unsuitable persons from teaching)

*Education Act 2005*

10(2) (obstructing the Chief Inspector in relation to the inspection of a school for the purposes of section 5 or 8)

109(1) (non-permitted disclosure of information received about eligibility for education maintenance allowances relating to a particular person)

111(1) (non-permitted disclosure of information received about tax credits and social security relating to a particular person)

*Education and Inspections Act 2006*

103(3) (offence of parent where parent's child, an excluded pupil, is present in a public place at any time during school hours on one of first five days to which exclusion relates)

*Criminal Justice Act 1998*

139A(1) (having bladed or sharply pointed article on school premises)

139A(2) (having an offensive weapon on school premises)

*Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006*

8(5) (acting as a member of the governing body of an educational institution for the provision of education to children, or a maintained nursery school, without being monitored in relation to regulated activity relating to children)

**Schools: Procurement**

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools took part in the pilot for the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system; how many orders were sent as part of the pilot; and what the cost of the system has been. [186970]

**Kevin Brennan:** OPEN—the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system is the Department's e-procurement tool for schools that has been developed with and for schools to aid them in procuring their goods and services in one convenient location should they wish to use it.

During the OPEN pathfinder phase, which when complete will have run for one year, a total of 463 schools from five areas of England generously took the time to support the development and functionality testing of the system:

A group of Devon schools;

East Sussex county council;

e-Spi, a north west based consortium, hosted by Rochdale metropolitan borough council; and

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The aim of the pathfinder was to rigorously test the system for reliability, appropriateness, ease of use and integration with schools' financial management systems.

During the period 15 March 2007 to 31 January 2008 a total of 630 orders were placed.

OPEN is a development of, and operates on, the Zanzibar public sector e-procurement solution operated by OGCbuying.solutions which is available to the whole of the UK public sector. OPEN is the schools portal to this e-marketplace.

The release of information relating to the amounts being paid to individual companies would prejudice commercial interests in this instance and could affect the Department's future negotiating position.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many invoices have been unsuccessfully submitted by schools under the electronic invoice system Online Procurement for Educational Needs. [186971]

**Kevin Brennan:** OPEN—the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system—is the Department's e-procurement tool for schools that has been developed with and for schools to aid them in procuring their goods and services in one convenient location should they wish to use it.

Schools do not submit invoices to OPEN, only fully authorised orders. Suppliers then receive the order via the supplier portal component of OPEN and can then raise an electronic invoice.

These invoices are currently sent to schools via email. The option to import these invoices directly to the schools' financial management system is currently unavailable as part of the pathfinder phase, but the Department is in discussion with FMS providers regarding the integration of OPEN into future releases.

Currently, in order to ascertain the number of orders unsuccessfully raised by schools, every school registered on OPEN would need to be contacted with a list of orders they had raised through OPEN, asked to provide the invoice numbers relating to those orders and then have these queried against the supplier portal (the area where suppliers transact with schools) to establish which had been created electronically.

At this time, and with existing functionality, to capture information to this detail would be an unnecessary burden to schools in administrative time required to ensure that the data and cross checking are complete. Furthermore, this is not something that the pathfinder phase of OPEN intended to assess. However, EPC has been working with FMS providers regarding subsequent releases of their systems to facilitate upgrades that will allow a full audit trail for invoices.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual cost has been of his Department's Purchasing Team for the Online Procurement for Educational Needs (OPEN) system; and how much has been paid to *(a)* PA Consulting and *(b)* Proc Serve to establish the OPEN system in the last three years. [186972]

**Kevin Brennan:** OPEN—the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system is the Department's e-procurement tool for schools that has been developed with and for schools to aid them in procuring their goods and services in one convenient location should they wish to use it.

Due to the complexity of the project, the development requirements of the system, and the number of schools that potentially may wish to avail of it, a decision was taken to fund OPEN for three years, up to 2011. This is within CSR07 financial period and is usual for programmes of this nature.

The OPEN system is based on the existing pan-Government platform Zanzibar which is provided by ProcServe. However, it was felt that this system would not be directly applicable to schools in its current format, hence the need to employ a consultancy with the specialist skills needed to support the development of this schools-focused solution.

The cost of the OPEN system to the Department's Purchasing Team has been incurred under a pan-Government contract with OGC.bs.

The cost of managing this contract, which has been running for 12 months, is £141,510.

The release of information relating to the amounts being paid to individual companies would prejudice commercial interests in this instance and could affect the Department's future negotiating position.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the suppliers to the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system had received orders by the end of January 2008. [186973]

**Kevin Brennan:** For the period 15 March 2007 to 31 January 2008; 77 different suppliers received orders placed by schools. As of 18 February 2008 729 suppliers are registered to use OPEN.

In order for a greater number of transactions to take place, a greater number of schools' suppliers also need to be available on OPEN for them to transact with. As this was a pathfinder, limited resources were available to engage with the educational supplier marketplace and effort was concentrated on those suppliers nominated by schools that they usually traded with in the first instance.

## Schools: Sports

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what survey data his Department has collected on the average time *(a)* independent secondary and *(b)* maintained secondary school pupils spend participating in sport each week; and if he will make a statement. [188981]

**Kevin Brennan:** The annual PE and School Sport Survey collects data relating to participation in PE and School Sport. The 2006/07 survey found that 80 per cent. of pupils at maintained secondary schools take part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week. No comparable figure is available for independent secondary schools.

The Department supports the establishment of links between independent schools and School Sport Partnerships.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and which schools in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex have established links with a (i) football, (ii) cricket, (iii) rugby union, (iv) rugby league and (v) tennis club in each of the last five years. [188996]

**Kevin Brennan:** The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and School Sport. The number of schools linked to these clubs are as follows:

| | *Level* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Southend* | | | |
| Cricket | Primary | 17 | 16 |
| | Secondary | 4 | 8 |
| | Special | 3 | 2 |
| Football | Primary | 35 | 36 |
| | Secondary | 7 | 11 |
| | Special | 5 | 5 |
| Rugby league[1] | Primary | 0 | 14 |
| | Secondary | 0 | 4 |
| | Special | 0 | 2 |
| Rugby union[1] | Primary | 31 | 25 |
| | Secondary | 5 | 10 |
| | Special | 2 | 3 |
| Tennis | Primary | 12 | 10 |
| | Secondary | 4 | 6 |
| | Special | 1 | 0 |
| *Essex* | | | |
| Cricket | Primary | 137 | 261 |
| | Secondary | 47 | 62 |
| | Special | 2 | 5 |
| Football | Primary | 213 | 360 |
| | Secondary | 48 | 68 |
| | Special | 7 | 15 |
| Rugby league[1] | Primary | 4 | 56 |
| | Secondary | 3 | 6 |
| | Special | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby union[1] | Primary | 91 | 107 |
| | Secondary | 47 | 65 |
| | Special | 0 | 4 |
| Tennis | Primary | 109 | 166 |
| | Secondary | 21 | 38 |
| | Special | 1 | 5 |

[1] The 2006/07 definition included 'tag rugby' for the first time

Data prior to 2005/06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Social Workers: Training

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the level of professional training available to social workers working in *(a)* fostering and *(b)* adoption services. [188964]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government engaged widely with stakeholders and service users to understand how best to improve the capacity and training of social workers in the 'Options for Excellence Review' (2006). Building on these findings DCSF is investing over £63 million between 2008 and 2011 in this area and announced in the 'Children's Plan' (2007) commitments to improve support and training for all social workers working with children and families. This includes:

- piloting a newly qualified social work status offering guaranteed induction and support; building a professional development framework setting out the standards expected of all social workers at each point of their career including those working in specialist areas, such as adoption and fostering;
- investing in additional support to social work supervisors; and enhancing initial social work training so that it better equips social workers with the practical skills and knowledge to work with children and families across all areas, including adoption and fostering.

More detail about these areas will be announced in the work force action plan due to be published early this year.

The General Social Care Council (GSCC) requires all qualified social workers to undertake at least 15 days of professional development in a three-year period as a condition of their registration. In October 2007 GSCC introduced a new post-qualifying award for social workers specialising in children and families services to better equip them with the specialist skills

nceded in this area. The award has a focus on social workers' competence in assessing, planning, using professional judgment and managing risks to meet the needs of children and young people including in the areas of foster care and adoption.

### Teachers: Vetting

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the feasibility of introducing Criminal Records Bureau checks for private tutors or music teachers who work unsupervised with children. [188664]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 provides the legal framework for the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and scheme.

Individuals such as private tutors will be able to make an application to register with the ISA. In order to register with the ISA all relevant information on the individual will be assessed. This will include criminal information and soft information which is assessed as part of the current Criminal Records Bureau disclosure process. The ISA will make the decision whether the individual should be barred as a risk of harm to children or whether to make them ISA registered.

For the first time, the scheme will allow parents to check that a self-employed person they use, such as a private music tutor, is ISA registered and therefore not barred as a risk or harm to children. This is an improvement on the current system, where private employers such as parents are unable to check whether a tutor they use to work with their child is on a barred list. Moreover, the ISA will continuously monitor new, relevant information on the individual from criminal convictions and referrals and will notify employers, including parents, if an individual ceases to be ISA registered.

An individual who is barred under the scheme commits an offence if they seek to engage in regulated activity which includes working as a private tutor for parents.

### Truancy

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the most common reasons for absence were of those students identified by dedicated local pupil tracking officers as missing from education for a period longer than 10 days in the latest period for which figures are available; [187726]

(2) how many students were identified by dedicated local pupil tracking officers as missing from education for a period of more than 10 days in the latest period for which figures are available. [187727]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested by my hon. Friend is not available. The statutory duty for local authorities to identify children missing from education commenced in February 2007 and local authorities have been implementing systems over the past year that should enable collection of local level data. However, national information is not available regarding periods of, and reasons for, absence from education as reliable information cannot be produced using current methods of collection. My Department will consider how to collect appropriate information in the future.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to raise the aspirations of school children to aim for further or higher education since 1997. [184821]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

Improving progression towards further and higher education and encouraging young people to continue learning for longer is vital to improve the life chances of young people and meet our economic needs. The total number of 16 to 18-year-olds in education and training increased by 15,500 to 1,547,000 at end 2006, the highest number ever. The 14-19 reforms—outlined in the '14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan' (2005) and 'Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16' (March 2007) are designed to encourage more young people to continue learning for longer and to gain the qualifications they need to progress to further and higher education.

Last month the Government published "World Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All". It set out a wide range of steps which will improve apprenticeships for the future and ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all qualified young people by 2013. This will play a major part in raising the participation age in learning to age 18.

We also aim to increase participation in higher education (HE) towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30, with growth of at least 1 percentage point every two years to 2010/11. In November 2006 the then Department for Education and Skills published "Widening participation in higher education". It showed the policies being pursued in four areas—raising educational attainment, raising aspirations, improving applications and admissions, and measuring performance—which individually and collectively help to encourage and enable people from a wider range of backgrounds to go on to HE. Since the publication of "Widening participation in higher education" my Department has announced that the successful Aimhigher initiative will continue for another three years in its efforts to raise young people's attainment and aspirations and improve their progression. The Government have also launched nine regionally-based excellence hubs—university partnerships which are delivering a national programme of outreach opportunities for gifted and talented learners, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Government are convinced that there is much to be gained by encouraging stronger partnerships between schools and universities and wants every secondary school to have a university partner. To that end, last year the Department for Children, Schools and Families and my Department jointly published "Academies, Trusts and Higher Education: prospectus" which sets out one way in which universities can work more closely with schools to create a better understanding of HE, encourage a wider range of applicants and ensure young people are properly equipped to make the most of HE.

## Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessor *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171280]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was established in June 2007. Information is available on 16 to 18-year-olds employed directly by its predecessor DfES from 2004 to 2006 and for DCSF in 2007.

| | *Number of 16 to 18-years-olds employed* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 1 |
| 2005 | 1 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 (current DCSF position) | 1 |

Direct appointments prior to 2004 were not recorded in the same way and figures can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Age-related information on temporary workers engaged by DCSF and DfES is not collected and so to isolate the number of 16 to 18 years engaged would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on training undertaken by individuals in specified age groups is not recorded and so could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Young People: Unemployed

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of people aged under 18 and not in education, employment or training there were in each English region in the latest period for which figures are available. [188583]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department's estimate of the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to regional level. However, we can estimate the number of young people NEET using figures drawn from the client management systems maintained by Connexions services. The following table shows the number and proportion of young people aged under 18 NEET in each Government office region at the end of December 2007 based on Connexions data.

The figures relate to 16 and 17-year-olds known to Connexions and are not directly comparable with statistics on 16 and 17-year-olds NEET published annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. This is because the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody and young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England may also be excluded. In addition, the Department's statistics relate to the young person's academic age, rather than calendar age.

*Number and proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training at the end of December 2007*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| South East | 7,710 | 5.0 |
| London | 7,450 | 6.0 |
| East of England | 5,900 | 5.2 |
| South West | 5,130 | 5.2 |
| West Midlands | 7,720 | 6.6 |
| East Midlands | 4,870 | 5.4 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 8,560 | 7.8 |
| North West | 11,200 | 7.2 |
| North East | 4,880 | 8.6 |

## Youth Opportunity Fund

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund, with particular reference to hard-to-reach and disadvantaged children and young people who are not involved in formal organisations. [189028]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF and YCF) were established in April 2006 as complementary, universal funds operating under a single management framework. The funds demonstrate how innovative and creative young people can be when they are truly empowered, delivering a wide range of high quality projects and activities.

Interim findings from the independent evaluation of the funds were published in July 2007: Research report number DCSF-RR004 is available on the DCSF's website. The research found that the funds were meeting their objective to give young people a voice through consultation and control over resources. Local authorities had involved young people in the design and development of the funds, with young people involved as decision-makers.

Overall, around 570,000 young people have benefited directly from the funds. In addition, management information shows that over a third of the young people involved as decision makers or project leaders were from traditionally disadvantaged groups. The guidance for the funds is clear that particular care should be taken to encourage those groups who face barriers to participation. This includes young people from low income families, young disabled people, young care leavers, looked after young people, young offenders, young carers, young refugees, young lesbians and gay men, young black and minority ethnic people, travellers and those in rural areas.

On the basis of this evidence it was agreed in comprehensive spending review 2007 that the funds should continue until at least 2011, at the current rates of funding with an additional £25 million of new investment being made available in the most disadvantaged communities.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 27 February 2008*

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what products featuring departmental or Government branding have been procured by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment. [183204]

**Barbara Follett:** A logo for the Government's Office for Equalities was produced. The cost for this was £1,300. This is used on a range of publications and letter heading. Two exhibition banner stands have been purchased costing £354.25 including VAT. In addition a number of canvas bags were purchased for the Office at a cost of £1,437.21 for use as part of the European Year of Equal Opportunity for All and at events organised by the Office.

### Equal Opportunities

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent research she has evaluated on the effect of the time spent on domestic tasks on women's career progression; whether she has received representations on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [181448]

**Barbara Follett:** There are a large number of factors that affect the career progression of women, and how much they earn. These include differences in men and women's labour market experience (for example as a result of women taking time out to look after children), skills and education, occupational segregation, lack of quality part-time work (especially for women returning from maternity leave), historical culture, gender stereotyping, and pay discrimination.

Research published in 2006 by the Department of Work and Pensions[1] tends to support the theory that gender differences in the labour market stem from the division of parental duties (including child care) between mothers and fathers in the home. Research published in the British Social Attitudes survey, published on 23 January 2008, suggests that only one in six men now believe that a woman's place is in the home, compared with one in three in 1989. However the same survey found that 77 per cent. of people with partners say that the woman usually or always does the laundry, a similar proportion to that found in 1994 (81 per cent.). The British Social Attitudes Survey also found that the most liberal division of labour between women and men is found among couples where the woman works full-time, earns more than her partner, or has a partner who does not work.

The Government are working to enable families to have real choices about how they live their lives, including how they balance responsibilities at home and at work. The Government is committed to reducing the inequalities that still exist at home and in the workplace, including reducing the gender pay gap, through the introduction of practical measures across a wide front, for example the encouragement of flexible and good quality part-time working, improved maternity and paternity leave, better access to child care, and introduction of the minimum wage.

[1] "Newborns and new schools: critical times in women's employment", DWP 2006

### Equal Pay

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the gender pay gap in the public sector. [185375]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The gender pay gap for full-time public sector workers (based on the median) was 10.2 per cent. in 2007 compared to 20.0 per cent. in the private sector. In 1997 the figures were 13.5 per cent. and 23.8 per cent. respectively.

Closing the pay gap between men and women in both the public and private sectors is a high priority for us, as Harriet Harman made clear in my statement to Parliament on women's priorities last July. We see it as an essential part of enabling families to have real choices about how they live their lives, because the pay gap plays such a large part in the unequal division of labour in the home, preventing fathers from playing a more active role in their children's early years and preventing women from fulfilling their opportunities to work. To galvanise this, closing the pay gap is now one of the indicators in the new Equalities Public Service Agreement. This will help to build on other practical measures we have introduced, such as: giving the parents of young, or disabled, children and the carers of adults the right to request flexible working, and providing more access to child care.

In the field of local government, we have issued £500 million of capitalisation directions to 46 local authorities in the current financial year (which enables those authorities to treat equal pay costs as capital expenditure, which they can then borrow against) to enable them to make equal pay back-payments. The Minister for Local Government confirmed on 5 February that the Government will continue to support councils through a further equal pay capitalisation round in 2008-09. Capitalisation can only be used by local authorities to meet equal pay back-payments, and not for any other costs.

Through the Equality Act 2006, which came into effect in April 2007, we also introduced a general duty on public authorities to promote gender equality and eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment. The Act and subsequent legislation also imposed specific duties on certain listed public authorities, including central and local government, which include:

drawing up and publishing a gender equality scheme every three years, which shows what authorities plan to do to improve gender equality (including the gender pay gap), and how they will do this. In drawing up such a scheme, authorities must gather relevant information and data, and consult employees and stakeholders to identify specific gender equality objectives.

ensuring that the impact of new legislation, policies, employment and service delivery changes on men and women is assessed. These assessments must also be published.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Infrastructure

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of infrastructure projects, *(b)* amount spent on such projects and *(c)* number of people employed on these projects in Afghanistan in each of the last two years, broken down by province. [188216]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The data requested are not held centrally in Afghanistan and to obtain them would incur disproportionate cost.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189510]

**Mr. Thomas:** During Fairtrade Fortnight DFID is organising a seminar showcasing fair trade and ethical sourcing businesses. In addition to the range of Fairtrade products available to staff throughout the year, our catering provider is running special deals on Fairtrade tea, coffee and confectionery, and special Fairtrade menus are available throughout Fairtrade Fortnight.

Furthermore, East Kilbride—home of DFID's Abercrombie House offices—was officially named a Fairtrade Town on 23 February, showing a commitment to ensuring that small producers of the developing world get a fair deal.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter of 13 November 2007 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, on IMF and World Bank contributions. [189882]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** A reply to the hon. Member's letter of 13 November 2007 has been issued.

### Non-Governmental Organisations: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was channelled through UK-based non-governmental organisations in each of the last five years, broken down by type of aid budget line; and what allocations have been made for 2007-08 on the same basis. [187163]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Total DFID expenditure channelled through UK Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in each of the last five years and planned expenditure for 2007-08 through the Civil Society Challenge Fund and Partnership Programme Agreements is set out in the following table. The table also includes planned funding in respect of the Development Awareness Fund and the Strategic Grant Agreement for 2007-08.

DFID also provides ad-hoc funding to agencies and CSOs working in country or at a regional level responding to specific emergencies. DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE) estimate that in 2007-08 £8 million was spent on humanitarian relief across a range of natural disasters, from an earthquake in Peru to cyclones and floods in Bangladesh, India, Mexico, North Korea and Pakistan, to winter shelter for extreme winter conditions in Kyrgyzstan. Of this, £5 million was provided through NGOs.

There is no central allocation of funding through CSOs for humanitarian assistance projects or other parts of the DFID programme.

Multilaterals also allocate funding to CSOs, among these are the European Commission, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Because multilaterals do not report the proportion of their expenditure allocated to CSOs, DFID are unable to attribute multilateral expenditure to CSOs.

*DFID expenditure through UK CSOs for 2002-03 to 2006-07 and planned expenditure for 2007-08*

*£000*

| | *Total* | *Civil Society Challenge Fund* | *Partnership Programme Agreement* | *Humanitarian Assistance* | *Country and other DRD Programme* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 (actual) | 222,845 | 13,056 | 57,227 | 93,822 | 58,739 |
| 2003-04 (actual) | 220,321 | 10,355 | 59,000 | 86,689 | 64,277 |
| 2004-05 (actual) | 232,930 | 10,106 | 65,263 | 91,187 | 66,374 |
| 2005-06 (actual) | 260,952 | 13,260 | 81,650 | 95,254 | 70,788 |
| 2006-07 (actual) | 274,309 | 13,539 | 89,141 | 85,423 | 86,207 |
| 2007-08 (planned) | — | 14,280 | 90,191 | — | [1]4,200 |

[1] Includes Development Awareness Fund and the Strategic Grant Agreement only

Final expenditure figures for 2007-08 will not be available until after the end of the fiscal year.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crime: Drugs

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* cases were brought and *(b)* convictions there were for (i) possession and (ii) distribution of (A) cocaine, (B) heroine, (C) ecstasy, (D) amphetamine and (E) cannabis in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [186983]

**Paul Goggins:** Table 1 gives the number of persons charged for possession and supply of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, amphetamine and cannabis for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The court datasets do not hold information on the number of prosecutions and convictions for different drug types as these do not constitute separate offences by legislation. It is possible, however, to determine the class of drug. Table 2 outlines this information for the number of prosecutions and convictions for possession, possession with intent to supply unlawfully and the unlawful supply of illegal drugs. Data cover the calendar years 2005 and 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible to reconcile PSNI data routinely on the number of persons charged with offences and prosecution and conviction data as PSNI data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts.

*Table 1: Persons charged or summonsed for possession or trafficking of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, amphetamine and cannabis[1]—1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007[2]*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Persons charged or summonsed with: | | Persons charged or summonsed with: | |
| | Supplying | Possession | Supplying | Possession |
| Cocaine | 44 | 97 | 65 | 133 |
| Heroin | 10 | 21 | 33 | 41 |
| Ecstasy | 65 | 112 | 118 | 229 |
| Amphetamine | 41 | 63 | 43 | 97 |
| Cannabis | 168 | 923 | 225 | 839 |

[1] As a person can be charged with or summonsed for both supplying and possessing drug offences, the figures cannot be added to give the total number of persons charged or summonsed.

*Source:*
PSNI Central Statistics Unit.

*Table 2: Number prosecuted and convicted for possession, possession with intent to supply unlawfully and the unlawful supply of illegal drugs by class of drug 2005 and 2006*

| | 2005 | | 2006[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | Convicted | Prosecuted | Convicted |
| *Unlawful possession* | | | | |
| Class A | 113 | 111 | 174 | 157 |
| Class B | 75 | 67 | 42 | 34 |
| Class C | 310 | 279 | 417 | 380 |
| Total | 498 | 457 | 633 | 571 |
| *Unlawful possession with intent to supply* | | | | |
| Class A | 48 | 42 | 65 | 45 |
| Class B | 39 | 31 | 35 | 26 |
| Class C | 47 | 41 | 65 | 56 |
| Total | 134 | 114 | 165 | 127 |
| *Unlawful supply* | | | | |
| Class A | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Class B | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Class C | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Total | 17 | 15 | 14 | 12 |
| Overall total | 649 | 586 | 812 | 710 |

[1] Data for 2006 are provisional.

*Source:*
NIO Statistics and Research Branch..

## Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters his Department received in each of the last five years. [187047]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department collates information on letters from the public for the annual departmental report, as part of the six national standards for central Government which were introduced to the Department and its Executive agencies from April 1997.

The following table provides figures on the number of letters from the public and ministerial correspondence for the calendar years 2002 to 2006. Figures for 2007 are currently being collated.

| | Number of letters |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 27,212 |
| 2003 | 21,088 |
| 2004 | 101,314 |
| 2005 | 103,141 |
| 2006 | 17,449 |

## Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187886]

**Mr. Woodward:** Within the Northern Ireland Office fewer than five people have retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. It is normal practice not to release the precise figures where the number retiring is less than five; to do so increases the potential of the individuals being identified.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187863]

**Mr. Woodward:** Within the Northern Ireland Office 27.9 per cent. of lost working days have been attributed to stress-related illness during the period 2006-07.

The health and safety of everyone in my Department is of paramount importance; we have a duty of care to help prevent staff becoming ill and to support them when they are. The Northern Ireland Office already has a series of effective policies and procedures in place which help achieve these aims. These include a Welfare Service and an independent confidential counselling service that is available 24 hours a day.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187994]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies, translate the following documents for people in the UK who do not speak English:

First night and induction information for prisoners;

Committal interview forms;

Visits information for prison visitors;

Information booklet for life sentenced prisoners;

Various forms for routine prison procedures—clothing, telephone, tuck shop;

Information sheet on adjudication process for prisoners;

Dealing with complaints against the police;

Summons to defendants—front cover to explain in simple terms the nature of the document;

Requirement to attend court—front cover to explain in simple terms the nature of the document;

Decisions on compensation claims (when required this would be translated into appropriate language);

Written representations on published proposals for boundary changes;

Probation Board information leaflets, letters, correspondence and all enforcement documentation;

Community safety leaflets;

Making a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: A Summary;

Your rights in Northern Ireland;

The Human Rights Commission routinely replies to written correspondence in the language used by the correspondent;

State Pathologist's Department—The Way Forward—A Consultation Document—January 2003.

In addition to this list of documents the Department is committed to providing any document in alternative languages or formats on request.

### Electricity

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on electricity in each of the last five years. [187056]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the amount the Northern Ireland Office (excluding its agencies and NDPBs) has spent on electricity in each of the last five years.

| *Financial year* | *Electricity costs (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 400 |
| 2003-04 | 470 |
| 2004-05 | 452 |
| 2005-06 | 494 |
| 2006-07 | 540 |

### Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187744]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* Nil; and

*(b)* £1,052.50

### Northern Ireland Prison Service: Long Service Awards

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration is being given to awarding long service and good conduct medals to prison officers in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [189066]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Prison Service is included in the case taken by the Ministry of Justice for the introduction of a long service and good conduct medal to operational staff in the UK Prison Services. A paper has been submitted to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals and is currently under consideration.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Driving Offences

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many serving police officers within the Police Service of Northern Ireland who have committed a driving offence have *(a)* retained and *(b)* been issued with firearms certificates within the last 12 months. [186160]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that no serving police officers convicted of a motoring offence within the last 12 months have retained or been granted a firearms certificate in this period. Information on driving convictions before this period and relevant to firearms certificate applications are not readily available and could be obtained by means of an extensive manual check only at disproportionate cost to public funds.

## DEFENCE

### Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the planned in-service dates of the Future Aircraft Carriers. [189279]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects outstanding payments arising from the operation of the Joint Personnel Administration to be made to security forces personnel. [188354]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Once identified, under payments are normally corrected in the next available pay run. If this is not possible arrangements are put in place for payments to be made at unit level. Without knowing which specific personnel the hon. Member is referring to, it is not possible to provide more information.

### Astute Class Submarines: Procurement

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the number of Astute class submarines to be ordered. [189277]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It remains our plan to order seven Astute submarines.

### European Fighter Aircraft

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the number of aircraft to be ordered for the third tranche of Typhoon. [189274]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Negotiations with Partner Nations and industry are under way on Tranche 3, and decisions will be taken once these are complete.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information coalition forces have on the activity of Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and security agents and members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps occupying accommodation in the Al-Mansur Hotel, Baghdad; and if he will make a statement. [188393]

**Des Browne:** The Government do not comment publicly on intelligence matters of this nature.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* low level, *(b)* intermediate level and *(c)* high level nuclear material is held in the UK, where the material in question is subject to a report from the US Secretary of Defence to his Department. [162281]

**Des Browne:** I have been unable to identify any reports from the US Secretary of Defence to this Department referring to the nuclear material we hold in the UK.

### Qinetiq

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been received from QinetiQ following the sale of each former Government-owned site as a result of the clawback agreement; and in relation to which sites the money has been received; [178249]

(2) in relation to the sale of which sites he expects to receive monies from QinetiQ as a result of the clawback agreement during 2008; how much he expects to receive in relation to each such site; and for which sites he does not expect to receive monies; [178250]

(3) what acreage of land has been transferred from his Department to QinetiQ; how much of that land has subsequently been disposed of and at what price; and if he will make a statement. [178976]

**Des Browne:** The requested information is not held centrally or in a consistent form. However, it should be possible to compile the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the work has been completed and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

*Substantive answer from Des Browne to Mike Hancock:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 21 January 2008 (*Official Report*, column 1604W) about monies received from QinetiQ following the sale of land as a result of the clawback agreement and what acreage of land has been transferred to QinetiQ and has subsequently been disposed of.

The table at Annex A shows the acreage of land transferred to QinetiQ together with an indication as to whether it has been substantially sold and if clawback has been received by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

In respect to the value of the land transferred, I refer you to the answer by the then Under Secretary of State gave on 13 January 2003 (*Official Report*, column 404W) to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin). In terms of the actual receipts, the attached table cross references the relevant passages of QinetiQ's Annual Accounts. However, additional details are withheld on grounds of commercial confidentiality.

In 2003, when a stake in QinetiQ was being sold to the Carlyle Group, the Aquilla and Chertsey sites had already been identified as surplus to QinetiQ's business requirements. QinetiQ's obligation to pay the proceeds to the Department were set out in the Aquilla and Chertsey loan note. As a result, £60m of the proceeds from the sale of these sites came directly to the MOD.

I am unable to comment on the likely future receipts from clawback as this very much depends on the future use of sites by QinetiQ, along with the company's schedule for disposal, the timing and terms and conditions of any sale. MOD officials are aware of two prospective sales at Bincleaves in Weymouth and Eastney in your constituency. This information is in the public domain as a result of planning applications or consultations made by the company.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

*ANNEX A: Table of properties transferred to QinetiQ on 1 July 2001*

| *Site title* | *Hectares* | *Site sold by QinetiQ* | *Clawback triggered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberporth | 48 | Yes. 2003 and 2004 | No |
| Alverstoke | 9.21 | No | — |
| Angle | 19.41 | Yes. 2006 | Yes. Awaiting final negotiations over payment. |
| Aquila | 9.62 | Yes. 2003 | No. Aquilla and Chertsey sales tied o repayment of MOD loan to QinetiQ |
| Bedford Sharmbrook | <0.3 | Yes. 2004 | No |
| Bedford Sports and Social | 0.42 | Yes. 2003 | No |
| Bedford Enclave | 5.52 | Yes. 2007 | — |
| Bedford Tunnels | 35.2 | — | — |
| Bedford Twinwood | 31 | — | — |
| Bincleaves | 2.72 | No. Possible sale 2008-09 | — |
| Chertsey - Northern Site | 40.9 | Yes. Part sales in 2003 and 2006 | — |
| Chertsey -Southern Site | 80.2 | — | — |
| Christchurch | 2.69 | No | — |
| Cobbett Hill | 76.08 | Yes. 2004 | Yes. Payment received |
| Farnborough Cody | 148.8 | No | — |

*ANNEX A: Table of properties transferred to QinetiQ on 1 July 2001*

| *Site title* | *Hectares* | *Site sold by QinetiQ* | *Clawback triggered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fort Halstead | 135.17 | Yes. 2005 | Yes. Awaiting final negotiations over payment. |
| Fraser | 4.83 | No. Possible sale 2008-09 | — |
| Funtington North | 16.3 | No | — |
| Haslar | 15.84 | No | — |
| Hurn Main | 98 | No | — |
| Hurn | 142.5 | No | — |
| Barnsfield | — | — | — |
| Hurn Sandleheath | 20.2 | No | — |
| Hutton Moor | 6.07 | Yes. 2005 | Yes. Awaiting payment |
| Malvern Main Site | 28.49 | No | — |
| Malvern Science Park | 4.66 | Yes. 2006 | No |
| Nutley Farm | 1.14 | No | — |
| Pershore | 110.4 | No | — |
| Portsdown LBTS | 10.52 | No | — |
| Pyestock North | 53 | Yes. 2004 | No |
| Pyestock South | 33.85 | Yes. Part sale 2006. Part sale 2007 | No |
| West Drayton | 1.76 | Yes. 2004 | No |
| Winfrith | 2.684 | No | — |

*Notes:*
Annual report 2004 - page 1 Note 3c—Includes disclosable details of Chertsey Transaction.
Annual report 2005 - page 55 Note 3—Includes disclosable details of Pyestock North transaction.
Annual report 2006 - page 32 section on fixed asset disposals includes details on disclosable Fort Halstead transaction.
Annual report 2006 - page 68 Note 6—Adds to disclosable information details of Pyestock South transaction.
Annual report 2007 - page 74 Note 5b—refers to Bedford transaction.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were employed in his Department's ministerial correspondence unit in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the unit, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187048]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office currently has one member of staff dedicated to processing correspondence. The Office does not maintain a central record of the number of staff undertaking this function in previous years but, in 2006-07, had two members of staff undertaking these duties. The Office does not disaggregate its corporate and central running costs to this level of detail.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187518]

**David Cairns:** The staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from other Departments who are reimbursed by the Office for salaries etc. The Office does not have a record of any sick pay element involved; that is a matter for the parent Departments.

### Personal Injury: Applications

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many personal injury claims for pleural plaques he estimates the Government will be liable to pay as *(a)* an employer and *(b)* the funder of the liabilities of former nationalised industries if the Scottish Parliament passes legislation making pleural plaques a compensatable condition; and what estimate he has made of the size of the Government's potential liability. [186303]

**David Cairns:** The Scottish Parliament has not yet legislated to facilitate compensation for pleural plaques through the Scottish civil courts. We are therefore unable to offer any accurate assessment of the associated potential Government liability for claims. Any estimates which could be drawn from the current numbers and value of claims across Government Departments may well be affected by legislation that is passed.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the estimated total cost is of providing for the 2012 Olympics shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks; what provision for shooting will remain following the games; and if she will make a statement. [188745]

**Tessa Jowell:** The total budget for the shooting venue has not been announced. Until such time as detailed venue requirements are agreed and contract negotiations are complete, the information about construction costs remains commercially sensitive.

It is important we deliver a legacy beyond 2012 and we are one of the first games to have made legacy a core component of our planning from the outset. We are still four-and-a-half years away from the opening ceremony and the Olympic stakeholders are making sure that we scope out an appropriate legacy. In the case of shooting, this will include LOCOG working with the Royal Artillery Barracks, the Home Office and Greenwich council to determine what is practical in terms of legacy at Woolwich after the games.

## TRANSPORT

### Boats: Licensing

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to enable operators in tidal Category C waters to obtain a Boatmaster's licence under the new Boatmasters Licence Scheme. [189318]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Subject to satisfying the requirements of procedures published on the website of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency under Marine Guidance Note 333, an existing master in tidal category 'C' waters will be issued a 'tier 2' Boatmaster's licence which will allow same type and area of operation. If an applicant wishes to change, or extend, his/her area or/and type of operation, beyond that authorised by their old licence, further assessment(s) may be required.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to introduce the new examination procedure for candidates wishing to take their Boatmaster's examination; and if she will take steps to ensure that these arrangements will be in place before the start of the tourist season in March 2008. [189447]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The examination procedures for new Boatmaster's licence (BML) regulations are already in place. The regulations allow the assessment of the candidate's knowledge underpinning his/her practical skills to be assessed through a written or oral test. Currently, the Underpinning Knowledge (UPK) for a BML generic licence is tested orally. However, preparations are in hand for assessment to be undertaken by written examination. This system is expected to be fully operational by the end of the current year.

### Department Equality

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes in human resources policy her Department has made to comply with the gender duty. [189095]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport has had a policy of promoting gender equality since it was formed in 2002. No specific changes in human resources policy were introduced in response to the gender duty.

Individual actions to improve gender equality are set out in our Gender Equality Scheme, which is published on our web-site. The scheme action plan will be reviewed 12 months after publication in April 2008.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether judicial review proceedings have commenced against her Department concerning its implementation of the gender duty. [189096]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The PCS union has challenged by way of judicial review the Department for Transport's Gender Equality Scheme for 'allegedly' failing to comply with its duty to eliminate sex discrimination, and failing to consult the PCS in generating the Gender Equality Scheme.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for each of her Department's and its agencies' bargaining units *(a)* how many equal pay claims have been lodged, *(b)* which grades of staff are making the claims and *(c)* which grades of staff the claims are being made against. [189097]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The PCS has issued equal pay claims in the employment tribunal on behalf of 37 of its members employed at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. The claimants are female executive officers and compare themselves with driving examiners and/or senior driving examiners employed by the Driving Standards Agency.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* the Equal Opportunities Commission and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission has made representations to her to conduct a cross-departmental equal pay audit. [189098]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Equal Opportunities Commission wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport on the 4 September 2007 in relation to a cross-departmental equal pay audit. The contents of the letter were noted and the Secretary of State replied on 1 October 2007 stating consideration will be given to the issues raised.

### Driving Tests: Interpreters

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1301W, on driving tests: interpreters, what the cost of providing interpreters for practical car tests was in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date. [188084]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driving Standards Agency does not provide an interpreter for candidates who require this assistance when they take a practical driving test. It is the candidate's responsibility to arrange and pay for this service, therefore the agency does not incur any direct costs.

### Lorries: Foreign Companies

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason plans to introduce a vignette for foreign lorries have not been proceeded with. [188477]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have carried out a study of options for compiling a database of foreign haulage operators and their vehicles to assist in the targeting of enforcement activity, including a "vignette" scheme whereby lorries would pay a charge for use of the roads for a given period of time. We published a progress report alongside the 2007 pre-Budget report. The study has raised a number of legal, technical and practical issues and we are considering the way forward.

### Motor Vehicles: Repairs and Maintenance

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of vehicles which did not receive an MOT certificate failed due to faulty front suspension springs in each of the last three years. [189233]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Figures provided by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) from MOT computerisation give an indication of the rate of failure of all suspension springing components; these include front and rear spring leaf and coil springs, torsion bars, rubber bonded components etc. Individual figures for front suspension springs are therefore included in the overall failure rate figure.

For the year April 2006 to March 2007 out of 26,297,141 Class 3 and 4 vehicles tested, 490,776 failed for "springing" defects. That indicates a fail rate of 1.9 per cent. If it were possible to 'drill down' to the failure of front suspension springs, it is likely that defects relating to fracture of front road suspension springs would be significantly below 1.9 per cent.

For the year April 2005 to March 2006 out of 12,136,297 Class 3 and 4 vehicles tested, 228,432 failed for "springing" defects, making the fail rate 1.9 per cent.

### Railways: Exhaust Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to require *(a)* new and *(b)* existing railway rolling stock to lessen its carbon footprint. [188501]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Starting with the Intercity Express, the Department for Transport is working with the rail industry to ensure that all new train designs meet increasingly demanding energy efficiency targets. The Department is also working closely with the industry to identify and support the implementation of cost-effective carbon reduction measures. Notable current initiatives include the roll-out of regenerative braking on electric trains and trials of biofuels.

### Railways: Planning

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to identify and protect routes for a high speed line from London to Scotland. [188486]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** There is no existing or disused alignment for a route from London to Scotland. The July 2007 White Paper made clear there was no case for new lines in the immediate future but did not rule them out in the longer term. It would be premature to embark on any formal protection at this stage.

### Registered Travellers Programmes

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the Home Office on the use of registered Traveller programmes within the UK's borders programme. [188645]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department seeks to maintain an understanding of all elements of the UK border security programme, through its very regular contacts with the Home Office, insofar as these may have potential implications for its own regulation of transport protective security. That regulatory regime does not itself include registered Traveller programmes.

### Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirement she places upon the rolling stock companies to consult Network Rail before considering new rolling stock. [188483]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Secretary of State has no direct contracts with the rolling stock leasing companies and therefore cannot place any requirements on them.

### Rolling Stock: West Coast Main Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what extra costs were incurred by Network Rail as a result of the measures taken to facilitate the introduction of tilting trains on the west coast main line; and what contribution towards these costs was received from Virgin. [188484]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Some 20 per cent. of the total cost of £8.125 billion, to renew and upgrade the west coast main line, has been incurred to upgrade the line for greater capacity and higher speed operation. Virgin Trains, along with other passenger and freight train operators meet this total expenditure through the access charges they pay to Network Rail.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much bottled water was *(a)* sold and *(b)* provided in the House in the most recent year for which figures are available. [189814]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 18, in which I told the House that a total of 105,957 litres of bottled water are recorded as being sold by the House of Commons Refreshment Department in the financial year 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available. In the same year, 16,200 litres of bottled water were supplied to the Serjeant at Arms' Department for use in the Committee Rooms, and an estimated 34,000 litres of bottled water were provided—mainly in water coolers—to staff of the House.

### Translation Services

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost was of translating the About Parliament pages on the parliamentary website into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* Scots Gaelic. [189769]

**Nick Harvey:** The cost of translating the About Parliament pages on the website into Welsh and Scots Gaelic was £19,440.40. This covered the cost of translating 226 pages into each language (i.e. translating 452 pages in total).

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which external consultancy received the highest payments from his Department in each of the last four years. [185652]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The external consultancy suppliers who received the highest payments from DWP in the last four years are as follows:

| | *Consultancy* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Capgemini |
| 2005-06 | Capgemini |
| 2006-07 | IBM |
| 2007-08 | Accenture[1] |

[1] The highest expenditure in the current financial year to date is with Accenture. This may change at year end and once expenditure figures have been collated and validated.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what audits his Department and its agencies carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176485]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department, as a major data custodian, takes the security of personal data extremely seriously. The Departmental Audit Committee—which is chaired by an independent non-executive director—supervises an annual programme of reviews by the Department's Internal Audit function. The precise scope of each review is set out in specific and detailed terms of reference.

The Department has conducted a very large number of such audit reviews over the past 10 years. Many of these audits have examined system performance in relation to the management and processing of information, including personal and other data. Details of each such review could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what investigation he undertook into the reasons that documents containing personal information relating to benefit claimants were left by the roadside near Exeter Airport on 17 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [184631]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* As soon as the incident was discovered, the Department's permanent secretary launched an immediate investigation. All the documents involved have now been recovered and accounted for. The contracted courier company have undertaken an inquiry, and have assured the Department that they are further tightening their procedures as a result of this incident.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182503]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. Information on costs prior to 2001 is not held centrally and could be obtained at disproportionate cost only.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a "communication officer" grade. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and this book is updated twice yearly.

The numbers of Press Officers for full financial years (1 April to 31 March) is in the following table:

| | *National press officers* | *Regional press officers* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 21 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 13 | 16 |
| 2003-04 | 20 | 20 |
| 2004-05 | 19 | 23 |
| 2005-06 | 23 | 22 |
| 2006-07 | 19 | [1]25 |

[1] Two part-time

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182709]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a "communication officer" grade. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and this book is updated twice yearly. The following table relates to press officers only.

DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a 'Top', 'Higher' or 'Majority' rating under the annual performance and development system (PDS). The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved. However information relating to totals and individual awards could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In addition all DWP employees are eligible to be nominated for a special bonus. The scheme enables managers to incentivise and reward valuable or exceptional contributions to business performance made by employees or teams. Amounts are not comparable from year to year or related to the number of staff involved. The following table contains information relating to press officer grades. Information on costs prior to 2004-05 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Special bonuses paid to press officers*

| *1 April-31 March* | *Total (£)* | *Highest* | *Lowest* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 750 | 250 | 250 |
| 2005-06 | 4,050 | 100 | 350 |
| 2006-07 | 900 | 50 | 350 |

## Departmental Official Engagements

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many engagements he and his predecessor have undertaken since 28 July 2007. [185657]

**James Purnell:** My predecessor and I carried out the full range of our ministerial responsibilities since 28 July 2007.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175312]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The annual budget information in respect of regulators and inspectorates for which DWP has responsibility is shown in the following table.

£ million

| Financial year ending | The Pensions Regulator | Health and Safety Executive | Benefit Fraud Inspectorate | Independent Case Examiner | Independent Review Service for the Social Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3.40 | 177.85 | 3.44 | [1]Nil | [2]4.16 |
| 1998 | 7.74 | 178.09 | 5.80 | 1.03 | [2]4.26 |
| 1999 | 8.83 | 176.95 | 5.64 | 0.92 | 3.97 |
| 2000 | 9.84 | 181.74 | 5.88 | 1.04 | 3.63 |
| 2001 | 10.98 | 188.79 | 5.55 | 1.18 | 3.73 |
| 2002 | 12.96 | 202.70 | 7.11 | 1.62 | 3.66 |
| 2003 | 15.71 | 201.63 | 7.71 | 1.87 | 3.97 |
| 2004 | 17.18 | 197.27 | 7.86 | 2.24 | 3.81 |
| 2005 | 22.76 | 214.85 | 7.10 | 2.47 | 4.27 |
| 2006 | [3]27.38 | [4]238.16 | 5.60 | 2.74 | 4.00 |
| 2007 | 31.92 | 232.85 | 3.44 | 2.79 | 4.19 |

[1] The Independent Case Examiner's office was operational from 7 April 1997.
[2] Include accommodation costs—budgeted centrally under PRIME from 1999.
[3] Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority prior to 2006.
[4] The 2005/06 outturn has been restated (for comparison purposes) to reflect the transfer of responsibility for rail regulation from HSE to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006. The total amount before the transfer was £244.3 million.

The information on restructuring costs is not available/held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182256]

**Mrs. McGuire:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to government buildings for security reasons

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by his Department and its agencies; and what revenue was generated from them in each year for which figures are available. [180896]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* 11,764 non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by my Department and its agencies.

The Department received a rebate of £1,463,738.45 for the period covering 1 October 2005 to 30 November 2007 and this was used to pay for other telecommunication services. No information is available for any earlier period and no breakdown of this figure is available. The Department ceased this arrangement on 14 December 2007 and no longer receives any rebate. This change in arrangement does not affect the charge a customer pays for contacting the Department.

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [181602]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* 11,749

*(b)* 94.

## Dismissal

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff in *(a)* total, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* each region of England were dismissed because of (i) their attendance record and (ii) their attendance record on grounds of sickness in each year since 2005. [179309]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. The following information reflects data recorded on that system for the number of staff dismissed because of their attendance record on grounds of sickness. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

*April 2007 to November 2007*

| Government Office region | Number |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 25 |
| East of England | 18 |
| London | 32 |
| North East | 51 |
| North West | 136 |
| South East | 28 |
| South West | 40 |
| West Midlands | 47 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 65 |
| Total England | 442 |
| Scotland | 86 |
| Wales | 47 |
| Grand total | 575 |

Information about the number of staff dismissed because of their attendance record on grounds other than sickness is not available. This is because dismissals resulting from disciplinary action is not sub-divided.

## Eyesight: Testing

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners aged 60 and over have claimed a free eye test in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since the scheme's inception. [186672]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

Information broken down by patient eligibility type is currently only available at country level, and not strategic health authority (SHA), primary care trust (PCT) or constituency level. The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) only has information for England and Wales, not the United Kingdom. The information is shown in the following table.

Information on persons aged 60 and over receiving sight tests paid for by the national health service will be available in the publication "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, April to September 2007". Information will be available at PCT and SHA level. This report will be published by the IC in late March 2008.

Patients aged 60 and over became eligible for free NHS sight tests from 1 April 1999.

*Total number of NHS sight tests paid for by the NHS in England and Wales for persons aged 60 and over in the specified years ending 31 March*

| | England | Wales |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 3,301,412 | 244,840 |
| 2001 | 3,753,315 | 242,426 |
| 2002 | 4,012,946 | 255,251 |
| 2003 | 4,135,712 | 273,660 |
| 2004 | 4,308,889 | 279,228 |
| 2005 | 4,303,128 | 295,752 |
| 2006 | 4,450,007 | 312,452 |
| 2007 | 4,518,672 | 287,446 |

*Note:*
All figures are the total number of sight tests and do not take into account individuals who may have had more than one sight test in the same area within the same time period.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Pensioners: Nottinghamshire

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners in Nottingham North constituency were aged over 75 years in the most recent period for which figures are available; [187297]

(2) how many pensioners there were in Nottingham North constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187299]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at May 2007 there were 14,890 recipients of state pension in the Nottingham, North parliamentary constituency of whom 6,250 were aged 75 or over.

*Notes:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184681]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Statistics are kept on the number of cases reported to managers under the combined heading "harassment, discrimination and bullying" but complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination cannot be separately identified from these statistics.

However, it is possible to identify the number of complaints referred for investigation to the central investigations team on grounds of sexual harassment. These figures are shown as follows and represent the cases referred from January 2007 to December 2007. For confidentiality reasons they cannot be broken down by agency, as the numbers would be below five.

Based on Cabinet Office guidance the number of sexual discrimination complaints has been withheld for confidentiality reasons because of low numbers. *Sexual harassment*

Total number of complaints: 9

## Social Security Benefits

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions he has made of the level of take up of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* income support for lone parents and *(d)* pension credit in determining planned benefit spending for the next spending period. [180137]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Of those entitled, we assume that the proportion who will receive benefit remains broadly constant.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people below the age of *(a)* 35 years and *(b)* 24 years were claiming (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) jobseeker's allowance and (iii) income support or predecessor benefits in each year since 1984; and if he will make a statement. [187148]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available in the format requested. Information is not available from 1984. Different historical information is available for each of the benefits; the available information is in the following tables.

*Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants by age in Great Britain, as at May each year*

| | All under 35 | Under 25 | 25-34 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 524,000 | 161,300 | 362,700 |
| 1996 | 532,900 | 157,400 | 375,600 |
| 1997 | 541,000 | 158,100 | 382,900 |
| 1998 | 539,600 | 156,500 | 383,000 |
| 1999 | 535,800 | 156,400 | 379,400 |
| 2000 | 546,740 | 164,500 | 382,240 |
| 2001 | 558,820 | 169,250 | 389,570 |
| 2002 | 555,830 | 169,860 | 385,970 |
| 2003 | 555,160 | 173,840 | 381,320 |
| 2004 | 551,340 | 175,770 | 375,570 |
| 2005 | 538,100 | 173,180 | 364,920 |
| 2006 | 514,620 | 166,740 | 347,880 |
| 2007 | 504,460 | 165,740 | 338,720 |

*Notes:*

1. May 1995 - May 1999 (inclusive) numbers are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred. May 2000 - May 2007 (inclusive) numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. May 1995 - May 1999 (inclusive) numbers are based on a five per cent sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate five per cent. sample and 100 per WPLS

*Unemployment benefit and jobseekers allowance claimants by age in Great Britain, as at May each year*

| | All under 35 | Under 25 | 25-34 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1985 | 1,828,250 | 1,113,185 | 715,065 |
| 1986 | 1,849,285 | 1,093,255 | 756,030 |
| 1987 | 1,626,530 | 924,740 | 701,790 |
| 1988 | 1,283,230 | 712,600 | 570,630 |
| 1989 | 915,475 | 470,385 | 445,090 |
| 1990 | 829,325 | 420,320 | 409,005 |
| 1991 | 1,246,035 | 630,900 | 615,135 |
| 1992 | 1,519,925 | 747,275 | 772,650 |
| 1993 | 1,610,485 | 775,465 | 835,020 |
| 1994 | 1,447,080 | 682,545 | 764,535 |
| 1995 | 1,261,070 | 590,375 | 670,695 |
| 1996 | 1,152,870 | 530,155 | 622,715 |
| 1997 | 862,995 | 399,775 | 463,220 |
| 1998 | 710,880 | 333,525 | 377,355 |
| 1999 | 646,065 | 290,795 | 355,270 |
| 2000 | 557,185 | 256,050 | 301,135 |
| 2001 | 497,760 | 236,965 | 260,795 |
| 2002 | 482,270 | 236,660 | 245,610 |
| 2003 | 489,105 | 248,650 | 240,455 |
| 2004 | 442,865 | 233,735 | 209,130 |
| 2005 | 452,565 | 250,695 | 201,870 |
| 2006 | 509,895 | 288,850 | 221,045 |
| 2007 | 469,505 | 265,565 | 203,940 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Jobseekers allowance replaced unemployment benefit in October 1996.

*Source:*

Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

*Income support claimants by age in Great Britain, as at May each year*

| | All under 35 | Under 25 | 25-34 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,125,000 | 359,700 | 765,300 |
| 1998 | 1,067,000 | 340,700 | 726,300 |
| 1999 | 1,036,600 | 336,800 | 699,800 |
| 2000 | 1,030,450 | 343,380 | 687,070 |
| 2001 | 1,005,860 | 340,210 | 665,650 |
| 2002 | 953,370 | 318,320 | 635,050 |
| 2003 | 932,140 | 318,250 | 613,890 |
| 2004 | 890,690 | 309,350 | 581,340 |
| 2005 | 849,240 | 295,010 | 554,230 |
| 2006 | 821,740 | 286,590 | 535,150 |
| 2007 | 815,640 | 294,450 | 521,190 |

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent WPLS

## Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 438W, on social security benefits: personal records, what the method of the transfer of data is; and what safeguards he has put in place to ensure security. [179365]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: The Department provides information to the National Audit Office either electronically or by paper copy.

The safeguards in place to ensure the security of such data include rigorous courier arrangements and a requirement that physical transfers of data must have the specific authority of a member of the senior civil service.

## Winter Fuel Payments: Nottinghamshire

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received the £200 winter fuel payment in Nottingham North constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187298]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07, 16,680 people received winter fuel payments in Nottingham, North. We expect the number to be similar for winter 2007-08.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

## Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residence

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in each country overseas were entitled to receive the winter fuel payment in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181765]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** European Community law means that some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European economic area. Winter fuel payments are only paid to former UK residents living in the

European economic area if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK. The number of winter fuel payments made to former UK residents living in the EEA in winter 2006-07 is in the following table.

| Country | Payments made |
|---|---|
| Gibraltar | 100 |
| Republic of Ireland | 4,271 |
| Austria | 114 |
| Belgium | 126 |
| Denmark | 49 |
| Finland | 40 |
| France | 11,480 |
| Germany | 648 |
| Greece | 653 |
| Italy | 729 |
| Luxembourg | 16 |
| Netherlands | 172 |
| Norway | 30 |
| Portugal | 907 |
| Spain | 24,642 |
| Sweden | 90 |
| Switzerland | 113 |
| Iceland | 16 |
| Liechtenstein | 1 |
| Malta | 574 |
| Republic of Estonia | 7 |
| Republic of Latvia | 12 |
| Republic of Lithuania | 3 |
| Hungary | 85 |
| Poland | 115 |
| Cyprus | 2,994 |
| Republic of Slovenia | 4 |
| The Czech Republic | 8 |
| The Slovak Republic | 2 |

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Care Homes: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many beds were available in residential care homes in Essex in each of the last five years; [185312]

(2) how many beds were available in private care homes in Essex in each of the last five years. [185313]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested, which has been provided by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), is shown in the following table.

*Number of residential care homes and places in Essex*

| | Private | | Local authority | | Voluntary | | Other | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| As at: | Homes | Places | Homes | Places | Homes | Places | Homes | Places | Homes | Places |
| 1 April 2004 | 341 | 8,795 | 17 | 496 | 61 | 1,003 | — | — | 419 | 10,294 |
| 1 April 2005 | 348 | 9,268 | 13 | 311 | 61 | 1,003 | — | — | 422 | 10,582 |
| 1 April 2006 | 354 | 9,301 | 10 | 213 | 58 | 977 | — | — | 422 | 10,491 |
| 1 April 2007 | 364 | 9,654 | 8 | 130 | 54 | 911 | 1 | 61 | 427 | 10,756 |
| 1 February 2008 | 371 | 9,852 | 8 | 130 | 52 | 862 | 1 | 61 | 432 | 10,905 |

*Note:*
The number of places is the sum of the maximum registered places for each home.
*Source:*
CSCI Registration and Inspection database.

### Community Relations: Migration

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department's migration directorate plans to examine the business case for setting up a national body to manage the integration of new migrants, as referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190158]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government will be examining the business case for setting up a national body to manage the integration of new migrants during the course of this year. Work will include considering the role and future of existing bodies dealing with integration, for example the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration (ABNI), and determining a national strategy for integration drawing on existing experience and good practice.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [185421]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on entertaining in the last 12 months. [187815]

**Mr. Dhanda:** During the last 12 months the Department has spent £377,390 on hospitality.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The response from the Department's agencies is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre | 7,732 |
| Fire Service College | 3,170 |
| Planning Inspectorate | [1] |
| Ordnance Survey | [1] |

[1] Could be supplied only at disproportionate cost

**Departmental Pay**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on departmental pay to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) whether any staff in the home information pack division have received a bonus. [183021]

**Caroline Flint:** Staff in this division, like all others in the Department, are covered by the policy on the payment of bonuses as stated in a reply by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1310-11W. Given the small number of staff in the home information packs division, it would be a breach of confidentiality and therefore inappropriate to give details.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in her Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187534]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The breakdown of information in the format requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All departmental expenditure is claimed in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money.

**Departmental Written Questions**

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to her Department and its predecessors received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190283]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information in respect of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is set out as follows:

| | | *Holding answers* | | *Substantive answers* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Department* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2002[1] | ODPM | 93 | 29 | 230 | 71 |
| 2003 | ODPM | 62 | 17 | 308 | 83 |
| 2004 | ODPM | 64 | 13 | 428 | 87 |
| 2005 | ODPM | 122 | 25 | 371 | 75 |
| 2006 | ODPM/CLG | 228 | 42 | 315 | 58 |
| 2007 | CLG | 345 | 51 | 335 | 49 |

[1] 29 May to 31 December 2002

**Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether moving from a weekly rubbish collection of household waste to a fortnightly rubbish collection is deemed to be a cut in service provision, according to the methodology used by her Department for the purposes of meeting Gershon targets. [189553]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1736W.

**Eco-Towns: National Parks**

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the sites of any of the proposed eco-towns fall within the boundaries of a national park. [188924]

**Caroline Flint:** I can confirm that none of the eco-town proposals submitted fall within the boundaries of a national park.

**Fair Trade Initiative**

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within her Department; and if she will make a statement. [189496]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government is taking various steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 in its headquarter buildings. Over the next two weeks, our catering supplier is providing an increased range of Fairtrade products, including various snacks and drinks. A wider range of Fairtrade teas and coffees is also being offered in our vending machines. We are advertising the fortnight and new products with various posters in our staff restaurants.

This is in addition to the Fairtrade products that are normally supplied within our buildings.

## Family Courts

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has evaluated on parental alienation syndrome; what conclusions she has drawn; whether steps are being introduced to take into account research into parental alienation syndrome in family court proceedings; and if she will make a statement. [183530]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

We have not undertaken or evaluated research on this subject and have no plans to do so. Many difficulties can emerge following divorce or parental separation and children can be affected in a variety of ways. The Government believe that, where possible, parents should work together to agree contact and residence arrangements themselves and in the best interests of their children. The Children's Plan contains a commitment to improve support during and after family breakdown, including helping children to maintain contact with both parents. Where contact cases come to court, the child's welfare must be the court's paramount consideration. The Children and Adoption Act 2006 has extended the maximum duration of Family Assistance Orders from six to 12 months. This will expand the potential support that CAFCAS8 can provide in assisting families to respect agreements over contact The other provisions in the 2006 Act, when implemented, will give the courts more flexible powers in contact cases, including introducing contact activities, monitoring court-ordered contact, and new enforcement powers.

## Gambling: Internet

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many companies are registered in the UK to operate online gaming. [187480]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

As of 1 February 2008, the Gambling Commission has issued 144 remote operating licences to companies that allow those licensed to operate online gambling sites. 17 remote casino licences have been granted which allow those licensees to provide online gaming.

## Home Condition Reports

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 29 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 652W, on home condition reports, what reports she has received on the progress of the Ipsos MORI independent evaluation of the home information pack trial. [188820]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1526-27W.

IPSOS-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

## Housing: Complaints

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints were *(a)* received, *(b)* investigated and *(c)* upheld by the Housing Ombudsman in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the councils and agencies against which complaints were made. [189134]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are about 2,500 bodies registered with the Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) owning and managing 2.5 million properties. The majority of these are registered social landlords (RSLs—housing associations registered with the Housing Corporation). It is a condition of the Housing Act 1996 that all RSLs are members of an approved housing ombudsman scheme. There are also a small number of members which are private rented sector landlords (just under 100) who join on a voluntary basis. The remit of the HOS does not cover councils or local and central Government agencies.

The HOS does not keep statistical information broken down by the body against whom a complaint is made. The HOS received the following number of complaints in each of the last 10 years.

| | *Total cases received* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 1,303 |
| 1999 | 1,153 |
| 2000 | 1,861 |
| 2001 | 2,275 |
| 2002 | 2,208 |
| 2003 | 2,112 |
| 2004 | 2,395 |
| 2005 | 2,852 |
| 2006 | 3,063 |
| 2007 | 2,895 |

This includes cases received which were not subsequently considered to fall within the housing ombudsman's remit and those which were dealt with using mediation and other forms of dispute resolution. The HOS deals with most disputes in a conciliatory manner, using a range of alternative forms of dispute resolution as well as working with landlords and tenants through prevention initiatives to sustain and improve their relationship.

Formal investigations account for a minority of the work considered by the housing ombudsman. The average percentage of investigations into cases over the 10-year period has been 14 per cent., of which 27 per cent. resulted in findings of maladministration and 77 per cent. non-maladministration (although in the latter cases, the ombudsman frequently makes recommendations for improvements to the bodies involved).

The number of cases considered by the HOS has increased over the last 10 years. The number of properties within the housing ombudsman's remit has doubled over this period and awareness of the service and that of member landlords' own complaints procedures has increased resulting in the higher volume of complaints submitted to the HOS.

### Housing: Construction

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* houses and bungalows and *(b)* flats and maisonettes built in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [179248]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The proportions of new build completions in England that are houses and flats are tabled as follows. The information is presented as proportions not absolute numbers because dwelling type is collected centrally for only about half of the new build activity.

| | Percentage | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Houses* | *Flats* |
| 2000-01 | 80 | 20 |
| 2001-02 | 77 | 23 |
| 2002-03 | 73 | 27 |
| 2003-04 | 66 | 34 |
| 2004-05 | 59 | 41 |
| 2005-06 | 54 | 46 |
| 2006-07 | 53 | 47 |

*Source:*
National House Building Council

The information is published in the Housing Statistics Live Tables (table 254) on the Communities and Local Government website.

### Housing: Floods

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Government have made of the use of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation planning grants for housing on flood plains in Northamptonshire. [189836]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To date, West Northamptonshire Development Corporation has referred one housing application in an area of flood risk to the Secretary of State. On assessment, it was decided that there was no reason to call in the application for my right hon. Friend's determination.

### Housing: Leicester

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her target is for the number of new *(a)* houses and *(b)* family-sized houses to be built in Leicester in the next 25 years. [188931]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The target for the number of new homes to be built in local authority areas is stated in the relevant regional spatial strategy. For the Leicester city council area, this is the regional spatial strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) adopted in March 2005. However, that document only covers the period to 2021, and only specifies a figure for the former structure plan area of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. That figure is 3,150 homes a year over the period 2001-2021.

The regional spatial strategy for the East Midlands is under review. That review is intended to cover the period 2001-26 and to apportion housing targets down to the local authority level. The Secretary of State is currently considering the recommendations of the panel report into the examination in public of the East Midlands Regional Assembly's draft, with a view to adopting the strategy with any amendments towards the end of this year.

Neither the adopted 2005 regional spatial strategy nor the emerging review includes targets for the size of housing to be delivered. This is because it is not Government policy for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to determine the size of housing that should be built in local authority areas. Instead, Government policy on planning for housing which is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 requires local planning authorities to state the proportions of market housing demand likely to arise from multi-person households including families with children, and to specify the size and type of affordable housing required in particular areas, through their local development frameworks.

### Housing: Planning

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her letter sent in reply to Mr. Ed Murphy of Kent Road, Peterborough, on the planned residential development on the site in Peterborough known as the Grange Road Allotments. [189981]

**Mr. Dhanda:** A response was sent to Mr. Murphy on the 21 February 2008. A copy of the reply has been placed in the Library.

### Housing: Unemployment

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis was for the policy proposals on worklessness and housing made recently by the Minister for Housing in a speech to the Fabian Society; what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on these matters; and what advice she received from officials on those policy proposals. [188225]

**Caroline Flint:** In my speech to the Fabian Society's conference on 5 February—which can be read at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/fabiansocietyaddress

I called for a wide-ranging debate about how best to tackle the challenge of worklessness in social housing, examining the full range of options.

Development of future policy proposals will be informed by this debate and by the range of available evidence, which includes the Hills Review of social housing, Housing Corporation research on "Housing associations tackling worklessness", CORE data on new social lettings, labour force survey data, family resources survey data and survey of English housing data.

## INTERREG Programme

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on Interreg Programme, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Monitoring and Steering Committee which scrutinises Interreg III-B/IV-B programmes. [189412]

**John Healey:** The Interreg Monitoring and Steering Committees determine their own operating procedures and have decided that their discussions should be confidential to ensure that projects can be appraised objectively.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on the Interreg Programme, if she will place in the Library a copy of the draft IVA programmes submitted to the European Commission and copies of the outline of the IVB and IVC programmes that have been approved. [189413]

**John Healey:** The draft IVA operational programmes can be found at the following web address:

http://www.go-se.gov.uk/gose/euroFunding/strucFunds/territorialCoOp/?a=42496

The approved IVB and IVC operational programmes can be found at the following web addresses:

http://www.nweurope.org/upload/documents/programme/2473.10thdraftOP_July2007.pdf

http://northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=38

http://www.coop-atlantico.com/en/documentacao.php

http://www.interreg4c.net/load/2007-07-26_INTERREG_IVC_OP_final.pdf

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, what is the name and address of the Managing, Certifying and Audit Authority that oversees the Interreg III-B/IV-B programmes. [189235]

**John Healey:** The contact details for the current three Interreg programmes are provided in the following table:

| *Programme* | *Managing authority* | *Certifying authority* | *Audit authority* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North West Europe | Conseil régional Nord Pas de Calais Hotel de Région - Centre Rihour - F-59555 Lille Cedex Stéphane Pouilly, Directeur Europe | Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations 15 quai Anatole-France F-75700 Paris SP Mr. Sébastien Cazabonne | CICC – Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Controles – Fonds Structurels CICC : 5 place des Vins de France, F-75573 Paris CEDEX 12 (cf. 1.1). M. Jean-Pierre JOCHUM, president Mme Armelle DAAM, chargée de mission Tel : 00 33 (0) 1 53 44 23 07 cicc@cicc.finances.gouv.fr |
| North Sea | Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority Vejlsøvej 29 DK-8600 Silkeborg Denmark Reference: Kaja Korgaard | Central Denmark Region Skottenborg 26 DK-8800 Viborg Denmark Reference: Henrik M. Jensen | Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority Dahlerups Pakhus, Langelinie Allé 17 DK-2100 København Denmark Reference: Ole Folkmann |
| Atlantic Area | Paulo Gomes Teresa Lameiras Armindo Carvalho Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte(CCDR-N) Rua Rainha D. Estefania, 251 4150-034 Porto Portugal Phone: +351 226 086 300 Fax:+351 226 061489 E-mail: coop-atlantico@ccdr-n.ptcomunicacao@ccdr-n.pt Website: www.ccdr-n.pt | José Santos Soeiro Instituto Financeiro para o Desenvolvimento Regional, I.P. Rua de S. Julião, 63 1149-030 Lisboa Portugal Phone: +351 218814091 Fax: +351 218881111 E-mail: jose.soeiro@dgdr.pt Website: www.qca.pt | Inspeccao-geral de financas, Rue Angelina Vidal, 41 1199-005 Lisboa Portugal Telephone +351 (0) 218113500 Fax +351 (0) 218162573 carlostrigacheiro@igf.min-financas.pt |

## Local Authorities Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the comprehensive performance assessment scores, and sub-scores, assigned to each local authority by the Audit Commission in each year since comprehensive performance assessment was introduced. [189551]

**John Healey:** CPA scores for single tier and county councils were introduced in 2002. Information on CPA and the scores themselves are publicly available on the Audit Commission's website at

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/index.asp?page=index.asp&area=hpcpa

## Local Authorities: Autism

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training staff who undertake assessments for *(a)* Supporting People and *(b)* local authority housing allocation receive in autism spectrum disorders. [187234]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on autism spectrum disorders training provided for staff who undertake assessments for Supporting People and local authority housing allocation is not collected centrally. Training needs associated with the provision of Supporting People services is a matter for the local authority and the service providers.

## Local Authorities: Cost Effectiveness

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the value for money scores assigned to each local authority by the Audit Commission in its most recent comprehensive performance assessments. [189552]

**John Healey:** The Audit Commission's tailored frameworks for CPA cover single tier and county councils, district councils and fire and rescue authorities. The frameworks pull together a range of information in an objective and comparable way to reach an overall judgment on a council's or fire and rescue authority's performance, and have four common components:

corporate assessments;

use of resources assessments;

service assessments; and

direction of travel assessments.

Value for money is reported on as one of the themes under the use of resources assessment, and the VFM scores assigned to each local authority in the comprehensive performance assessments are all publicly available on the Audit Commission's website at

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/index.asp?page=index.asp&area=hpcpa

### Local Authorities: Facilities

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on leasing or renting local authority facilities at below market rates. [183529]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on leasing or renting their facilities at below market rates.

### Local Authorities: Property

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local authorities on the *(a)* terms and *(b)* rates at which council property should be lent, rented or leased to (i) trades unions and (ii) other external organisations or individuals. [183260]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on the terms and rates at which council properties should be rented or leased to trade unions or other external organisations or individuals.

### Local Government Finance: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with HM Treasury on the funding formula used to fund local services in light of the increase in migrant workers in some rural communities following recent EU enlargements. [188597]

**John Healey:** We have worked closely with local government, HM Treasury and other departments during CSR07 to identify all pressures over the next three years and the ways that they can be managed. We have been able to provide a fair and affordable settlement for local government in a tight spending round, providing an average real terms increase of 1 per cent. per year over the next three years.

When we calculated the distribution of formula grant between all authorities in England, we used the best data that were available on a consistent basis for all authorities and were available at the time.

In addition to formula grant, we have already announced a £50 million fund to address community cohesion. That money is there to help local authorities respond to their own particular challenges—including issues relating to migration.

### Local Government: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the monthly performance management framework reports produced by her Department's local management accounting team for the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in 2006-07. [189539]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Deputy Prime Minister's Office ("DPMO") was created as a separate Government department in May 2006 with a Resource DEL of £2.5 million. For administrative purposes Communities and Local Government ("CLG") maintained the DPMO's accounting records and produced monthly performance reports during 2006-07 as an integral part of the CLG monthly reports. No separate monthly reports were produced for the DPMO.

The DPMO has produced an Annual Report (Cm 7102) and Resource Accounts (HC 837) for 2006-07 and these have been placed in the Common's Library.

### Migration Directorate

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people her Department's Migration Directorate employs; what work it undertakes; and when it plans to publish the cross-Government action plan to ensure a co-ordinated approach to migration policy referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190120]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The migration directorate in Communities and Local Government currently employs 10 members of staff and receives support from many other parts of the Department dealing with housing, cohesion and local government finance policy. It also works closely with CLG's analytical and economic advisers.

The directorate's role is to co-ordinate the Department's work on migration issues and to draw together the work being undertaken across Whitehall on supporting communities in managing the local impacts of migration. The directorate will be developing an evidence base on the local impacts of migration, working closely with local government and other stakeholders, to increase our understanding of how migration affects different localities. CLG will be co-ordinating a cross-government action plan setting out practical steps central government can take to support local areas in managing the impacts of migration. Migration Directorate is working closely with the National Statistician, who is leading a cross-government programme to improve population

projections. The directorate also provides the secretariat, jointly with the Home Office, for the Migration Impacts Forum.

Communities and Local Government plans to publish the cross-government action plan on the local impacts of migration in the spring.

### Minister for the South West

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings the Minister for the South West has held with other Government Ministers in her capacity as the Minister for the South West. [188911]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Regional Minister for the South West has engaged both formally and informally with other Government Ministers but information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed in order to protect the frankness and candour of internal discussion and advice.

### National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group are; and which organisations they represent. [187893]

**Hazel Blears:** The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group comprises the following 19 women who are in positions of leadership or are working with the Muslim communities in Britain:

Siddika Ahmed
Fareena Alam
Parvin Ali OBE
Batool Al-Toma
Naheed Arshad-Mather MBE
Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE
Zulekha Dala MBE
Reedah El-Saie
Rokhsana Fiaz
Shaista Gohir
Rukaiya Jeraj
Samina Kauser
Shahda Khan
Sabira Lakha
Tasneem Mahmood
Adeeba Malik MBE
Sabin Malik
Andleen Razzaq and
Shahien Taj.

Members of the advisory group serve in their individual capacity, and do not represent the organisations they work for.

### Out-of-Town Shopping Centres

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plan to abolish the needs test for out-of-town retail development. [189835]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In the Planning White 'Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future', we set out our intention to replace the current need and impact tests in Planning Policy Statement 6: 'Planning for Town Centres', with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and improves consumer choice, avoiding the unintended effects of the current need test.

We will carry out a consultation on our proposed revisions to PPS6 shortly.

### Sunbeds: Greater London

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what by-laws regulate sunbed salons in *(a)* London and *(b)* Birmingham. [186334]

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sunbed salons in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* the west midlands have been investigated for alleged breaches of the bye-laws that regulate their operation. [187760]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has no responsibility for the regulation of sunbed salons.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department holds on the number of sunbed salons which are licensed by local authorities in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* the West Midlands. [189598]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect data on the number of sunbed salons which are licensed by local authorities.

### Supermarkets: Planning Permission

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a requirement of planning permission for supermarkets that supermarkets have to create provision for small market traders within the curtilage of their stores. [189131]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government's planning policy "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres" (PPS6) recognises that street and covered markets (including farmers' markets) can make a valuable contribution to local choice and diversity in shopping, to the vitality of town centres and to rural economies.

PPS6 asks local authorities to seek to retain and enhance their existing markets and, where appropriate, reintroduce or create new ones, taking account of their local needs and particular circumstances. They are also asked to ensure that existing markets remain attractive and competitive by investing in their improvement.

It is for local authorities to decide for themselves how they use their powers and the level of support they

give to street markets and market traders in their areas, having regard to local circumstances and their vision and strategy for their area.

### Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Torbay of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), how the criteria for WNF differs from the criteria previously used to allocate Deprived Areas Fund. [189403]

**John Healey:** Following Spending Review 2004 the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) was allocated to wards based on benefit claim rates. The following wards attracted DAF allocations:

Any ward with a benefit claim rate of 25 per cent. or above; and

Any ward in the 10 local authorities with the lowest employment rates with a benefit claim rate of 20 to 25 per cent.

Three criteria were used to determine eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF):

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the employment domain; or

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall TMD; or

Any authority that ranks among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate.

Local authorities were only required to meet one of the above criteria to qualify for the fund.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Advertising

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the introduction of bans on *(a)* the broadcasting of alcohol advertising before 9 p.m., *(b)* sponsorship by the alcohol industry of sporting, music and other entertainment events aimed primarily at young people and *(c)* the marketing of pre-mixed alcoholic drinks aimed at young people. [189454]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government's national alcohol strategy, 'Safe. Sensible. Social.' includes a commitment to look at the relationship between alcohol price, promotions (including advertising), consumption, and harm. Discussions on these issues are ongoing within Government.

### Archaeology

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent meetings he and officials in his Department have had with finds liaison officers on the Portable Antiquities Scheme; and what assessment he has made of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's proposals for funding for the Scheme in 2008-09. [185612]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is of national importance. The British Museum and the MLA are fully committed to the continued success of the PAS and are working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) met the Finds Liaison Officer for the North West region in December 2007.

The PAS is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any assessment regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the British Museum.

### English Sports Council: Education

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Sport England has made any representations on the amount of physical education training undertaken by primary school teachers as part of their initial teacher training since 1997. [189590]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have responsibility for the provision of teacher training.

The focus of Sport England is on community sport. We are not aware that it has made any representations on the amount of physical education training included in primary initial teacher training.

### Mass Media: Middle East

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with UK *(a)* print and *(b)* broadcast news providers under the Public Diplomacy Strategy on the balance of media coverage of the Israel/Palestinian conflict. [188147]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

We currently have no plans to hold any such discussions.

### National Lottery: Braintree

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects were awarded funding by the Big Lottery Fund in Braintree constituency in each of the last five years. [189346]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The grants awarded by the Big Lottery Fund and its predecessors, the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund, in each of the last five completed financial years for the Braintree constituency are listed in the following table.

The information is location specific. That is, the list includes only grants that are specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the lottery distributor.

*Grants awarded by the Big Lottery Fund during the last five completed financial years to the constituency of Braintree*

| *Distributing body* | *Recipient* | *Award date* | *Award amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Big Lottery Fund | Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA) | 9 September 2006 | 30,000 |
| Big Lottery Fund | Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens Trust | 23 November 2006 | 55,500 |
| Big Lottery Fund | Mersea Island Festival Trust | 10 May 2005 | 22,342 |
| Big Lottery Fund | Braintree and District Crossroads | 22 August 2005 | 13,425 |
| Community Fund | Witham Housing Association | 8 June 2005 | 25,590 |
| Community Fund | Rayne Village Hall and Public Playing Fields | 14 December 2005 | 63,023 |
| Community Fund | Tabor Centre | 12 August 2004 | 17,067 |
| Community Fund | Witham Citizen Advocacy | 6 October 2004 | 44,693 |
| Community Fund | Tabor Centre | 9 December 2004 | 18,000 |
| Community Fund | Braintree, Halstead and Witham Citizens Advice Bureau | 9 December 2004 | 52,556 |
| Community Fund | Braintree and Bocking Community Association | 1 August 2003 | 18,095 |
| Community Fund | Essex Coalition of Disabled People | 23 May 2002 | 200,717 |
| Community Fund | Braintree and District Citizens Advice Bureau | 24 May 2002 | 72,678 |
| Community Fund | Shalford Village Hall | 18 July 2002 | 33,565 |
| Community Fund | Peering Good Companions Club | 26 September 2002 | 6,570 |
| New Opportunities Fund | Templars Community Housing Association | 3 April 2003 | 80,000 |
| New Opportunities Fund | 2nd Witham Boys Brigade | 12 December 2003 | 9,985 |
| New Opportunities Fund | Templars Community Housing Association | 2 July 2002 | 3,500 |

## National Lottery: Northern Ireland

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue was raised from National Lottery ticket sales in Northern Ireland in each financial year since 1997. [189436]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not readily available. The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect ticket sales information on a country basis. However, an analysis of sales data by postcode area is available in the Libraries of both Houses and provides information up to 2004.

## Playing Fields: Planning Permission

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1001, on planning permission: playing fields, if he will provide a break down of applications approved in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04 and *(c)* 2004-05 by region. [189628]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested, broken down at a regional level, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Sports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the top 10 sports were in terms of active participation by *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 14 to 16, (ii) 17 to 21, (iii) 22 to 24, (iv) 25 to 30, (v) 31 to 35, (vi) 36 to 40, (vii) 41 to 55, (viii) 56 to 59 and (ix) 60 years and over in the latest period for which figures are available. [188999]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following table shows the top 10 sports in terms of active participation by males and females in various age ranges. The data are from Sport England's Active People survey (2005-06), and considers sports participated in at least once in the last 28 days.

Data are unavailable for males and females aged 14 to 16-years-old.

| *Males* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *17 to 21-year-olds* | |
| Football (all) | 45.4 |
| Gym | 16.8 |
| Swimming (all) | 11.6 |
| Tennis | 6.0 |
| Rugby Union | 5.3 |
| Basketball | 5.2 |
| Cricket | 4.3 |
| Running Road | 4.1 |
| Badminton | 4.0 |
| Golf | 3.9 |
| *22 to 24-year-olds* | |
| Football (all) | 33.0 |
| Gym | 18.6 |
| Swimming (all) | 12.2 |
| Golf | 4.4 |
| Tennis | 4.3 |
| Badminton | 3.9 |
| Squash | 3.7 |
| Running Road | 3.4 |
| Cricket | 3.1 |
| Weight Training | 2.8 |
| *25 to 30-year-olds* | |
| Football (all) | 23.3 |
| Gym | 18.9 |
| Swimming (all) | 11.8 |
| Running Road | 5.6 |
| Golf | 5.0 |
| Squash | 3.8 |
| Badminton | 3.5 |
| Tennis | 2.8 |
| Jogging | 2.7 |
| Cricket | 2.4 |
| Weight Training | 2.4 |
| *31 to 35-year-olds* | |
| Gym | 16.0 |
| Football (all) | 15.8 |
| Swimming (all) | 12.5 |

| *Males* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Golf | 6.4 |
| Running Road | 5.9 |
| Squash | 3.2 |
| Badminton | 2.9 |
| Weight Training | 2.5 |
| Tennis | 2.4 |
| Running Cross Country/Beach | 2.2 |
| *36 to 40-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 14.5 |
| Gym | 13.4 |
| Football (all) | 11.9 |
| Golf | 6.4 |
| Running Road | 4.9 |
| Squash | 3.1 |
| Badminton | 2.7 |
| Tennis | 2.5 |
| Weight Training | 2.5 |
| Running Cross Country/Beach | 2.3 |
| *41 to 55-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 11.8 |
| Gym | 9.7 |
| Golf | 6.9 |
| Football (all) | 6.6 |
| Running Road | 3.2 |
| Badminton | 2.6 |
| Squash | 2.2 |
| Tennis | 2.1 |
| Running Cross Country/Beach | 1.5 |
| Weight Training | 1.5 |
| *56 to 59-year-olds* | |
| Golf | 8.2 |
| Swimming (all) | 7.7 |
| Gym | 5.8 |
| Badminton | 2.0 |
| Running Road | 1.5 |
| Tennis | 1.5 |
| Football (all) | 1.4 |
| Bowls (all) | 1.3 |
| Squash | 1.2 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.2 |
| *60+year-olds* | |
| Golf | 7.2 |
| Swimming (all) | 5.8 |
| Bowls (all) | 4.0 |
| Gym | 3.3 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.0 |
| Tennis | 1.0 |
| Badminton | 0.9 |
| Keep Fit | 0.6 |
| Football (all) | 0.6 |
| Weight Training | 0.4 |
| *Female* | |
| *17 to 21-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 23.4 |
| Gym | 18.6 |
| Football (all) | 5.1 |
| Badminton | 3.6 |
| Tennis | 3.5 |
| Running Road | 3.3 |
| Aerobics | 2.5 |
| Horse Riding | 2.5 |
| Netball | 2.4 |
| Jogging | 2.0 |
| *22 to 24-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 22.1 |
| Gym | 18.6 |
| Aerobics | 4.6 |
| Running Road | 3.4 |
| Badminton | 2.8 |
| Tennis | 2.6 |
| Football (all) | 2.5 |
| Jogging | 2.1 |
| Yoga | 1.8 |
| Horse Riding | 1.8 |
| Swimming (all) | 21.7 |
| Gym | 17.3 |
| Running Road | 4.3 |
| Aerobics | 4.2 |
| Yoga | 3.0 |
| Badminton | 2.0 |
| Football (all) | 1.8 |
| Horse Riding | 1.8 |
| Jogging | 1.7 |
| Tennis | 1.7 |
| *31 to 35-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 23.0 |
| Gym | 14.2 |
| Aerobics | 4.2 |
| Running Road | 3.8 |
| Yoga | 3.0 |
| Badminton | 1.7 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.7 |
| Tennis | 1.6 |
| Horse Riding | 1.5 |
| Jogging | 1.5 |
| *36 to 40-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 23.2 |
| Gym | 13.4 |
| Aerobics | 3.8 |
| Running Road | 3.2 |
| Yoga | 2.7 |
| Badminton | 2.2 |
| Tennis | 2.0 |
| Horse Riding | 1.9 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.6 |
| Pilates | 1.4 |
| Keep Fit | 1.4 |
| *41 to 55-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 18.5 |
| Gym | 10.9 |
| Aerobics | 3.0 |
| Yoga | 2.8 |
| Tennis | 2.1 |
| Badminton | 2.1 |
| Running Road | 1.8 |
| Horse Riding | 1.7 |

| *Males* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Pilates | 1.7 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.6 |
| *50 to 59-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 15.1 |
| Gym | 7.6 |
| Yoga | 3.1 |
| Aerobics | 2.2 |
| Pilates | 1.9 |
| Keep Fit | 1.8 |
| Golf | 1.8 |
| Badminton | 1.7 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.6 |
| Horse Riding | 1.1 |
| *60+-year-olds* | |
| Swimming (all) | 8.6 |
| Gym | 3.1 |
| Keep Fit | 2.5 |
| Bowls (all) | 2.4 |
| Yoga | 1.9 |
| Golf | 1.4 |
| Exercise Bike | 1.1 |
| Aerobics | 1.0 |
| Aquafit | 0.9 |
| Pilates | 0.9 |

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards achieving the target in his Department's 2002 publication Game Plan—a strategy for delivering the government's sport and physical activity objectives to increase the proportion of the adult population who participate in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five or more times a week to 70 per cent. by 2020. [189023]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The 2002 Game Plan strategy document suggested an aspirational goal to increase the proportion of the adult population who participate in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five or more times a week to 70 per cent. by 2020.

The Government's official target, set out in DCMS's current public service agreement is to increase the proportion of adults from priority groups participating in both moderate level intensity sport and active sport by 3 per cent. by 2008.

The table sets out the most recent data available measuring the proportion of adults who participate in 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity at least five times a week.

| | *Achieving 30 minutes of moderate intensity level activity, five times a week (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Male | 35 |
| Female | 24 |

*Source:*
Health Survey for England 2004

## Sports: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance his Department gave to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex in each year since 1997; what projects were supported; whether there were restrictions on the use of this funding; and if he will make a statement. [189003]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Financial support for community sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England which dispenses Exchequer and lottery funds for sport The tables show how much Exchequer and lottery funding has been allocated through Sport England to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex.

*Amateur sports clubs*

| | *Essex* | £ *Southend* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 817,276 | 34,048 |
| 1998-99 | 898,625 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,811,613 | 294,178 |
| 2000-01 | 3,140,035 | 17,207 |
| 2001-02 | 3,624,079 | 27,112 |
| 2002-03 | 5,182,986 | 35,544 |
| 2003-04 | 6,887,762 | 1,359,549 |
| 2004-05 | 4,013,996 | 138,000 |
| 2005-06 | 810,138 | 118,233 |
| 2006-07 | 922,236 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 441,956 | 0 |

*School sports partnership*[1]

| | *Essex* | £ *Southend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 866,088 | 211,056 |
| 2004-05 | 1,598,744 | 376,998 |
| 2005-06 | 1,768,303 | 757,051 |
| 2006-07 | 2,616,326 | 337,468 |
| 2007-08 | 2,869,475 | 411,233 |

[1] Awards under the school sports partnership are made to local education authorities who in turn distribute the money to schools in their area.

*Community sports coach*

| | *Essex* | £ *Southend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 52,500 | 17,500 |
| 2007-08 | 118,500 | 17,500 |

*Swimming top up*

| | *Essex* | £ *Southend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 26,520 | 11,960 |
| 2007-08 | 96,500 | 0 |

In addition, the Big Lottery Fund has allocated £9.1 million from the New Opportunities for PE and Sport initiative to sports facilities projects in Essex and the Football Foundation has awarded a further £12 million in grants. We do not hold data giving the yearly breakdown of awards or grants made by the Big Lottery Fund or the Football Foundation, nor do we hold details of specific awards made by these organisations to projects in Southend.

Figures given prior to 2001-02 are lottery only as Sport England advises that it is not possible to provide the requested information for Exchequer Funding back to 1997. This is because it changed its budget management software at the start of 2001-02 and does not have information before that date readily available.

At the end of January 2008, there are 170 amateur sports clubs registered with the Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme (CASCs) in Essex and Southend in the following sports:

*Essex*

| *Sport* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Bowls | 46 |
| Cricket | 29 |
| Tennis | 18 |
| Rugby | 16 |
| Football | 11 |
| Sailing | 10 |
| Other Sports | 9 |
| Golf | 6 |
| Boxing | 3 |
| Archery | 2 |
| Athletics | 2 |
| Cycling | 2 |
| Hockey | 2 |
| Martial Arts | 2 |
| Shooting | 2 |
| Sub-Aqua | 2 |
| Swimming | 2 |
| Trampolining | 2 |
| Canoing | 1 |
| Croquet | 1 |
| Gymnastics | 1 |
| Water Activities | 1 |

*Southend*

| *Sport* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Bowls | 3 |
| Rugby | 1 |

As of 1 April 2004, registered CASCs enjoy the following benefits:

Mandatory relief of 80 per cent. on non-domestic (business rates) rates for CASCs in England and Wales.

Exemption from corporation tax on:

bank and building society interest

trading income up to £30,000.

income from property up to £20,000 and

Exemption from capital gains tax on disposals of assets.

Donors to CASCs are able to give using the following relief's:

Gift aid for individuals. A registered CASC can reclaim up to 28p in tax for every £1.

Inheritance tax

Gifts of assets to a CASC on a no gain/no loss basis for capital gains purposes for both individuals and companies.

Gifts of trading stock and plant and machinery by businesses.

The precise value of these benefits to registered clubs in Southend and Essex is not known.

I will place a summary of projects in Southend and Essex that have benefited from funding in the Libraries of both Houses.

In terms of restrictions on the use of funding, these have been consistently in line with lottery policy and each application for funding is assessed on its individual merits.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding was made available for sports clubs and facilities in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each year since 1997; how much and what proportion of these funds was earmarked for Paralympic sports; what restrictions were placed on the use of these funds; and if he will make a statement. [189004]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The full range of information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1997, over £4 billion has been invested in sport in England by Government and the national lottery distributing bodies. Since 2000, £47 million has been invested in Paralympic sport in Great Britain—we do not hold data about specific awards to Paralympic sports projects below this level.

Figures from Sport England show that £29.6 million has been awarded to sports projects in Essex and £2 million to projects in Southend. The table gives details of grants and awards made by Sport England to Essex and Southend during the period 1997-98 to 2007-08.

In addition, the Big Lottery Fund has allocated £9.1 million from the New Opportunities for PE and Sport initiative to sports facilities projects in Essex and the Football Foundation has awarded a further £12 million in grants. We do not hold data giving the yearly breakdown of awards or grants made by the Big Lottery Fund or the Football Foundation, nor do we hold details of specific awards made by these organisations to projects in Southend.

Each of the individual Sport England, Big Lottery Fund or Football Foundation programmes or initiatives has its own set criteria which must be met before funding can be awarded.

£

| | *Essex* | *Southend* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 817,276 | 34,048 |
| 1998-99 | 898,625 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,811,613 | 294,178 |
| 2000-01 | 3,140,035 | 17,207 |
| 2001-02 | 3,624,079 | 27,112 |
| 2002-03 | 5,182,986 | 35,544 |
| 2003-04 | 6,887,762 | 1,359,549 |
| 2004-05 | 4,013,996 | 138,000 |
| 2005-06 | 810,138 | 118,233 |
| 2006-07 | 922,236 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 441,956 | 0 |
| Total | 29,550,702 | 2,023,871 |

**Sports: Schools**

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many school sports co-ordinators were introduced in *(a)* Stockton South constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since their inception. [188966]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The School Sport Partnership (SSP) infrastructure of Partnership Development Managers, School Sport Coordinators and Primary Link Teachers was rolled out in stages between 2000 and 2006.

Information on the numbers of School Sport Co-ordinators is only held on a live basis. The following table details information that is readily available.

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Stockton, South | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| (b) Teesside | 35 | 38 | 38 |
| (c) North East | 132 | 211 | 209 |
| (d) England | 1,790 | 2,765 | 3,255 |

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 639W, on sports: schools, how many of the competition managers will be senior competition managers. [189354]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** When completed, our national network of at least 225 competition managers will include 49 senior competition managers leading teams of competition managers across 49 county areas.

**Sports: Young People**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what percentage of (a) boys and (b) girls under the age of 16 met the physical activity recommendations of 60 minutes or more of activity of at least moderate intensity on all days of the week in each year for which figures are available; [189024]

(2) what percentage of (a) boys and (b) girls under the age of 16 undertook less than 30 minutes of physical activity per day in each year for which figures are available. [189025]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The National School Sport Survey measures the percentage of children aged five to 16 doing at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week. The 2006-07 survey shows that this currently stands at 86 per cent. Copies of the survey results have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Swimming Pools**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools (a) there are and (b) are planned in the (i) Southend, (ii) Essex, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iv) London. [188997]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** According to the Active Places database the number of swimming pools in the regions requested is as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Essex (including the unitaries of Southend and Thurrock) | 178 |
| Southend | 14 |
| London | 567 |
| Hertfordshire | 140 |

The number of swimming pools planned is as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Essex (including the unitaries of Southend and Thurrock) | 4 |
| Southend | 1 |
| London | 6 |
| Hertfordshire | 4 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools (a) closed and (b) opened in England in each year since 1997; and how many diving pools are open to the public. [188998]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Information on pool openings and closures across England was not collected centrally prior to 2004, when the Active Places database of sports facilities across England was established. The most recent information from Sport England indicates the number of pools (not sites) opened and closed in each year since 2004 is:

| | Opened | Closed |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 117 | 13 |
| 2005 | 93 | 60 |
| 2006 | 87 | 58 |
| 2007 | 57 | 33 |
| Total | 354 | 282 |

There are 64 diving pools open to the public with one temporary closure at Crystal Palace.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

**Ministers: Allowances**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Leader of the House what the cost to the public purse of ministerial allowances was in each year for which figures are available, broken down by department. [187578]

**Mr. Watson:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 503W.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

**Members: Correspondence**

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he will reply to the letters of 16 July and 22 October 2007 from the hon. Member for North East Hampshire, requesting an internal review and revised decision under the Freedom of Information Act 2005. [184777]

**Edward Miliband:** I have received the hon. Member's letter of 6 February requesting that his letters of 16 July and 24 October 2007 be treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A response will be sent shortly.

**Regulatory Impact Assessments**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what advice or guidance his Department provides to other departments on (a) the stage in the legislative process at which impact assessments should be carried out and (b) the purpose of impact assessments. [187637]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

In May 2007 Government introduced the revised impact assessment process to improve clarity and transparency of new regulations, including new requirements to summarise both the rationale for government intervention and evidence supporting the final proposal.

The revised guidance supporting this process is clear that impact assessments should be developed from the earliest stages of policy making in order to assess the costs, benefits and impact of regulatory proposals. This guidance is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre

**Trade Unions**

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidelines he has issued for trade union representatives in the Civil Service on their use of *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid time off work on trades union duties, with particular reference to (i) political campaigning and (ii) party political activity. [186694]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* No central guidelines have been issued. These matters are delegated to individual Departments to determine with their trade unions.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**Agriculture: Subsidies**

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Copeland of 10 January 2008, if he will publish single farm payments *(a)* made to individual farmers, *(b)* broken down by size of farm and *(c)* broken down by size of payment. [187835]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Once all single payment scheme payments have been completed a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have not yet received *(a)* a 2005 and *(b)* a 2006 single farm payment. [187974]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are currently nine outstanding cases for SPS 2005.

For SPS 2006 there are currently 69 claims where processing is not yet complete.

**Agriculture: Waste Disposal**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why farmers are not permitted to bury fallen stock; and what regard has been given to the environmental effects of such a ban. [187975]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The ban on burying fallen stock on-farm was introduced by the EU Animal By-Products Regulation 1774/2002. The Regulation aims to protect public and animal health from any potential risks associated with the burial of fallen stock. It was introduced on a precautionary basis, influenced by evidence provided in a number of scientific opinions from the EU's scientific steering committee.

The environmental effects of such a ban have not been assessed. However, the voluntary National Fallen Stock scheme, run by the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo), operates in a way that encourages as many local operators as possible to collect fallen stock and limits the "carcase miles" travelled.

The EU Animal By-Products Regulation that imposed the burial ban also provides for the approval of new disposal methods once their effectiveness has been assessed by the European Food Safety Authority. One potential method undergoing research, and in which the NFSCo has taken an interest, is the use of bioreducers. Subject to this research eventually being submitted for, and passing, such an assessment, these may provide a route for on-farm disposal of some fallen stock in the future.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reduce restrictions on farmers burying fallen stock. [187976]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1342W.

**Animals: Quarantine**

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs where animals other than cats and dogs are kept in quarantine in the UK; and under what conditions. [188283]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Animals can be kept in quarantine at zoos, research centres, and temporary holding facilities at ports or airports. On rare occasions, additional premises such as film sets have been approved using zoo specifications. All such quarantine facilities are inspected and approved by Animal Health and supervised by a veterinary superintendent.

Conditions are laid down for disease security, but the rabies order contains no provision for welfare rules in quarantine facilities. However, the normal welfare legislation conditions for zoos, research centres, etc. still apply.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how his Department monitors the Voluntary Code in relation to the welfare of animals in quarantine premises; and if he will make a statement; [188527]

(2) whether there have been any breaches of the Voluntary Code in relation to the welfare of animals in quarantine premises since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [188528]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Animal Health monitors compliance with the Voluntary Code, but does not 'enforce' it. As the code is voluntary, Animal Health can only insist that transgressing quarantine kennels withdraw from the scheme and remove the compliance statement from their literature.

As Animal Health is not an enforcement or regulating body, no information on breaches of the Voluntary Code is being held.

### Avian Influenza

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department has received from *(a)* independent and *(b)* international experts on H5N1 virus surveillance strategy; and if he will make a statement. [188724]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA), in its role as a World and EU Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza, collaborates at an international level with many leading institutes so that information and expert advice can be shared. In particular, the VLA chairs and leads a working group, which conducts detailed scientific analysis of wild bird surveillance (AIWBS) data on avian influenza from all EU member states; this helps to continually advise and develop the European AIWBS strategy. In addition, the VLA provides direct advice, through its expert consultants, to DEFRA, EU member states, and the European Commission.

The VLA also participates in global projects to improve and continuously develop surveillance strategies with a particular focus on HPAI H5N1. This is achieved via a number of formal partnerships funded through EU projects, and also by close interactions with international organisations such as the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

DEFRA obtains expert advice on the ecology and biology of waterfowl and other wild birds from the Ornithological Expert Panel, which comprises representatives from the major international non-governmental organisations working in this field, along with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

My Department also exchanges information with the Health Protection Agency and the Department of Health.

### Bass: Fisheries

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to support inshore recreational bass fishing. [188987]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004, and subsequent advice to DEFRA from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, suggests that the bass stock is fished sustainably. With a view to providing additional protection for stocks of bass, I announced last year a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions, for the benefit of both inshore recreational and commercial bass fishing. I am also currently consulting on a draft recreational sea angling strategy which considers a package of measures for the development of recreational sea fishing. The consultation closes on 31 March.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* state of the inshore bass fishing industry and *(b)* availability of large mature adult bass. [188988]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The most recent advice on bass from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea was produced in 2004. This was based on analytical assessments of UK inshore bass stocks and concluded that bass stocks appear to be fished sustainably. Updated assessments have been carried out on behalf of DEFRA by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in 2006 and 2008. These confirm the earlier assessment and indicate that levels of bass landings by the commercial fishing industry (including the inshore sector) reflect the increase in stock abundance since the mid 1990s.

Bass are fully mature at eight years and older. Although stock assessments by CEFAS indicate that adult bass are more abundant than historically, large adult bass tend to be less available inshore, where smaller younger bass are more prevalent.

### Birds

**Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how birds issued with Transaction Specific certificates under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species regulations may be traced for DNA testing once they have been sold to another birdkeeper. [188505]

**Joan Ruddock:** Certificates issued under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulations are issued by Animal Health.

Under most circumstances, there is no requirement for bird keepers to notify Animal Health if they sell CITES-listed birds, providing that they possess a valid sales certificate. If there is a need to trace specific species or specimens because of conservation fears, then the UK CITES management authority can apply a condition to any certificate which stipulates the seller must inform the management authority of any sale and who the specimen is sold to. This condition could not be applied retrospectively and could only apply to birds certificated from that date forward, not to birds already provided with certificates.

It would, however, be an abuse of the powers contained in the EU regulations to apply such conditions in a "blanket fashion" and we would need to be able to prove from a conservation viewpoint that such additional conditions were fair and reasonable.

### Dairy Farming: Competition

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on ensuring greater competition in the dairy industry whilst protecting farm incomes. [188562]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have had no such discussions. We consider that individual dairy producers are in the best position to be able to maximise their income by making individual business decisions.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187537]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A total of £229,702.30, including VAT, was paid to senior civil service staff in DEFRA and its agencies, in respect of reimbursable expense claims for the 12 month period to 31 December 2007.

### Energy: Conservation

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the UK heating industry about the proposals for heating and hot water products contained in the Ecodesign of Energy-using Products Directive. [189046]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* DEFRA Ministers have received representations from a number of trade associations and companies in the boiler and water heater supply chains highlighting their concerns with the proposed Energy-using Products Directive.

My officials have also held a range of meetings with members of the industry to present the Commission proposals and to discuss their concerns on the implications for the UK industry. The Commission is currently analysing responses from the industry on its proposals.

DEFRA officials will shortly be attending meetings with the European Trade Associations in order to learn more about the issues the industry face across Europe.

### European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme was not developed between October and December 2006 as planned; and if he will make a statement. [188548]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The development of the UK Operational Programme is a continuous process. I am not aware of any particular period during which this process was halted.

### Farmers

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of his Department have farming experience. [187973]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA does not hold information centrally on employees who have farming experience in the agricultural sector and to collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent changes he has made to the licensing scheme arrangements for the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement. [188423]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have made no recent changes to the licensing scheme arrangements for the 10 m and under fleet.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations he has held on changing the licensing scheme arrangements for the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement. [188424]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have held no consultations on changing the licensing arrangements for the 10 m and under fleet. However, I have recently written to 10 m and under vessel licence holders informing them that I plan to consult them later this year on possible changes to the current licensing system.

### Fisheries: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is on each quota management advisory group; and if he will make a statement. [188441]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The aim of these groups is to gather the views and opinions of a wide range of interested groups involved in the inshore fishing industry around the coast of England and Wales. As such, there is no set membership for each group. They are currently being set up by the district inspectors of the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA). Once established, it is intended that the details of the meetings held, those that attended and notes of the issues discussed at each meeting will be made available through the MFA website.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Quota Management Change Programme formal consultation paper was not published between January and March 2007 as planned; and if he will make a statement. [188596]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1289W.

### Fishing Vessels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the European Fisheries Fund can be used to decommission fishing vessels; and if he will make a statement. [188433]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on what can be funded from the European Fisheries Fund can be found in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006, which is available on the Europa website.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to decommission UK fishing vessels; and if he will make a statement. [188589]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I am currently considering the possibility of running a limited decommissioning scheme targeted at those under 10 m vessels that catch at, or close to, the monthly catch limits set by the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy was on fishing vessel decommissioning in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [188590]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Departmental policy on fishing vessel decommissioning in the years 2006 to 2008 has been that general decommissioning schemes are not the most effective, nor the fairest way of reducing fleet capacity. Specifically, they do not encourage fishermen to make long-term business decisions, or provide value for money.

However, smaller targeted schemes can work when linked with other management measures. For example, the 2007 scheme for South-West beam trawlers was linked to the agreement of a long-term management plan for Western Channel sole.

### Fly Tipping

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to treat fly-tipping on private land in the same way as that which occurs on public land. [187564]

**Joan Ruddock:** Where there is refuse or fly-tipping on public land, then the relevant local authority has a duty to clear it and bear the cost of removal. However, neither the local authority nor the Environment Agency are under any legal obligation to assist with the removal of illegally dumped waste from privately owned land.

Some authorities are ready to work with landowners to investigate and prosecute repeated incidents of fly-tipping and to tackle specific problems or issues. However, to place a duty on the authorities and the Environment Agency to remove waste from private land would create a fly-tippers' charter. This would encourage illegal dumping rather than tackle the problem. Moreover, such a duty would place significant additional burdens on local authorities and the Environment Agency.

For these reasons, we do not intend to bring forward proposals that would mean fly-tipped waste on private land is be treated in the same way as on public land.

Among recent measures that have been introduced, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 gave courts the power to make an order against anyone convicted of the main offence of illegal waste disposal to pay for costs incurred by a landowner in removing waste that has been illegally deposited.

DEFRA also sits on the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group which identifies better ways of preventing and tackling fly-tipping on private land by working closely with organisations like the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, Network Rail and the National Trust. It has also issued guidance to landowners on how to deal with this problem.

### Fuels: Imports

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much refuse-derived fuel was imported into the United Kingdom from each country in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [188080]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* In the last five years, England and Wales have only given their permission to import refuse derived fuel in 2006 and 2007. The following table gives details of those imports. In all cases, the waste was imported for use as a fuel, (a recovery operation).

| | *Amount imported (tonnes)* | *Country of origin* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 482.77 | Germany |
| | 90.74 | Ireland |
| 2007 | 57.45 | Germany |
| | 231.58 | Netherlands |
| | 5.52 | Netherlands |

### Gangmasters: Licensing

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences were *(a)* granted, *(b)* refused and *(c)* revoked by the Gangmaster Licensing Authority in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [188390]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) started issuing licences to gangmasters in April 2006. The number of licenses granted, refused and revoked in the last two financial years is as follows:

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Granted | 538 | 628 |
| Refused | 26 | 9 |
| Revoked | 1 | 44 |

[1] To 22 February 2008.

The GLA will continue to refuse licence applications from, and to revoke the licences held by, gangmasters who fail to meet their licensing standards.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Welsh Assembly Government on the inclusion of mechanisms to enforce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the Climate Change Bill. [188169]

**Mr. Woolas:** In accordance with the general principles set out in the overarching Memorandum of Understanding between Devolved Administrations, the UK Government have consulted the Welsh Assembly Government from an early stage in the development of legislative proposals in the Climate Change Bill.

We are also drawing up a Concordat which will set out detailed procedures for working together under the Bill. This will be finalised once the Bill is enacted and the full implications are confirmed.

### Livestock: Diseases

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken on covering the costs relating to major outbreaks of disease in livestock. [187566]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 22WS.

### Livestock: Transport

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the six-day standstill rule. [187978]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have no plans to review the six day standstill rule which has the support of the industry.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to allow animals subject to the six-day rule to be quarantined on a separate part of the farm. [188015]

**Jonathan Shaw:** One of Bill Madder's recommendations in the Review of Livestock Movements Controls was: that animals which had spent six days in an approved isolation unit should be exempted from any standstill on the wider holding. Implementing this recommendation requires amending legislation, which is currently being planned.

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones: Farmers

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on farmers of the EU Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Directive. [187568]

**Mr. Woolas:** Regulations were made in December 2002 increasing the area designated as nitrate-vulnerable zones (NVZs), to 55 per cent. of England. The regulatory impact assessment made at the time estimated the total annual cost to farmers of complying with the NVZ regulations to be £21.7 million.

A consultation on proposals to revise the NVZ regulations closed on 13 December 2007. The partial regulatory impact assessment published with that consultation estimates annual costs to farmers of implementing the proposals if they were to proceed, (based on a proposed 70 per cent. NVZ area) to be in the range of £52.8-£105.9 million; it is estimated that mitigating measures identified in the assessment could reduce this to £35.5-£80.8 million.

### Radioactive Materials: Waste Management

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Administration on its policies for the management of nuclear waste; and what contribution such discussions have made to the formulation of UK policy. [188316]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA has lead responsibility for radioactive waste policy and was involved in discussions in early February with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the US Administration about the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. This included potential opportunities for sharing international best practice and technology development in waste management and disposal.

In formulating its recommendations to Government for the long term management of higher activity radioactive waste, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management engaged a wide range of international experts including a number of US specialists. The Committee's recommendations provided a strong basis for the Government consultation 'A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' that closed on 2 November 2007.

### Recycling

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* paper and cardboard, *(b)* metal, *(c)* glass, *(d)* plastic and *(e)* other material was collected for recycling and exported for reprocessing in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [187943]

**Joan Ruddock:** The tonnages of materials collected from household sources sent for recycling and composting by all local authorities in England, and by each region in the last five years for which figures are available, are shown in the following tables[1]. This information is also available on the DEFRA website. Tonnages of recyclable materials from non-household sources are not available.

[1] 'Household waste sent for recycling' includes all materials sent for recycling, composting or reuse by local authorities as well as those collected from household sources by 'private/voluntary' organisations. Material which was collected for recycling but actually rejected at collection, by the Material Recycling Facility or at the gate of a recycling reprocessor is excluded. Material diverted from the residual waste stream and accepted for recycling is included.

*Thousand tonnes*

| *England* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paper and card | 1,126 | 1,272 | 1,406 | 1,475 | 1,535 |
| Glass | 470 | 568 | 670 | 760 | 840 |
| Compost | 1,189 | 1,362 | 1,960 | 2,439 | 2,895 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 419 | 465 | 577 | 532 | 601 |
| Textiles | 54 | 59 | 71 | 86 | 103 |
| Cans | 28 | 43 | 52 | 74 | 80 |
| Plastics | 13 | 17 | 21 | 38 | 49 |
| Co-mingled | 268 | 469 | 656 | 860 | 1,121 |
| Other | 174 | 266 | 372 | 532 | 751 |
| Total | 3,740 | 4,521 | 5,785 | 6,796 | 7,976 |

Household waste

| | North East | North West | Yorkshire and the Humber | East Midlands | West Midlands | East | London | South East | South West | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Regional breakdown 2006-07* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper and card | 74 | 233 | 134 | 105 | 190 | 143 | 164 | 264 | 227 | 1,535 |
| Glass | 39 | 104 | 72 | 79 | 75 | 115 | 69 | 165 | 123 | 840 |
| Compost | 96 | 412 | 248 | 328 | 332 | 453 | 199 | 462 | 366 | 2,895 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 22 | 82 | 56 | 57 | 55 | 73 | 48 | 126 | 82 | 601 |
| Textiles | 5 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 10 | 18 | 15 | 103 |
| Cans | 6 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 80 |
| Plastics | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 49 |
| Co-mingled | 25 | 65 | 58 | 165 | 33 | 224 | 221 | 281 | 49 | 1,121 |
| Other | 73 | 145 | 103 | 47 | 70 | 73 | 53 | 85 | 102 | 751 |
| Total | 343 | 1,077 | 691 | 800 | 777 | 1,110 | 776 | 1,413 | 992 | 7,976 |
| *Regional breakdown 2005-06* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper and card | 66 | 216 | 127 | 116 | 174 | 157 | 164 | 243 | 213 | 1,475 |
| Glass | 33 | 93 | 60 | 72 | 69 | 104 | 69 | 147 | 112 | 760 |
| Compost | 94 | 351 | 186 | 279 | 272 | 393 | 173 | 408 | 283 | 2,439 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 20 | 71 | 48 | 47 | 50 | 64 | 48 | 110 | 75 | 532 |
| Textiles | 4 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 12 | 86 |
| Cans | 5 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 74 |
| Plastics | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 38 |
| Co-mingled | 19 | 20 | 49 | 131 | 33 | 172 | 171 | 233 | 32 | 860 |
| Other | 28 | 128 | 61 | 36 | 48 | 53 | 43 | 57 | 78 | 532 |
| Total | 271 | 907 | 546 | 698 | 666 | 970 | 687 | 1,227 | 825 | 6,796 |
| *England, 2004-05*[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper and card | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,406 |
| Glass | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 670 |
| Compost | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,960 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 577 |
| Textiles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 71 |
| Cans | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 52 |
| Plastics | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 21 |
| Co-mingled | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 656 |
| Other | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 372 |
| Total | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5,785 |
| *Regional breakdown 2003-04* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper and card | 58 | 151 | 93 | 100 | 143 | 158 | 161 | 232 | 174 | 1,271 |
| Glass | 24 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 80 | 66 | 124 | 85 | 568 |
| Compost | 33 | 203 | 115 | 150 | 140 | 204 | 73 | 287 | 155 | 1,360 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 20 | 58 | 37 | 38 | 46 | 57 | 44 | 98 | 65 | 464 |
| Textiles | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 58 |
| Cans | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 43 |
| Plastics | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 17 |
| Co-mingled | 8 | 19 | 32 | 55 | 9 | 96 | 70 | 171 | 10 | 470 |
| Other | 18 | 52 | 35 | 32 | 18 | 31 | 17 | 25 | 39 | 265 |
| Total | 167 | 549 | 358 | 430 | 416 | 646 | 445 | 957 | 548 | 4,516 |
| *Regional breakdown 2002-03* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper and card | 32 | 140 | 62 | 84 | 123 | 146 | 168 | 225 | 147 | 1,126 |
| Glass | 11 | 41 | 31 | 35 | 44 | 68 | 58 | 108 | 75 | 470 |
| Compost | 15 | 165 | 92 | 124 | 120 | 199 | 65 | 258 | 151 | 1,189 |
| Scrap metals and white goods | 15 | 47 | 33 | 35 | 44 | 55 | 39 | 86 | 64 | 419 |
| Textiles | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 54 |
| Cans | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 28 |

*Household waste*

| | North East | North West | Yorkshire and the Humber | East Midlands | West Midlands | East | London | South East | South West | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plastics | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 13 |
| Co-mingled | 11 | 4 | 27 | 34 | 1 | 44 | 20 | 117 | 9 | 268 |
| Other | 5 | 41 | 32 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 8 | 17 | 27 | 174 |
| Total | 90 | 445 | 283 | 336 | 349 | 546 | 367 | 835 | 490 | 3,740 |

[1] No regional breakdown available, due to an insufficient response rate.

*Source:*
DEFRA municipal waste statistics.

Where non-hazardous wastes (such as separated recyclables) are exported, they are generally subject only to commercial controls and not to the prior notification and consent procedures which apply to exports of hazardous wastes. Precise data on the amounts and destinations of exported recyclables are not, therefore, available.

However, based on HM Revenue and Customs figures, it is estimated that in 2006 (the last year for which figures are available), the UK exported some 8 million tonnes of metal scrap, 4 million tonnes of paper, 441,000 tonnes of plastic and 136,000 tonnes of glass cullet. These figures will include recyclable materials collected from all sources including households, commerce and industry.

**Red Kites**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many red kites have been illegally killed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [188606]

**Joan Ruddock:** Data on the number of red kites illegally killed are not available. Statistics relating to the number of prosecutions and convictions for the illegal killing of wild birds do not distinguish between species.

**River Stour: Floods**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to review the flood plains along the river Stour in Dorset following last summer's heavy rains. [189173]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Environment Agency carried out a detailed hydraulic and hydrological modelling project on the River Stour in 2006-07. This project produced new 100 and 1,000 year flood risk areas for the river, particularly in the lower reaches where the Environment Agency has flood defences. The Environment Agency are also using this information to revise flood warning procedures in this area.

**Rural Areas: Low Incomes**

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the proportion of *(a)* English farming households and *(b)* households in rural areas with incomes below the Department for Work and Pensions' low income threshold. [187440]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The only source of farm household income data measures income before tax is deducted. The official DWP low income threshold is based on income after tax. One would expect the number below 60 per cent. of the median to be lower after tax as the tax system is designed to reduce some of the inequalities in income. Household income data for rural households are not available so the answer to part *(b)* is based on working age adults living in low income households. Therefore, the answers given in part *(a)* and part *(b)* are not directly comparable. In addition it should be noted that the data used to answer part *(a)* are based on the English population while those in part *(b)* are based on incomes in the United Kingdom.

*(a) English farming households—before deduction of tax*

For the population as a whole, the Government have a preferred measure of "low income" defined as 60 per cent. of the median equivalised income for all UK households after tax. It may be presented either before housing costs or after housing costs. The Farm Business Survey is not able to provide figures for household income net of tax, so farm household incomes cannot be compared directly with the low income threshold. Instead they are compared with a modified low income threshold defined as 60 per cent. of the England median, equivalised income before tax (and before housing costs). This has been calculated from 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data. Table 1 shows that:

i. the mean income for farm households was higher than the national mean but the median income was about the same;

ii. both mean and median farm incomes were lower than for the population of self-employed households; and

iii. 31 per cent. of farm households were below the modified low income threshold (gross before housing costs) in 2005-06 compared with 21 per cent. for all households and 18 per cent. for self-employed households.

*Table 1: Equivalised household income and low-income threshold, England 2005-06*

| | Average household income, equivalised, gross before housing costs (£/household) | | Modified low income threshold (£/household) | Percentage of households below low income threshold |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mean | Median | | |
| Households of principal farmers | 33,900 | 22,700 | — | 31 |
| All households | 30,200 | 23,000 | 13,800 | 21 |
| Self-employed households | 38,000 | 27,200 | — | 18 |

*Sources:*
Farm Business Survey (England) and Family Resources Survey (2004-05)

Updated data will be available from the 2006-07 Farm Business Survey later in 2008.

*(b) Households in rural areas—after deduction of tax*

Table 2 shows the percentage of working age people living in England in households with an income of 60 per cent. below the UK median. Figures are broken down by DEFRA's local authority classification. The classification divides local authorities into the following six categories:

i. Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns;

ii. Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent. but less than 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns;

iii. Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns;

iv. Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns;

v. Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000;

vi. Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.

*Table 2: Percentage of working-age adults living in low income households in England, by LA classification (2005-06)*

| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
|---|---|---|
| Rural R80 | 12 | 16 |
| Rural R50 | 11 | 15 |
| Significant Rural | 12 | 16 |
| Other Urban | 13 | 18 |
| Large Urban | 16 | 21 |
| Major Urban | 16 | 22 |

*Notes:*
1. Estimates are based on three-year averages. 2005-06 uses data for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.
2. Low income is defined as households with an income of below 60 per cent. of the median income for the United Kingdom.

*Source:*
DWP Family Resource Survey, 2005/06, Relative Low Income

**Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has *(a)* set up and *(b)* planned a marine protected area trial; and if he will make a statement. [188595]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are committed to designating an ecologically coherent network of well-managed protected areas by 2012, and are currently developing plans to achieve this. Marine protected area trials are being considered as part of these plans.

**Seas and Oceans: Treaty of Lisbon**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether, under the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty granting the European Union exclusive competence over the conservation of marine biological resources, the European Union will be able to determine the allocation of quota opportunities within the UK; and if he will make a statement; [189040]

(2) what discussions he has had on the granting of exclusive competence over the conservation of marine biological resources to the European Union with *(a)* Government colleagues, *(b)* the devolved administrations, *(c)* the European Commission, *(d)* other EU member states and *(e)* other organisations; and if he will make a statement;. [189041]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions granting the European Union exclusive competence over the conservation of marine biological resources in Article 2B of the Lisbon Treaty on *(a)* the governance of the UK marine environment, *(b)* UK fishing policies, *(c)* the maintenance of the UK's 12 nautical mile limit after 31 December 2012 and *(d)* the making of policy affecting the marine environment and fisheries; what competences in relation to the marine environment and fisheries will remain within the sole jurisdiction of the UK Government and devolved administrations; what competences in relation to the marine environment and fisheries that are currently shared with the European Union or within the sole jurisdiction of the UK Government and devolved administrations will become the exclusive competence of the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [189042]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The text of the new treaty reflects the extent of current powers under the common fisheries policy and we do not therefore envisage any changes to the various processes concerned. For this reason we have not seen the need to discuss the provision further or re-assess its significance.

**Wildlife: Crime**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has made to the recommendations of the Environmental Audit Committee's Twelfth Report of the 2003-04 session on wildlife crime; which recommendations have been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [188604]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee's report was published on 17 March 2005. It can be found in the 2004-05 Session documents, posted in the publications and records section of the UK Parliament website.

The Government have made good progress in taking forward those of the Committee's 41 recommendations and conclusions which were accepted. As specific details of progress on each of the 41 recommendations may take some time to collate, I will write to the hon. Member separately and place a copy of the information in the House Library.

## TREASURY

**Child Benefit**

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families were receiving child tax credit for children who were not resident in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years [189555]

(2) how many families were receiving child benefit for children who were not resident in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [189531]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Corporation Tax

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of rulings by the European Court of Justice for the Government's ability to set corporate tax levels. [188888]

**Jane Kennedy:** The rate of corporation tax is a matter for member states.

### Customs: Appeals

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of cases appealing the seizure of excise goods by HM Revenue and Customs officers resulted in the restoration of goods to importers in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189884]

**Jane Kennedy:** Appeals against the legality of seizures are heard by magistrates courts not HMRC.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have voluntarily ceased employment, excluding redundancies, with his Department in each month since May 1997. [189105]

**Angela Eagle:** The question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W, on departmental marketing, which of his Department's agencies have procured products featuring *(a)* Government and *(b)* its own branding in each of the last five years. [189378]

**Angela Eagle:** All agencies, except for the Debt Management Office, have procured products featuring their own or Government branding in each of the last five years.

A breakdown between Government branding and own branding is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W, on departmental marketing, how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on HM Revenue and Customs branded products in each of the last five years. [189379]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since the formation of HMRC in April 2005, £99,231 has been spent on branded products. These promotional items are used at a variety of exhibitions and events across the UK. They raise awareness of the HMRC website as a means of providing further information for individuals and businesses about their tax obligations and entitlements.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188807]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is as follows:

*Ranges B to E (London)*

| | *Range B* | *Range C* | *Range D* | *Range E* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1 August 2007* | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 23,208 | 27,428 | 42,275 | 63,227 |
| Normal Max | 21,236 | 26,194 | 37,501 | 56,662 |
| 8 year progression point | 19,860 | 23,702 | 29,500 | 49,150 |
| 6 year progression point | 19,186 | 22,899 | 28,500 | 47,484 |
| 4 year progression point | 18,429 | 21,995 | 27,375 | 45,610 |
| 2 year progression point | 17,588 | 20,991 | 26,125 | 43,527 |
| 1 year progression point | 17,166 | 20,489 | 25,500 | 42,486 |
| Minimum | 16,830 | 20,087 | 25,000 | 41,653 |
| *1 August 2008* | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 23,440 | 27,702 | 42,697 | 63,859 |
| Normal Max | 21,449 | 26,456 | 37,876 | 57,228 |
| 8 year progression point | 20,953 | 25,008 | 31,125 | 51,857 |
| 6 year progression point | 20,080 | 23,966 | 29,828 | 49,697 |
| 4 year progression point | 19,207 | 22,924 | 28,532 | 47,536 |
| 2 year progression point | 18,334 | 21,882 | 27,235 | 45,375 |
| 1 year progression point | 17,810 | 21,257 | 26,457 | 44,079 |
| Minimum | 17,461 | 20,840 | 25,938 | 43,215 |
| *1 August 2009* | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 23,675 | 27,979 | 43,124 | 64,498 |
| Normal Max | 21,663 | 26,720 | 38,255 | 57,801 |
| 8 year progression point | 21,663 | 25,946 | 32,293 | 53,802 |
| 6 year progression point | 20,833 | 24,865 | 30,947 | 51,560 |
| 4 year progression point | 19,927 | 23,784 | 29,601 | 49,319 |

*Ranges B to E (London)*

| | Range B | Range C | Range D | Range E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 year progression point | 19,021 | 22,703 | 28,256 | 47,077 |
| 1 year progression point | 18,478 | 22,054 | 27,449 | 45,732 |
| Minimum | 18,116 | 21,621 | 26,910 | 44,835 |

*Ranges B to E (National)*

| | Range B | Range C | Range D | Range E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1 August 2007* | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 21,000 | 24,000 | 39,537 | 59,260 |
| Normal Max | 19,992 | 22,848 | 34,811 | 52,760 |
| 8 year progression point | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 6 year progression point | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 4 year progression point | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2 year progression point | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1 year progression point | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Minimum | 14,923 | 17,055 | 22,384 | 37,840 |
| *1 August 2008* | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 21,210 | 24,240 | 39,932 | 59,853 |
| Normal Max | 20,192 | 23,076 | 35,159 | 53,288 |
| 8 year progression point | 18,579 | 21,233 | 27,868 | 47,111 |
| 6 year progression point | 17,805 | 20,349 | 26,707 | 45,148 |
| 4 year progression point | 17,031 | 19,464 | 25,546 | 43,185 |
| 2 year progression point | 16,257 | 18,579 | 24,385 | 41,222 |
| 1 year progression point | 15,792 | 18,048 | 23,688 | 40,044 |
| Minimum | 15,483 | 17,695 | 23,223 | 39,259 |
| 1 August 2009 | | | | |
| High Performance Maximum | 21,422 | 24,482 | 40,332 | 60,451 |
| Normal Max | 20,394 | 23,307 | 35,511 | 53,820 |
| 8 year progression point | 19,276 | 22,030 | 28,913 | 48,877 |
| 6 year progression point | 18,473 | 21,112 | 27,708 | 46,841 |
| 4 year progression point | 17,670 | 20,194 | 26,504 | 44,804 |
| 2 year progression point | 16,866 | 19,276 | 25,299 | 42,768 |
| 1 year progression point | 16,384 | 18,725 | 24,576 | 41,546 |
| Minimum | 16,063 | 18,358 | 24,094 | 40,731 |

The SCS pay framework for 2007-08 is as follows

*SCS pay range at 1 April*

| *Pay band* | *Minimum* | *Progression target rate* | *£ Recruitment and performance ceiling* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 56,100 | 78,540 | 116,000 |
| 2 | 81,600 | n/a | 160,000 |
| 3 | 99,960 | n/a | 205,00 |

In addition HM Treasury pay SCS Payband 1 £2,000 per annum London Allowance.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding answer and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190294]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested in respect of each parliamentary Session since 2000-01 is given in the table:

| *Session* | *Named day questions received* | *Answered substantively on the named day*[1] | *Proportion answered substantively on the named day (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 603 | 380 | 63.0 |
| 2001-02 | 1,653 | 1,210 | 73.2 |
| 2002-03 | 620 | 432 | 69.7 |
| 2003-04 | 518 | 387 | 74.7 |
| 2004-05 | 287 | 228 | 79.4 |
| 2005-06 | 1,029 | 771 | 74.9 |
| 2006-07 | 743 | 527 | 70.9 |
| 2007-08[2] | 358 | 183 | 51.1 |

[1] All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer. [2] To date.

## Excise Duties

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what guidance has been issued to HM Revenue and Customs officers in assessing whether goods subject to excise duty are for personal use; [189883]

(2) what circumstances goods subject to excise duties may be seized by HM Revenue and Customs officers where the total amount imported is within the personal allowance. [189885]

**Jane Kennedy:** For travellers within the EU there are no personal allowances for excise goods. However, minimum indicative quantities are used as one of the criteria in assessing whether goods are for own use, and therefore not liable to UK tax or excise duty. All of the criteria are set down in legislation, and HMRC officers take account of these in assessing whether or not excise goods are for own use.

Travellers entering the UK from a non-EU country are permitted to bring with them limited amounts of excise goods without paying UK tax or duty, provided they are transported by them and are for their own use. Anyone with goods within these limits is assessed using similar criteria to that applied to EU travellers to determine whether the goods are for own use or for a commercial purpose.

HMRC publishes information for travellers in Public Notice 1 ("Travelling to the UK"), copies of which are available at UK ports and airports.

### Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to *(a)* increase duty on alcoholic products and *(b)* link the rates of duty on alcoholic products to the amount of alcohol in the product. [189453]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on alcohol duty rates are made by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Beer and spirits are already taxed in proportion to their alcoholic strength. Wine and cider are taxed according to strength bands as required by EU legislation.

### Housing Finance Review

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations his Department has met to discuss the Housing Finance Review. [188830]

**Angela Eagle:** Since mid August the housing finance review team has engaged with around 70 stakeholders involved in different aspects of housing finance. Consultations have covered mortgage lenders, investment banks and investment houses, housing associations, consumer groups, public institutions, overseas experts and academics. Interested parties have also been able submit their views via a dedicated housing finance review web page on the HM Treasury website.

A full list of the individuals and organisations that were consulted, some of which on a number of occasions is given as follows:

Abbey National plc
Association of Mortgage Intermediaries (AMI)
Bank of England
Barclays Bank plc
Barclays Capital
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd.
BlueCrest Capital Management Ltd.
Brevan Howard Asset Management LLP
Bristol and West Mortgages
Britannia Building Society
Building Societies Association
Chelsea Building Society
Cheltenham and Gloucester
Citigroup Global Markets Ltd.
Council of Mortgage Lenders
Coventry Building Society
Credit Suisse Asset Management UK Holding Ltd.
Danish FSA
Communities and Local Government
Deutsche Bank
European Investment Bank
European Securitisation Forum
Fannie Mae
Federal Housing Finance Board
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Federal Reserve
Fidelity Investments International
Financial Services Authority
Freddie Mac
Ginnie Mae
GMAC-RFC Ltd.
Goldman Sachs
Halifax plc
HBOS plc
Housing Corporation
HSBC Bank plc
Imperial College London
International Monetary Fund
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
JP Morgan plc
King & Shaxson Treasury Solutions
Lloyds TSB Group plc
London Business School
London School of Economics
MarketGuard
McKinsey&Company
Merrill Lynch International
Morgan Stanley
Morley
Nationwide Building Society
Nykredit Realkredit
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight
Paragon Finance plc
Professor David Miles
Schroders Investment Management Ltd.
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association
Shelter
Skipton Building Society
Standard Life
The Building Society Association (BSA)
The Cheshire Building Society
The World Bank
UBS Investment Bank
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
US Department of the Treasury
Yorkshire Building Society

### Married Personal Allowance

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of couples receiving married couple's tax allowance where one partner was not resident in the United Kingdom in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189556]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Metronet: Finance

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of Barnett consequentials are for the £1.7 billion to be paid to Transport for London to cover the cost of the guarantee with respect to Metronet. [188308]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Barnett formula applies to changes in the Department's overall DEL provision in the comprehensive spending review and produces block increases for the Welsh Assembly government, which it then allocates to programmes to reflect its own priorities. The Department for Transport has not received any additional provision beyond its CSR settlement in respect of the £1.7 billion for Transport for London.

### Minimum Wage: Stockton on Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Stockton South constituency were in receipt of no more than the national minimum wage in the last period for which figures are available. [189327]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many families in Stockton South constituency were in receipt of no more than the national minimum wage in the last period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (189327)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal source of statistics on employees' earnings. The information requested is not available from the ASHE because the survey does not collect details of employees' family circumstances. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects information about each individual of participating households and can therefore be used to estimate how many people are in employment. However, the LFS cannot be used to estimate the average earnings for families. This is because the statistics for family units are produced from the LFS household datasets, which do not contain information on earnings within each family unit.

### Negative Equity: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have gone into negative equity in each London borough since 2000. [188971]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government have made no estimate of the number of people who have gone into negative equity in each London borough since 2000. Land Registry data show an average monthly increase in house prices since May 2000 in each London borough of between 0.7 per cent. and 1.0 per cent., reducing the probability that individuals in London boroughs will have experienced negative equity in that period.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the next Long-Term Public Finance Report. [183717]

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Long Term Public Finance Report for 2007 to be published. [183915]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government publish the Long-term Public Finance Report to provide a comprehensive analysis of long-term socio-economic and demographic developments, and their likely impact on the public finances, based on the most up to date information available.

The population projections provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are central to this analysis. Given that ONS did not publish the new population projections until 23 October 2007, after publication of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, the next Long-term Public Finance Report will be published once it has been finalised.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-6W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, how many of the new data guardians will be based in *(a)* London, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* elsewhere. [189371]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since November 2007 each of HMRC's Business Units has appointed a data guardian to strengthen the management of the Department's data assets. 37 have been appointed in all.

The data guardians are appointed on a functional basis covering all areas of HMRC's business and offices throughout the UK. Data guardians are not appointed by reference to a particular geographical area, but it happens that 24 are based in London, two in Tyne and Wear and 11 in other locations.

### Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Public Expenditure

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis the Barnett formula comparability factor for Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, was changed from 100 per cent. in the 2004 Treasury Statement of Funding to 0 per cent. in the corresponding 2007 statement. [188309]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew currently performs functions which benefit the UK as a whole and it was therefore treated on that basis in the Statement of Funding Policy published in 2007.

### Taxation: Gambling

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effective tax rates for *(a)* bingo and *(b)* other gaming products. [189824]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department requests from the gaming industry when calculating effective tax rates for gaming products; [189741]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 369W, on taxation: gambling, what method his Department uses to calculate the average effective rates of taxation on *(a)* bingo, *(b)* casinos, *(c)* gaming machines and *(d)* betting. [189864]

**Angela Eagle:** Effective tax rates for gambling products are calculated as: total tax divided by the tax base. Total tax is equal to duty receipts, plus net VAT where applicable (bingo and gaming machines), while the tax base is gross profits (stakes minus winnings i.e. net stakes).

Most of the information required to make these calculations is from statutory returns to HMRC (supported by data collected by the Gambling Commission). Any further information required is obtained during consultations, from reports commissioned by the industry or from industry representations (in which case we may ask for further information or clarification).

### Taxation: Official Residences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs has issued on the tax liability of the use of official ministerial residences for those who *(a)* are and *(b)* are not Ministers of the Crown occupying a ministerial residence; and if he will place such guidance in the Library. [189530]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC has not issued any specific guidance on the tax liability in relation to the use of official ministerial residences.

### Taxation: Romania

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of progress on his Department's work with the Romanian Ministry of Finance on Risk Assessment Procedures for the selection of tax audits; and if he will make a statement. [188734]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs submitted a proposal to the Romanian Government on 21 January 2008 to assist the Ministry of Finance with strengthening tax administration reform, including the use of risk-based selection of taxpayers for audits. It is proposed that the work will be delivered jointly with the German Ministry of Finance via the European Union's twinning programme which entitles other member states to also bid for this work. The Romanian Government will decide which member state will be selected following presentations due to take place in Bucharest on 29 February 2008.

### Unemployment: Stockton on Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unemployed people there were in Stockton South constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [189328]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed people there were in Stockton South Constituency in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007. I am replying in her absence. (189328).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for Parliamentary Constituency's from the Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, show the number of people unemployed, resident in the Stockton South Parliamentary Constituency for the twelve months ending in February 1997 and June 2007.

This estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, and is based on small sample sizes, and is therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

The latest unemployment figures, along with other current and historical labour market indicators for the Stockton South Parliamentary Constituency are available on the Nomis Website at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/pca/2030941/report.aspx?town=stockton%20south

*Table 1: Unemployed, resident in Stockton South parliamentary constituency*

| *12 months ending* | *Thousand Level* |
|---|---|
| February 1997[1] | [3] |
| June 2007[2] | 1 |

[1] Source Annual Labour Force Survey.
[2] Source Annual Population Survey.
[3] Note estimates not available since the group sampling size is zero or disclosive.

### Working Tax Credit: Stockton-on-Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of families received the childcare element of the working tax credit in Stockton South constituency in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [188935]

**Jane Kennedy:** The most recent estimates of the average number of families with tax credits awards, including those benefiting from the child care element of the working tax credit, by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are presented in table 3 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Geographical Analysis 2005-06". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188783]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created by Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills. As a consequence it has not existed for the period covered in the question.

However in the period since DIUS was created no members of staff have been suspended and/or dismissed for such activities.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies since its establishment. [179789]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The information requested does not exist in such a format centrally that the question can be answered fully and accurately, without incurring disproportionate costs.

*(b)* The Department does not hold the stock records of its agencies, but in the case of its agencies and NDPBs the majority of those products would carry their own agency brand.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what advertising campaigns his Department has run since its establishment; and what was the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost of each. [164504]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department is currently undertaking an advertising and promotional campaign to ensure students and parents are aware of the financial support that will be available from April 2008. The campaign was launched on 5 November 2007 and will run through to spring 2008, to meet the information needs at the height of the college application process. £1,707,997 will be spent on advertising.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* signposts, *(b)* graphic designers, *(c)* stationery and *(d)* websites as a result of the reorganisation of the Department for Education and Skills. [166869]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes. The Department has spent the following to date as a result of the reorganisation of both the former DFES and DTI (it is not possible to split these costs further):

*(a)* Signposts: DIUS Display panels /Outdoor Signage for BERR, 1 Victoria Street; DCSF buildings - £1,229.50 (production only).

*(b)* Graphic designers: £15,33475 (includes development of DIUS branding, DIUS collateral and branding guidelines).

*(c)* Stationery: £922.50 (includes design work for letterheads).

*(d)* Websites: in the region of £25,000 (includes work on redsign of phase two of the website).

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187887]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created by Machinery of Government Changes in June 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills. As a consequence it has not existed for the period covered in the question.

However, over the period since June 2007 no staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are used by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [186178]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 February 2007, *Official Report* column 867W.

### Dismissal

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees of his Department were dismissed in 2007; and what financial payments were made to such employees. [180352]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created in June 2007 by the amalgamation of elements from BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DfES). As a consequence it has not existed for the 12 months specified.

However in the Period June 2007 to January 2008, records show that there have been no dismissals.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many first time students *(a)* aged 21 to 24 and *(b)* aged 25 and over are expected to commence higher education courses at English institutions in 2008-09, broken down by mode and course of study. [175801]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government have a target to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. The Government do not make projections of the number of students entering higher education in these specific age bands or by course of study.

### Innovation: Education

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what innovations his Department and its predecessors have introduced into the *(a)* university and *(b)* further education system since 1997. [166268]

**Bill Rammell:** The major innovations which my Department and its predecessors have introduced into the higher and further education systems since 1997 have been set out each year in the departmental annual reports (copies of which have been placed in the Library).

For higher education these include the Higher Education Innovation Fund to promote better links between HE and business; funding for the AimHigher programme which promotes outreach in schools and colleges to widen participation; personal support for part-time students for the first time; and the introduction of programmes involving employer co-funding of both HE and FE courses. Our comprehensive programme of reforms is transforming the FE system into the skills powerhouse for the future. The FE sector is now more able to respond to business needs for innovative people and we are embedding innovation in national skills academies.

### Mature Students

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of mature students began their course aged *(a)* 21 to 35, *(b)* 26 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50, *(e)* 51 to 60 and *(f)* over 61 years of age in the most recent period for which figures are available. [188464]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is given in the table.

*Number and percentage of mature entrants[1] beginning higher education courses[2] at English higher education institutions academic year 2006-07*

| Age group | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 21-25 | 199,865 | 34.0 |
| 26-30 | 106,990 | 18.2 |
| 31-40 | 139,005 | 23.6 |
| 41-50 | 91,895 | 15.6 |
| 51-60 | 34,805 | 5.9 |
| 61 and over | 15,395 | 2.6 |
| Total | 587,965 | 100.0 |

[1] Includes full-time and part-time students from the UK and overseas.
[2] Includes undergraduate and postgraduate courses.
*Notes:*
1. Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five so components may not sum to total.
2. Figures exclude a small proportion of students with unknown age.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of people studying a part-time level-4 qualification were aged *(a)* 18 to 21, *(b)* 22 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 30, *(d)* 31 to 40, *(e)* 41 to 50, *(f)* 51 to 60 and *(g)* over 60 years of age in the most recent year for which figures are available. [188465]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is given in the table.

*Number and percentage of students[1] studying part-time level 4 qualifications[2] in English higher education institutions academic year 2006-07*

| Age group | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 18-21 | 46,110 | 9.2 |
| 22-25 | 65,600 | 13.1 |
| 26-30 | 73,770 | 14.7 |
| 31-40 | 135,395 | 27.0 |
| 41-50 | 106,435 | 21.3 |
| 51-60 | 46,075 | 9.2 |
| 61 and over | 27,335 | 5.5 |
| Total | 500,720 | 100.0 |

[1] Includes students from the UK and overseas.
[2] Includes all undergraduate qualifications.
*Notes:*
1. Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. *Figures exclude a small proportion of students with unknown age.*
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HISA)

### Overseas Students

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which colleges in England have been removed from the approved list for providing education to overseas students in the last five years; how many of those have received students with visas during the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [183207]

**Bill Rammell:** The Register of Education and Training Providers has been operating since 1 January 2005. Since that date, the following colleges in England at the addresses listed have been removed from the Register. Colleges are removed from the Register at their own request, for cessation of trading or if they are found to be in breach of Immigration Rules or other compliance criteria. The information on the number of these colleges which received students with visas could not be supplied without incurring disproportionate costs.

| College name | College address | Post Code |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Oxford College | 36/38,Clapham Road, London | SW9 0JQ |
| A1 Training College | 6A,Blenheim Grove, Rye Lane, London | SE15 4QL |
| Academy of Professional Studies | Suite 129, 30, Great Guildford Business Square, London | SE1 0HS |
| ACS Distance Education | 1st Floor, Olympic House 28/42, Clements Road, Ilford, Essex | IG1 1BA |
| Action for Employment | 1/4 Pope Street, London | SE1 3PR |
| All Nations Tutorial Service | 154/170, Cannon Street Road, London | E1 2LH |
| Alpha Anglo College | 176, Camp Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham | B21 8JA |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Anfell College | 117, Piccadilly, London | W1J 7JS |
| Anglo European College Ltd. | 63, Tower Bridge Road, London | SE1 4TL |
| Ardeons Institute of Technology and Business Studies | Unit 414, Bow Business Centre, 153/159, Bow Road London | E3 2SE |
| Argent College | 193/195, Balaam Street, Plaistow, London | E13 8AA |
| Argent College | 22, Willow Street, London | EC2A 4BH |
| London School of Business | 209 Clapham Road, Stockwell, London | SW90OH |
| ATI College Ltd. | 77/79, Rushey Green, Catford, London | SE6 4AF |
| ASM Training Ltd. | 2nd Floor, 103, Dean Street, London | W1D 3TH |
| Atlas English | Alpha House, 100, Borough High Street, London | SE1 1LB |
| Avalon College Manchester Ltd. | 2nd Floor, 165, Commercial Road, London | E1 2DA |
| Avalon School of English Ltd. | Bow Business Centre Suite 104, 153 Bow Road, London | E3 2SE |
| Aviator UK Ltd | Troxoll House, Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8PD |
| Barbican College | Wigham House, Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8PD |
| Barking and Dagenham College | Montrose House, 412/416, Eastern Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex | IG2 6NQ |
| Barking and Dagenham College | 124, Kingland High Street, London | E8 2NS |
| Barnardo's | 13, Squad Road, East Lane Business Park, Wembley, Middlesex | HA9 7NB |
| BLR College | 15 Sandown Avenue Dagenham Essex | RM10 8PS |
| Bournemouth & Poole College | BMS House, Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, Essex | RM10 8PS |
| Britannia Graduate College Ltd. | 51 Derbyshire Street, London | E2 6HQ |
| Britannia IT Training Ltd. | 106 London Street, Reading | RG1 4SJ |
| London Community Training College | 48A West Bar, Banbury, Oxon | OX16 9RZ |
| Buck Training | Excelsior House, 3-5 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex | IG1 4HP |
| Buck Training | (Registered Office) 27 John Trundle Court, Barbican, London | EC2Y 9DJ |
| Cambridge College of Advanced Studies | 209 Clapham Road, Stockwell | SW9 0QH |
| Cambridge College of Learning | | LA23 1LG |
| Camden College Ltd. | North Road, Parkstone, Poole | BH14 0LS |
| Camp Lane Development | | M33 3WB |
| London Business Academy | Unit 2.32, 3.27/8 Whitechapel Technology Centre, 65-75 Whitechapel Rd, London | E1 1DU |
| Carmel College of Excellence | 80 Scrubs Lane, London | NW10 6RF |
| Central College | | HA1 2JN |
| City Community College | Ploughman's Cottage, Wendlesbury, Oxon | OX25 2PR |
| Colby College | 1-5 Alfred Street | E3 2BE |
| College of Employment Training (Global) Ltd. | 39 Brandenburg Road | NN18 9BU |
| College of Professional Studies | 153-159 Bow Road | E3 2SE |
| Commonwealth College | 181 Shardeloes Road, Old Bank Building, Brockley Cross | SE4 1EZ |
| Metropolitan College | 545c High Street, London | N17 6SB |
| Concepts College London | 14-18 Heddon Street, Regent Street, London | W1B 4DA |
| Concordia College | 2 Drayton Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands | WV2 4EA |
| Cornhill School of Management | 40 Thorne Road, London | SW8 2BZ |
| Cardiff Management & Languages Academy | Durham Rd Advice and Learning Centre, 85 Durham Road, London | N7 7DU |
| Croydon International College | Marsh Farm, Marsh Road, Wiltshire | BA14 7PJ |
| London and Oxford Business School | 9 Charlton Road, Blackheath, London | SE3 7EU |
| Docklands College of Advanced Studies | 18-20 Tavistock House, Tavistock Street, Milton Keynes | MK2 2PG |
| Ealing International College | 193 South Ealing Road, Ealing, London | W5 4RH |
| Eaton Language Centre | 10-16 Tiller Road, Docklands, London | E14 8PX |
| Edgware College | 55 - 59 Duke Street, Darlington | DL3 7SD |
| Edward College | 175 Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London | NW10 8LL |
| English College London | Unit 9, Lilford Business Centre, 61 Lilford Road, London | SE5 9DB |
| European College of Naturpathic Medicine (ECNM) | 1393A London Road, Norbury | SW16 4AN |
| London College of Professional Development | 410 Coldharbour Lane, London | SW9 8LF |
| Express College | 10 Sterry Crescent, Dagenham, Essex | RM10 8QB |
| Commonwealth Academy | 46 Theobalds Road, Holborn, London | WC1X 8NW |
| Flexible Learning Centre | 3rd Floor, 9-17 Cranbrook Road, City House, Ilford, | IG1 4EG |
| Forbes College | Unit 18 & 25, Tavern Quay Business Centre, Rope Street, Surrey Quay, | SE16 7TX |
| Monkfield College | Bela House, Bethem Road, Cumbria, | LA7 7QR |
| Fort Williams College | 9 The Drive, Hove, West Sussex | BN3 3JE |
| London Metropolis College | 31 King Edwards Grove, Teddington, Middlesex, London | TW11 9LY |
| Fortress College | Units 205/207 Mare Street Studios, 203-213 Mare Street, London | E8 3QE |
| Fountain of Life International Bible College Ltd | 135-137 City Road, London | EC1V 1JB |
| FYMC Business College | Area 4, 3rd Floor, Wembley Point, 1 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex | HA9 6DE |
| Get Training Ltd. | 420 Wigham House, Wakering Road, Barking | IG11 8QN |
| London City College of Further Education | Ushaw College, Durham | DH7 9RH |
| Graduate School of Management | 98 Old Street, London | EC1 9AY |
| Grafton College | 9 Chapel Place, Rivington Street, London | EC2A 3DQ |
| Grafton College of Management Sciences | | |
| London Academy of Business and Technology | 119 Chillingham Road, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne | NE6 5XL |
| Barking and Dagenham College | 57 Whitechapel Road, London | E1 1DU |
| DTK Training and Development | 8 Rose Avenue, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside | WA11 0NF |
| Medical College of London Ltd., University of Science, Arts and Technology | 121 King Street, Hammersmith, London | W6 9JG |
| GttN School of Languages and Ministry | 657 Green Lanes, London | N8 0QY |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Halifax College | 100 Christian Street (North), London | E1 1RS |
| HCL Training Consortium | Crowborough East Sussex | |
| Horizon College | 252 Belsize Road, London | NW6 4BT |
| Icon Business College Ltd | 17th Floor, Wembley Point, 1 Harrow Road, Middlesex | HA9 6DE |
| Impex College of London | Tower Bridge Business Complex, 1st Floor, J104-J106, 100 Clements Road, Bermondsey, London | SE16 4DG |
| IT College London | Wigham House, Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8QN |
| Jameah Islmeah School | Claremont House, St George's Road, Bolton | BL1 2BY |
| Kelvin Business School | 15 Macklin Street, Covent Garden, London | WC2B 5NG |
| Kelvin Business School | 125 High Holborn, London | WC1V 6QA |
| IHMES - international Hotel School | | HA9 7EX |
| Manchester International Academy (Luna Training Centre) | 3 Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, Guildford | GU6 8NH |
| King's College English | 175 Lower Ground Floor, 125 High Holborn, London | WC1V 6QA |
| LAPS Education | 2 Sheraton Street, Soho, London | W1F 8BH |
| Lloyds College | Unit 116, Empire Way, Empire House, Middlesex | HA9 0EW |
| London City International College | 1st Floor, Spencer House, Family Care Centre, Austin Street, Hackney, London | E2 7NB |
| Kings School of English | 3rd Floor, 124 Whitechapel Road, London, | E1 1JE |
| LAPS Education | 46A Vicarage Farm Road, Hounslow, Middlesex | TW5 0AB |
| Kings School of English | Colby Bates & Bowdoin (CBB) London Centre, 19 Bloomsbury Square, London | WC1A |
| London Metropolitan Academy | 4 Sandown Road, Coulsdon, Surrey | CR5 3HR |
| London College of Communication and Technology | 1st Floor, Bryson House, 131 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham, Essex | RM10 9RR |
| London College of Computing | c/o Seawing Flying Club, Eastern Perimeter Road, Southend Airport, Southend on Sea, Essex, | SS2 6YF |
| London College of Law, Business & Technology | Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR | SO22 4NR |
| Borough College London (BCL) | Queens Way House, Stratford, London | E15 2TF |
| International School of Work Experience (ISOWR) | Wellesley House, 98-102 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, | IG1 4NH |
| London College of Management and Research | 34-36 Oxford Street, London | W1D 1AY |
| London College of Media and Technology | Windsor House, Port Urin, Isle of Man | IM9 6LA |
| Bath Area Training Centre | Oliver House, 2nd Floor Suite, 16 - 17 High Street, Cardiff | CF10 1AX |
| London Graduate School of Law | City Gate House, 7th Floor, Unit 3, London | E7 9HZ |
| London Institute of Further and Higher Education (LIFE) ref.20384 | 182 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London | N7 7PX |
| London International Business School | 1st Floor, Airlink House, Pump Lane, Hayes, Middlesex | UB3 3NB |
| London Regent College | 33-35 Spray Street, Woolwich, London | SE18 6AP |
| New York Film Academy | London City House, 129-131 Oxford Street, London | W1R 9TD |
| London School of Business | 640 High Road, Leytonstone, London | E11 3AA |
| London Training and Development Centre | 15 Stuart Street, Luton | LU1 2SA |
| Malling College | 818 Stockport Road, Levenshulme, Manchester | M9 3AW |
| New York Film Academy | 391A Fore Street, Tottenham, London | N9 0NR |
| Rochas London College | 65 - 75 Whitechapel Road, London | E1 1DU |
| SAE Technology College (London) | 254-256 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London | N4 2HZ |
| Sajco London Ltd Trading as King Edwards College | Berkeley Business Centre, 246 - 250 Romford Road, London | E7 9HZ |
| Saks & Midaswell Training | Berkeley Business Centre, 246 - 250 Romford Road, London | E7 9HZ |
| Sandown Solutions | Berkeley Business Centre, 246 - 250 Romford Road, London | E7 9HZ |
| Shakespeare College | 25, Wormwood Street, London | EC2M 1RP |
| Shakespeare College | 80 Backchurch Lane, London | E1 1LX |
| Silvatronics School of Management and Technology | 71 Whitechapel High Street, London | E1 7PL |
| Silvatronics School of Management and Technology | 456-458 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, Manchester | M21 0BQ |
| Smart Learning Systems | 151-153 Curtain Road, London | EC2A 3QL |
| University of North West | 102 Wigham House, 16-24 Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8QN |
| Commonwealth College | 160 Cannon Street Road, Whitechapel, London | E1 2LH |
| College of Roehampton | | |
| DTH College | 5 Chichester Rents & Bishop Court, 79-87 Chancery Lane, London | WC2A 1EG |
| Global International College | | |
| IT College London | | |
| King Alfreds | 2nd Floor Spencer House, Family Care Centre, Austin Street, London | E2 7NB |
| London College of Business Studies | 8 Lomard Business Park, Wimbledon, London | SW19 3TZ |
| London College of Professional Studies | Richmond House, 8-10 Yelverton Road, Bournemouth | BH1 1DA |
| London Gateway College | 48 New Park Street, Devizes | SN10 1DS |
| London School of Advanced Studies | 272 Field End Road, Eastcote, Middlesex | HA4 9NA |
| London School of Business Administration | 1st Floor, 9A Pop-in building, South Way, Middlesex | HA9 0HF |
| London School of Computing UK Ltd. | 9 Denmark Street, London | WC2H 8LS |
| London School of Higher Studies Ltd. | | |
| London Westminster College | | |
| LTC College London | 235-237 Finchley Road, London | NW3 6LS |
| Medical College of London Ltd., University of Science, Arts and Technology | Phoenix House, 4 Mill Street, Luton, Bedfordshire | LU1 2NA |
| Monteagle College | 86 Princess Street, Manchester | M1 6NG |
| M-R College | 15 College Street, Luton, Beds | LU1 2BJ |
| N.R.P.C. International School of Ministry | 119 New Road | E1 1HJ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New Destination Education Corporation Ltd. | Suite 141, 14 Dover Road, London | W1S 4LW |
| New Step Training and Development Centre | 215-221 Green Street, Forest Gate, London | E7 8LL |
| Newcastle College of Business Law and Technology | BILT Mansions , 4-16 Deptford Bridge, London | SE8 4HH |
| North East Oecumenical Course | 145 Oxford Street, London | W1D 2JD |
| North London College | 145 Oxford Street, London | W1D 2JD |
| North London Management School | 145 Oxford Street, London | W1D 2JD |
| Oldies Locum and Education Services | 3 Crawford Place, London | W1H 4LB |
| Omnibus Development Ltd. | 56-58 Green Street, Forest Gate, London | E7 8BZ |
| Oxford IT Training | 34 Lockyer, Kipling Street, London | SE1 3RX |
| Pearson College | 1 Manor Park Parade, London | SE13 5PB |
| Phoenix College International | 315-319 High Street, The Tudor House, Chatham, Kent | ME4 4BN |
| Photographic Training Academy | MCL-USAT, PO Box 421, Chatham, Kent | ME4 3AZ |
| Pitman Training College/Langbourne College | Olympic House, 28/42 Clements Road, Ilford, Essex | IG1 1BA |
| Project Management College | First Floor, Rose House, 109A South End Lane, Croydon | CR0 1BG |
| Prospect English Language Centre | 165 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London | E5 8EQ |
| PTF Training | 3 Crawford Place, London | W1H 4LB |
| Queens Park College | 449 Oxford Street, London | W1C 2PS |
| Resource and Tutorial Centre | 20-22 The Parade, High Street, Watford, | WD17 1AA |
| South East London College | 19-23 Oxford Street, London | W1D 2DN |
| South East London College | 254/256 Seven Sisters Road, London | N4 2HZ |
| South West London College | 15 Ashmount Road, London | N15 4DD |
| Specis College London | Ground Floor, Beaver House, 147/150 Victoria Road, London | SN1 3UZ |
| St Christopher Iba Mar Diop College of Medicine | Crown House, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent | DA1 1DZ |
| St. George's College | 16-19 Southampton Place, London | WC1 2AJ |
| St. George's College | 18-22 Air Link House, Pump Lane, Hayes, Middlesex | UB3 3NB |
| St. Pauls Business School | Unit 6, Monteagle Court, Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8PL |
| St. James Park College | Wigham House, Wakering Road, Barking, Essex | IG11 8PD |
| Sterling College | 23 Southampton Place, London | WC1A 2BP |
| Sterling College | Queens's House, 5th Floor, Kymberley Road, Harrow, Middlesex | HA1 1US |
| Superstudy UK | Challenge House, 616 Mitcham Road, Croydon, CR0 3AA | CR0 3AA |
| Swindon School of English | 204, Slade Road, Erdington, Birmingham | B23 7RJ |
| Tendering for Contracts Training Ltd | Prestige House, 26 Clifford Road, Walthamstow, London | E17 4JE |
| Thames College | 345 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, London | N12 8LJ |
| Thames Valley College of Technology | 1-3 Rivington Street, London | EC2A 3DT |
| The Academy | PO Box 4171, Stourbridge | DY8 2WZ |
| The Great London College Ltd. | 114 - 115 Tottenham Court Road, London | W1T 5AH |
| The London Art College | 114 - 115 Tottenham Court Road, London | W1T 5AH |
| The Master's College | 101 Acre Lane, Brixton, London | SW2 5TU |
| The Regal Academic College of London | 111 New Road, London | E1 1HJ |
| Trinity Learning Centres | 63 Broadway, London | E15 4BQ |
| Trinity Western College | 63 Broadway, London | E15 4BQ |
| United College of Britain Ltd. | 63 Broadway, London | E15 4BQ |
| University of Barbican | 40 Pembroke St, Oxford | OX1 1BP |
| Victoria College of Technology and E-Commerce | Madison House, Upper Ground Floor, 24 - 28 London Road, Middlesex | HA9 7HD |
| Victoria English College | 145 Oxford Street, London | W12 2JD |
| West Green Business School | 145 Oxford Street, London | W12 2JD |
| Whitfield College | Madison House, Upper Ground Floor, 24 - 28 London Road, Middlesex | HA9 7HD |
| William Shakespeare College | 145 Oxford Street, London | W12 2JD |
| Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation | PO Box 51259 Crampton Street London address linked to The Business Innovation Centre 1 Innova Park Enfield EN3 7XU | SE11 6WS |
| Wisdom College London | 115-125 Ormside Street, London | SE15 1TF |
| Woolwich College | Oasis Centre, Barracks Corner, 1 Portman Road, Ipswich | IP1 2NB |
| YES Language School | Unit 8, Arches Business Centre, Merrick Road, Southall, Middlesex | UB2 4AU |
| London School of Business | 150 High Street, Stratford, London | E15 2NE |
| North London College | 376 High Road, London | N17 9HY |
| Whitfield College | 41 Grafton Way, London | W1T 5DF |
| London Community Training College | 162c High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex | TW3 1BQ |
| Fort Williams College | 30 Old Ford Road Bethnal Green London | E2 9PJE |
| Kings School of English | 1393A London Road, Norbury | SW16 4AN |
| Kings School of English | Unit 3, Gaywood Court , Wootton Road , Kings Lynn, Norfolk . | PE30 4EX |
| Cambridge College of Advanced Studies | Suites 103-105 First Floor, Orion House, 104-106 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, IG1 4LZ | IG1 4LZ |

## Sign Language: Education

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many sign language courses are funded by the Learning and Skills Council; and what the average annual cost is of providing a sign language course place. [175750]

**Bill Rammell:** There are 25 sign language related courses recorded on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSG) learning aims database.

Based on the LSG individual learner records the following table shows the most popular sign language qualifications with LSG funded learners in 2006-07. Of the nearly 16,000 learners on funded places, the vast majority enrolled on the certificate in British Sign Language.

| Learning aim title | Notional NVQ level of the learning aim: Level 1 and entry | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4, 5 or higher | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certificate in British Sign Language | 10,845 | 4,621 | 110 | — | 15,576 |
| Certificate in British Sign language (Stage 2) | — | 7 | — | — | 7 |
| Certificate in Irish Sign Language | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Certificate in Lipspeaking | — | 23 | — | — | 23 |
| Certificate in The History of British Sign Language | — | 18 | — | — | 18 |
| NVQ in British Sign Language | — | — | 319 | 17 | 336 |
| Total | 10,850 | 4,669 | 429 | 17 | 15,965 |

*Source:*
LSC individual learner records (ILR) for 2006-07 academic year (FE ILR F05 2006-07)

The fee charged for a sign language course will vary between colleges and providers, and information on individual courses offered by providers is not held centrally. The fees charged to a learner for a sign language course will be based on the level of funding the college or provider receives from the LSC for that learner, for example whether they are a priority learner. It is therefore not possible to provide an average cost of a sign language course,

The Government continue to provide full fee remission to learners that fall within the national entitlement categories, i.e. where the learner is in receipt of an income-related benefit and studying on an LSC funded course. Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are also a priority for Government funding. The national fee assumption for adult learners who are required to contribute to their learning is 32.5 per cent. for 2006-07 with the public purse meeting the remainder of the costs of the course.

### Skilled Workers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to improve the skills base in his Department in the last 12 months. [180354]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS was created in June 2007 by the amalgamation of elements from BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DfES). As a consequence it has not existed for the 12 months specified.

Both DTI and DfES; prior to the creation of DIUS had established processes and policies for the development of skills. These involved a range of training, education and coaching activities which were aimed at individual employees and team.

During the period June 2007 to January 2008 any previously planned and commenced activities have continued to take place, providing a continuity of support for individuals and teams who transferred from both prior departments. The Department is currently undertaking skills audits to ascertain development needs going forward.

### Students: Loans

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Student Loans Company on the comprehensibility of the bursary consent statement on the PN1 student finance application form. [188040]

**Bill Rammell:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for producing the student loans application forms and guidance. In previous years, the application form has proactively sought the student's consent to share financial information with their HE institution. The SLC share this information with HE Institutions registered with the Higher Education Bursary Scholarship System, so that entitlement to a bursary can be assessed. The Office for Fair Access monitoring shows 12,000 students on full state support have declined to give consent so failing to collect their bursaries, DIUS ministers and officials have therefore worked closely with the SLC to improve the bursary consent arrangements on the 2008-09 student finance application form The introduction of an opt-out clause, giving both the student and their sponsor an opportunity to opt out of consenting for their personal information to be shared with universities for bursary purposes, should increase the numbers of students assessed for and receiving bursaries. Clear guidance states that a decision to opt out of sharing data with universities does not affect entitlement to other forms of student support.

### Vocational Education

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students studied in work-based learning in each of the last 10 years. [172270]

**Bill Rammell:** Figures for those participating in work based learning (WBL) funded by the learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the individualised learner record (ILR).

The following table shows the number of learners participating in WBL since 2001/02, the first time that a figure for the total number of learners in WBL during the academic year was published by the LSC. Train to Gain (TTG), a national service to support employers to improve the skills of their employees, was launched in April 2006.

Figures are included in the table for the last two years.

| | Number of learners in: WBL | TTG[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 503.9 | n/a |
| 2002/03 | 521.3 | n/a |
| 2003/04 | 535.9 | n/a |

| | Number of learners in | |
|---|---|---|
| | WBL | TTG[1] |
| 2004/05 | 519.5 | n/a |
| 2005/06 | 489.1 | 27.3 |
| 2006/07 | 463.9 | 169.4 |

[1] Prior to the launch of TTG, the Employer Trainee Pilots (ETP) programme operated but data from ETP are not available on a comparable basis.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for not continuing with the 101 non-emergency phone pilot. [186431]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government recognises the benefits that have been demonstrated by the 101 single-non emergency number service in the initial live areas, but it is vital that we target our resources to those areas which will have the greatest impact and which will contribute most to the protection of the public and security of the country. It is on this basis and in the context of significant pressures on resources and competing policing and security priorities, that it was decided not to continue to fund centrally the ongoing operation and roll out of the 101 service.

However, the Home Office will continue to provide funding for the national 101 infrastructure and will be making the learning and good practice from 101 available, to help enable and encourage local areas to embed the benefits in local services and to develop locally funded 101 services where possible. I welcome the work currently being taken forward to this effect by the Greater London Assembly together with London Councils, individual boroughs and the Metropolitan police in their plans to pilot the 101 service locally.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for offences related to alcohol consumption in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last four years. [187859]

**Mr. Coaker:** The data requested are not available centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

### Crimes of Violence: Jews

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent attacks on Jewish people have taken place in each of the last five years. [187445]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available centrally.

The Home Office collects statistics on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded and detected by the police. It is not possible to separately identify those offences of a specific religious nature from those of a specific racial nature.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which budget lines in her Department are subject to regular in-year reporting to HM Treasury; and with what frequency such reporting takes place. [189335]

**Mr. Byrne:** Along with all Government Departments the Home Office reports its year to date spend and full year forecast spend, against the departmental budget as detailed in the supply estimates, to HM Treasury on a monthly basis.

### Departmental Legislation

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Acts for which her Department is responsible passed before 2002 contain provisions which have not been brought into force. [188314]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, as regards legislation passed between 1 May 1997 and 1 January 2002 for which the Home Office is currently responsible, the following provisions have not yet been brought into force:

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, sections 16,17 and 117(5)

Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, section 78

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, sections 78(7), 80(4) and Schedule 7, paragraph 6 (in part)

Private Security Industry Act 2001, section 17

Vehicle (Crime) Act 2001, sections 8, 34, 35, 36 and the Schedule paragraphs 1 and 2

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of her Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside her Department. [178488]

**Mr. Byrne:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ministerial residences were available to her Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183182]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to her Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182195]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to government buildings for security reasons.

### Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for admission to an integrated domestic abuse perpetrator programme in each police authority area. [188954]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1492-94W.

The integrated domestic abuse programme is delivered by 34 probation areas in England and Wales. The remaining eight probation areas (Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumbria, Teesside and Thames Valley) deliver the community domestic violence programme.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of the senior civil service in her Department have received an honour. [187125]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office does not have records of those staff who were awarded an honour before they joined the Department or for achievements unrelated to official duties.

Eight senior civil servants in the Home Office (including the Home Office Headquarters, Border and Immigration Agency, Criminal Records Bureau, and the Identity and Passport Service) have received an honour since the new year honours list published at the end of December 2002, beginning of 2003.

Five remain in the Department, one is currently on secondment to an outside organisation, and two have transferred to the Ministry of Justice following the Machinery of Government changes in May 2007.

Four hold a Companion of the Order of the Bath, three hold a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and one holds an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

### Human Trafficking: Eastern Europe

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Belarus and *(c)* Moldova on the combating of illegal migration and human trafficking. [189180]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* I have not recently held discussions with my counterparts in Ukraine, Belarus or Moldova on illegal migration or human trafficking. However, the UK supported the EU Council conclusions of June 2007 which extended the EU-wide global approach to migration strategy to countries to the east and south east of Europe, including those listed. As part of the implementation of this strategy, the UK has provided some financial support to two EU-funded projects in the Ukraine which are building the capacity of the Government of the Ukraine to manage migration and offer in-region protection to refugees.

### Immigration: Rural Areas

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of immigration to rural communities in England of people from countries which acceded to the EU in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007. [188600]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) provides information on both nationals of countries acceding to the European Union in 2004 who have registered with the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) and Bulgarian and Romanian nationals taking employment in the United Kingdom since those countries joined the EU in 2007. These data are published quarterly in two separate reports: the Accession Monitoring Report and Bulgarian and Romanian Accession statistics, both of which include regional and sector breakdowns.

A further breakdown of the WRS figures by local authority (based on employer's address) is available for local authorities.

The most recent publications, relating to the last quarter of 2007, were published on 26 February 2008 and are available on the Border and Immigration website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

I will make copies available in the House Library.

The data in these publications are based on Management Information, are provisional, and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the Independent Police Complaints Commission has *(a)* received, *(b)* investigated and *(c)* upheld in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force against which complaints were made. [189139]

**Mr. McNulty:** Responsibility for the collation and publication of complaints against the police rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

### Merseyside Police: Modernisation

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2252W, on Merseyside Police: modernisation, whether the

restructuring of the personnel, finance, marketing and audit staff of Merseyside Police has been notified to her by the Chief Constable of Merseyside Police. [188610]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]*: Merseyside police have commissioned a review of support functions which has yet to conclude. Decisions on such a review are a matter for the chief constable in consultation with the Merseyside police authority.

### Opium: Crops

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 585-6W, on opium: crops, what tonnage of opium crop was produced from each location in each year. [189725]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the tonnage of opium crop produced at each location each year is not available. Details of the total annual of crop produced each year are held, as follows:

| | *Total crop grown (tonnes)* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | [1] |
| 2002 | c. 136 |
| 2003 | c. 700 |
| 2004 | c. 1,050 |
| 2005 | c. 830 |
| 2006 | c. 480 |
| 2007 | c. 3,900 |

[1] No crop—research only.

### Passengers: Personal Records

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she expects passenger name record data to play within the Government's e-Borders programme. [188652]

**Mr. Byrne:** Passenger name record data are included within the Other Passenger Information (OPI) which will be electronically collected from carriers for a sub-set of passenger journeys. The data will be used by the Agencies (e-Borders is a joint project, led by the Border and Immigration Agency in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs, UKvisas and the police service, working with the security and intelligence agencies) to perform risk assessments of the passengers prior to their entry to the UK.

This analysis will, in the first instance, use automated rules based systems. Where a potential match is identified trained officers will undertake a final assessment before issuing an alert to the relevant agency. It is expected that carriers will be required to provide these data initially 24-48 hours in advance of departure to facilitate advanced risk assessments to be made.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information will be included within the category of other passenger information within the Government's e-Borders programme. [188642]

**Mr. Byrne:** e-Borders intends to capture reservations information that is available from travel industry booking systems. Details of the other passenger information to be collected are detailed in the Immigration and Police (Passenger and Service Information) Order 2008 which was laid before Parliament on 10 January 2008.

The duty to share this information (Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 (Duty to Share Information and Disclosure of Information for Security Purposes) Order 2008) was passed by the House of Commons on 19 February and will be debated in the other House on 25 February.

### Passports: Interviews

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have spent on interpreters and translators for use in passport interview centres since interviews commenced. [181665]

**Meg Hillier:** Since interviews for first time passport applicants commenced in July 2007, the Identity and Passport Service has spent £106,108 on interpreters and translators for use in passport interview centres.

### Police Authorities: Westminster

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* police authority area, *(b)* police force area and *(c)* criminal justice area each Westminster parliamentary constituency is in for reporting purposes. [188514]

**Mr. McNulty:** With the exception of the seat of the Cities of London and Westminster, all constituencies in England and Wales will be in co-terminal police areas, police authority areas and criminal justice areas, which will have the same name. For example, the seat of Epsom and Ewell is within the Surrey police area, the Surrey police authority area and the Surrey criminal justice area.

The seat of the Cities of London and Westminster is unique as it shares two police areas and two police authority areas, namely the Metropolitan area and that of the City of London. It falls within the London criminal justice area.

I have placed in the House Library a full list of the police area, police authority area and the criminal justice area of each constituency in England and Wales.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on reducing administrative burdens on the police; and if she will make a statement. [186903]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1440-51, relating to Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing, published on

Thursday 7 February 2008. The report details a number of recommendations on tackling bureaucracy in policing, and forms a major programme of work designed specifically to free up operational police officers to spend more time on front line duty. This programme will be taken forward by the Home Office, the National Policing Improvement Agency, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the wider criminal justice system community.

## Police: Cheshire

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were employed in (i) Cheshire and (ii) Warrington in each year since 1997. [189487]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: Warrington was a Basic Command Unit (BCU) of Cheshire police up to March 2005. From April 2005, the Cheshire police BCUs were consolidated from six (Chester and Ellesmere Port, Congleton and Vale Royal, Crewe, Halton, Macclesfield and Warrington) to three (Eastern, Northern and Western). Therefore from April 2005 onwards Warrington falls within the Northern Area BCU of Cheshire police.

The available data are given in the following tables.

*Police strength[1] (FTE)[2] within Cheshire police force area as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007*

| As at 31 March: | Police officers[3] | PCSOs[4] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,046 | — |
| 1998 | 2,042 | — |
| 1999 | 2,071 | — |
| 2000 | 2,011 | — |
| 2001 | 2,002 | — |
| 2002 | 2,059 | — |
| 2003 | 2,119 | 2 |
| 2004 | 2,177 | 50 |
| 2005 | 2,186 | 52 |
| 2006 | 2,174 | 75 |
| 2007 | 2,192 | 176 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] For police officers only, full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. For police community support officers only, full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] For police officers only. Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The police officered data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.
[4] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.

*Police strength[1] (FTE)[2] within Warrington basic command unit of Cheshire police as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2005[3]*

| As at 31 March: | Police officers | PCSOs[4] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 318 | — |
| 2004 | 318 | — |
| 2005 | 333 | — |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Data have been collected at the basic command unit level from 2002-03 onwards. Warrington BCU existed up to March 2005.
[4] PCSO data have been collected at the basic command unit level from 2006-07 onwards.

*Police strength[1] (FTE)[2] within Northern area basic command unit of Cheshire police as at 31 March 2006 to 31 March 2007[3]*

| As at 31 March: | Police officers | PCSOs[4] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 520 | — |
| 2007 | 513 | 79 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Data have been collected at the basic command unit level from 2002-03 onwards. Northern area BCU existed from April 2005.
[4] PCSO data have been collected at the basic command unit level from 2006-07 onwards. However, the Home Office Police Human Resources Unit carried out two separate collections of police community support officer data, and as at 30 June 2005 there were 46 PCSOs, and as at 30 June 2006 there were 44.

## Police: Information and Communications Technology

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the way in which funds for technology have been allocated to police forces in England and Wales. [180150]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police forces in England and Wales have been allocated £220 million in Capital Grant and Supported Capital Expenditure in 2008-09. The Home Office is responsible for allocating funding to police areas as a whole.

Local investment and technological development in police information and communications technology is a matter determined by individual chief officers and their police authorities. It is a matter for the chief officer to determine the allocation of resources within the force, in accordance with both the local policing plan and day to day operational demands.

The National Policing Improvement Agency was created in order to provide a single central source of advice for forces and the wider policing community across a wide range of policing issues, including police technology. It is responsible for the operation and development of national policing systems on behalf of the UK police service. The NPIA 2007-08 budget to run and develop national policing systems allows for gross capital and resource expenditure in the region of £129 million and £290 million respectively.

## Police: Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* target for and *(b)* number of police officers recruited in England and Wales was in each of the last five years. [187856]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* It is a matter for individual chief constables, in consultation with police authorities, to determine the number of police officers that are recruited to their local police force.

*(b)* The available data are given in the following table.

*Police officer recruits[1] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2006-07[2] (FTE)[3]*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | 7,457 | 10,867 | 8,058 | 6,549 | 6,531 |

[1] Recruits include those officers joining as police standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

## Police: Road Traffic

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police forces in England and Wales have to control and manage traffic on *(a)* trunk roads and *(b)* local roads. [188722]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The police have powers on all roads to stop and direct traffic and to remove vehicles that are illegally, dangerously or obstructively parked or broken down or abandoned. They have a range of other powers connected with the enforcement of road traffic legislation. These powers are contained primarily in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

## Rape

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of rape were reported to the police in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [188569]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is given in the table. Since 1997, recorded crime statistics have been published on a financial year basis, therefore available figures have been provided for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

*Number of rape offences recorded by the police in England and Wales from 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| Financial year | Rape of a female | Rape of a male | Total rape |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05[1] | 12,869 | 1,144 | 14,013 |
| 2005-06 | 13,327 | 1,116 | 14,443 |
| 2006-07 | 12,630 | 1,150 | 13,780 |

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

## Security: Aviation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she expects registered traveller programmes to play in the UK's airline security requirements. [188646]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

As indicated in my reply to the hon. Member's question about the Department's discussions with the Home Office in this area (UIN 188645 today), the regulatory regime for transport protective security does not include registered traveller programmes. The Government have no plans to change that position.

## Serious Organised Crime Agency: Performance Standards

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to establish a performance target for the Serious and Organised Crime Agency relating to the seizure of Class A drugs. [188497]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Setting a target relating to the seizure of Class A drugs would risk creating perverse incentives by encouraging the pursuit of seizures at the expense of a focus on the criminal networks and markets doing the most harm. We believe that the performance of SOCA is better measured on the basis of the quality of understanding of serious organised crime; the amounts of criminal assets recovered; evidence that criminals are finding the UK a less attractive market; and the quality of SOCA's relationships with others. SOCA reports against these measures in its annual reports.

## Terrorism: Arrests

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested under *(a)* the Terrorism Act 2000, *(b)* the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, *(c)* the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and *(d)* the Terrorism Act 2006 since 20 January 2004 have been held for (i) one to 12 days, (ii) 13 to 14 days, (iii) 15 to 26 days and (iv) 27 to 28 days. [184743]

**Mr. McNulty:** The power of arrest in section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows police to arrest a person upon reasonable suspicion of being a "terrorist", which is defined in section 40. It also allows arrests to be made at an earlier stage than if there was a requirement for suspicion of a specific offence. There is no power of arrest under any of the other Acts mentioned.

Information on the number of individuals held in pre-charge detention under terrorism legislation is not broken down in this way. The latest figures available are for individuals held for 14 to 28 days and are provided in the following table. To date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days in pre-charge detention.

The following table provides a breakdown of these numbers.

*Pre-charge detention*

| Period of detention | Number of persons held | Charged | Released without charge |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14-15 days | 1 | 1 | — |
| 18 -19 days | 1 | 1 | — |
| 19-20 days | 3 | 3 | — |
| 27-28 days | 6 | 3 | 3 |

## Terrorism: Orders and Regulations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation passed since 2001. [167429]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department has published 40 statutory instruments regarding the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation since 2001. A list of the statutory instruments follows. Copies can be found on the Office for Public Sector Information website:

www.opsi.gov.uk

13 departmental circulars regarding the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation have been issued since 2001. A list follows. Departmental circulars from 2003 onwards are available on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/home-office-circulars/?version=2

Since 2001, the Department has produced numerous documents regarding the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation. There is no central database of the documents and to provide them would incur disproportionate costs. Information on the government's counter-terrorism legislation can be found on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security

We continue to keep our counter terrorism legislation under review and the Counter-Terrorism Bill was introduced to Parliament on 24 January 2008.

*Statutory Instruments*

*Terrorism Act 2000:*

2007/2184—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2007

2007/1285—The Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2007

2007/207—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Business in the Regulated Sector) Order

2006/2299—The Proscribed Organisations (Applications for Deproscription etc.) Regulations 2006

2006/2290—The Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (Human Rights Act 1998 Proceedings) Rules 2006

2006/2016—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2006

2006/1919—The Proscribed Organisations (Name Changes) Order 2006

2006/1330—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Revised Code of Practice for the Identification of Persons by Police Officers) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006

2005/2892—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2005

2005/350—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Continuance of Part VII) Order 2005

2004/431—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Continuance of Part VII) Order 2004

2003/1100—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Code of Practice on Video Recording of Interviews) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

2003/427—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Continuance of Part VII) Order 2003

2002/2724—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2002

2002/2141—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Cessation of Effect of Section 76) Order 2002

2002/365—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Continuance of Part VII) Order 2002

2001/3927—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Enforcement of External Orders) Order 2001

2001/1261—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2001

2001/159—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Code of Practice on Audio Recording of Interviews) Order 2001

2001/127—The Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (Human Rights Act Proceedings) Rules 2001

2001/107—The Proscribed Organisations (Applications for Deproscription) Regulations 2001

2001/426—The Terrorism Act 2000 (Carding) Order 2001

*Terrorism Act 2006:*

2007/2181—The Terrorism Act 2006 (Disapplication of Section 25) Order 2007

2006/1936—The Terrorism Act 2006 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2006

2006/1013—The Terrorism Act 2006 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2006

*Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001:*

2007/926—The Part 7 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Extension to Animal Pathogens) Order 2007

2007/932—The Security of Animal Pathogens (Exceptions to Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2007

2007/926—The Part 7 of The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Extension of Animal Pathogens) Order 2007

2005/3335—The Retention of Communications Data (Further Extension of Initial Period) Order 2005 (this was made under s. 105 of ATCSA)

2002/1558—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2002

2005/3173—The Retention of Communications Data (Further Extension of Initial Period) Order 2005

2004/751—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Continuance in Force of Sections 21 to 23) Order 2004

2003/3175—The Retention of Communications Data (Code of Practice) Order 2003

2003/3173—The Retention of Communications Data (Extension of Initial Period) Order 2003

2003/691—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Continuance in Force of Sections 21 to 23) Order 2003

2002/1279—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Commencement No. 4) Order 2002

2001/4104—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Commencement No. 2) (Scotland) Order 2001

2001/4019—The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Commencement No. 1 and Consequential Provisions) Order 2001

*Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005:*

2007/706—The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Continuance in Force of Sections 1 to 9) Order 2007

2006/512—The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Continuance in Force of Sections 1 to 9) Order 2006

*Home Office Circulars*

023/2006—Detention Of Terrorist Suspects Under Section 41 Of The Terrorism Act 2000

022/2006—Authorisations Of Stop And Search Powers Under Section 44 Of The Terrorism Act

008/2006—The Terrorism Act 2006

002/2004—Guidance To The Police On The Implementation Of The Amendment To Schedule 8 Of The Terrorism Act

2000 To Extend The Maximum Period Of Detention That A Terrorist Suspect Can Be Held Without Charge From Seven To Fourteen Days.

042/2003—Guidance For The Police In The Application Of Paragraphs 9 and 17 Of Schedule 8 To The Terrorism Act 2000 Subsequent To The Ruling Of The European Court Of Human Rights In The Case Of Brennan v. The United Kingdom

040/2003—Guidance For The Police In The Application Of Paragraph 9 Of Schedule 8 To The Terrorism Act 2000 Subsequent To The Ruling Of The European Court Of Human Rights In The Case Of Brennan v. The United Kingdom.

044/2002—Guidance For The Police, Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, The Immigration Service, The Air/Sea Carrier Industry and The Public On The Implementation Of Schedule 7 of The Terrorism Act 2000 (Information) Order 2002

032/2002—Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001: Section 94 Removal Of Disguises

031/2002—Guidance For The Police and Public On The Implementation Of Sections 1-3 Of The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

030/2002—Guidance For The Police and Public On The Implementation Of Sections 1-3 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

016/2002—Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 Part 6: Weapons of Mass Destruction Implementation

007/2002—Guidance For The Police and Public On The Implementation Of Section 89; Sections 113-115; Sections 117-120; Section 121 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

003/2001—The Terrorism Act 2000

### Wildlife: Crime

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many wildlife crimes were reported in each year since 1997, broken down by police force; and if she will make a statement. [188575]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office collects crime statistics on specific offences recorded by the police. All indictable and triable-either-way offences are included together with certain closely associated summary offences.

At present there are five wildlife offences included in the recorded crime statistics because they are triable-either-way offences. These are:

Carrying out an operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest

Impersonating a wildlife inspector

Introduction of a new species

Importation of products of animal origin

Import and export of animals and animal products

However, these offences are included in the "Other" offence classification and cannot be separately identified from all the other offences that are recorded under this heading.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give a substantive reply to Question 185046, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 1 February, on terrorism detention, in advance of the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing's meeting with the hon. Member for Thurrock scheduled for 27 February 2008. [187636]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 588-89W.

## WALES

### Economy

8. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Confederation of British Industry Wales on the Welsh economy. [188105]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) has had regular discussions with the Council of the Confederation of British Industry in Wales on a variety of issues affecting the economy in Wales. He also addressed CBI Wales on the 8 February, this year.

I myself am due to meet them next month and will address the CBI Wales lunch in June.

### Flood Protection

9. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on spending on flood defences and flood protection in Wales/Shropshire cross-border water catchment areas. [188106]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Regular discussions take place with the First Minister on such matters. The Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities and the Environment Agency are actively involved in flood defence planning within Wales and in the wider cross-border catchment area.

### Wylfa Power Station

10. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of Wylfa power station; and if he will make a statement. [188107]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have various discussions with all of my ministerial colleagues on a range of issues facing Wales, including Wylfa, which is enormously important to the economy of Anglesey.

### Seaside Towns

11. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues on co-ordination of policy on seaside towns in Wales. [188108]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss issues affecting Wales, including the co-ordination of policies affecting Wales.

I pay tribute to the tireless work of my hon. Friend in campaigning for the improvement of the seaside towns in his constituency.

### Prisons

12. **Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on overcrowding in Welsh prisons. [188109]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Government are committed to ensuring that there are enough prison places throughout England and Wales and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I take a keen interest in this issue.

### National Assembly for Wales

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what his policy is on increasing the National Assembly for Wales' legislative competence. [188110]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Government of Wales Act 2006 provides for the National Assembly to gain new legislative powers on specific matters with the agreement of Parliament. I laid the first draft Order, on additional learning needs, under the new procedures on 6 February 2008.

### Energy Policy

14. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the respective responsibilities of his Department and the Welsh Assembly Government for energy policy in Wales. [188111]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the First Minister and other Assembly Government Ministers on all matters that affect Wales, including Energy.

The Government remain committed to ensuring secure supplies of energy, tackling climate change and targeting fuel poverty measures.

### Barnett Formula

15. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the operation of the Barnett formula in determining financial allocations to the Welsh Assembly Government; and if he will make a statement. [188112]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular discussions with the First Minister. The Barnett formula has delivered well for Wales and this Government believe it will continue to do so. It has raised the Welsh budget by 130 per cent. since 1997.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Bankruptcy: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many business bankruptcies there have been in each London borough since 2000. [188973]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following table records the number of trading-related bankruptcies in each London borough derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals.

*Number of trading-related (self-employed) bankruptcies in each London borough, 2000-06[1]*

| London borough | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 (January to June)[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Barking and Dagenham | 19 | 39 | 21 | 47 | 9 | 23 | 18 | 22 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
| Barnet | 39 | 59 | 48 | 56 | 40 | 47 | 40 | 43 | 50 | 37 | 70 | 33 | 38 | 31 |
| Bexley | 30 | 48 | 26 | 38 | 14 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 32 | 27 | 49 | 28 | 9 | 11 |
| Brent | 27 | 49 | 29 | 50 | 17 | 36 | 28 | 41 | 25 | 27 | 46 | 41 | 29 | 31 |
| Bromley | 32 | 53 | 44 | 57 | 29 | 45 | 25 | 31 | 42 | 34 | 61 | 28 | 21 | 15 |
| Camden | 16 | 38 | 22 | 33 | 22 | 44 | 36 | 34 | 47 | 33 | 87 | 33 | 41 | 32 |
| City and county of the City of London | 3 | 43 | 1 | 100 | 1 | 50 | 4 | 80 | 4 | 67 | 5 | 71 | 2 | 33 |
| City of Westminster | 22 | 38 | 30 | 48 | 25 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 42 | 34 | 57 | 34 | 29 | 30 |
| Croydon | 35 | 49 | 35 | 46 | 30 | 35 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 26 | 53 | 26 | 15 | 10 |
| Ealing | 26 | 45 | 25 | 58 | 23 | 42 | 28 | 38 | 34 | 31 | 65 | 42 | 36 | 36 |
| Enfield | 33 | 62 | 42 | 59 | 24 | 36 | 35 | 46 | 50 | 42 | 34 | 28 | 38 | 41 |
| Greenwich | 27 | 47 | 23 | 48 | 18 | 23 | 23 | 26 | 22 | 18 | 36 | 19 | 14 | 11 |
| Hackney | 17 | 59 | 21 | 47 | 20 | 34 | 42 | 55 | 33 | 27 | 47 | 24 | 28 | 19 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 14 | 47 | 21 | 58 | 16 | 31 | 19 | 42 | 33 | 34 | 49 | 37 | 18 | 27 |
| Haringey | 27 | 52 | 18 | 46 | 23 | 43 | 19 | 31 | 31 | 27 | 46 | 34 | 40 | 33 |
| Harrow | 26 | 52 | 32 | 57 | 20 | 40 | 19 | 35 | 23 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 26 | 39 |
| Havering | 26 | 42 | 17 | 30 | 15 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 25 | 27 | 20 | 12 | 8 | 9 |
| Hillingdon | 35 | 51 | 20 | 41 | 20 | 43 | 27 | 36 | 30 | 36 | 39 | 24 | 22 | 19 |
| Hounslow | 26 | 63 | 28 | 46 | 14 | 32 | 22 | 33 | 45 | 38 | 62 | 41 | 41 | 37 |

*Number of trading-related (self-employed) bankruptcies in each London borough, 2000-06*[1]

| London borough | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 (January to June)[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Islington | 20 | 43 | 22 | 49 | 33 | 49 | 23 | 30 | 46 | 32 | 54 | 27 | 30 | 27 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 24 | 45 | 30 | 52 | 20 | 33 | 24 | 29 | 28 | 22 | 37 | 25 | 25 | 27 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 22 | 52 | 11 | 48 | 19 | 35 | 17 | 37 | 22 | 28 | 30 | 34 | 14 | 21 |
| Lambeth | 27 | 48 | 35 | 48 | 39 | 41 | 34 | 22 | 72 | 19 | 88 | 22 | 45 | 28 |
| Lewisham | 31 | 53 | 25 | 42 | 17 | 33 | 11 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 49 | 27 | 16 | 12 |
| Merton | 15 | 37 | 11 | 31 | 17 | 40 | 20 | 31 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 29 | 8 | 16 |
| Newham | 32 | 60 | 19 | 50 | 13 | 21 | 28 | 29 | 36 | 32 | 37 | 25 | 34 | 28 |
| Redbridge | 17 | 40 | 30 | 48 | 17 | 33 | 18 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 21 | 64 | 28 | 62 | 34 | 52 | 25 | 39 | 39 | 48 | 39 | 38 | 27 | 38 |
| Southwark | 25 | 71 | 29 | 54 | 29 | 42 | 31 | 29 | 52 | 29 | 63 | 26 | 48 | 36 |
| Sutton | 21 | 68 | 20 | 49 | 18 | 31 | 20 | 34 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 23 | 20 | 21 |
| Tower Hamlets | 31 | 35 | 20 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 20 | 15 | 32 | 19 | 53 | 25 | 34 | 27 |
| Waltham Forest | 22 | 49 | 28 | 58 | 11 | 35 | 22 | 40 | 29 | 30 | 51 | 38 | 27 | 27 |
| Wandsworth | 27 | 54 | 31 | 54 | 19 | 40 | 34 | 39 | 39 | 42 | 53 | 38 | 35 | 41 |
| Total London boroughs | 815 | 49 | 842 | 48 | 693 | 36 | 821 | 32 | 1,106 | 29 | 1,491 | 28 | 847 | 25 |
| Total England and Wales | 8,466 | 45 | 8,841 | 42 | 7,918 | 36 | 8,432 | 32 | 8,825 | 26 | 10,347 | 23 | 6,056 | 20 |

[1] The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. However, only the period from January to June 2006 is provided because of the way the data are held.

*Notes:*

1. Figures for 2007 are not yet available for London boroughs.
2. Classifying bankrupts into geographic areas is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus as reliable as the postcode information provided, which is subject to an element of missing or unusable data. Nationally, this has been decreasing from around 12 per cent. in 2000 to 4 per cent. in 2006.
3. Figures for England and Wales provided here for comparative purposes are not consistent with published annual totals for the reasons given above.

## Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2187W, on departmental accountancy, what measure of inflation is used in uprating concessionary fuel payments. [185260]

**Mr. Thomas:** Concessionary fuel payments are linked to different RPIs: cash in lieu increases are linked to the fuel and light RPI index (the increase is applied from October onwards). Coal prices are linked to the solid fuel index.

However, RPI increases are not included 'in the forecast' of concessionary fuel provisions.

## Departmental ICT

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180563]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information is as follows:

| Project | Start date | Original completion | Expected completion | Planned cost (£) | Expected cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| e-HR | July 2006 | Q1 2008 | Under review | 5.2 million | Under review |
| HR Intranet | August 2006 | February 2008 | May 2008 | 160,000 | 160,000 |
| Infrastructure (portfolio) | Ongoing upgrade activities | Ongoing upgrade activities | Ongoing upgrade activities | [1]750,000 | [1]750,000 |
| Point of single contact | December 2007 | Qtr 2 2009 | Qtr 2 2009 | 2.5 million | 2.5 million |
| Web improvement | January 2008 | Qtr 3 2008 | Qtr 3 2008 | 800,000 | 800,000 |

[1] Per annum

*Notes:*

1. The draft answer refers to the core BERR Department only. The agencies will provide their own responses.
2. The increased costs of e-HR relate to:

(a) Increases in scope;

(b) Implementation delays through MOG changes and gaining agreement on configuration and customisation. The system will be used by core BERR, INSS, UKIPO and NWML.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 27 February 2008:*

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Please find in the attached appendix the details you requested regarding IT projects currently being undertaken within Companies House.

The CHIPS programme is a highly complex bespoke development, which has been custom designed and built, to replace the existing bespoke application that supports the Companies Register.

The project, initially contracted out, was brought in house in February 2004. The original planned completion date for the in-house development was August 2006, but this date changed subsequently and I have detailed revised plans for your information.

Impairment reviews in the last two financial years have led to a write down in value of £12.1m. This represents the value of all contractual work undertaken on behalf of Companies House on the project prior to February 2005.

| *Project* | *Start Date* | *Original planned completion date* | *Current expected completion date* | *Original planned cost* | *Current estimated cost* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *CHIPS* | | | | | |
| Project contract | April 2001 | April 2005 | — | 29 million | — |
| Project brought in house | January 2004 | August 2006 | — | 30 million | — |
| Plan revision | February 2005 | November 2006 | — | 41 million | — |
| Plan revision | January 2007 | October 2007 | February 2008 | 48 million | 51 million |
| CAP programme | December 2005 | October 2008 | October 2009 | 15 million | 15 million |
| Bilingual Welsh filing project | June 2007 | August 2007 | June 2008 | 61,000 | 61,000 |
| IT service continuity project | March 2006 | January 2007 | [1]June 2008 | 785,000 | 785,000 |
| WEB Systems capacity upgrade | July 2006 | October 2006 | February 2008 | 149,000 | 149,000 |
| XML Conversion—STAR | July 2006 | April 2008 | July 2008 | 119,000 | 119,000 |
| Government Gateway—STAR | March 2007 | May 2008 | October 2009 | 223,000 | 223,000 |

[1] Completion on hold until CHIPS live

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 27 February 2008:*

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (2007/1098) asking what the (a) start date, (b) original planned completion date, (c) current expected completion date, (d) planned cost and (e) current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement.

| *Project* | *Start date* | *Original planned completion date* | *Current expected completion date* | *Planned cost (£000)* | *Current estimated completion cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Technology Refresh, five year Managed Service | June 2007 | June 2008 | July 2008 | 23,510 | 23,810 |
| Functional Support Services Document Production | August 2007 | March 2008 | April 2009 (scope extended) | [2]2,030 | [2]2,030 |
| Time Recording | August 2007 | March 2008 | July 2009 (scope extended) | [2]— | [2]— |
| (ICM) Electronic Document Management and scanning | August 2006 | March 2009 | March 2009 | 2,400 | 3,979 |
| (CHAMP) Claims Handling and Making Payments | July 2005 | September 2008 | October 2008 | 1,930 | 2,451 |
| Debt Relief Orders | October 2006 | April 2009 | April 2009 | 1,389 | 1,392 |
| Corporate Reporting and Data Migration | June 2006 | September 2010 | August 2009 | 1,460 | 1,445 |
| Estate Accounting System | August 2008 | May 2010 | December 2008 | 7,300 | 7,300 |
| (ISCIS) Insolvency Service Case Information System (Current Initiation) | July 2006 | March 2008 | October 2008 | 6,650 | 8,120 |

| Project | Start date | Original planned completion date | Current expected completion date | Planned cost (£000) | Current estimated completion cost (£000) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Company Investigations Case Management System | October 2007 | July 2008 | July 2008 | 396 | 396 |

## Employment

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which 10 job classifications have shown the greatest *(a)* growth and *(b)* decline in employment in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) Nottingham North constituency since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [188513]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the ten job classifications which have shown the greatest (a) growth (b) decline in employment in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) Nottingham North constituency since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (188513)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates of total employment for people resident in the. UK and in the Nottingham North Parliamentary constituency, by occupation. The figures provided are for the twelve months ending February 2002 and for the latest period, the twelve months ending March 2007. The source data used is the APS, using Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000), The twenty-five occupational classifications are ranked according to the largest positive change in Nottingham North. Data prior to 2002 are classified using Standard Occupational Classification 1990 (SOC90). Consequently it is not possible to provide a consistent time series for the period requested.

Since these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, for the Nottingham North, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give accurate estimates in all instances.

*Total employment by standard occupational classification[1] (two digit) United Kingdom and Nottingham North[2]*

*Thousand*

| | | UK | | | Nottingham North | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | March 2001 to February 2002 | April 2006 to March 2007 | Net change 2002 to 2007 | March 2001 to February 2002 | April 2006 to March 2007 | Net change 2002 to 2007 |
| 61 | Caring personal service occupations | 1,499 | 1,733 | 234 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 82 | Transport and mobile machine drivers/operatives | 1,035 | 1,087 | 52 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 41 | Administrative occupations | 2,755 | 2,585 | -170 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 71 | Sales occupations | 1,847 | 1,791 | -56 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 92 | Elementary administration and service occs | 2,275 | 2,285 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| 32 | Health and social welfare assoc. professional | 893 | 1,088 | 195 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 12 | Managers/proprietors in agriculture/services | 849 | 849 | -1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 54 | Textiles, printing and other skilled trades | 618 | 531 | -87 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 72 | Customer service occupations | 327 | 378 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 62 | Leisure and other personal service occs | 505 | 551 | 46 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 53 | Skilled construction and building trades | 1,010 | 1,122 | 112 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Corporate Managers | 2,933 | 3,398 | 465 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 31 | Science and technology associate professionals | 537 | 495 | -42 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 35 | Business and public service assoc. professional | 1,383 | 1,516 | 133 | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| 81 | Process, plant and machine operatives | 1,263 | 969 | -293 | 3 | 2 | -1 |
| 52 | Skilled metal and electronic trades | 1,347 | 1,183 | -164 | 3 | 2 | -1 |
| 21 | Science and technology professionals | 961 | 1,015 | 54 | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| 91 | Elementary trades, plant and storage related | 1,017 | 961 | -56 | 3 | 1 | -1 |
| 24 | Business and public service professionals | 801 | 960 | 159 | • | • | • |
| 23 | Teaching and research professionals | 1,182 | 1,358 | 175 | • | • | • |

*Total employment by standard occupational classification[1] (two digit) United Kingdom and Nottingham North[2]*

*Thousand*

| | | UK | | | Nottingham North | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *March 2001 to February 2002* | *April 2006 to March 2007* | *Net change 2002 to 2007* | *March 2001 to February 2002* | *April 2006 to March 2007* | *[4] Net change 2002 to 2007* |
| 34 | Culture, media and sports occupations | 545 | 618 | 73 | * | 1 | * |
| 51 | Skilled agricultural trades | 283 | 303 | 20 | * | * | * |
| 33 | Protective service occupations | 314 | 311 | -3 | * | * | * |
| 42 | Secretarial and related occupations | 943 | 826 | -117 | * | * | * |
| 22 | Health professionals | 259 | 327 | 68 | * | * | * |

* Sample size too small to provide an estimate
[1] Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000)
[2] Parliamentary Constituencies 2005 Revision
*Notes:*
1. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
2. APS figures are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.
3. At the two digit SOC2000 level therefore twenty-five classification groups.
4. All 25 occupational classification groups are provided, ranked according to the largest positive change in Nottingham North.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey

## Flexible Working: Carers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on levels of take-up of the right to request flexible working by those with caring responsibilities. [188991]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* BERR have conducted four surveys of flexible working which collected data specifically on employees with caring responsibility. These are the second and third Work-Life Balance Employee Surveys, and the first and second Flexible Working Employee Surveys. Reports on these surveys can be downloaded or ordered from the BERR website:

www.berr.gov.uk/publications/index.html

The most recent figures, from the 2006 Third Work Life Balance Employee Survey, estimate that 64 per cent. of employees with caring responsibilities for adults either said they were currently working flexibly, or had done so in the last 12 months. This compares with 56 per cent. of all employees.

## Industrial Health and Safety

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on the co-ordination of Government policy on health and safety at work and the role of the Better Regulation Task Force in such co-ordination. [186411]

**Mr. McFadden:** Government policy on health and safety at work is a matter for DWP's Health and Safety Commission and Health and Safety Executive.

The Better Regulation Task Force no longer exists. The Better Regulation Executive was created in 2005. On 28 June 2007, the Better Regulation Executive moved from the Cabinet Office to form part of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Last July, the Better Regulation Executive, with support from the Health and Safety Executive, launched a review to consider how the health and safety regime impacts on businesses whose overall risk is relatively low, focusing in particular on low risk smaller businesses.

The review is not considering the co-ordination of Government policy on health and safety at work and the role of Better Regulation Executive in such co-ordination. The review is due to report in spring.

## National Secretariat of the Regional Development Agencies

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are employed by the National Secretariat of the Regional Development Agencies for England; what the National Secretariat's office expenditure was in each of the last five years; and what its total staffing cost was in the last year for which figures are available. [188900]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Secretariat of England's regional development agencies currently employs six full-time and one part-time staff. Its annual expenditure in each of the last five years is shown in the following table, split into staffing costs, office costs, and other costs where the information is available.

*£000*

| | *Staffing costs* | *Office costs* | *Other costs* | *Total annual cost* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03[1] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 253 |
| 2003-04[2] | [3]82 | [3]55 | [3]18 | 457 |
| 2004-05 | 238 | 87 | 180 | 505 |
| 2005-06 | 257 | 102 | 252 | 611 |
| 2006-07 | 345 | 109 | 227 | 682 |

[1] 2002-03: The Secretariat was administered by and located in Advantage West Midlands. The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[2] 2003-04: The Secretariat was administered by three RDAs in this period and records are in archive. The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. During this period, the Secretariat shifted from a purely secretarial function in Birmingham to a more 'shared services'/co-ordinating function in London.
[3] Part year.

### Phoenix Consortium: Rover Group

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in the investigation of the affairs of Phoenix Venture Holdings Ltd, MG Rover Limited and related companies under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985; and what the reasons are for the length of the investigation. [188663]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The investigation is ongoing. The inspectors, who are independent of BERR, are seeking to complete the report as quickly as possible, with due regard for the fairness of the process and the thoroughness of the task. It would not otherwise be appropriate to comment on the details of a current investigation or to speculate on when it might be completed.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many letters his Department has received from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords on the subject of post office closures, broken down by region. [187231]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information is not available in the format requested.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the local area of the proposed closure of the *(a)* Springfield road and *(b)* Winkfield post offices in Windsor constituency. [189415]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Government require Post Office Ltd., in drawing up its proposals for post office closures, to take account of geographical factors and consider a range of local socio-economic factors including the impact on local economies and availability of public transport to access alternative service provision.

Assessment of the impact of the proposed closure of specific individual post offices is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd., with input from Postwatch, in developing its area plan proposals and consulting locally on them.

### Post Offices: Reorganisation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates his Department has made of the number of people that will reside more than three miles away from a post office following the restructuring of the Post Office branch network, broken down by region of residency. [189103]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have set national access criteria to ensure that post office services continue to be available across the country. These include criteria requiring that, nationally, at least 99 per cent. of the UK population are within three miles of their nearest post office outlet, and that at least 95 per cent. of the total rural population of the UK are within three miles of their nearest post office outlet.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices within Vale of York constituency will be within three miles by road of another post office following the proposed restructuring of the network. [189863]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Regional Development Agencies: Travel

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on *(a)* travel agency services, *(b)* travel within the UK and *(c)* overseas travel in each of the last five years. [182786]

**Mr. McFadden:** The tables shows how much each RDA spent on travel agency services, travel within the UK and overseas travel in each of the last five years.

*Travel Agency Services*[1]

£000

| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| EEDA[2] | — | — | — | — | — |
| EMDA[3] | — | — | — | — | — |
| LDA[4] | — | — | — | — | — |
| NWDA[5] | — | — | — | — | — |
| ONE[6] | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SEEDA[7] | — | — | — | — | — |
| SWRDA[8] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 |
| YF | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

[1] In some cases, agency costs are not separately identifiable from the ticket cost.
[2] EEDA books the majority of travel services directly.
[3] It is not possible to identify the amount charged for Travel Agency services, as costs are included in the cost of the ticket.
[4] LDA adopted new recording systems in 2004-05. Figures before 2004-05 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[5] Travel costs and booking fees are not involved or identified separately within the accounting records.
[6] Prior to 2004, travel was outsourced to an external supplier. It is not possible to identify any fees within the cost of tickets.
[7] SEEDA does not use a Travel Agency services.
[8] £500 in 2006-07 is a business direct annual fee for rail travel.

*Travel within UK*[1]

£000

| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 147 | 182 | 193 | 144 | 128 |
| EEDA | 104 | 75 | 112 | 90 | 101 |
| EMDA | 30 | 43 | 59 | 68 | 95 |
| LDA[2] | — | 1 | 19 | 11 | 6 |
| NWDA | 140 | 174 | 190 | 154 | 208 |
| ONE[2] | 292 | 46 | 161 | 199 | 241 |
| SEEDA | 168 | 306 | 177 | 253.5 | 301 |

*Travel within UK*[1]

£000

| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWRDA | 18 | 71 | 63 | 95 | 151 |
| YF | 77 | 127 | 116 | 149 | 207 |

[1] Figures refer to travel booked through travel agents. In some cases, it is not possible to separate subsistence/hotel costs from the travel costs (e.g. rail and air travel).
[2] Records for 2002-03 show that total annual spend (UK travel and overseas) was £292,000. This figure cannot be separated.

*Overseas Travel*[1]

£000

| RDAs | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 37 | 48 | 39 | 60 | 71 |
| EEDA | 50 | 9 | 10 | 38 | 22 |
| EMDA | 72 | 121 | 63 | 59 | 76 |
| LDA[2] | — | 23 | 44 | 78 | 29 |
| NWDA | 15 | 28 | 49 | 28 | 25 |
| ONE[3] | — | 155 | 193 | 187 | 180 |
| SEEDA | 125 | 184.5 | 177.5 | 302 | 284 |
| SWRDA[4] | 17 | 32 | 13 | 17 | 37 |
| YF | 76 | 115 | 114 | 74 | 71 |

[1] Figures refer to travel booked through travel agents. In some cases, it is not possible to separate subsistence/hotel costs from the travel costs (e.g. rail and air travel).
[2] 2002-03 figures are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[3] Records for 2002-03 show that total annual spend (UK travel and overseas) was £292,000. This figure cannot be separated.
[4] From 2003-04, includes subsistence costs due to changes in the recording procedures.

### Temporary Employment: Conditions of Employment

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures the Department has introduced to protect the employment rights of agency workers; and what plans he has to introduce further such measures. [187415]

**Mr. McFadden:** Agency Workers are already entitled to employment rights such as the national minimum wage and working time entitlements such as paid annual leave, and new regulations to protect vulnerable agency workers will come into force on 6 April 2008.

The Employment Bill will also give greater investigative powers to Agency Inspectors, increase the potential level of fines for breaching the regulations and reform the current system of dispute resolution at work.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Care Homes

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to make Ofsted inspection reports on children's homes available on the Ofsted website. [184396]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* There is currently no duty on the Chief Inspector for Education, Children's Services and Skills to publish any inspection reports on the internet. However, the reports of all social care inspections, with the exception of children's homes, are available on the website of the Chief Inspector and Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Reports relating to children's homes are excluded to ensure that inappropriate individuals cannot access the addresses of children's homes and that individual children within those homes cannot be identified.

While the existing legislative framework does not prevent the publication of children's homes reports, the National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001, as amended, currently prohibit the Chief Inspector from publishing that part of her register which includes the address of a children's home. Therefore, when a children's homes report is requested, a copy of a redacted report—which excludes the address of the home is made available. The Chief Inspector will shortly be launching a consultation to take account of the views of children, service providers and local authorities as to whether children's homes reports should be published on the Ofsted website. We will consider what steps to take, if any, when the findings of that consultation become available.

### Children: Homicide

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission an independent inquiry into the circumstances leading up to the death of Jessica Randall. [188711]

**Kevin Brennan:** Jessica Randall died tragically, just 54 days old, on 21 November 2005 at the hands of her father who was subsequently jailed for life in March 2007. On 13 February 2008 Northamptonshire Local Safeguarding Children Board published the Executive Summary of a Serious Case Review (SGR) into Jessica Randall's death. It found that those procedures which were designed to protect Jessica were never activated, and that the outcome for her might have been different had the various indicators and signs noticed by agencies been acted upon. Every child death is a tragedy and Jessica's particularly so. I do not see, however, any reason at this time for an independent inquiry. The perpetrator of Jessica's murder has been jailed for life and local services have accepted unreservedly the serious case review's conclusions and are committed to implementing the changes necessary to better protect children in the future. That is the best way forward to ensure the lessons of Jessica's short life are fully learnt.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173533]

**Kevin Brennan:** A 10ft fully decorated tree was hired for our Head Office building in London and was taken away after the festive season to be shredded and recycled. The three remaining buildings occupied by the Department all used existing artificial trees.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181843]

**Kevin Brennan:** To continue to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09 my Department has taken the following steps:

Findings from Carbon Trust energy surveys on our headquarters buildings have been adopted and are being actioned within my Department's environmental management system;

An ongoing major refurbishment project in our London headquarters building is expected to generate significant reductions in energy use through adoption of new ways of working and energy conserving lighting;

Launching and delivering an internal communications campaign to raise awareness on sustainability issues, highlight successes and initiate activities so leading to a more careful use of scarce resources.

### Departmental Consultants

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181890]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on all consultancy contracts issued by the Department since 2005, their value, purpose, contractor details and whether the consultant's report is publicly available could only be provided at disproportionate cost

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179916]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has two displays containing the names and photographs of the ministerial team at its head office in Sanctuary Buildings. These photographs have been updated at a total cost of £2038.

There are no posters dedicated to this information, although Ministers are included secondarily on a general organisation chart.

Records are not held centrally for any expenditure made by agencies to display this information.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies since its inception; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183192]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information provided relates to both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, which were formed following the machinery of government changes in June 2007. It is not possible to provide separate costs for each Department during 2007-08 except at disproportionate cost.

Both Departments employ public relations agencies for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press offices to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media companies. They have used such agencies for 15 campaigns at a cost of £1.085 million since June 2007. These figures include contracts placed by both Departments using a framework agreement and by the Central Office of Information (COI) on our behalf.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176377]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department manages the following recycling initiatives as a co-ordinated scheme throughout all its headquarters buildings:

Redundant furniture and electronic equipment (that cannot be re-used) is sent for recycling by third parties;

Waste from food production and consumption (where it can be separated and is in sufficient volume) is sent for recycling;

Our Department's print suppliers are required to use the Dft Recycled Printing Papers framework, all paper used for printing publications must be recycled and the paper from any publications sent for disposal is recycled for use by participants of the DfT Printing Papers framework;

External contractors provide the safe collection and recycling of a variety of materials e.g., paper, cardboard, plastic cups and cans, glass, toner cartridges, plastic bottles, batteries, light bulbs and tubes;

All waste is constantly monitored, to identify further potential areas for recycling;

Green waste from grounds maintenance is sent for recycling by our contractors; and

Waste at our Sheffield office that cannot be reclaimed or re-used is sent to be turned into steam for heating and bought back .for use in the Sheffield building.

We also manage the following re-use and reclaim schemes that count as part of our performance on recycling for departmental returns:

Surplus furniture and electronic equipment is reclaimed for reuse within the Department itself or sent for re-use by third parties;

Surplus mobile phones are collected and donated for sale by charities to re-use;

Electronic noticeboards are available to advertise surplus office materials and so minimise the need for ordering further Items and potentially increasing wastage;

As part of office moves, contacts are encouraged to use the electronic noticeboard when preparing to disperse surplus and redundant materials to other teams; and

Staff are encouraged to use suitable paper waste as scrap pads.

In the Department's Sustainable Development in Government return for 2005/06 we were pleased to report 43 per cent. of our waste recycled and the 2010 target already met The Department's return for 2006/07 is due for publication by the Sustainable Development Commission soon.

### Disabled

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [163953]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has made assessments of access to their premises and of the need for reasonable adjustment.

Of the five buildings occupied by the Department five are considered to be fully accessible to disabled people.

### Educational Visits

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to encourage schools to make school trips *(a)* affordable by and *(b)* available to all pupils. [188538]

**Jim Knight:** Through the manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom, we are encouraging schools, local authorities and visit providers, to sign up to the vision that

> "every young person (0-19) should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances".

Almost 900 have already done so.

Through our manifesto partners and other channels we are promoting the personal and educational benefits of learning outside the classroom to schools and parents. The 'Out and About package' of guidance, practical tools, resources and training modules for schools will be published in the summer term.

With the new secondary curriculum being introduced from this September, we are emphasising the importance of relevant practical experiences as part of subject teaching.

Not all learning outside the classroom incurs a financial cost, for example, many schools use their grounds and local area. When schools do go further afield, for example on day visits, they are not permitted to charge pupils if these visits are wholly or mainly during school time, or are linked to the curriculum or external examination courses, although they may request a contribution towards costs.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ended 1997; [189162]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who did not have the opportunity to conduct course related field-work in the school year ended 1997; [189163]

(3) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a course related field trip in the school year ended 1997; [189164]

(4) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE geography students who had the opportunity to participate in a course related field trip in the school year ended 1997; [189165]

(5) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a half-day field trip in the school year ending 1997; [189174]

(6) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who did not have the opportunity to conduct course-related field-work in the school year ending 1997; [189175]

(7) what estimate he has made of the percentage of A-level biology students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field-trip in the school year ending 1997; [189176]

(8) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE science students who took a course-related residential field trip in the school year ending 1997; [189177]

(9) what estimate he has made of the percentage of GCSE science students who had the opportunity to participate in a course-related field trip in the school year ending 1997; [189178]

(10) what proportion of *(a)* A-level and *(b)* GCSE (i) geography, (ii) sciences and (iii) biology students were offered the opportunity to participate in a course-related (A) field trip and (B) half-day field trip in the school year (1) 1994-95, (2) 1995-96 and (3) 1997-98. [189206]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information broken down by subject and qualification.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 853W.

### Health Education: Sex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the effectiveness of the teaching of sex education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [189029]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has not commissioned research on the teaching of sex education in schools. However, as part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to review best practice in effective sex and relationship education (SRE) and how it is delivered in schools. We have listened to young people and recognise that many feel that they do not currently have the knowledge they need to make safe and responsible choices about relationships and sexual health. We will involve young people fully in the review to make sure that future SRE better meets their needs.

### Playgrounds: Capital Investment

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding was allocated to playground development in *(a)* Stockton South constituency, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [188932]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government do not collect statistics on or otherwise monitor how much capital is spent on playgrounds by local authorities. We do not separately identify individual capital grants that finance capital expenditure. Only the total used to finance expenditure in a year is collected;

In the Children's Plan, we recently announced £190 million capital funding to be spent on open-access, free play environments. Every local authority in England will receive funding by 2010-11: In addition, local authorities already receive substantial funding to support maintenance of public space. BIG Lottery has just invested £124 million to 2010-11 to support play in local authorities.

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 770W, on pupils: per capita costs, what the *(a)* current and *(b)* planned per capita costs are for students in Wirral. [189726]

**Jim Knight:** The current per capita Dedicated Schools Grant guaranteed unit of funding is £3,765, and the guaranteed units of funding for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £3,937, £4,089 and £4,269 respectively. The Dedicated Schools Grant is purely revenue funding and does not include any capital allocation. In addition to the Dedicated Schools Grant, there are other revenue grants for the period 2008 to 2011 that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised and which are not reflected in the answer.

The capital element of allocations, included in the four figures in the following chart, can vary greatly from year to year. This is because capital grants are based on need as well as on pupil numbers, and form part of an expanding capital programme. Capital expenditure at local authority level may occur in a different year to the year of allocation, as it is dependent on a local authority's capital planning arrangements.

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 15,101 |
| 2008-09 | 14,421 |
| 2009-10 | 20,514 |
| 2010-11 | 26,703 |

### School Day

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what information is available to his Department on the average duration of lunch breaks in maintained schools; [188980]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the average length of the lunch-break in *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [188979]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not collect information on the average length of the school lunch break. Schools are required by law to hold two sessions per day during a school term, with a break in between. But it is for schools to decide how long that break should be. We are aware that some schools have reduced the length of the lunch break for a variety of reasons. But we are also aware that having insufficient time to eat lunch can put pupils off taking a school lunch. That is why my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families wrote to schools last year asking them to consider their lunchtime arrangements as a means of improving school lunch take-up. As part of its Million Meals campaign to improve school lunch take-up, the School Food Trust is also working closely with schools to improve lunchtime arrangements, including ensuring that pupils have sufficient time to eat their meal.

### Schools: Procurement

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the effects on costs has been of the introduction of the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system; and what the target savings were. [186974]

**Kevin Brennan:** The aim of the OPEN pathfinder was:

to rigorously test the system for reliability, appropriateness, ease of use, and integration with schools' financial management systems;

to ascertain the user-opinion from a small number of schools using OPEN to determine if it should be made more widely available for schools across England; and

to engage with suppliers to understand functionality and user needs from their perspective when trading with schools, and encourage signup to OPEN.

In order for a greater number of transactions to take place, a greater number of schools' suppliers also need to be available on OPEN for them to transact with. As this was a pathfinder, limited resources were available to engage with the educational supplier marketplace and effort was concentrate on those suppliers nominated by schools that they usually traded with in the first instance.

As such, no savings target was set for the pathfinder phase.

At present savings are only made in the form of transactional savings, i.e. the amount of time being saved by schools' purchasers compared to that where a 'traditional' transaction (their usual method of purchasing) would have taken place. The process of developing the methodology for savings made on the price of goods being purchased is still under development.

Due to the limited number of suppliers on OPEN during this pathfinder phase, the Department expected rates would be lower than could be reasonably expected with full take-up by both schools and suppliers.

*For the period 15 March 2007 to 31 January 2008*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| From the processing of orders (630 orders x £3.50) | 2,205 |
| From the processing of requisitions (367 requisitions x £21.00) | 7,707 |
| From the processing of invoices (82 x £2.50) | 205 |
| Total transactional savings | 10,117 |

## Schools: Sports

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 216W, on schools: sport, (1) what the duties of a sports co-ordinator for schools are; [189364]

(2) what the average annual salary of a sports co-ordinator is in the current financial year. [189363]

**Kevin Brennan:** School sport co-ordinators (SSCos) are existing secondary school teachers released from teaching for two days per week. They are responsible for the co-ordination and development of after school activity, out of school hours learning, intra school competition and local community links in their own school and partner primary/special schools. Their specific duties will vary according to local circumstances.

As part of a School Sport Partnership's grant, £2,000 is allocated for each SSCo in the partnership. The grant also allocates £13,000 (£14,500 in London) for teacher cover to backfill the teacher release. 16 per cent. on costs are added to these amounts. How School Sport Partnerships deploy their funds is a local decision.

## Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184106]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not make grant payments to Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council. However it does make payments to Shropshire county council and Telford and Wrekin borough council which provide children, schools and families services. The information on capital and revenue allocations made by the Department to both councils is set out in the tables.

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

*Table A: revenue funding made available to Shropshire county council by DfES in 2006-07*

| *Recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 133,468,000 |
| School Standards Grant | 5,879,164 |
| School Standards Grant (Personalisation) | 997,300 |
| School Development Grant | 9,545,695 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) | 39,608 |
| Targeted School Meals Grant | 255,673 |
| School Meals Grant | 208,002 |
| Extended Schools | 405,845 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 795,168 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 304,753 |
| Primary Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 356,198 |
| Primary Strategy: Communication, Language, Literacy | 50,000 |
| Secondary Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 332,835 |
| Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners (SIPs) | 35,650 |
| Music Services | 188,988 |
| Music at Key Stage 2 | 15,959 |
| Education Health Partnerships | 72T953 |
| School Travel Advisers | 71,000 |
| Choice Advisers | 24,279 |
| Study Support Quality Development Programme | 20,000 |
| School Intervention Grant | 111,900 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 86,340 |
| Connexions[1] | 2,317,759 |
| Children's Fund | 512,975 |
| Positive Activities for Young People | 60,854 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 113,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Revenue)[1] | 4,613,267 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 143,746 |
| Publicising Positive Activities | 21,535 |
| Children's Services Grant | 525,667 |
| Total recurrent grants | 161,642,413 |

[1] Grant paid as part of Shropshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). £4,306,962 of General Sure Start (Revenue) paid through the LAA

*Table B: capital support made available to Shropshire county council by DfES in 2006-07*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 12,700,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's Element) | 49,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 1,326,231 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 124,329 |
| Integrated Children's System | 46,591 |
| e-CAF | 250,000 |
| Children services capital support total | 14,496,151 |

*Table C: revenue funding made available to Shropshire county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 139,256,000 |
| School Standards Grant | 6,757,742 |
| School Standards Grant (Personalisation) | 1,595,833 |
| School Development Grant (Schools) | 8,326,870 |

*Table C: revenue funding made available to Shropshire county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| School Development Grant (Local Authority Retained)[1] | 1,708,040 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) | 40,798 |
| Targeted School Meals Grant | 252,936 |
| Devolved School Meals Grant | 206,430 |
| Extended Schools | 405,845 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 767,691 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 355,088 |
| Primary Strategy: Communication, Language and Literacy | 50,000 |
| Primary Strategy Central Co-ordination[1] | 175,726 |
| Secondary Strategy—Central Co-ordination[1] | 163,976 |
| Secondary Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance[1] | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners (SIPs) | 118,167 |
| Music Services | 178,988 |
| Music at Key Stage 2 | 122,352 |
| Education Health Partnerships | 73,398 |
| School Travel Advisers[2] | 51,000 |
| Regional School Travel Advisers | 20,000 |
| Choice Advisers | 24,279 |
| School Intervention Grant | 111,900 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 152,769 |
| Walking to School Initiatives | 31,500 |
| General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School | 26,505 |
| Extended Rights for Free Travel | 62,779 |
| Connexions[1] | 2,328,714 |
| Children's Fund | 512,975 |
| Positive Activities for Young People[1] | 61,731 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 113,000 |
| Care Matters | 10,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Revenue)[1] | 5,055,837 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 143,746 |
| Contact Point | 179,430 |
| Transitional Information Sessions for parents | 20,653 |
| Children's Services Grant[1] | 689,269 |
| Recurrent grant total | 170,220,267 |

[1] Grant paid wholly or partly through Shropshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). £4,650,960 of General Sure Start (Revenue) paid through the LAA.

*Table D: capital support made available to Shropshire county council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 12,410,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's element) | 49,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 2,692,650 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 124,329 |
| ICT: Mobile Technology | 42,665 |
| Children services capital support total | 15,318,644 |

*Table E: revenue funding to be made available to Shropshire county council by DCSF in 2008-09*

| *DCSF recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant (provisional) | 142,993,000 |
| School Development Grant (Schools) (Provisional) | 8,326,870 |
| School Lunch Grant | 406,763 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMAG) | 50,273 |
| Extended Schools—Sustainability | 443,445 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 1,084,521 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 216,685 |
| Music | 298,888 |
| Sure Start Early Years and Childcare | 5,786,431 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 143,746 |
| Contact Point | 164,589 |
| Short Breaks (AHDC) | 40,000 |
| Targeting Mental Health in Schools | 323,000 |
| *DCSF Funding paid allocated as part of Area Based Grant* | |
| School Development Grant (Local Authority retained) | 1,708,040 |
| Extended Schools—Start Up | 597,930 |
| Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 169,774 |
| Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 162,504 |
| Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination[2] | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners | 166,870 |
| Education Health Partnerships | 73,398 |
| School Travel Advisers | 71,000 |
| Choice Advisers | 24,824 |
| School Intervention | 111,900 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 81,852 |
| General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School | 26,505 |
| Extended Rights for Free Travel | 132,620 |
| Connexions | 2,328,714 |
| Children's Fund | 512,975 |
| Positive Activities for Young People | 61,731 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 113,000 |
| Children's Social Care Workforce | 59,151 |
| Care Matters | 105,432 |
| Child Death Review Processes | 23,418 |
| Recurrent grants total | 166,878,150 |

*Note:*
Children Services Grant is paid through Local Authority Formula Grant from 2008-2009.

*Table F: capital support to be made available to Shropshire county council by DCSF in 2008-09*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 13,470,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's element) | 28,879 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 1,591,457 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 124,300 |
| ICT: Mobile Technology | 237,830 |
| Children services capital support total | 15,452,466 |

*Table G: revenue funding made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DfES in 2006-07*

| *Recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 91,545,000 |
| School Standards Grant | 3,663,165 |
| School Standards Grant (Personalisation) | 831,948 |
| School Development Grant | 7,714,016 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) | 229,109 |
| Targeted School Meals Grant | 171,983 |
| School Meals Grant | 107,847 |
| Extended Schools[1] | 393,805 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 552,975 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 448,908 |
| Primary Strategy Central Co-ordination[1] | 149,972 |
| Secondary Strategy Central Co-ordination[1] | 166,418 |
| Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination[1] | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners (SIPs) | 32,000 |
| Music Services | 146,436 |
| Music at Key Stage 2 | 11,106 |
| Education Health Partnerships[1] | 58,373 |
| Playing for Success | 135,000 |
| School Travel Advisers | 25,000 |
| Choice Advisers | 28,160 |
| School Intervention Grant | 56,600 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 52,651 |
| Children's Fund[1] | 502,930 |
| Connexions[1] | 1,765,684 |
| Positive Activities for Young People[1] | 101,364 |
| Teenage Pregnancy[1] | 150,750 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Revenue)[1] | 4,014,814 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 103,299 |
| Information Sharing Index (ISI) | 92,266 |
| Budget Holding Lead Professional Pilot | 250,000 |
| Transitional Information Sessions for Parents | 12,500 |
| Parenting Early Intervention Pilots | 249,992 |
| Publicising Positive Activities | 15,476 |
| Children's Services Grant | 502,431 |
| Recurrent grants total | 114,350,278 |

[1] Grant paid as part of Telford and Wrekin's Local Area Agreement (LAA). £3,730,186 of General Sure Start Revenue paid through the LAA.

*Note*:
ISI grant for Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, allocated to Telford and Wrekin as lead authority.

*Table H: capital support made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DfES in 2006-07*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 14,830,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's Element) | 31,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 1,068,290 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 89,345 |
| Integrated Children's System | 48,504 |
| Children services capital support total | 16,067,139 |

*Table I: revenue funding made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Recurrent grants* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 93,936,000 |
| School Standards Grant | 4,096,137 |
| School Standards Grant (Personalisation) | 1,271,511 |
| School Development Grant (Schools) | 6,060,277 |
| School Development Grant (Local Authority Retained)[1] | 1,794,856 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) | 237,074 |
| Targeted School Meals Grant | 171,358 |
| Devolved School Meals Grant | 103,360 |
| Extended Schools[1] | 393,805 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 563,266 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 524,267 |
| Primary Strategy Central Co-ordination[1] | 150,849 |
| Secondary Strategy—Central Co-ordination[1] | 154,744 |
| Secondary Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance[1] | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners (SIPs)[1] | 64,333 |
| Music Services | 136,436 |
| Music at Key Stage 2 | 85,146 |
| Education Health Partnerships[1] | 64,553 |
| School Travel Advisers[1] | 25,000 |
| Playing for Success | 115,000 |
| 14-19 Engagement Programme | 200,000 |
| Computers for Pupils: Recurrent | 10,800 |
| Choice Advisers | 28,160 |
| School Intervention Grant | 56,600 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 69,046 |
| Walking to School Initiatives | 13,500 |
| General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School | 14,207 |
| Extended Rights for Free Travel | 18,096 |
| Connexions[1] | 1,768,996 |
| Children's Fund | 513,053 |
| Positive Activities for Young People[1] | 102,681 |
| Teenage Pregnancy[1] | 138,000 |
| Care Matters | 11,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Revenue)[1] | 6,170,427 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 103,299 |
| Contact Point | 158,779 |
| Budget Holding Lead Professional Pilot | 275,000 |
| Transitional Information Sessions for parents | 106,654 |
| Parenting Early Intervention Pilots | 250,000 |
| Children's Services Grant[1] | 675,863 |
| Recurrent grant total | 120,700,433 |

[1] Grant paid wholly or partly through Telford and Wrekin's Local Area Agreement (LAA). £3,773,875 of General Sure Start (Revenue) paid through the LAA.

*Table J: capital support made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 9,420,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's element) | 31,000 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 1,884,711 |

*Table J: capital support made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DCSF in 2007-08*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Youth Capital Fund | 89,345 |
| ICT: Mobile Technology | 47,402 |
| Children services capital support total | 11,472,458 |

*Table K: revenue funding to be made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DCSF in 2008-09*

| *DCSF recurrent grants* | *Grant allocations (£)* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant (Provisional) | 96,922,000 |
| School Development Grant (Schools) (Provisional) | 5,775,818 |
| School Lunch Grant | 275,571 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMAG) | 242,897 |
| Extended Schools—Sustainability | 270,207 |
| Targeted Support for Primary Strategy | 669,648 |
| Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy | 566,010 |
| Early Years: Extending and increasing flexibility of free entitlement for three to four-year-olds (Provisional) | 1,184,571 |
| Music | 220,236 |
| Playing for Success | 115,000 |
| Sure Start Early Years and Childcare | 4,620,073 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 103,299 |
| Contact Point | 145,418 |
| Short Breaks (AHDC) | 212,400 |
| *DCSF Funding paid allocated as part of Area Based Grant* | |
| School Development Grant (Local Authority retained) | 1,794,856 |
| Extended Schools—Start Up | 466,730 |
| Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 121,066 |
| Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination | 149,008 |
| Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination | 68,300 |
| School Improvement Partners | 85,280 |
| Education Health Partnerships | 64,553 |
| School Travel Advisers | 25,000 |
| Choice Advisers | 28,828 |
| School Intervention | 56,600 |
| Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding | 50,969 |
| General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School | 14,207 |
| Extended Rights for Free Travel | 57,292 |
| Connexions | 1,773,089 |
| Children's Fund | 513,053 |
| Positive Activities for Young People | 102,681 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 138,000 |
| Children's Social Care Workforce | 65,831 |
| Care Matters | 113,017 |
| Child Death Review Processes | 26,063 |
| Recurrent grants total | 117,037,572 |

*Note:*
Children services grant is paid through local authority formula grant from 2008-09.

*Table L: capital support to be made available to Telford and Wrekin borough council by DCSF in 2008-09*

| *Local authority and schools* | *Grant allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capital Support for Schools | 7,640,000 |
| SCE(R) Single Capital Pot (Children's element) | 32,138 |
| General Sure Start Grant (Capital) | 883,595 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 89,300 |
| ICT: Mobile Technology | 26,469 |
| Short Breaks (AHDC) | 105,000 |
| Children services capital support total | 8,776,502 |

## Students: Forced Marriage

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to schools and colleges to ensure that advice and support is available for students who might be the subject of *(a)* forced and *(b)* arranged marriages. [189115]

**Kevin Brennan:** A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties and where duress is a factor. It is a human rights abuse and is not sanctioned by any culture or religion. In an arranged marriage both parties consent of their own free will, and so arranged marriages are legal. We have encouraged schools through guidance to make available information about helplines and access to support for students who might be the subject of forced marriage. Following recent concerns that information was not being provided to students, my Department is looking into this issue, jointly with the Forced Marriage Unit. We will report back to the House in March.

## Youth Services

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the targeted youth support pathfinders set out in the Respect Action Plan. [167542]

**Beverley Hughes:** Evaluation started in October 2006 and will continue until September 2008. Findings from the interim report (due to be published at the end of November) suggest early benefits from the pathfinders: at a strategic level improved multi-agency working and better engagement of practitioners and schools has been perceived.

At an operational level there are reports of raised profile of services, collective ownership and a better understanding of the holistic needs of young people. Practitioners report early gains such as more tailored, coordinated support for those below the statutory thresholds, and therefore earlier intervention.

Evaluation is at too early a stage to provide robust information about the impact on young people. These findings will emerge during the course of next year.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department and its predecessor has taken to develop youth and community facilities for children over the age of 11 years *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in West Lancashire constituency in the last five years. [189794]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government do not collect specific information on youth and community facilities as responsibility for these rests with local authorities.

However, Government are committed to investing in facilities for young people. 'Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities', which was published in July 2006, announced the launch of a new programme of capital investment based on the reinvestment of unclaimed assets from dormant bank accounts and £60 million of new DCSF funding. Our ambition is that this will lead to new and improved youth facilities in every constituency over the next 10 years.

The Children's Plan subsequently announced a further £160 million of DCSF investment over the next two years to support this ambition.

In addition a total of £115 million over two years (2006-08) has been made available through the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF), to fund activities and improve facilities for young people in their neighbourhood. The two funds which are designed to work in tandem and are spent at young people's discretion are allocated through local authorities. The YCF can be used to provide new or improving existing facilities and equipment. This investment will continue over the next three years up to 2011.

Lancashire local authority has a combined YOF/YCF allocation of £1,226,929 (YOF £657,899/YCF £569,030).

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Aceh: Earthquakes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the earthquake in Indonesia's western province of Aceh. [189608]

**Meg Munn:** Indonesia sits along a volatile seismic strip called the 'Ring of Fire' in the Pacific. The possibility of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis is ever present. An earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale struck undersea near Aceh Province on 20 February. The community which recorded the strongest tremor is reported to be Meulaboh, Aceh. Five people were killed, 52 seriously injured and many buildings were damaged. Our embassy in Jakarta continues to monitor the situation, but reports no British casualties.

In addition, a further earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra on 25 February. The Indonesian authorities report that there does not appear to be any visible damage. In both cases, tsunami warnings were issued but later lifted. Again, our embassy in Jakarta continues to monitor the situation.

### British Indian Ocean Territory: Diego Garcia

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British Indian Ocean Territory officials are based in Diego Garcia; what access they have to US military commanders; and to whom they report. [189825]

**Meg Munn:** Commander British Forces (CBF) British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) is the UK authority on Diego Garcia, leading a team of currently 42 military personnel. CBF BIOT is responsible for the conduct of UK civil and military activity reporting to the BIOT Commissioner in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to the Chief of Joint Operations at Northwood, respectively. CBF has daily and routine access to the United States Commanding Officer on Diego Garcia.

### Climate Change: Finance

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the levels of additional climate change mitigation expenditure made by other countries to date intended to meet the target of one per cent of global gross domestic product recommended by the Stern Review. [188294]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is pursuing an extensive programme of engagement with the UK's international partners to build the necessary political will to reduce global carbon emissions levels and secure the commitment of Governments in key countries to ensuring that high quality climate change mitigation work is undertaken.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187463]

**Meg Munn:** This information is not held centrally. To compile it would be disproportionately costly.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced through framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189193]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** None of the translation work undertaken by the Translation and Interpreting Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services is outsourced through a framework agreement.

Translation work which cannot be handled by our in-house team of translators is outsourced to a panel of individual freelance translators with whom the FCO has had a long and successful working relationship.

Decisions on outsourcing translation assignments are based on a combination of quality and price, therefore ensuring value for money.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181523]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The amount spent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on UK and overseas travel in each of the last 10 years is provided in the following table.

| | *Overseas travel* | | *UK travel* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *Spend (£ million)* | *Percentage of total*[1] | *Spend (£ million)* | *Percentage of total*[1] |
| 1997-98 | 30.1 | — | 0.9 | — |
| 1998-99 | 29.8 | — | 0.8 | — |
| 1999-2000 | 35.0 | 2.98 | 1.0 | 0.09 |
| 2000-01 | 35.3 | 2.29 | 1.0 | 0.06 |
| 2001-02 | 42.0 | 2.86 | 1.1 | 0.07 |
| 2002-03 | 39.0 | 2.52 | 1.2 | 0.08 |
| 2003-04 | 39.0 | 2.44 | 1.4 | 0.09 |
| 2004-05 | 41.5 | 2.36 | 1.5 | 0.09 |
| 2005-06 | 45.8 | 2.43 | 2.0 | 0.11 |
| 2006-07 | 53.6 | 2.80 | 2.4 | 0.13 |

[1] The Department's first audited, resource accounts were published in 1999-2000 and so no percentage figure is given for earlier years

The expenditure is shown as a percentage of the Department's net resource outturn, as given in the departmental resource accounts published for each year.

The figures include the costs of duty travel, for officials based in the UK and overseas, and the costs of travel for UK based staff and their families on their arrival at and departure from post, as well as leave journeys undertaken whilst at post.

The recent increase in expenditure can be attributed in part to the increased number of staff based in posts in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the costs of travel out of the country are high. Another contributory factor is that some travel payments which were formerly paid as allowances to staff are now paid from the travel budget. It is not possible to provide further detail without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Diego Garcia: Military Bases

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Government of Mauritius on *(a)* the use of Diego Garcia and *(b)* the future military use of the Chagos Islands. [189820]

**Meg Munn:** The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, last raised the issue of sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kampala in November 2007. The Government have no doubt about their sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, but my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed to establish a dialogue between the Mauritian high commission in London and officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on issues relating to the British Indian Ocean Territory.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* British Indian Ocean Territory officials have had with the US on the future military use of Diego Garcia and the Chagos archipelago. [189821]

**Meg Munn:** Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including the British Indian Ocean Territory Commissioner and Administrator, and the Ministry of Defence hold annual talks with their United States counter-parts to discuss issues surrounding Diego Garcia and the outer islands. Officials also have regular contact with the United States on an ad hoc basis as needed.

### Diego Garcia: Rendition

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his US counterparts first told him of the use of Diego Garcia for rendition flights; and what steps he took in response. [189822]

**Dr. Howells:** As set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, UK officials were informed of this development on 15 February. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has asked officials to compile a list of all the flights where we have been alerted to concerns regarding rendition through the UK or our Overseas Territories. Once this is ready we will be sending this list to the US and seeking their specific assurance that none of these flights were used for rendition purposes. He has also asked officials to continue to work through, with their US counterparts, the details and implications of this information.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have expressed concern to his Department at the use of Diego Garcia for rendition flights since 2002; what steps he took in response to their comments; and what responses were provided. [189823]

**Dr. Howells:** As set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's Statement to the House on 21 February, *Official Report*, columns 547-548, he has asked officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to compile a list of all the flights where we have been alerted to concerns regarding rendition through the UK or our overseas territories. In this context we will be reviewing correspondence to Ministers on these issues, including from hon. Members, non-governmental organisations and members of the public. In responding to such concerns in the past, the FCO has made reference to explicit assurances by the US that detainees had not been and would not be held or transported via Diego Garcia.

### Diplomatic Service: Official Cars

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will give guidance to UK consulates on the procurement of UK-built cars for ambassadors and staff. [189606]

**Meg Munn:** The procurement of vehicles for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is based on achieving value for money, normally by competition and in a manner that conforms with appropriate UK regulations and EU directives. Within that approach,

we prefer British missions abroad to buy British cars for heads of posts, where they are readily available and represent value for money.

Currently, the FCO's preferred suppliers for vehicles, used by its heads of posts, are Jaguar for saloon cars and Land or Range Rover where four wheel drive capability is essential. This arrangement is supported by central contracts with those companies, which have been negotiated against strict value for money criteria. Posts which consider that there are overriding reasons on either value for money, security or maintenance grounds not to purchase flag cars manufactured by our preferred suppliers must submit a detailed case for ministerial approval.

Pool cars for day to day operational use by staff at posts are sourced locally on the basis of value for money taking into account the full cost of ownership, including local maintenance and spares issues.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a list of cars used by UK ambassadors and staff; and how many of the cars were built in the UK. [189607]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK operates 20 cars, these are used by FCO Services staff in both the Hanslope Park fleet operations area and by London car service/London external messengers operating from King Charles street, details are as follows:

12 Fords manufactured in Portugal;

1 Rover manufactured in the UK;

1 Toyota manufactured in the UK; and

6 Vauxhalls manufactured in Germany and Spain.

Since the acquisition of vehicles in the overseas fleet is the responsibility of the individual posts, and detailed records are not held centrally, it would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information requested by my hon. Friend. We are, however, aware of 381 Land Rovers operated by FCO posts overseas, and all of these vehicles have been manufactured in the UK.

### Electronic Surveillance

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what national and international bodies based in the UK are authorised to conduct covert electronic surveillance of UK residents. [188213]

**David Miliband:** The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) sets out those public bodies that can be authorised to undertake covert surveillance activity covered by that Act. Schedule 1 to RIPA, as amended, lists all bodies who can apply for direct surveillance.

### Iraq

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information coalition forces have about the blowing up by insurgents on 8 February 2008 of the power station supplying water to Ashraf City and the surrounding Iraqi population; and what relief action was taken by coalition forces. [188392]

**Dr. Howells:** On 6 February 2008 terrorists blew up one of the two water pumps supplying water to Ashraf City. The second pump was not affected. Coalition forces are actively working with the local council to fix the damaged water pump.

### Maldives: Diplomatic Service

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions and for how many days UK diplomatic staff based in Sri Lanka but accredited to the Republic of the Maldives have stayed in the Maldives over the last 12 months. [188460]

**Dr. Howells:** British officials based in our high commission in Colombo, but accredited to the Republic of the Maldives, made 12 official visits to the Maldives in 2007, totalling 34 days. In January 2008 they visited Maldives twice for a total of four days. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep records of private visits.

### Maldives: Elections

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK plans to make to observer missions to the Maldives to monitor elections there. [188215]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK intends either to join international observation missions as short term observers, or to provide an independent field presence as we did during the August 2007 referendum campaign.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions UK diplomatic staff have met leaders of opposition parties in Maldives *(a)* on social occasions and *(b)* for formal meetings; and if he will make a statement. [188459]

**Dr. Howells:** British officials based in our high commission in Colombo, but accredited to the Republic of the Maldives, have met formally with the three official opposition parties, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), the Islamic Democratic Party and the Adallath (Justice) Party, and two unofficial opposition groups, the New Maldives Movement and Social Liberal Party, at a senior level at least once in the last 12 months. Officials frequently meet with the MDP either in Colombo or the Maldives. Officials are in regular contact with opposition politicians.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep records of social contacts with Maldivian politicians.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps with the Commonwealth Secretary General and other Commonwealth countries to deploy election observers in the Republic of the Maldives in advance of the election planned for October 2008. [188461]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government of the Maldives has formally invited the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to deploy observers. The Secretariat is planning to send an assessment mission to the Maldives over the summer to explore options for the feasibility, scope and form of such an observer mission. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has discussed the possibility of deploying UK election observers with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United Kingdom's representative to the Republic of the Maldives has made representations to the Government of the Republic of the Maldives following the arrest of members of the opposition party, the MDP, on the Dhidoo atoll on 18 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [188472]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK has not made specific representations to the Government of the Maldives on this issue. We maintain regular contact with the Maldivian Government and key stakeholders in the Maldives.

### Maldives: Human Rights

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Maldives on the practice of charging people with offences without then prosecuting; and if he will make a statement. [188197]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK has not made specific representations to the Government of the Maldives on the practice of individuals being charged but not prosecuted. British officials based in our high commission in Colombo, and accredited to the Republic of the Maldives, have however made several representations on the issue of politically motivated arrests and prosecutions. Most notably these representations helped to lead to the negotiations between the Government of Maldives and the main opposition party in 2006 and the release of most political prisoners.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the observance of human rights in the Republic of the Maldives; and what representations the UK Government have made to the Government of the Republic of the Maldives on human rights over the past two years. [188457]

**Dr. Howells:** The human rights situation in Maldives has improved in recent years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has concerns about some criminal investigations by the police which appear politically motivated, the treatment of detainees, the use of corporal punishment and inconsistent sentencing policy. Freedom for the media and political activists has improved noticeably over the last two years, but concerns remain. The first multi-party elections, scheduled for later in 2008, will be the first real test for these developments.

The transition to a multi-party democracy is the best basis for continued improvement. When my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Gayoom of Maldives in July 2007, he underlined the need to keep the reform process on track and the importance of this year's elections being free, fair, inclusive and supported by the Maldivian people.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to maintain staff numbers at the multilateral arms control and disarmament office of the UK permanent mission to the conference on disarmament in Geneva during the period of the UK presidency of the conference on disarmament, and in the lead-up to the 2010 review conference of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; and if he will make a statement. [188357]

**Dr. Howells:** The number of staff at the multilateral arms control and disarmament office of the UK permanent mission to the conference on disarmament in Geneva will be increased by one official this summer. The staffing requirements will be kept under regular review during the period of the UK presidency of the conference on disarmament and in the lead-up to the 2010 review conference of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what responses he has received to his speech to the conference on disarmament in Geneva on 5 February setting out United Kingdom disarmament commitments. [189565]

**Des Browne:** I have been asked to reply.

My speech to the conference on disarmament re-emphasised the UK commitment to furthering the multilateral nuclear disarmament agenda, in line with our NPT Article VI obligations. It has been widely welcomed.

### Papua: Human Rights

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in West Papua; what recent diplomatic steps he has taken on that issue; and if he will make a statement. [188343]

**Meg Munn:** Indonesia has undergone a remarkable transformation over the last 10 years. Overall the human rights situation has improved significantly. Nevertheless, we recognise that many challenges remain and we continue to hear reports of human rights abuses in Papua. Many of these are difficult to verify but there do appear to be problems with access to justice and intimidation of human rights defenders.

We judge that the Indonesian Government is committed to promoting development efforts in Papua and further improvements in the human rights situation. We welcome their increasing openness to international scrutiny, as evidenced by their invitations to the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, Hina Jilani, in June 2007 and Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, in November 2007, to visit Papua.

Our embassy in Jakarta follows the situation in Papua closely and embassy officials were in Papua most recently from 15 to 20 February. While there, they held discussions with local officials, non-governmental organisations and representatives of religious organisations, on a range of issues, including human rights. We continue to support organisations working to promote human rights in Papua, such as Peace Brigades International.

I met the Governor of Papua, Barnabus Suebo, on 25 October 2007. We discussed the situation in Papua, including human rights. We will continue to raise our concerns with the relevant authorities.

### Services Trading Fund

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the basis is for the Government's position that the proposed FCO Services Trading Fund will be financially viable. [188324]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has assessed FCO Services' business projections, which have been deliberately built on cautious assumptions. To protect FCO Services' cash flow in the early years as a Trading Fund the FCO will make a short-term working capital loan of £10 million, repayable with interest over the first five years of trading. The FCO is content that FCO Services is not being burdened with excessive debt at start up.

FCO Services income from the FCO over the next few years is expected to be in the region of 80 – 90 per cent. of the total volume of FCO Services business.

Ministers have agreed a five year corporate plan for FCO Services and will agree its business plan on an annual basis. FCO Services Executive and Non-Executive Directors review performance throughout the year. In addition, FCO Services has in place corporate risk assessment processes, in line with best practice, which its Audit Committee oversees.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the proposed FCO Services Trading Fund is not sold into private ownership. [188325]

**Meg Munn:** There are no plans to privatise Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services. We have set up the Trading Fund on the basis that it gives the right combination of overall FCO control and reliability of supply, coupled with commercial disciplines and freedoms for FCO Services.

FCO Services has developed a comprehensive five year corporate plan, agreed with Ministers, to direct its future business activities which includes maintaining a strong, long-term strategic partnership with the FCO, delivering services at best value for money and guaranteeing the supply of business-critical services to the FCO.

### South Africa: Chemical and Biological Warfare

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government-sponsored collaboration there is between UK *(a)* scientists and *(b)* public servants and their counterparts working on Project Coast in South Africa. [186458]

**Dr. Howells:** There was no Government-sponsored collaboration between UK scientists or public servants and Project Coast in South Africa. However, in the course of their normal duties, including attendance at international conferences, some Government officials and scientists did have contact with South African counterparts who were subsequently identified as having worked on Project Coast. When allegations of UK assistance to Project Coast emerged, full investigations were held. These found no evidence to suggest UK Government officials knowingly provided assistance to any South African Chemical and Biological Weapons Programme.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's involvement with South Africa's Project Coast. [186459]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 16 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 985-86W.

### Vietnam: UN Security Council

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Vietnam's position as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. [189609]

**Meg Munn:** Vietnam was elected on to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for the period of 2008-09. The UK works with all members of the UN Security Council to ensure that the body is effective in tackling threats to international peace and security.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Vietnamese Government on its role on the UN Security Council, with particular reference to that country's relations with China. [189610]

**Meg Munn:** The UK works closely with all members of the UN Security Council to ensure the body is effective in tackling threats to international peace and security. Officials in New York and London have held meetings with officials of newly elected members, including Vietnam, to explore how we can work together on the Council. A Vietnamese ministerial team, lead by Vice-Minister Le Van Bang, visited the UK on 29-30 November 2007. The Vice-Minister had meetings with me and Whitehall officials on various issues before the Council, including Burma, counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation.

### Work Permits

**Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the judgment in the case of Regina (Payir and others) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department (Case C-294/06 in the Court of Justice of the European Communities) for the provision of work permits by the UK under EU association agreements with *(a)* Turkey and *(b)* other countries; and if he will make a statement. [189319]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are carefully considering the outcome of the judgment in the case of Payir and Ozturk (Case C-294/06). Our initial assessment indicates that the judgment will have no direct effect on the issue of work permits to Turkish nationals.

Other international agreements do not have the same provisions as the EU-Turkey agreement.

## JUSTICE

### Administration of Justice: Complaints

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the judiciary in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England and Wales were received by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; how much it cost to investigate each complaint; what the budget for 2007-08 is for investigating such complaints; what legislation governs complaints against the judiciary; what amendments have been made to this legislation since its enactment; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [189009]

**Mr. Straw:** With regard to the number of complaints about the judiciary in England and Wales received in the last five years, I would refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 568W, to the same question asked by the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett). Recording of complaints is not categorised by geographical area, I regret therefore I cannot provide information on the number of complaints for Essex.

My Department does not currently hold information on the cost of investigating individual complaints over this period. The budget for the Office for Judicial Complaints for 2007-08 is £1,141,305.16. I am encouraging the OJC to improve its data. The OJC is moving towards a system of unit costs for the forthcoming financial year, which will provide an indicative figure for the cost of each investigation for 2008-09.

The relevant legislation governing handling of complaints against members of the judiciary is: sections 108 to 121 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005; the Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations 2006, which are made under section 115 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005; and the Judicial Complaints (Tribunals) Rules 2006 and 'the system for handling magistrates conduct, pastoral and training matters', which are both made under section 117 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.

No amendments have been made to this legislation since its implementation, but a Review of the Judicial Discipline Regulations 2006 is currently in progress.

I have not received any recent representations about the overall system for handling judicial complaints, but I do from time to time receive letters from hon. Members which forward individual complaints about judicial office holders from their constituents, or which seek information about the handling of a constituent's complaint. Any complaint about a judicial office holder forwarded to me by an hon. Member is dealt with according to the provisions of the Judicial Discipline Regulations 2006.

### Crime: Pregnant Women

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislation to enable unborn children to be treated as separate victims in criminal cases; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [189010]

**Maria Eagle:** It is not necessary to change the law so that unborn children may be treated as separate victims. Under section 58 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 it is an offence to act to procure a miscarriage (subject to the Abortion Act 1967). And under the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929, it is an offence for any person intentionally to destroy the life of a child capable of being born alive. Injury to a foetus, if proved, is likely to be treated in law as an injury to the mother and prosecutable under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. The loss of an unborn child may also be taken into account as an aggravating factor in sentencing any person convicted of killing or harming the mother.

We have received correspondence on this issue from relatives of a murder victim who was pregnant at the time of her death; and a petition with 910 signatures following the death of an unborn child as the result of a road traffic accident.

### Debt Collection

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will implement *(a)* the certification procedures for bailiffs and *(b)* the taking control of goods provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [188633]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department remains committed to implementing *(a)* the certification procedures for bailiffs and *(b)* the taking control of goods contained in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

To implement these provisions, underpinning rules and regulations will be required. A scoping exercise has now commenced to determine the development of these with the results informing the timetable for consultation and implementation. We expect this timetable to be completed by May 2008.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many consultations undertaken by private contractors his Department commissioned in the last 12 months; who carried them out; and what the cost was of each. [188356]

**Maria Eagle:** In the last 12 months my Ministry has not commissioned private contractors to carry out any consultations in their entirety. However, private contractors, including third sector organisations, have carried out certain aspects of a number of consultations for the Ministry of Justice. Details are in the following table.

| Name of consultation(s) | Name of private contractor | What they have been commissioned to do | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| MoJ Third Sector Strategy: Improving policies and securing better Public services through effective Partnerships (and NOMS Third Sector Strategy) | Sand Resources Ltd | 35 days' consultancy work, contracted to draft MoJ consultation paper, help analyse responses and help produce final strategy paper. Also contracted to help analyse responses to NOMS Third Sector Action Plan and help develop final NOMS Action Plan | 35,000 |
| Draft Coroners Bill—reporting restriction provisions | Opinion Leader Research | One day workshop with stakeholders including representatives from the media and voluntary sectors and with coroners | 6,830 |
| NOMS Third Sector Strategy | CLINKS (Third sector organisation) | Run four Third Sector stakeholder events | 20,000 |
| NOMS Believing We Can | CLINKS | Run two Faith stakeholder events in the North West | 10,000 |
| NOMS Thirds Sector Strategy/Believing We Can | Lincolnshire Action Trust (Third sector organisation) | Run consultation events and develop third sector and faith alliances in the East Midlands | [1]8,950 |
| NOMS Thirds Sector Strategy/Believing We Can | Futures Unlocked (Third sector organisation) | Run consultation events and develop third sector and faith alliances in the East Midlands | [1]9,010 |
| Review of remuneration of Tribunals' Judiciary | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) | Advise the senior salaries review on remuneration of tribunals' judiciary, which included job evaluation and consultation on behalf of SSRB | [2]185,841 |

[1] Grant funding.
[2] Please note that while this consultation was funded by the Ministry of Justice it was commissioned by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME). OME provides the secretariat for the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB).

## Departmental Redundancies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175338]

**Maria Eagle:** There have been no involuntary staff exit schemes.

While there have been some voluntary early departures between 1997 and 2005, information about redundancy costs is not held centrally due to previous machinery of Government changes and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For the ex DCA cost of voluntary redundancies since 30 June 2006 is £17,488,631. The cost for HMPS since it became part of MoJ on the 5 May 2007 is £4,804,164. There have been no voluntary or compulsory redundancies from NOMS since they became part of the Ministry of Justice. There are also three cases for early departure from CICA, which is sponsored by OCJR which have been approved at a cost of £244,971.

## Firearms: Sentencing

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences on conviction for offences which included the carrying or use of a firearm in each of the last five years. [185634]

**Mr. Straw:** Information on possession of a firearm is contained in the following table. Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

In such instances as a robbery or violent assault where an individual has used a firearm or other offensive weapon then they will principally be sentenced for the more serious transgression, and the figures for such more serious offences do not isolate the specific use of a firearm in such circumstances.

*Persons sentenced[1] for possession of a firearm[2], all courts, England and Wales 2002-06, England and Wales*

*Number of offenders*

| | Offence codes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Type of sentence* | *8103* | *8104* | *8117* | *8126* | *8127* | *8129* | *8230* | *8235* | *8136* | *8137* | *8170* | *8171* | *Total* |
| *2002* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 195 | 101 | 789 | 48 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 59 | 10 | 36 | – | – | 1,255 |
| Custodial sentence | 51 | 4 | 176 | 28 | 3 | — | — | 29 | 4 | 5 | — | — | 300 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 144 | 97 | 613 | 20 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 31 | — | — | 955 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 232 | 74 | 903 | 72 | 8 | — | — | 69 | 9 | 35 | — | — | 1,402 |
| Custodial sentence | 91 | 5 | 216 | 32 | 5 | — | — | 31 | 1 | 6 | — | — | 387 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 141 | 69 | 687 | 40 | 3 | — | — | 38 | 8 | 29 | — | — | 1,015 |
| *2004* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 217 | 55 | 746 | 157 | 37 | 5 | — | 83 | 7 | 33 | 314 | 2 | 1,656 |

*Persons sentenced[2] for possession of a firearm[2], all courts, England and Wales 2002-06, England and Wales*

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of sentence* | *Offence codes* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *8103* | *8104* | *8117* | *8126* | *8127* | *8129* | *8230* | *8235* | *8136* | *8137* | *8170* | *8171* | *Total* |
| Custodial sentence | 85 | 7 | 252 | 23 | 10 | 2 | — | 46 | 3 | 6 | 27 | 1 | 462 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 132 | 48 | 494 | 134 | 27 | 3 | — | 37 | 4 | 27 | 257 | 1 | 1,164 |
| *2005* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 206 | 53 | 389 | 218 | 33 | 3 | — | 93 | 6 | 37 | 700 | — | 1,738 |
| Custodial sentence | 54 | 9 | 242 | 23 | 6 | 1 | — | 47 | | 10 | 75 | — | 467 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 152 | 44 | 147 | 195 | 27 | 2 | — | 46 | 6 | 27 | 625 | — | 1,271 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 210 | 67 | 280 | 144 | 21 | 3 | — | 63 | 4 | 33 | 767 | 2 | 1,594 |
| Custodial sentence | 67 | 7 | 212 | 19 | 4 | 2 | — | 36 | 1 | 9 | 88 | — | 445 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 143 | 60 | 68 | 125 | 17 | 1 | — | 27 | 3 | 24 | 679 | 2 | 1,149 |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Possession of a firearm includes the offences of:
8 81/03 possessing firearm without certificate;
81/04 possessing shotgun without certificate;
81/17 possessing or distributing prohibited weapons;
81/26 carrying firearm in a public place
81/27 carrying loaded firearm in a public place;
81/29 trespassing with firearm in a building (Group I);
81/30 trespassing with firearm in a building (Group II);
81/35 possession firearm by person previously convicted of crime (Group I);
81/36 possession firearm by person previously convicted of crime (Group II);
81/37 possession firearm by person previously convicted of crime (Group III);
81/70 possessing weapon designed for discharge of noxious liquid;
81/71 possessing firearm disguised as other object.
[3] Non-custodial sentences include absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

## Life Imprisonment

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prison sentences handed out were life sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [188946]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the available information which can also be found in table 2.3 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2006', available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

*Persons sentenced to life sentences, 1996 to 2006, England and Wales*

*Number and percentage*

| *Custody rate and sentence length* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All offences* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number given immediate custody at all courts | 85,249 | 93,841 | 100,566 | 105,323 | 106,187 | 106,273 | 111,607 | 107,670 | 106,322 | 101,236 | 96,017 |
| Life[1] | 338 | 367 | 394 | 483 | 467 | 503 | 555 | 513 | 570 | 625 | 547 |
| Proportion (Percentage) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

[1] Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.

## Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences on conviction for offences which included the carrying or use of a knife in each of the last five years. [185635]

**Mr. Straw:** Information on possession of a knife is contained in the following table. Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

In such instances as a robbery or violent assault where an individual has used a knife or other offensive weapon then they will principally be sentenced for the more serious transgression; the figures for such more serious offences as robbery do not isolate the specific use of a knife in such circumstances.

*Persons sentenced[1] for possession of a knife, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06*

*Defendants*

| | *Offence* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Type of sentence* | *Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse[2]* | *Having an article with a blade or point in a public place* | *Having an article with a blade or point on school premises* | *Possession of weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises* | *Total* |
| *2002* | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 5,441 | 5,269 | 57 | 21 | 10,788 |
| Custodial sentence | 787 | 766 | 7 | 5 | 1,565 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 4,654 | 4,503 | 50 | 16 | 9,223 |
| *2003* | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 5,470 | 5,374 | 88 | 22 | 10,954 |
| Custodial sentence | 760 | 755 | 6 | 4 | 1,525 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 4,710 | 4,619 | 82 | 18 | 9,429 |
| *2004* | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 5,758 | 5,802 | 106 | 33 | 11,699 |
| Custodial sentence | 817 | 803 | 12 | 4 | 1,636 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 4,941 | 4,999 | 94 | 29 | 10,063 |
| *2005* | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 5,689 | 5,957 | 45 | 30 | 11,721 |
| Custodial sentence | 829 | 965 | 5 | 3 | 1,802 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 4,860 | 4,992 | 40 | 27 | 9,919 |
| *2006* | | | | | |
| Total sentenced | 5,630 | 6,284 | 50 | 40 | 12,004 |
| Custodial sentence | 788 | 1,070 | 5 | 3 | 1,866 |
| Non-custodial sentence[3] | 4,842 | 5,214 | 45 | 37 | 10,138 |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Will include knives, but information collected centrally does not provide a distinction between them and other offensive weapons.
[3] Non-custodial sentences include absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

### Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how his Department defines a prisoner in an open prison who absconds and fails to return. [189817]

**Mr. Straw:** Prisoners are classed as 'absconders' if they absent themselves from Prison Service custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security restraints such as that provided by fence, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle, handcuffs or direct supervision of staff. This latter category are classed as escapes.

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there have been any changes to the criteria for recording absconds or other unauthorised absences from open prisons since 1997. [189818]

**Mr. Straw:** There have been no changes to the criteria for recording absconds or other unauthorised absences from open prisons since 1997.

### Prison Accommodation

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the certified normal accommodation was for *(a)* each prison and *(b)* the prison estate in each month since November 2007; [188195]

(2) what the operational capacity was for *(a)* each prison and *(b)* the prison estate in each month since November 2007. [188196]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA)[1] and operational capacity for each prison in England and Wales and for the total in-use CNA and useable operational capacity[2] for the prison estate. Figures provided are for the final Friday of each month since November 2007.

[1] In-use certified normal accommodation (in-use CNA), is the uncrowded capacity of an establishment after adjusting for accommodation out of use.

[2] Useable operational capacity is the total number of prisoners that the estate can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of regimes, less the operating margin of 2000 places. This is because of constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different classes of prisoner, i.e. by sex, age, security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and due to geographical distribution of prisons and prisoners.

*Prison Establishments*

| Prison Name | November 2007 | | December 2007 | | January 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CNA | Op Cap | CNA | Op Cap | CNA | Op Cap |
| Acklington | 882 | 882 | 882 | 882 | 882 | 882 |
| Albany | 526 | 526 | 526 | 526 | 526 | 526 |
| Altcourse | 794 | 1,288 | 794 | 1,288 | 794 | 1,288 |
| Ashfield | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| Ashwell | 535 | 545 | 534 | 544 | 534 | 544 |
| Askham Grange | 126 | 128 | 126 | 128 | 126 | 128 |
| Aylesbury | 437 | 444 | 437 | 444 | 437 | 444 |
| Bedford | 324 | 494 | 322 | 494 | 322 | 494 |
| Belmarsh | 799 | 909 | 799 | 909 | 799 | 909 |
| Birmingham | 1,121 | 1,450 | 1,121 | 1,450 | 1,121 | 1,450 |
| Blakenhurst | 821 | 1,070 | 821 | 1070 | 821 | 1,070 |
| Blantyre House | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 |
| Blundeston | 421 | 466 | 421 | 466 | 421 | 466 |
| Brinsford | 473 | 489 | 473 | 489 | 473 | 489 |
| Bristol | 420 | 606 | 420 | 606 | 420 | 606 |
| Brixton | 606 | 798 | 606 | 798 | 606 | 798 |
| Brockhill | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| Bronzefield | 450 | 465 | 450 | 465 | 450 | 465 |
| Buckley Hall | 350 | 385 | 350 | 385 | 350 | 385 |
| Bullingdon | 759 | 963 | 759 | 963 | 759 | 963 |
| Bullwood Hall | 170 | 184 | 170 | 184 | 170 | 204 |
| Camp Hill | 523 | 595 | 523 | 595 | 523 | 595 |
| Canterbury | 196 | 284 | 196 | 294 | 196 | 304 |
| Cardiff | 524 | 754 | 524 | 754 | 524 | 754 |
| Castington | 400 | 410 | 400 | 410 | 400 | 410 |
| Channings Wood | 698 | 731 | 698 | 731 | 696 | 729 |
| Chelmsford | 541 | 695 | 541 | 695 | 541 | 695 |
| Coldingley | 370 | 392 | 370 | 392 | 370 | 392 |
| Cookham Wood | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Dartmoor | 619 | 646 | 619 | 646 | 615 | 642 |
| Deerbolt | 447 | 452 | 447 | 452 | 453 | 458 |
| Doncaster | 771 | 1,146 | 771 | 1,146 | 771 | 1,146 |
| Dorchester | 147 | 260 | 143 | 257 | 143 | 257 |
| Dovegate | 800 | 860 | 800 | 860 | 800 | 860 |
| Dover | 316 | 316 | 316 | 316 | 316 | 316 |
| Downview | 358 | 358 | 358 | 358 | 358 | 358 |
| Drake Hall | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 |
| Durham | 591 | 981 | 591 | 981 | 591 | 981 |
| East Sutton Park | 98 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 98 | 100 |
| Eastwood Park | 326 | 362 | 326 | 362 | 326 | 362 |
| Edmunds Hill | 366 | 371 | 366 | 371 | 351 | 351 |
| Elmley | 753 | 985 | 753 | 985 | 753 | 985 |
| Erlestoke | 410 | 410 | 410 | 410 | 410 | 410 |
| Everthorpe | 603 | 689 | 603 | 689 | 603 | 689 |
| Exeter | 316 | 533 | 316 | 533 | 316 | 533 |
| Featherstone | 663 | 679 | 663 | 679 | 663 | 679 |
| Feltham | 762 | 762 | 762 | 762 | 762 | 762 |
| Ford | 541 | 541 | 541 | 541 | 541 | 541 |
| Forest Bank | 800 | 1,124 | 800 | 1,124 | 800 | 1,124 |
| Foston Hall | 283 | 290 | 283 | 290 | 283 | 290 |
| Frankland | 732 | 749 | 732 | 749 | 732 | 749 |
| Full Sutton | 600 | 612 | 600 | 612 | 600 | 612 |
| Garth | 779 | 779 | 812 | 812 | 812 | 812 |
| Gartree | 570 | 575 | 570 | 575 | 570 | 575 |
| Glen Parva | 668 | 808 | 668 | 808 | 668 | 808 |
| Gloucester | 225 | 321 | 225 | 321 | 225 | 321 |
| Grendon | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 |
| Guys Marsh | 520 | 578 | 520 | 578 | 520 | 578 |
| Haslar | 123 | 123 | 141 | 141 | 131 | 131 |
| Haverigg | 522 | 635 | 622 | 635 | 622 | 635 |
| Hewell Grange | 187 | 187 | 187 | 187 | 187 | 187 |
| Highdown | 693 | 797 | 821 | 925 | 821 | 925 |
| Highpoint | 788 | 812 | 792 | 816 | 792 | 816 |
| Hindley | 539 | 539 | 523 | 523 | 523 | 523 |
| Hollesley Bay | 330 | 330 | 330 | 330 | 330 | 330 |
| Holloway | 498 | 501 | 498 | 501 | 498 | 501 |
| Holme House | 857 | 994 | 857 | 994 | 857 | 994 |
| Hull | 723 | 1040 | 723 | 1040 | 723 | 1040 |
| Huntercombe | 360 | 365 | 360 | 365 | 360 | 365 |
| Kennet | 175 | 342 | 175 | 342 | 171 | 338 |
| Kingston | 199 | 200 | 199 | 200 | 199 | 200 |
| Kirkham | 590 | 590 | 590 | 590 | 590 | 590 |
| Kirklevington | 223 | 223 | 223 | 223 | 223 | 223 |
| Lancaster | 96 | 177 | 96 | 177 | 96 | 177 |
| Lancaster Farms | 480 | 527 | 480 | 527 | 480 | 527 |
| Latchmere House | 207 | 207 | 207 | 207 | 207 | 207 |
| Leeds | 678 | 1,000 | 678 | 1,000 | 678 | 1,000 |
| Leicester | 206 | 385 | 210 | 392 | 210 | 392 |
| Lewes | 458 | 558 | 458 | 558 | 458 | 558 |
| Leyhill | 512 | 512 | 512 | 512 | 512 | 512 |
| Lincoln | 436 | 738 | 436 | 738 | 436 | 738 |
| Lindholme | 1,006 | 1,066 | 1,042 | 1,102 | 1,042 | 1,102 |
| Littlehey | 663 | 706 | 663 | 706 | 663 | 706 |
| Liverpool | 1,160 | 1,439 | 1,160 | 1,439 | 1,160 | 1,439 |
| Long Lartin | 426 | 464 | 426 | 464 | 426 | 464 |
| Low Newton | 285 | 316 | 291 | 328 | 291 | 328 |
| Lowdham Grange | 640 | 680 | 640 | 680 | 640 | 680 |
| Maidstone | 451 | 482 | 451 | 482 | 451 | 482 |
| Manchester | 954 | 1269 | 954 | 1269 | 954 | 1269 |
| Moorland | 740 | 791 | 740 | 791 | 740 | 791 |

*Prison Establishments*

| Prison Name | November 2007 CNA | November 2007 Op Cap | December 2007 CNA | December 2007 Op Cap | January 2008 CNA | January 2008 Op Cap |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moorland Open | 260 | 260 | 260 | 260 | 260 | 260 |
| Motion Hall | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 |
| Mount | 747 | 764 | 747 | 764 | 747 | 764 |
| New Hall | 393 | 443 | 393 | 443 | 393 | 443 |
| North Sea Camp | 306 | 306 | 306 | 306 | 306 | 306 |
| Northallerton | 153 | 252 | 153 | 252 | 153 | 252 |
| Norwich | 447 | 557 | 447 | 557 | 447 | 557 |
| Nottingham | 379 | 550 | 379 | 550 | 379 | 550 |
| Onley | 640 | 640 | 640 | 640 | 640 | 640 |
| Pare | 838 | 1,138 | 838 | 1,138 | 838 | 1,138 |
| Parkhurst | 461 | 521 | 453 | 506 | 449 | 497 |
| Pentonville | 799 | 1,152 | 799 | 1,152 | 799 | 1,152 |
| Peterborough | 840 | 996 | 840 | 1,008 | 840 | 1,008 |
| Portland | 519 | 557 | 519 | 557 | 519 | 557 |
| Prescoed | 167 | 178 | 167 | 178 | 167 | 178 |
| Preston | 429 | 750 | 429 | 750 | 429 | 750 |
| Ranby | 912 | 1,038 | 912 | 1,038 | 912 | 1,038 |
| Reading | 182 | 287 | 182 | 287 | 182 | 287 |
| Risley | 1,046 | 1,091 | 1,050 | 1,095 | 1,050 | 1,095 |
| Rochester | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 | 392 |
| Rye Hill | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Send | 216 | 216 | 216 | 216 | 216 | 216 |
| Shepton Mallet | 165 | 189 | 165 | 189 | 165 | 189 |
| Shrewsbury | 175 | 328 | 175 | 328 | 175 | 328 |
| Spring Hill | 333 | 333 | 333 | 333 | 333 | 333 |
| Stafford | 680 | 680 | 680 | 680 | 680 | 680 |
| Standford Hill | 464 | 464 | 464 | 464 | 464 | 464 |
| Stocken | 685 | 712 | 715 | 742 | 715 | 742 |
| Stoke Heath | 516 | 632 | 516 | 632 | 472 | 588 |
| Styal | 450 | 460 | 450 | 460 | 438 | 448 |
| Sudbury | 563 | 571 | 563 | 571 | 563 | 571 |
| Swaleside | 751 | 773 | 751 | 773 | 751 | 773 |
| Swansea | 240 | 422 | 240 | 422 | 240 | 422 |
| Swinfen Hall | 600 | 620 | 600 | 620 | 600 | 620 |
| Thorn Cross | 322 | 321 | 322 | 321 | 322 | 321 |
| Usk | 150 | 250 | 150 | 250 | 150 | 250 |
| Verne | 560 | 595 | 560 | 595 | 560 | 595 |
| Wakefield | 748 | 751 | 748 | 751 | 748 | 751 |
| Wandsworth | 965 | 1,475 | 965 | 1,475 | 996 | 1,475 |
| Warren Hill | 222 | 222 | 222 | 222 | 222 | 222 |
| Wayland | 657 | 709 | 657 | 717 | 657 | 717 |
| Wealstun | 885 | 907 | 885 | 907 | 885 | 907 |
| Wellingborough | 636 | 646 | 636 | 646 | 636 | 646 |
| Werrington | 160 | 162 | 160 | 162 | 160 | 162 |
| Wetherby | 360 | 384 | 360 | 384 | 360 | 384 |
| Whatton | 733 | 797 | 758 | 821 | 758 | 821 |
| Whitemoor | 464 | 458 | 464 | 458 | 464 | 458 |
| Winchester | 380 | 544 | 380 | 544 | 380 | 544 |
| Wolds | 320 | 380 | 320 | 380 | 320 | 380 |
| Woodhill | 641 | 807 | 641 | 807 | 641 | 807 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1,173 | 1,256 | 1,173 | 1,256 | 1,173 | 1,256 |
| Wymott | 1,005 | 1,062 | 1,005 | 1,062 | 1,005 | 1,062 |

*Prison Estate*

| | November 2007 CNA | November 2007 Useable op cap | December 2007 CNA | December 2007 Useable op cap | January 2008 CNA | January 2008 Useable op cap |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 71,995 | 81,464 | 72,252 | 81,755 | 72,194 | 81,686 |

## Prisoners

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were on End of Custody Licence on 22 February. [189816]

**Mr. Straw:** On 19 June 2007, the then Lord Chancellor announced the introduction of a presumption in favour of release from custody on licence for prisoners serving between four weeks and four years for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address.

At the end of December 2007, it is estimated that the number of offenders under licence as part of the ECL scheme was approximately 1,350 (data rounded to the nearest 50). This is taken from the latest monthly publication of "End of Custody Licence releases and recalls" (1-31 December 2007), published on 31 January 2008.

This publication can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The next publication, covering the period 1-31 January 2008, is due to be published on 29 February.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisoners: Legal Advice and Assistance

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of legal advice for prisoners in adjudication proceedings in each of the last three years in each prison. [189442]

**Maria Eagle:** The cost of legal advice for adjudication proceedings is not recorded separately. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) record the cost of adjudication proceedings under the category of assistance at prison discipline hearings. The cost of this category for the last three years are:

| Financial year | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 900 |
| 2005-06 | 1,565 |
| 2006-07 | 2,380 |

The costs cannot be attributed to individual prisons, as the LSC does not record this information.

## Prisons: Crimes of Violence

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 307-9W, what additional reports of *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on officer assaults have been received for each prison establishment in 2007 since the answer was given. [188949]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested as set out in the table is subject to important qualifications. The Prison Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. Assault data are complex and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact incidents and allegations. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assaulter or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories:

Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other and Other. Recording of assaults on prison officers sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff.

*(a) Prisoner on Prisoner*

| *Prison name* | *2007 data as in original answer*[1] | *Latest 2007 data available*[1] | *Difference* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 65 | 65 | 0 |
| Albany | — | — | NOM |
| Altcourse | 223 | 226 | 3 |
| Ashfield | 650 | 652 | 2 |
| Ashwell | 17 | 17 | 0 |
| Askham Grange | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Aylesbury | 76 | 79 | 3 |
| Bedford | 36 | 36 | 0 |
| Belmarsh | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Birmingham | 105 | 108 | 3 |
| Blakenhurst | 212 | 213 | 1 |
| Blantyre House | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blundeston | 33 | 33 | 0 |
| Brinsford | 184 | 187 | 3 |
| Bristol | 72 | 73 | 1 |
| Brixton | 56 | 56 | 0 |
| Brockhill | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Bronzefield | 98 | 98 | 0 |
| Buckley Hall | 36 | 37 | 1 |
| Bullingdon | 68 | 68 | 0 |
| Bullwood Hall | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Camp Hill | — | — | NOM |
| Canterbury | 19 | 20 | 1 |
| Cardiff | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Castington | 383 | 384 | 1 |
| Channings Wood | 52 | 54 | 2 |
| Chelmsford | 32 | 32 | 0 |
| Coldingley | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| Cookham Wood | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Dartmoor | 25 | 26 | 1 |
| Deerbolt | 159 | 160 | 1 |
| Doncaster | 124 | 127 | 3 |
| Dorchester | 31 | 32 | 1 |
| Dovegate | 54 | 54 | 0 |
| Downview | 11 | 12 | 1 |
| Drake Hall | 18 | 20 | 2 |
| Durham | 126 | 127 | 1 |
| East Sutton Park | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| Edmunds Hill | 25 | 26 | 1 |

*(a) Prisoner on Prisoner*

| *Prison name* | *2007 data as in original answer*[1] | *Latest 2007 data available*[1] | *Difference* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elmley | 123 | 125 | 2 |
| Erlestoke | 35 | 35 | 0 |
| Everthorpe | 69 | 69 | 0 |
| Exeter | 24 | 24 | 0 |
| Featherstone | 90 | 90 | 0 |
| Feltham | 425 | 427 | 2 |
| Ford | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Forest Bank | 213 | 213 | 0 |
| Foston Hall | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Frankland | 31 | 31 | 0 |
| Full Sutton | 50 | 52 | 2 |
| Garth | 64 | 64 | 0 |
| Gartree | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Glen Parva | 362 | 364 | 2 |
| Gloucester | 47 | 47 | 0 |
| Grendon/Spring Hill | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Guys Marsh | 72 | 72 | 0 |
| Haverigg | 68 | 68 | 0 |
| Hewell Grange | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| High Down | 112 | 115 | 3 |
| Highpoint | 79 | 80 | 1 |
| Hindley | 497 | 497 | 0 |
| Hollesley Bay | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Holloway | 112 | 114 | 2 |
| Holme House | 123 | 124 | 1 |
| Hull | 138 | 140 | 2 |
| Huntercombe | 279 | 280 | 1 |
| Kennet | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Kirkham | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Kirklevington | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lancaster | 19 | 19 | 0 |
| Lancaster Farms | 337 | 357 | 20 |
| Leeds | 92 | 92 | 0 |
| Leicester | 34 | 34 | 0 |
| Lewes | 61 | 63 | 2 |
| Leyhill | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Lincoln | 87 | 87 | 0 |
| Lindholme | 51 | 51 | 0 |
| Littlehey | 37 | 37 | 0 |
| Liverpool | 225 | 226 | 1 |
| Long Lartin | 43 | 43 | 0 |
| Low Newton | 63 | 64 | 1 |
| Lowdham Grange | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| Maidstone | 17 | 17 | 0 |
| Manchester | 127 | 127 | 0 |
| Moorland | 90 | 90 | 0 |
| Moorland Open | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Morton Hall | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Mount | 43 | 44 | 1 |
| New Hall | 56 | 56 | 0 |
| North Sea Camp | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Northallerton | 96 | 98 | 2 |
| Norwich | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Nottingham | 84 | 85 | 1 |
| Onley | 214 | 215 | 1 |
| Parc | 315 | 315 | 0 |
| Parkhurst | — | — | NOM |

*(a) Prisoner on Prisoner*

| Prison name | 2007 data as in original answer[1] | Latest 2007 data available[1] | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pentonville | 139 | 144 | 5 |
| Peterborough | 221 | 221 | 0 |
| Portland | 189 | 190 | 1 |
| Preston | 104 | 105 | 1 |
| Ranby | 42 | 42 | 0 |
| Reading | 44 | 45 | 1 |
| Risley | 107 | 107 | 0 |
| Rochester | 75 | 75 | 0 |
| Rye Hill | 66 | 66 | 0 |
| Send | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Shepton Mallet | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 39 | 39 | 0 |
| Stafford | 76 | 76 | 0 |
| Standford Hill | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Stocken | 58 | 59 | 1 |
| Stoke Heath | 526 | 526 | 0 |
| Styal | 58 | 58 | 0 |
| Sudbury | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Swaleside | 51 | 52 | 1 |
| Swansea | 19 | 19 | 0 |
| Swinfen Hall | 87 | 87 | 0 |
| Thorn Cross | 83 | 83 | 0 |
| Usk\Prescoed | 8 | 11 | 3 |
| Verne | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 18 | 17 | -1 |
| Wandsworth | 93 | 94 | 1 |
| Warren Hill | 317 | 321 | 4 |
| Wayland | 58 | 58 | 0 |
| Wealstun | 21 | 22 | 1 |
| Wellingborough | 35 | 35 | 0 |
| Werrington | 141 | 141 | 0 |
| Wetherby | 349 | 349 | 0 |
| Whatton | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| Whitemoor | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| Winchester | 26 | 26 | 0 |
| Wolds | 49 | 49 | 0 |
| Woodhill | 52 | 52 | 0 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 136 | 137 | 1 |
| Wymott | 28 | 28 | 0 |

[1] There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.
NOM = CNOMIS (offender management information system) sites where data is not readily available at the time of compilation.

*(b) Prisoner on Officer*

| Prison name | 2007 data as in original answer[1] | Latest 2007 data available[1] | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Albany | — | — | NOM |
| Altcourse | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Ashfield | 82 | 85 | 3 |
| Ashwell | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Aylesbury | 11 | 13 | 2 |
| Bedford | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Belmarsh | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| Birmingham | 69 | 77 | 8 |
| Blakenhurst | 35 | 35 | 0 |
| Blundeston | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Brinsford | 11 | 12 | 1 |
| Bristol | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| Brixton | 32 | 32 | 0 |
| Brockhill | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Bronzefield | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| Buckley Hall | 11 | 11 | 0 |

*(b) Prisoner on Officer*

| Prison name | 2007 data as in original answer[1] | Latest 2007 data available[1] | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bullingdon | 21 | 21 | 0 |
| Bullwood Hall | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Camp Hill | — | — | NOM |
| Canterbury | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Cardiff | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Castington | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| Channings Wood | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| Chelmsford | 21 | 21 | 0 |
| Coldingley | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Cookham Wood | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Dartmoor | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Deerbolt | 34 | 34 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Dorchester | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Dovegate | 42 | 42 | 0 |
| Downview | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| Drake Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Durham | 57 | 57 | 0 |
| East Sutton Park | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Edmunds Hill | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Elmley | 27 | 27 | 0 |
| Erlestoke | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Everthorpe | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Exeter | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Featherstone | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| Feltham | 102 | 103 | 1 |
| Ford | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Forest Bank | 33 | 33 | 0 |
| Foston Hall | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Frankland | 18 | 18 | 0 |
| Full Sutton | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Garth | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Gartree | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Glen Parva | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Gloucester | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Grendon/Spring Hill | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Guys Marsh | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| Haverigg | 17 | 17 | 0 |
| Hewell Grange | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| High Down | 65 | 65 | 0 |
| Highpoint | 19 | 20 | 1 |
| Hindley | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| Hollesley Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Holloway | 87 | 87 | 0 |
| Holme House | 20 | 20 | 0 |
| Hull | 31 | 30 | -1 |
| Huntercombe | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| Kingston | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirkham | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lancaster | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lancaster Farms | 31 | 31 | 0 |
| Leeds | 18 | 18 | 0 |
| Leicester | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Lewes | 13 | 14 | 1 |
| Leyhill | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Lincoln | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| Lindholme | 19 | 19 | 0 |
| Littlehey | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Liverpool | 30 | 30 | 0 |

(b) Prisoner on Officer

| Prison name | 2007 data as in original answer[1] | Latest 2007 data available[1] | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Long Lartin | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| Low Newton | 17 | 19 | 2 |
| Lowdham Grange | 39 | 39 | 0 |
| Maidstone | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Manchester | 77 | 77 | 0 |
| Moorland | 13 | 13 | 0 |
| Morton Hall | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mount | 19 | 19 | 0 |
| New Hall | 45 | 46 | 1 |
| North Sea Camp | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Northallerton | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Norwich | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Nottingham | 43 | 43 | 0 |
| Onley | 22 | 23 | 1 |
| Parc | 48 | 48 | 0 |
| Parkhurst | .. | .. | NOM |
| Pentonville | 57 | 61 | 4 |
| Peterborough | 111 | 111 | 0 |
| Portland | 37 | 37 | 0 |
| Preston | 44 | 44 | 0 |
| Ranby | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| Reading | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Risley | 23 | 23 | 0 |
| Rochester | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Rye Hill | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| Send | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Shepton Mallet | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Stafford | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Standford Hill | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Stocken | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Stoke Heath | 65 | 65 | 0 |
| Styal | 45 | 45 | 0 |
| Sudbury | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swaleside | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Swansea | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swinfen Hall | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Thorn Cross | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Verne | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Wandsworth | 31 | 31 | 0 |
| Warren Hill | 46 | 46 | 0 |
| Wayland | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Wealstun | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Wellingborough | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Werrington | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Wetherby | 34 | 34 | 0 |
| Whatton | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| Whitemoor | 21 | 22 | 1 |
| Winchester | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Wolds | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Woodhill | 52 | 52 | 0 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 67 | 69 | 2 |
| Wymott | 4 | 4 | 0 |

[1] There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.
NOM = CNOMIS (offender management information system) sites where data is not readily available at the time of compilation.

## Prisons: Finance

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much and what proportion of the funding announced for building new prisons is expected to be spent on *(a)* purchasing land, *(b)* architectural costs, *(c)* prison accommodation construction costs and *(d)* legal costs; and if he will make a statement; [188157]

(2) how much and what proportion of the funding allocated to building new prisons is expected to be spent on prison *(a)* healthcare facilities, *(b)* exercise and recreational facilities, *(c)* educational facilities, *(d)* detoxification facilities and *(e)* workshops; and if he will make a statement. [188158]

**Mr. Straw:** The prison capacity programme has £2.2 billion allocated to deliver around 11,700 places. Further to this, up to £120 million has been provisionally allocated for the land purchase including three Titans in the post—2011 SR period and this will be subject to the usual SR process.

This programme will provide around 2,300 places in three new prisons and a further 7,500 places to be provided in three Titan prisons. The remaining places in the programme are provided in expansions to existing prison sites and conversions of some surplus MOD and NHS sites.

Although land is still to be purchased for the Titans, no additional expenditure on land purchase has been required for the other three prisons as the land is already in NOMS ownership.

It is estimated that the proportion of costs across the whole capacity programme will be 3 per cent. for architectural or design fees, 90 per cent. for construction fees and less than 1 per cent. for legal fees.

Where new prisons are to be procured through the Design, Construct Manage Finance (DCMF) process, the bids are evaluated on the cost per prisoner place over the lifetime of the proposed contract. A breakdown of the regime elements at the new prisons such as health care, exercise, education and detoxification facilities cannot be provided at this stage of the current ongoing DCMF competition.

## Repossession Orders: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many home repossessions there have been in each London borough in each year since 2000; [188974]

(2) how many home repossessions there have been in each London court in each year since 2000. [188975]

**Bridget Prentice:** The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in all London county courts since 2000.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts jurisdictions are not coterminous with London borough boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

*Number of mortgage possession orders made[1,2] in county courts[3] in London, 2000-07*

| Court | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnet | 156 | 151 | 193 | 203 | 288 | 556 | 580 | 524 |
| Bow | 494 | 461 | 495 | 630 | 900 | 1,427 | 1,706 | 1,863 |
| Brentford | 206 | 264 | 258 | 279 | 373 | 604 | 780 | 656 |
| Bromley | 371 | 327 | 406 | 555 | 599 | 1,047 | 1,130 | 1,061 |
| Central London | 89 | 84 | 130 | 184 | 268 | 518 | 413 | 301 |
| Croydon | 619 | 674 | 630 | 758 | 928 | 1,483 | 1,867 | 1,703 |
| Edmonton | 467 | 446 | 525 | 532 | 650 | 1,122 | 1,251 | 1,183 |
| Ilford | 257 | 236 | 236 | 245 | 404 | 573 | 652 | — |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 151 | 140 | 154 | 213 | 214 | 358 | 425[5] | 312 |
| Lambeth | 184 | 267 | 304 | 367 | 558 | 924 | 1,096 | 1,077 |
| Romford | 365 | 317 | 319 | 421 | 496 | 920 | 992 | 1,024 |
| Uxbridge | 246 | 265 | 254 | 265 | 356 | 521 | 603 | 553 |
| Wandsworth | 163 | 186 | 203 | 248 | 342 | 557 | 586 | 485 |
| West London | 84 | 96 | 95 | 135 | 147 | 290 | 296 | 220 |
| Willesden | 323 | 390 | 323 | 445 | 502 | 900 | 1,093 | 845 |
| Woolwich | 162 | 132 | 215 | 214 | 349 | 642 | 911 | — |
| Clerkenwell and Shoreditch | 143 | 160 | 201 | 300 | 411 | 846 | 814 | 661 |
| Mayors and City | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 10 |
| Ilford and Woolwich[5] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,458 |
| London total | 4,481 | 4,597 | 4,943 | 5,994 | 7,788 | 13,110[4] | 15,204 | 13,942 |

[1] Local authority and private.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] Includes suspended orders and orders made.
[4] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.
[5] The figures for Ilford and Woolwich county courts, which are without access to the possession claim on-line (PCOL) system, are aggregated for 2007. This is due to county courts with access to possession claim on-line (PCOL) drawing mortgage and landlord possession orders on behalf of other county courts which has resulted in data being excluded from the Department's Management Information System (MIS), from which the figures in this table are sourced. An aggregate upward adjustment has therefore been applied to the numbers of orders made at these two county courts.

### Wills: Royal Family

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from lawyers acting for the royal family on publication practice on royal wills in the last 10 years. [188632]

**Mr. Straw:** Neither my predecessors, nor I have received any representations from lawyers acting for the royal family on publication practice on royal wills in the last 10 years. An application to seal a royal will is made to the Principal Registry of the Family Division and is decided by the President. In the last 10 years there have been two such applications; namely those in respect of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of young people appearing before restorative peer panels in *(a)* Preston and *(b)* England subsequently broke contractual obligations agreed with the panel in the latest period for which figures are available; [189719]

(2) what the ages have been of the young people who have appeared before restorative peer panels in *(a)* Preston and *(b)* England since the hearings started; [189720]

(3) how many cases have been *(a)* heard and *(b)* resolved by restorative peer panels in (i) Preston and (ii) England since the hearings started; [189721]

(4) for which offences restorative peer panels may be used; [189722]

(5) which contract options have been taken up by young people appearing before restorative peer panels in *(a)* Preston and *(b)* England since their inception. [189723]

**Mr. Hanson:** The peer panel project in Preston is still in its very early stages and there have been relatively few young people referred to it to date. The expectation however is that numbers will increase as the project develops. The Invest to Save Bid monies have been allocated to the project in Preston alone. In answer to the individual questions:

no young people to date have broken the terms of the agreement they reached with the panel

the ages of young people appearing before a peer panel have ranged from 11 to 16

there have been 15 panel meetings to date involving people aged under 18; four have been completed, four are still proceeding and seven have been referred back to the referring officer as the young person did not attend peer panels can be used for a variety of offences but are particularly suitable for "quality of life low-level offences" such as vandalism, minor shoplifting and also for bullying and other school related matters. They are not used for serious matters.

the options taken up to date include, apologising to the victim verbally or in writing, agreeing to change behaviour, payment for the damage caused, to act responsibly on public transport in future and to work with a mentor to facilitate a return to school. There have also been agreements to attend local agencies to address issues which affect the young person.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1063W, on accident and emergency

departments, how many of each type of accident and emergency services there were in each region of England in each year for which figures are available since 1997. [188508]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Figures for the numbers of accident and emergency (A and E) departments at the end of each of the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and the latest 2007-08 date (position as at end December 2007) have been provided. More historic data have not been provided as the information could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

*Number of A and E departments in each strategic health authority (SHA) split by type of department (2005-06)*

| SHA code | SHA name | Number of type one (major) A and E departments | Number of type two (single specialty) A and E departments | Number of type three A and E departments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | England | 203 | 86 | 292 |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| Q03 | Essex SHA | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Q04 | North West London SHA | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| Q05 | North Central London SHA | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Q06 | North East London SHA | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Q07 | South East London SHA | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Q08 | South West London SHA | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA | 7 | 2 | 13 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley SHA | 7 | 0 | 5 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA | 6 | 0 | 15 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire SHA | 9 | 0 | 6 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire SHA | 9 | 0 | 11 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester SHA | 13 | 4 | 14 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside SHA | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley SHA | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway SHA | 6 | 0 | 12 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex SHA | 10 | 28 | 18 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA | 12 | 1 | 21 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula SHA | 6 | 1 | 38 |
| Q22 | Somerset and Dorset SHA | 5 | 1 | 15 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire SHA | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Q24 | Trent SHA | 9 | 3 | 9 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA | 3 | 2 | 11 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country SHA | 10 | 2 | 3 |
| Q28 | West Midlands South SHA | 7 | 4 | 13 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures given as type three A and E departments cover minor injury and illness services, including minor injury units and walk-in centres.
2. Figures given are the position at end March 2005-06.

*Source:*
Department of Health Dataset QMAE

*Number of A and E departments in each SHA split by type of department (2006-07)*

| SHA code | SHA name | Number of type one (major) A and E departments | Number of type two (single specialty) A and E departments | Number of type three A and E departments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | England | 204 | 66 | 288 |
| Q30 | North East | 14 | 2 | 18 |
| Q31 | North West | 33 | 8 | 37 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and the Humber | 21 | 2 | 21 |
| Q33 | East Midlands | 12 | 5 | 20 |
| Q34 | West Midlands | 23 | 5 | 26 |
| Q35 | East of England | 19 | 4 | 21 |
| Q36 | London | 32 | 9 | 25 |
| Q37 | South East Coast | 16 | 21 | 29 |

*Number of A and E departments in each SHA split by type of department (2006-07)*

| SHA code | SHA name | Number of type one (major) A and E departments | Number of type two (single specialty) A and E departments | Number of type three A and E departments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q38 | South Central | 12 | 7 | 15 |
| Q39 | South West | 22 | 3 | 76 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures given as type three A and E departments cover minor injury and illness services, including minor injury units and walk-in centres.
2. Figures given are the position at end March 2006-07.

*Source:*
Department of Health Dataset QMAE

*Number of A and E departments in each SHA split by type of department (2007-08)*

| SHA code | SHA name | Number of type one (major) A and E departments | Number of type two (single specialty) A and E departments | Number of type three A and E departments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | England | 203 | 69 | 280 |
| Q30 | North East | 14 | 2 | 17 |
| Q31 | North West | 32 | 8 | 39 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and the Humber | 21 | 2 | 21 |
| Q33 | East Midlands | 12 | 5 | 21 |
| Q34 | West Midlands | 23 | 5 | 25 |
| Q35 | East of England | 19 | 4 | 20 |
| Q36 | London | 32 | 9 | 27 |
| Q37 | South East Coast | 16 | 19 | 29 |
| Q38 | South Central | 12 | 12 | 15 |
| Q39 | South West | 22 | 3 | 66 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures given as type three A and E departments cover minor injury and illness services, including minor injury units and walk-in centres.
2. Figures given are the latest position (as at end December 2007).

*Source:*
Department of Health Dataset QMAE

## Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what factors his Department ascribes the increase in the number of people waiting more than four hours in accident and emergency departments indicated in the most recent quarterly figures. [188178]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The A and E data at national level do not allow us to examine causes of poor performance.

It is for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) to work with national health service organisations to ensure they are providing an appropriate level of high quality care for patients. SHAs are actively engaged in this and working closely with challenged organisations to address issues that may arise which affect performance. These issues vary depending on local circumstances. All trusts need to be working to this operational standard.

## Autism

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on services for adults with autism by each primary care trust in London in the last five years for which figures are available. [185734]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally.

However, the Government recently announced, through the comprehensive spending review, that local authority funding will increase by £2.6 billion by 2010-11 and national health service funding will increase from £35 billion in 1997-98 to £110 billion in 2010-11. It is for local NHS organisations to best determine how to allocate these funds.

## Autism: Children

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding is available to families with children diagnosed with autism to help them with medical expenses; [187731]

(2) what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was from diagnosis of children with autism to treatment in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; [187733]

(3) what expenditure the NHS incurred on the treatment and care of a child diagnosed in each level of autism spectrum in the last 12 months. [187861]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is for individual national health service trusts to determine the level of funding available from their general allocations for the medical needs of children with autism, taking into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

We do not hold information centrally on waiting times or NHS expenditure for autism.

## Autism: Training

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training staff who undertake assessments through Fair Access to Care Services receive in autism spectrum disorders. [187233]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Staff training is the responsibility of local authorities.

"Better Services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. A copy is available in the Library. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder.

## Care Homes: Elderly

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes for older people were found by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to be in breach of each of the national minimum standards in the last year for which figures are available. [188180]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that its inspectors assess the performance of care homes against each national minimum standard (NMS) and rate them on a four point scale. A score of four indicates that a standard has been exceeded. A score of three shows that it has been met. A score of two denotes that the standard was almost met with minor shortfalls—this indicates that one of the numerous sub-sections in the standard has not been completely met. A score of one means the standard has not been met.

The following table shows the numbers of care homes for older people inspected and their performance against the NMS for the year ending 31 March 2007.

*Residential care homes for older people—performance against NMS, year ending 31 March 200*

| | | | Scores | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *NMS* | *Homes evaluated against this standard* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* |
| 1 | Information | 9,989 | 259 | 1,921 | 7,541 | 268 |
| 2 | Contracts | 9,696 | 200 | 1,452 | 7,960 | 84 |
| 3 | Needs assessments | 10,522 | 222 | 1,473 | 8,426 | 401 |
| 4 | Meeting needs | 9,574 | 313 | 1,271 | 7,683 | 307 |
| 5 | Trial visits | 9,504 | 28 | 238 | 9,064 | 174 |
| 6 | Intermediate care | 2,078 | 86 | 164 | 1,745 | 83 |
| 7 | Service users' plans | 10,556 | 549 | 4,078 | 5,338 | 591 |
| 8 | Healthcare | 10,550 | 313 | 1,853 | 7,794 | 590 |
| 9 | Medication | 10,537 | 686 | 3,495 | 6,187 | 169 |
| 10 | Privacy and dignity | 10,531 | 131 | 936 | 8,849 | 615 |
| 11 | Dying and death | 9,201 | 68 | 964 | 7,686 | 483 |
| 12 | Social contact and activities | 10,542 | 279 | 2,203 | 6,841 | 1,219 |
| 13 | Community contact | 10,532 | 12 | 262 | 9,591 | 667 |
| 14 | Autonomy and choice | 10,520 | 89 | 787 | 9,079 | 565 |
| 15 | Meals and mealtimes | 10,543 | 131 | 1,372 | 7,938 | 1,102 |
| 16 | Complaints | 10,546 | 137 | 1,161 | 9,043 | 205 |
| 17 | Rights | 9,006 | 34 | 291 | 8,639 | 42 |
| 18 | Protection | 10,539 | 333 | 2,004 | 8,040 | 162 |
| 19 | Premises | 10,552 | 462 | 2,909 | 6,415 | 766 |
| 20 | Shared facilities | 9,685 | 128 | 1,124 | 7,875 | 558 |
| 21 | Lavatories and washing facilities | 9,666 | 281 | 1,761 | 7,305 | 319 |
| 22 | Adaptations and equipment | 9,569 | 230 | 1,841 | 7,310 | 188 |
| 23 | Space requirements | 9,485 | 67 | 647 | 8,388 | 383 |
| 24 | Furniture and fittings | 9,781 | 170 | 1,920 | 7,266 | 425 |
| 25 | Heating and lighting | 9,704 | 370 | 2,151 | 6,980 | 203 |
| 26 | Hygiene and infection control | 10,544 | 288 | 2,004 | 7,647 | 605 |
| 27 | Staff compliment | 10,535 | 357 | 1,667 | 8,181 | 330 |
| 28 | Staff qualifications | 10,093 | 189 | 2,032 | 6,968 | 904 |
| 29 | Staff recruitment | 10,512 | 724 | 2,518 | 7,074 | 196 |
| 30 | Staff training | 10,516 | 317 | 2,593 | 6,955 | 651 |
| 31 | Day to day operation | 10,520 | 320 | 1,985 | 7,390 | 825 |
| 32 | Ethos | 9,509 | 214 | 879 | 7,594 | 822 |
| 33 | Quality assurance | 10,511 | 462 | 2,692 | 6,795 | 562 |
| 34 | Financial procedures | 8,778 | 199 | 865 | 7,654 | 60 |
| 35 | Service users' money | 9,966 | 117 | 767 | 8,975 | 107 |
| 36 | Staff supervision | 9,860 | 562 | 2,688 | 6,449 | 161 |
| 37 | Record keeping | 9,485 | 478 | 2,684 | 6,238 | 85 |
| 38 | Safe working practices | 10,542 | 647 | 3,432 | 6,235 | 228 |

*Note:*
The total number of homes measured against NMS for older people was 10,565. Not all homes are evaluated against all standards at every inspection. Inspections may be themed and focus on particular aspects of a service.
*Source:*
CSCI NMS data—31 March 2007

### Care Homes: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the standard charge for residential care home accommodation provided by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* independent providers is in each local authority area. [188181]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the take up rate among young women for cervical cancer screening. [186386]

**Ann Keen:** Women invited to participate in the national health service cervical screening programme need to understand the potential benefits and harms in doing so and to be able to make an informed choice about whether or not they wish to take part in the programme.

This is why all eligible women receive a national information leaflet on cervical screening, Cervical Screening - The Facts. This leaflet is included with each screening invitation and contains comprehensive and understandable information about cervical screening. It can be viewed at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/in-04.html

The Cancer Reform Strategy noted concerns about the fall in the number of young women taking up their invitation to be screened. That is why the NHS cancer screening programme have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level targeting this age group. The lessons learned from this work, due in 2009, will be shared with strategic health authorities and local screening programmes to develop best practice.

The NHS cancer screening programme's press office is developing an information pack to be issued to all local screening programmes and also developing a public relations strategy, including articles in appropriate media publications, posters etc. In addition, Cancer Research UK have commissioned research on this issue, which we will monitor closely and will share the findings.

Continued local action in this area is also essential and we will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/Information Centre for health and social care annual cervical screening statistical bulletin.

### Chesterfield Primary Care Trust: Manpower

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* midwives and *(c)* doctors were working in the NHS in (i) Chesterfield primary care trust and (ii) Derbyshire county primary care trust in each year since 1997. [187036]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of staff working within Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust[1] (PCTs) in each year from 2002-2006 is shown in the following table.

[1] In 2006 Derbyshire PCT was formed from a complete merger of Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North Eastern Derbyshire PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations. The Midwives for the areas covered by these PCTs are all employed by the Chesterfield Royal NHS Foundation Trust.

*As at 30 September each year*

| | *Number* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| All Staff[1, 2] | 1,991 | 2,011 | 2,126 | 2,192 | 2,102 |
| All Doctors[1, 2] | 452 | 475 | 494 | 505 | 507 |
| Hospital and Community | | | | | |
| Health Services Medical and Dental[2] | 50 | 51 | 53 | 53 | 55 |
| General practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars[2] | 402 | 424 | 441 | 452 | 452 |
| Qualified nursing staff[3] | 1,276 | 1,282 | 1,331 | 1,394 | 1,271 |
| Practice Nurses | 263 | 254 | 301 | 293 | 324 |

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP Others.
[3] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental, Non-Medical and general and personal medical services Workforce Census.

### Childbirth

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born in NHS hospitals in England in each month since 1997, broken down by *(a)* gestation period in which they were born and *(b)* birth weight. [175247]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the latest information on live births by birth weight and gestational age at birth.

*Live births by birth weight and gestational age at birth, England and Wales, 2005*

| | | Birth weight (grams) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Gestational age (weeks)* | *All* | *Under 1,000* | *1,000-1,499* | *1,500-2,499* | *2,500 and over* | *Not stated* |
| *Number of live births* | | | | | | |
| All | 645,887 | 3,217 | 4,832 | 40,739 | 594,930 | 2,169 |
| Under 24 | 647 | 605 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 20 |
| 24-27 | 2,431 | 1,795 | 507 | 24 | 71 | 34 |
| 28-31 | 5,825 | 648 | 2,943 | 1,952 | 239 | 43 |
| 32-36 | 39,538 | 61 | 1,211 | 20,536 | 17,594 | 136 |
| 37 and over | 592,158 | 73 | 112 | 17,872 | 572,373 | 1,728 |
| All with known gestational age | 640,599 | 3,182 | 4,778 | 40,386 | 590,292 | 1,961 |
| Low gestational age inconsistent with birth weight | 100 | 0 | 8 | 15 | 65 | 12 |
| Gestational age not stated | 4,315 | 26 | 44 | 311 | 3,925 | 9 |
| Not linked to NN4B record | 873 | 9 | 2 | 27 | 648 | 187 |
| *Percentage of live births with known gestational age* | | | | | | |
| Under 24 | 0.1 | 19.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| 24-27 | 0.4 | 56.4 | 10.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| 28-31 | 0.9 | 20.4 | 61.6 | 4.8 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| 32-36 | 6.2 | 1.9 | 25.3 | 50.8 | 3.0 | 6.9 |
| Under 37 | 7.6 | 97.7 | 97.7 | 55.7 | 3.0 | 11.9 |
| *Percentage of all live births* | | | | | | |
| Gestational age not stated | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Not linked to NN4B record | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 8.6 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Children: Malnutrition

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 13 years were classified as malnourished in each NHS authority in each of the last five years. [189166]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Dental Health

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the advice issued by the British Association for the study of community dentistry advising dentists to classify teeth showing signs of moderate to severe fluorosis as sound. [187570]

**Ann Keen:** The guidance is appropriate since teeth showing signs of fluorosis still enjoy the same protection from decay that fluoridation offers.

### Dental Services

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who had veneers fitted to their teeth *(a)* with the costs covered by the NHS and *(b)* on referral by an NHS dentist to a private clinician in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by strategic health authority. [187622]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not available centrally.

### Dental Services: Chesterfield

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* 18 to 65 and *(b)* under 18 year-olds were registered for NHS dental treatment in Chesterfield in each year since 1997; [187037]

(2) how many NHS dentists in Chesterfield *(a)* admitted new adult patients to their list and *(b)* treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years in each of the last five years. [187038]

**Ann Keen:** Information on dental patients aged between 18 and 65 is currently not available. Information is available by child/adult where a child is defined as being aged 17 and under, and an adult is defined as being aged 18 and over.

Under the old contractual arrangements, which were in place until 1 April 2006, patients had to register with an individual national health service dentist to receive NHS care.

The numbers of adult and child patients registered with an NHS dentist at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area are available in Annex A of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006. This provides data for 1997 to 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services, 'patients seen' over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007 and 30 June 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 1: 30 June 2007 report. Information is available by PCT/SHA area, and by Child/Adult.

This report, published on 28 November 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentstatsq10708

Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Information on NHS dentists admitting new NHS adult patients to lists, and on NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years of age treated, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were recruited to *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time NHS work in (i) Chesterfield Primary Care Trust and (ii) Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust area in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of such recruitment in each of the next three years. [187039]

**Ann Keen:** Information on recruitment of NHS dentists working part-time and full-time is not collected centrally.

The information on the number of dentists recruited by primary care trust (PCT) is based on the old contractual arrangements. To provide information on the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of dentists leaving and joining Chesterfield PCT and Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT between 2001 and 2006.

| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chesterfield PCT | Leaver | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| | New Entrant | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | | | | | | |
| | Leaver | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | New Entrant | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

*Notes:*
1. Leaver means the dentist did not have an open general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) contract in March of the specified year but did have a GDS or PDS contract in England in March of the previous year.
2. New entrant means the dentist did have an open GDS or PDS contract in March of the specified year but did not have a GDS or PDS contract in England in March of the previous year.
3. A dentist may have joined a GDS or PDS contract within more than one PCT or strategic health authority (SHA) area, in which case they would appear in figures from each individual PCT or SHA area. The figures are based on GDS and PDS contracts. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have not been included in this analysis. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes.
4. A dentist with a GDS or GDS contract may provide as little or as much National Health Service treatment as he or she chooses or as agreed with the PCT.
5. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists. 6. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning private dentists.
*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care NHS Business Services Authority, Dental Services Division

## Dental Services: Fees and Charges

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the revenue from patients' charges *(a)* was in the last year of the previous NHS dental contracts and *(b)* has been in the first year of the new contract. [187461]

**Ann Keen:** A simplified system of banded national health service dental charges was introduced in 2006-07, alongside new commissioning and remuneration arrangements for NHS primary dental care services. Services were also evolving ahead of the changeover as increasing numbers of dental practices converted from the former general dental services (GDS) contract to personal dental service (PDS) pilots where remuneration was based on levels of care rather than item of service fees. However, levels of charge income reduced in PDS pilots because of the need to retain the old charge structure which was not calibrated to take account of the new ways of working stimulated by the new terms of service. This effect was particularly noticeable in 2005-06 when the number of PDS pilots reached their peak. The following table shows charge income for the four-year span 2003-04 to 2006-07 to give a perspective on these trends ahead of the adoption of the new charge structure in April 2006.

*Income from NHS dental charges, England*

| | Dental charge income (£ million) | Dental charge income as a proportion of the gross cost of primary dental care services (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 484 | 26.6 |
| 2004-05 | 466 | 23.9 |
| 2005-06 | 410 | 18.6 |
| 2006-07 | 472 | 21.3 |

*Note:*
Charge income totals are compiled from NHS accounts data and represent income collected in the former GDS, PDS pilots, and from April 2006, all primary dental care services provided under the unified commissioning arrangements managed by primary care trusts.

## Dental Services: Finance

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance is given by the NHS to help newly qualified or returning dentists set up and equip dental practices. [188315]

**Ann Keen:** Dentists wishing to operate as independent contractors and planning to establish a new dental practice or surgery would generally fund the facilities themselves and secure an appropriate return on their investment from their annual service contract with their primary care trust (PCT) to provide an agreed level of national health service dental services. However, PCTs may offer dentists assistance with the start up costs of establishing new dental practices at their discretion, if they consider this appropriate and necessary. The Government have also made £100 million capital funds available to PCTs over the two years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to give them additional scope to help dentists modernise or expand dental practices for the benefit of NHS patients.

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on NHS dental provision in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Birmingham in (i) total and (ii) per head of population in the latest period for which figures are available; [187620]

(2) what the cost was of dental provision per head of population in the strategic health authorities covering *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England where water is fluoridated and *(b)* the five most deprived areas in England where water is not fluoridated in the latest period for which figures are available. [187621]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in the following tables. Fluoridation of water offers the best prospect of reducing inequalities in oral health, but comparisons between expenditure levels in different areas are affected by a number of factors. There is no simple and direct relationship between expenditure levels and relative oral health needs. The legacy of the previous general dental service contract is that the pattern of services largely reflects where dentists previously chose to set up in practice, and how much national health service dental work they chose to undertake. In addition, levels of patient demand for dental care may not necessarily reflect levels of oral health need. The Department has no data on the levels of private dental care provided in different areas. Expenditure per head is calculated from resident population figures, but patients may attend dental surgeries outside their areas of residence.

*Gross expenditure on primary dental care (PDC) in Manchester and Birmingham in 2006-07*

| *Primary care trust (PCT)* | *2006-07 gross expenditure on primary dental care (£000)* | *2006-07 gross expenditure on primary dental care per head of population (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Manchester | 22,797 | 50.44 |
| Heart of Birmingham teaching | 12,473 | 45.99 |
| South Birmingham | 18,047 | 53.22 |
| Birmingham East and North | 14,871 | 37.53 |

*Notes:*
1. Expenditure figures are based on the aggregate gross expenditure on primary dental care reported by PCTs with their 2006-07 end of year accounts.
2. Expenditure per head figures are based on the aggregate gross expenditure on primary dental care and the Office of National Statistics 2006 mid year population figures.

*Gross expenditure on PDC in strategic health (SHAs) authorities with the most deprived PCT areas receiving fluoridated or non fluoridated water supplies (2006-07 figures)*

| *SHA receiving proportion of fluoridated water supplies* | *2006-07 Gross expenditure on primary dental care per head of population (£)* | *SHA Receiving no or few fluoridated water supplies* | *2006-07 Gross expenditure on primary dental care per head of population (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 44.52 | North Western | 48.83 |
| North East | 50.59 | London | 45.75 |

*Notes:*
1. The five PCTs which receive fluoridated water supplies and have the highest deprivation scores are South Birmingham, Heart of Birmingham Teaching, Birmingham East and North, and Wolverhampton PCTs (within the area of the West Midlands SHA), and Hartlepool PCT (within the area of the North East SHA). The five PCTs with the highest deprivation scores which do not receive fluoridated water supplies are Liverpool, Manchester, and Knowsley PCTs (within the area of the North West SHA), and City and Hackney Teaching and Tower Hamlets PCTs (within the area of the London SHA).
2. The distribution of fluoridated water supplies is not entirely uniform even across those SHAs which have the highest proportions of fluoridated areas.

## Departmental Databases

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176463]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department and its agencies have non-disclosure agreements with their contractors and contractual obligations for them to permit and facilitate any audit of personal data and IT equipment. Contracts include terms and conditions covering confidentiality, data protection and freedom of information.

## Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183181]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report* column 688W.

## Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187914]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The average hourly rates paid to employment agencies for agency staff in January 2008 are shown in the following table. These rates cover staff of different grades, with various skill levels, working in a range of locations.

| *Employment agency* | £ *Average hourly rate* |
|---|---|
| Adecco UK Ltd | 19.22 |
| Adept Recruitment | 17.37 |
| Carlisle Staffing/Tate | 14.63 |
| Directors Secretaries Ltd | 22.50 |
| Eden Brown Limited | 20.26 |
| Hays Ltd | 16.90 |
| Kelly Services | 15.25 |
| Lifeline Personnel Ltd | 20.81 |
| Manpower Plc | 22.28 |
| Office Angels | 16.57 |
| Robert Half International | 24.34 |
| Sand Resources Ltd | 20.00 |
| Select Appointments Plc | 16.83 |
| Sheila Childs Recruitment | 25.50 |
| Step Ahead | 18.48 |
| Sue Hill Recruitment | 15.79 |
| Tay Associates Ltd | 21.62 |
| Teleresources | 14.52 |
| TPP Newman | 24.50 |

Information is not available in this format for previous years.

## Doctors: Foreign Nationals

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many European doctors have sought work in the United Kingdom since the implementation of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals in October 2007. [186639]

**Ann Keen:** The number of European doctors who have sought work in the United Kingdom is not collected centrally. However, for information the General Medical Council will be able to identify the number of European doctors who have applied for UK registration. The last workforce census showed that there were a total of 7,261 qualified medical staff working in the national health service from the European Economic Area as at 30 September 2006.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what safeguards are in place to ensure that European doctors applying for hospital posts in the United Kingdom are able to communicate in English and are fit to practise, following the implementation of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals; [186641]

(2) what criteria are used to assess whether European doctors applying for hospital posts in the United Kingdom are fit to practise following the implementation of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals; [186642]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to support European doctors working in the UK without the required language and communications standards and competencies; and how such support is funded. [186643]

**Ann Keen:** The Department's code of practice for the International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals, which covers recruitment from inside and outside the European economic area, emphasises that all international healthcare professionals should have the appropriate level of English language to enable them to undertake their role effectively and that they should be registered with the relevant regulatory body. The General Medical Council are responsible for assuring themselves that a doctor is fit to practise before granting registration.

In addition NHS Employers' guidance makes clear that

> "It is important to remember that all international healthcare professionals need to demonstrate their communication skills... the employer should satisfy themselves of a candidate's ability to communicate to the required standard for the post."

All applicants for foundation programmes or specialty registrar training opportunities are required to demonstrate competence in the English language.

It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that any concerns about a doctor's competence are addressed.

The European Union Professional Qualifications Directive has not changed the position in relation to European doctors qualifications, or English language competence on entering the United Kingdom.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many foreign nationals were employed as doctors by the NHS in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the previous 10 years; [187158]

(2) what percentage of NHS doctors were EU nationals in the last five years; [187159]

(3) what percentage of doctors working in the NHS were non-EU foreign nationals in 2007; [187160]

(4) what percentage of doctors working in the NHS were UK nationals in the most recent period for which figures are available; [187161]

(5) what percentage of doctors who migrated to the United Kingdom were EU nationals in the last five years. [187156]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service work force census does not collect the nationality of NHS Staff; it does however collect the country of primary qualification. The available information is shown in the following tables. The publication of the 2007 figures is provisionally planned for this March.

*Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[1,2] and general practitioners (excluding retainers)[1,4] by country of primary qualification—England*

*Numbers (headcount)*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All countries of qualification | 103,350 | 108,993 | 117,036 | 122,345 | 125,612 |
| Qualified in all of the European Economic Area (EEA) (including United Kingdom) | 75,871 | 79,121 | 83,225 | 85,672 | 87,898 |
| Percentage of staff qualified in all of the EEA (including UK) | 73 | 73 | 71 | 70 | 70 |
| Qualified within the UK | 70,245 | 73,134 | 76,733 | 78,647 | 80,637 |
| Percentage of staff qualified in the UK | 68 | 67 | 66 | 64 | 64 |
| Qualified within the remainder of the EEA | 5,626 | 5,987 | 6,492 | 7,025 | 7,261 |
| Percentage of staff qualified in the remainder of the EEA | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Qualified outside the UK and EEA | 23,825 | 26,109 | 29,959 | 32,703 | 33,805 |
| Percentage of staff qualified outside the UK and EEA | 23 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| Unknown country of qualification[5] | 3,654 | 3,763 | 3,852 | 3,970 | 3,909 |
| Percentage of staff with an unknown country of qualification | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners (GPs) working part time in hospitals.
[2] Medical and dental data as at 30 September each year.
[3] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers) includes GP providers, GP others and GP registrars.
[4] GP data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.
[5] Qualified outside the UK consists of those staff which qualified within the remaining EEA and elsewhere in the world.

*Notes:*
1. Information about HCHS staff country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. Therefore the country of qualification in shown as unknown for all staff in dental specialties with a General Dental Council registration.
2. The EEA (excluding the UK) includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

*Sources:*
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

*HCHS: Medical and Dental staff[1,2] and GPs (excluding retainers)[1,4] by country of primary qualification—England*

*Numbers (headcount)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All countries of qualification | 89,619 | 91,837 | 93,981 | 96,319 | 99,169 | 103,350 | 108,993 | 117,036 | 122,345 | 125,612 |
| Qualified outside the UK[5] | 23,483 | 24,122 | 24,923 | 25,764 | 26,852 | 29,451 | 32,096 | 36,451 | 39,728 | 41,066 |
| Qualified within the UK | 62,569 | 64,105 | 65,442 | 67,025 | 68,785 | 70,245 | 73,134 | 76,733 | 78,647 | 80,637 |
| Unknown country of qualification[6] | 3,567 | 3,610 | 3,616 | 3,530 | 3,532 | 3,654 | 3,763 | 3,852 | 3,970 | 3,909 |

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] Medical and dental data as at 30 September each year.
[3] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers) includes GP providers, GP others and GP registrars.
[4] GP data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.
[5] Qualified outside the UK consists of those staff which qualified within the remaining EEA and elsewhere in the world.
[6] Information about HCHS staff country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. Therefore the country of qualification in shown as unknown for all staff in dental specialties with a General Dental Council registration.

*Sources:*
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## Doctors: Vacancies

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many posts were available for trainee *(a)* doctors and *(b)* physiotherapists in the NHS in each of the last five years. [185317]

**Ann Keen:** The number of places available for trainee doctors in the national health service was not collected centrally prior to 2007. In 2007, 5,020 foundation programmes were filled through the Medical Training Service in England. This was in addition to posts that were filled locally.

In 2008, 5,900 places on Foundation Programmes in England have been advertised on the Application Modernising Medical Careers Service. In addition, approximately 300 academic programmes have been recruited to separately.

There are no trainee places for physiotherapists in the NHS. The number of qualified physiotherapists employed in the NHS is 19,820 (as at 30 September 2006) this is an increase of 5,577 or 39 per cent. since September 1997.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 670W, on drugs: rehabilitation, what definition of in treatment is used in the answer. [189169]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: The figures given in the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 670W, are taken from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). NDTMS is a data collection system used to maintain treatment activity.

The definition used by the treatment providers submitting data to NDTMS is contained within the Models of Care guidance document is as follows:

"... a range of interventions that are intended to remedy an identified drug-related problem or condition relating to a person's physical, psychological or social (including legal) well-being. This data should include:

drug misusers being treated/assessed/referred for tier 3 or 4 services;

(substitute/detox prescribing, structured counselling, structured day care programme, other psychotherapeutic interventions such as cognitive behavioural therapy and motivational interventions, residential rehabilitation or community-based aftercare programmes);

those referred from the criminal justice system;

drug misusers in treatment who are resident in the drug action team area regardless of where they are being treated;

all drug misusers for whom a service is provided, irrespective of setting and funding (but excluding drug misusers treated in prison). This will include drug misusers receiving services from national health service, voluntary and private residential and non-residential drug treatment agencies as well as general practitioners treating drug misusers.

Structured drug treatment follows assessment and is delivered according to a care plan, with clear goals, which is regularly reviewed with the client."

*Source*:

Models of Care for the Treatment of Adult Drug Misusers (National Treatment Agency, 2002).

## General Practitioners

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to incentivise general practitioners to accept new patients. [185928]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The new general medical services contract introduced a number of steps to incentivise and improve access to general practice. New allocation and funding mechanisms such as the global sum, Quality and Outcomes Framework and enhanced services reward the work associated with each additional patient under new practice-based contracts. Therefore, every new additional patient registration attracts additional funding for each practice. In addition, substantial investment in primary care has enabled new and extended premises for general practices to increase their capacity and accept a greater number of patients to their lists.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* clarify the rules on eligibility and *(b)* streamline the process for patients to register with a GP practice. [185929]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The current system of patient registration is relatively straightforward. However, the Department acknowledges that the current rules on eligibility to register for free primary medical services for foreign nationals are unclear and much is left to the discretion of individual general practitioners (GPs) and practices. The Department is undertaking a joint review of Access to the NHS by foreign nationals with the Home Office. The review is due to be completed shortly and any new proposals will then go out to public consultation.

Key information about all GP practices, including information on how to register, has also been made available via the NHS Choices website on www.nhs.uk. This service provides people with reliable and accessible information on GP practices to help them choose which a local practice that is likely to best meet their needs.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GPs' practices' lists are *(a)* open, *(b)* open and full and *(c)* closed. [185930]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Under the contractual arrangements, general practitioner practice lists are either 'open' or 'closed'. In England, as at October 2007, 2 per cent. of practices reported operating 'closed lists'. These data are collected quarterly through the Primary Care Trust Primary Care Access Survey.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to provide individuals with information on GP practices and their services since the publication of Our Health, Our Care, Our Say. [185933]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The public are now able to access key information about all general practitioner (GP) practices—including the results of the patient survey,

practice opening times and performance against key quality indicators via the NHS Choices website on www.nhs.uk. This service provides people with reliable and accessible information on GP practices to help them choose which one is likely to best meet their needs.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* rules have been set for existing GP practices which wish to bid to become alternative providers of medical services. [186878]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to develop open and transparent tendering processes where all health care providers, including existing practices, voluntary and independent sector organisations, can bid to deliver primary medical care services under an alternative provider medical services (APMS) contract.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he is planning to re-open negotiations with GPs on out-of-hours services to patients. [185646]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government have no proposals to re-open negotiations with the general practitioners on taking back responsibility for out of hours services to patients.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of requiring GP surgeries to extend their opening hours on GPs' income; [185826]

(2) whether he plans to amend the General Medical Services contract to include a requirement for GPs to extend their surgery opening hours; [185827]

(3) what additional financial support he will provide to GP surgeries to cover increased costs associated with extended opening hours. [185829]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There is no requirement for any general practitioner (GP) practice to extend their opening hours. Under proposals put to the BMA's General Practitioners Committee, the average GP practice which provides three hours extended opening per week could expect to receive around £19,000 per year, where they choose to provide such services to their patients. This would be funded by making more effective use of existing resources within the current GP contract arrangement. In addition, we have offered to invest an additional 1.5 per cent. increase through the GP contract, worth just over £100 million. This would be a further boost in investment, provide greater improvements for patients and is a good deal for GPs.

### Physical/Mental Ill-Health

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has evaluated on links between ill health and unhappiness. [187592]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department is currently reviewing the evidence of the relationship between physical and mental ill-health; there is likely to be a two way interaction between them.

In the longer term, this work will support the Government's commitment to address inequalities in health outcomes across the country.

### Health and Social Care Information Centre

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 309W, on Health and Social Care Information Centre, when the Information Centre began reviewing the information for which data should be made available in the future; which interested parties are contributing to the review; when he expects the review to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [185575]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre for Health and Social Care is consulting with the Department and a range of other organisations on its products. The outcome and timing of this is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

### Health Services

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on spending under the alternative providers of medical services budget to develop and expand existing primary care provision; [186879]

(2) what directions he has given to local health trusts in respect of the spending of moneys under the alternative providers of medical services scheme. [186883]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The £250 million access fund announced by Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) on 10 October will be devolved to primary care trusts (PCTs) to enable them to develop a general practitioner (GP) led health centre each and at least 100 new GP practices across the 50 PCTs with poorest provision. It will be for PCTs to design these services so that they reflect local health need and health care strategies.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* timetable has been set for and *(b)* geographical area will be covered by the initial phases of the alternative providers of medical services scheme. [186880]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** During 2008-09 primary care trusts (PCTs) will undertake open and transparent procurements for new general practitioner (GP) practices and GP-led health centres. Every PCT in the country will procure on new health centre, however, only those 50 PCTs that have been identified as having the poorest provision will procure new GP practices. A table of these PCTs is shown as follows. The precise geographical locations of these services will be determined locally by PCTs based on their local needs assessment.

*PCTs with poorest provision (i.e. those with fewest primary care clinicians, lowest patient satisfaction with access and poorest health outcomes) where at least 100 new GP practices will be located*

| Rank | PCT | SHA |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Manchester PCT | North West SHA |
| 2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | London SHA |
| 3 | Knowsley PCT | North West SHA |
| 4 | Sandwell PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 5 | Wolverhampton City PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 6 | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | North West SHA |
| 7 | Liverpool PCT | North West SHA |
| 8 | Sunderland Teaching PCT | North East SHA |
| 9 | Birmingham East and North PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 10 | Halton and St Helens PCT | North West SHA |
| 11 | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 12 | Barnsley PCT | Yorkshire and The Humber SHA |
| 13 | Leicester City PCT | East Midlands SHA |
| 14 | Oldham PCT | North West SHA |
| 15 | Blackburn with Darwen PCT | North West SHA |
| 16 | Stoke on Trent PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 17 | Hounslow PCT | London SHA |
| 18 | Hull PCT | Yorkshire and The Humber SHA |
| 19 | Nottingham City PCT | East Midlands SHA |
| 20 | Blackpool PCT | North West SHA |
| 21 | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | North West SHA |
| 22 | Dudley PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 23 | Bolton PCT | North West SHA |
| 24 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | London SHA |
| 25 | Sefton PCT | North West SHA |
| 26 | Medway Teaching PCT | South East Coast SHA |
| 27 | Salford PCT | North West SHA |
| 28 | Hartlepool PCT | North East SHA |
| 29 | Tameside and Glossop PCT | North West SHA |
| 30 | Walsall Teaching PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 31 | Newcastle PCT | North East SHA |
| 32 | Redcar and Cleveland PCT | North East SHA |
| 33 | South Tyneside PCT | North East SHA |
| 34 | Calderdale PCT | Yorkshire and The Humber SHA |
| 35 | North Lancashire PCT | North West SHA |
| 36 | Luton Teaching PCT | East of England SHA |
| 37 | Havering PCT | London SHA |
| 38 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | London SHA |
| 39 | Rotherham PCT | Yorkshire and The Humber SHA |
| 40 | Enfield PCT | London SHA |
| 41 | Bury PCT | North West SHA |
| 42 | South Birmingham PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 43 | Telford and Wrekin PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 44 | Newham PCT | London SHA |
| 45 | Gateshead PCT | North East SHA |
| 46 | Coventry Teaching PCT | West Midlands SHA |
| 47 | Bristol PCT | South West SHA |
| 48 | North Somerset PCT | South West SHA |
| 49 | Middlesbrough PCT | North East SHA |
| 50 | East Lancashire PCT | North West SHA |

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the alternative providers of medical services scheme and its implementation. [186881]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This is not a matter for the Department. It is for primary care trusts to engage appropriately with patient and public groups, clinicians and the local health authority on all aspects of service planning, including the development and consideration of service changes and decisions that affect service operation.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he consulted *(a)* local trusts, *(b)* GPs, *(c)* scrutiny bodies and *(d)* patients representatives on the delivery of the alternative providers of medical services scheme. [186882]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Decisions on the form of consultation process to adopt, who to consult and the time allowed for this process will be made by each primary care trust and will need to be considered in light of all relevant factors, including any consultation already conducted or underway.

## Health Services: Standards

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the targets on *(a)* financial savings and *(b)* improvements in care will be for the next basket of Better Care, Better Value indicators. [188282]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The final indicator set for the third quarter of 2007-08 is currently being finalised. There are no plans to introduce metrics on financial savings as part of this process.

## Hospitals: Costs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 6 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 656W, on hospitals: costs, which buildings procured under the private finance initiative his Department's Private Finance Unit has assessed as not representing better value for money overall when compared with the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [175350]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Private finance initiative (PFI) was considered for the schemes listed as follows but in each case did not produce a suitable value for money solution:

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | | Capital value |
| 1997 | Rochdale NHS Trust[1] | 24 |
| | Central Sheffield University Hospitals NHS Trust[1] | 24 |
| | Berkshire and Battle NHS Foundation Trust[1] | 84 |
| | Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust[1] | 50 |

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | | Capital value |
| 2000 | Thames Gateway NHS Trust[1] | 13 |
| | Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust[2] | 20 |
| | Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust[3] | 11 |
| | Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust[3] | 14 |
| 2003 | East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust | 250 |
| 2004 | Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 50 |
| 2006 | Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 167 |
| 2007 | Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust[4] | 400 |
| | Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust[4] | 200 |
| | Whips Cross University Hospitals Hospital NHS Trust | 328 |
| | South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust | 164 |
| | University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust | 711 |

[1] These schemes subsequently went ahead using public capital.
[2] This was retendered as a PFI scheme and opened to patients in January 2007.
[3] These schemes were incorporated into larger PFI schemes which subsequently went ahead.
[4] These schemes were proposals developed after an initial £340 million scheme which went out to the Official Journal of the European Union in 2004 was reviewed.

## Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hospital waiting times were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England for each specialty in each year since 1997. [186915]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is shown in the following tables.

*Inpatient median waiting times, Commissioner Basis (Cornwall Area)*

*Organisation: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly primary care trust (PCT): median waiting time for elective admission*

| | Weeks |
|---|---|
| *Specialty* | *Period ending March 2007* |
| General surgery | 7.2 |
| Urology | 6.1 |
| Trauma AND Orthopaedics | 7.4 |
| Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) | 8.2 |
| Ophthalmology | 7.2 |
| Oral surgery | 7.4 |
| Oral and Maxillo Facial Surgery | 8.4 |
| Neurosurgery | 8.9 |
| Plastic surgery | 9.4 |
| Cardiothoracic surgery | 4.2 |
| General medicine | n/a |
| Gastroenterology | n/a |
| Cardiology | 4.6 |
| Dermatology | 5.2 |
| Thoracic medicine | n/a |
| Genito-urinary medicine | n/a |
| Clinical Neuro-Physiology | n/a |
| Rheumatology | n/a |
| Paediatrics | n/a |
| Geriatric medicine | n/a |
| Gynaecology | 7.2 |
| All specialties | 7.0 |

*West of Cornwall PCT: median waiting time for elective admission*

| | Weeks | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Period ending* | | | |
| *Specialty* | *March 2006* | *March 2005* | *March 2004* | *March 2003* |
| General surgery | 6.0 | 6.9 | 9.1 | 8.7 |
| Urology | 6.6 | 9.2 | 9.4 | 10.4 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedics | 10.9 | 11.9 | 15.0 | 18.2 |
| ENT | 8.5 | 7.7 | 11.6 | 12.8 |
| Ophthalmology | 5.2 | 6.1 | 10.3 | 20.6 |
| Oral surgery | 8.2 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 7.5 |
| Neurosurgery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Plastic surgery | 9.8 | 16.2 | 16.9 | 22.3 |
| Cardiothoracic surgery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Endocrinology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Cardiology | 7.6 | 8.2 | 10.8 | n/a |

*West of Cornwall PCT: median waiting time for elective admission*

Weeks

| Specialty | Period ending March 2006 | March 2005 | March 2004 | March 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dermatology | 6.3 | 4.2 | 8.1 | 7.8 |
| Gynaecology | 8.5 | 8.0 | 10.7 | 14.5 |
| Neuropathology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| All specialties | 7.9 | 8.8 | 11.0 | 12.8 |

*North and East Cornwall PCT: Median waiting time for elective admission*

Weeks

| Specialty | Period ending March 2006 | March 2005 | March 2004 | March 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General surgery | 9.0 | 9.9 | 11.4 | 15.2 |
| Urology | 6.1 | 8.2 | 10.4 | 10.5 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedics | 11.2 | 12.5 | 14.7 | 19.5 |
| ENT | 10.5 | 14.3 | 17.6 | 19.6 |
| Ophthalmology | 5.7 | 5.3 | 9.6 | 20.7 |
| Oral surgery | 8.2 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 9.9 |
| Neurosurgery | n/a | n/a | 9.5 | n/a |
| Plastic surgery | 10.3 | 13.2 | 17.4 | 19.9 |
| Cardiothoracic surgery | n/a | n/a | 10.7 | n/a |
| Endocrinology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Cardiology | 8.0 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 10.1 |
| Dermatology | 7.4 | 9.9 | 9.1 | n/a |
| Gynaecology | 7.8 | 7.8 | 12.7 | 14.4 |
| Neuropathology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| All specialties | 8.5 | 10.1 | 12.2 | 16.8 |

*Central Cornwall PCT: Median waiting time for elective admission*

Weeks

| Specialty | Period ending March 2006 | March 2005 | March 2004 | March 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General surgery | 7.9 | 9.8 | 11.4 | 12.8 |
| Urology | 7.3 | 7.4 | 9.3 | 10.7 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedics | 10.7 | 12.7 | 15.2 | 18.0 |
| ENT | 9.7 | 8.0 | 11.9 | 13.4 |
| Ophthalmology | 6.1 | 5.8 | 10.4 | 17.9 |
| Oral surgery | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 7.8 |
| Neurosurgery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Plastic surgery | 10.7 | 17.6 | 16.5 | 22.3 |
| Cardiothoracic surgery | n/a | n/a | 10.6 | 13.2 |
| Endocrinology | 6.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Cardiology | 4.1 | 7.7 | 10.8 | n/a |
| Dermatology | n/a | 3.4 | 7.2 | 8.3 |
| Gynaecology | 8.5 | 7.5 | 10.7 | 13.3 |
| Neuropathology | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| All specialties | 8.1 | 9.2 | 11.6 | 14.3 |

*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority: median waiting time for elective admission*

Weeks

| Specialty | Period ending March 2002 | March 2001 | March 2000 | March 1999 | March 1998 | March 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General surgery | 12.2 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 11.1 | 12.0 | 10.6 |
| Urology | 11.7 | 13.2 | 10.5 | 12.5 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedics | 20.1 | 21.1 | 18.2 | 16.3 | 17.2 | 13.5 |
| ENT | 15.7 | 12.8 | 15.6 | 22.6 | 22.4 | 13.0 |
| Ophthalmology | 20.4 | 17.9 | 19.6 | 17.3 | 19.4 | 17.7 |
| Oral surgery | 7.8 | 8.7 | 11.2 | 16.5 | 13.5 | 12.3 |
| Neurosurgery | 14.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Plastic surgery | 17.8 | 18.5 | 20.3 | 20.8 | 13.5 | 14.7 |
| Cardiothoracic surgery | 20.3 | 20.0 | 22.8 | 24.0 | 17.5 | 13.3 |
| Gastroenterology | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8.7 | 16.1 | 9.8 |
| Cardiology | 17.0 | 20.3 | 28.3 | 19.2 | 13.9 | 14.6 |
| Dermatology | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.0 |

*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority: median waiting time for elective admission*

*Weeks*

| Specialty | Period ending March 2002 | March 2001 | March 2000 | March 1999 | March 1998 | March 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gynaecology | 12.6 | 11.6 | 12.6 | 11.6 | 14.0 | 13.0 |
| All Specialties | 15.6 | 15.6 | 14.6 | 14.9 | 15.4 | 12.9 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
3. Medians are not provided for inpatients not seen with total of less than 50 because this population is too small for a statistically meaningful median to be calculated so a n/a shown in that case.
4. Up to March 2002, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority was in existence. From April 2002 up to the end of September 2006, West of Cornwall PCT, North and East Cornwall PCT and Central Cornwall PCT represented the area. From October 2006 onwards these three trusts were merged to form Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT. *Source:*
QF01

### Medical Records

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the process for patients who wish to opt out of the new NHS Care Records Service computer system; and if he will make a statement. [188826]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The summary care record (SCR), part of the national health service care records service started to be introduced into early-adopter primary care trusts in spring 2007. The Department is working with the summary care record advisory group and with independent evaluators based at University College London to ensure that all significant learning from the early adopters is taken into account as soon as it is available so that the results can be incorporated into future deployment plans for the SCR.

Among the key aspects of the evaluation will be an assessment of patient's experience of the SCR consent/dissent model and the guidance that has been issued to all general practices on how they should respond to patient inquiries about having a summary care record. The evaluation will draw from extensive fieldwork done to capture the views and experiences of patients, general practitioners, practice managers, nurses and other NHS clinical and management staff.

The Department intends to publish the findings of the evaluation later this year.

### Cannabis

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding will be made available in the forthcoming financial year to *(a)* educate the public on the risks of cannabis use, *(b)* fund primary research into the link between cannabis and psychosis and *(c)* assist mental health service users to discontinue their cannabis use. [184181]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department will be making an announcement shortly on how much funding it will making available to the FRANK campaign in 2008-09.

The FRANK campaign is the key mechanism used by the Government for making the public aware of the harms associated with drug use.

In 2007-08 the Department made £2 million available to the FRANK campaign. We are not able to provide a breakdown of spend by individual drug but in 2007-08 there was an enhanced focus on cannabis within the FRANK programme.

In addition to this funding the Department for Children, School and Families and the Home Office also invest resources for the purpose of educating the public on the use of cannabis.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" is resulting in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. The National Institute for Health Research, set up as part of that implementation process, has awarded a £2 million programme grant to support research on improving physical health and reducing substance use, particularly cannabis use, in severe mental illness. Research on cannabis use and psychosis will also form part of the work programme of the Institute's South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre which the Department began funding in April 2007.

Over the past three years alone, total spending on the national health service in England has increased from £69 billion in 2004-05 to over £90 billion in 2007-08. Following the settlement of the comprehensive spending review last October, total expenditure on the NHS will rise to £110 billion by 2010-11. We have made very substantial resources available to the NHS from which to provide treatments and services for the population. However, the responsibility for the provision of all NHS services now rests with primary care trusts (PCTs) and NHS funds are not ringfenced for particular treatments. Ultimately, PCTs in conjunction with their relevant strategic health authority should plan, develop, commission or provide heath services, and decide what proportion of their budgets they spend on particular health services, including mental health services, according to the needs of their local communities.

To ensure that people with mental health problems are aware of the risks associated with cannabis use the Department have published a "Cannabis and Your Mental Health" resource pack which includes a range of resources to help highlight the harmful effects of cannabis use for people with mental health problems.

The Department is also committed to improving the help and care available to people with concurrent mental illness and substance misuse problems—known as dual diagnosis. The Department has published "Dual Diagnosis in in-patient and day hospital settings" to take forward this aim. This guidance makes clear that the ability to provide dual diagnosis patients

with the treatment and care they require, should be the norm in mental health services.

In addition there are people with less severe mental health problems who receive their treatment for cannabis use within a specialist drug treatment service setting. To support practitioners in treatment services in providing the most appropriate treatment for cannabis misuse we have made available substantial resources to drug treatment services through the Pooled Treatment Budget and also National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have published guidance on treatment for cannabis users as part of their psycho-social guidelines "Drugs Misuse Psycho-Social Intervention Guidelines", published in July 2007.

### Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 724W, on Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: finance, if he will place a copy of the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 in the Library. [188510]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A copy of "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09" is available in the Library. This document is also available on the Department's website at:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/cms/ArticleFiles/gm5hdlexqmhakbqwzzxfb32t19102005124130/Files/NHSOperatingFramework07-08_141207.pdf

### Neurology

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neurosurgeons on average are on call each morning after midnight in England. [178724]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

Workforce planning is a matter for local determination as service planners are best placed to assess the local neurology needs of their local population.

### NHS: Industrial Health and Safety

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the financial cost of workplace accidents in the NHS in *(a)* loss of staff hours and *(b)* other costs in each of the last three years. [182848]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following tables show the number of injuries to workers reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)[1] in public hospitals, including national health service trusts[2], in England between 2004-05 and 2006-07.

| *Severity of injury* | *Employment status* | *Count* | *Estimated cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004-05* | | | |
| Fatal injuries | Self-employed | 0 | 0 |
| | Employee | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal major injuries | Employee | 997 | 38,384,500 |
| | Self-employed | 4 | 154,000 |
| | Total | 1,001 | 38,538,500 |
| Over-3-day injuries | Employee | 6,827 | 37,548,500 |
| | Self-employed | 3 | 16,500 |
| | Total | 6,830 | 37,565,000 |
| Total | | | 76,103,500 |
| *2005-06:* | | | |
| Fatal injuries | Self-employed | 0 | 0 |
| | Employee | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal major injuries | Employee | 1,002 | 38,577,000 |
| | Self-employed | 5 | 192,500 |
| | Total | 1,007 | 38,769,500 |
| Over-3-day injuries | Employee | 7,247 | 39,858,500 |
| | Self-employed | 4 | 22,000 |
| | Total | 7,251 | 39,880,500 |
| Total | | | 78,650,000 |
| *2006-07[3]:* | | | |
| Fatal injuries | Self-employed | 0 | 0 |
| | Employee | 1 | 1,435,000 |
| | Total | 1 | 1,435,000 |
| Non-fatal major injuries | Employee | 1,045 | 40,232,500 |
| | Self-employed | 2 | 77,000 |

| Severity of injury | Employment status | Count | Estimated cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 1,047 | 40,309,500 |
| Over-3-day injuries | Employee | 7,026 | 38,643,000 |
| | Self-employed | 2 | 11,000 |
| | Total | 7,028 | 38,654,000 |
| Total | | | 80,398,500 |

[1] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. These include injuries to employees and self-employed people (workers). The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes three categories of severity of injury to workers: fatal injuries, defined major injuries and other injuries leading to more than three days absence (over-3-day).

[2] Identified by Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) code 85.111, which covers activities of hospitals with or without NHS trust status. Such activities are:
medical and surgical technical care activities such as diagnosis, treatment;
operations, analyses, emergency activities, etc;
accommodation activities such as boarding, meals, etc; and
This includes short or long term hospital activities of general and specialised hospitals, sanatoria, preventoria, asylums, mental hospital institutions, rehabilitation centres, leprosaria and other health institutions which have accommodation facilities, including military and prison hospitals.
The activities are chiefly directed to in-patients and carried out under the direct supervision of medical doctors. This classification excludes:
health activities for military personnel in the field (code 75.22);
private consultants' services to in-patients (code 85.12);
dental activities without accommodation (code 85.13); and
ambulance and rescue activities (code 85.14).

[3] Provisional.

*Note:*
Results are not adjusted to reflect reporting levels.
The overall unit cost to society of an incident is divided into its component costs: human costs; cost of lost output; and resource costs. The HSE estimates the cost of fatal accidents in the workplace to staff to be £1,435,000. That figure is £38,500 for non-fatal major injuries and £5,500 for other injuries requiring over three day's absence.

## NHS: Managers

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS trusts on the recruitment and remuneration of chief executives. [187091]

**Ann Keen:** National health service trusts are independent employers in their own right and are responsible for employment decisions about their staff, including chief executives and other executive directors, in accordance with general employment law and human resources (HR) best practice.

NHS Employers is the body that provides HR advice and guidance to NHS organisations.

There are separate arrangements for foundation trusts. "The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance" published by Monitor sets out a common overarching framework for the corporate governance of NHS foundation trusts and complements the statutory and regulatory obligations on them.

The NHS chief executive wrote to NHS trusts and primary care trusts in October 2006 restating the importance of external assessors in the recruitment of senior staff. The letter can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_4139976

NHS trusts may pay their staff such remuneration and allowances, and employ them on such terms and conditions, as they consider appropriate.

The Department introduced a "Pay framework for very senior managers in strategic and special Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Ambulance Trusts" in 2006 (updated in 2007), copies of which are available in the Library. Although it does not apply to NHS trusts, they are free to adopt its principles.

## NHS: Pensions

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish the NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Resource Accounts 2006-07. [187086]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Pension Scheme Resource Accounts for the 2006-07 year were laid before Parliament on 22 October 2007.

## NHS: Recruitment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid the NHS Confederation to provide the NHS jobs website in the latest period for which figures are available. [185600]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has allocated £12.5 million in 2007-08 to NHS Employers for the provision of a range of services, including NHS Jobs and its website. The NHS Employers Organisation is part of the NHS Confederation.

## NHS: Reorganisation

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of his Department's officials are working on the NHS next stage review; and what the main areas of responsibility relating to the review of each are. [184564]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service next stage review is core business for all civil servants in the Department. National working groups have been set up to consider emerging issues which will require action at a national level, including quality improvement, innovation,

workforce, leadership, primary and community care strategy. Further work is also being carried out on systems and incentives, informatics and the case for a NHS constitution.

More information on these groups is available on the "Our NHS, our future" website at

www.nhs.uk/ournhs.

### Palliative Care: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of palliative care services in Wirral; and if he will make a statement. [184954]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. It is their responsibility, working with the relevant clinical managed networks and key local stakeholders, including those in the voluntary sector, to consider these issues, taking into account evidence from their local population-based needs assessments. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring the PCTs in their area to ensure they are effective and efficient. This includes the provision of end of life care services.

The Government are committed to improving care and people's choices at the end of life, regardless of their condition or their location. We are taking this work forward through the development of a national end of life care strategy for adults, this country's first. The strategy will deliver increased choice to all adult patients, regardless of their condition, about where they live and die. It will help to take forward the commitments in the election manifesto and in the white paper "Our health, our care, our say".

Development of this strategy is being supported by the NHS next stage review, led by Lord Ara Darzi. The next stage review is producing reports on eight key areas of care, including end of life care. Publication of the End of Life Care Strategy has been delayed until summer 2008, to allow the findings of the next stage review to inform and strengthen the national strategy.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total capital value is of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department which has reached financial close, broken down by scheme; and, for each such scheme, *(a)* over what period repayments will take place and *(b)* what the total cost of repayment will be, expressed in (i) real terms and (ii) cash terms. [184561]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is shown in the following table.

| *National health service organisation* | *Operational* | *Capital value (£ million)* | *Contract length (operational phase)* | *Total value of annual unitary payments (cash terms) (£ million)* | *Total value of annual unitary payments (real terms) (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 87 | 30 | 900 | 535 |
| Derby Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 312 | 35 | 2,082 | 1,248 |
| University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Trust | Yes | 67 | 35 | 1,064 | 653 |
| Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup NHS Trust/Oxleas NHS Trust | Yes | 21 | 30 | 134 | 85 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 512 | 37 | 2,856 | 1,805 |
| Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 12 | 30 | 80 | 51 |
| University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust | No | 627 | 35 | 2,582 | 1,645 |
| Barts and the London NHS Trust | No | 1000 | 35 | 5,295 | 3,374 |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | Yes | 379 | 35 | 2,962 | 1,887 |
| St. Helen's and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 338 | 35 | 1,648 | 1,050 |
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust | Yes | 238 | 36 | 1,749 | 1,119 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 110 | 35 | 627 | 403 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | No | 32 | 30 | 152 | 98 |
| Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 190 | 34 | 621 | 401 |
| Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 169 | 34 | 652 | 422 |
| North Middlesex Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 144 | 34 | 1,038 | 670 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 67 | 30 | 570 | 372 |
| Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 137 | 37 | 1,060 | 694 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals | No | 299 | 33 | 1,240 | 813 |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 238 | 32 | 1,583 | 1,052 |
| University College London Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 422 | 32 | 1,926 | 1,280 |
| Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 326 | 32 | 1,599 | 1,062 |
| Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | No | 336 | 32 | 1,343 | 893 |
| Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 148 | 32 | 678 | 450 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 265 | 33 | 976 | 653 |
| Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust | No | 36 | 30 | 137 | 92 |

| National health service organisation | Operational | Capital value (£ million) | Contract length (operational phase) | Total value of annual unitary payments (cash terms) (£ million) | Total value of annual unitary payments (real terms) (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust | No | 32 | 30 | 115 | 78 |
| West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 60 | 33 | 515 | 347 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | Yes | 15 | 30 | 83 | 56 |
| Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 72 | 32 | 268 | 182 |
| North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 28 | 30 | 153 | 104 |
| Sussex Partnership NHS Trust | Yes | 22 | 30 | 151 | 103 |
| Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust | Yes | 65 | 30 | 731 | 499 |
| Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 17 | 30 | 114 | 78 |
| Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 26 | 30 | 138 | 95 |
| Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust | Yes | 47 | 26 | 363 | 248 |
| Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 30 | 30 | 185 | 126 |
| West Berkshire PCT | Yes | 19 | 30 | 139 | 95 |
| Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 52 | 30 | 492 | 336 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | No | 36 | 30 | 127 | 87 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | No | 29 | 30 | 104 | 71 |
| University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust | No | 375 | 30 | 1,788 | 1,222 |
| Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 64 | 30 | 464 | 317 |
| South Tees Acute Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 122 | 30 | 1,149 | 785 |
| Devon PCT | Yes | 10 | 30 | 64 | 43 |
| Avon and Western Wiltshire MH NHS Trust | Yes | 83 | 30 | 275 | 188 |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 96 | 30 | 799 | 546 |
| Surrey PCT | Yes | 29 | 30 | 132 | 90 |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust | Yes | 37 | 30 | 191 | 131 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 67 | 30 | 178 | 121 |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 36 | 30 | 180 | 123 |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 353 | 32 | 1,187 | 811 |
| Brent PCT | Yes | 21 | 30 | 125 | 85 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 45 | 30 | 441 | 301 |
| Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 10 | 30 | 108 | 74 |
| North East London Mental Health NHS Trust | Yes | 11 | 30 | 51 | 35 |
| Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust | No | 21 | 30 | 113 | 77 |
| Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust | Yes | 18 | 30 | 253 | 173 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | Yes | 46 | 32 | 319 | 220 |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust | No | 75 | 29 | 277 | 192 |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust | No | 112 | 34 | 442 | 306 |
| The Whittington NHS Trust | Yes | 32 | 30 | 158 | 110 |
| The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 13 | 30 | 130 | 90 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | Yes | 31 | 30 | 210 | 145 |
| Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Yes | 76 | 30 | 266 | 184 |
| Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust | Yes | 24 | 30 | 104 | 72 |
| Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | No | 19 | 30 | 94 | 65 |
| Wandsworth PCT | Yes | 75 | 30 | 429 | 298 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 22 | 30 | 84 | 59 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | Yes | 28 | 30 | 90 | 62 |
| Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 118 | 30 | 788 | 548 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 14 | 30 | 73 | 50 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 10 | 30 | 90 | 62 |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Yes | 30 | 30 | 108 | 75 |
| Hampshire PCT | Yes | 36 | 30 | 194 | 135 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 69 | 30 | 299 | 208 |
| Kirklees PCT | Yes | 25 | 30 | 90 | 62 |
| Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust | Yes | 158 | 30 | 1,647 | 1,149 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 48 | 30 | 366 | 256 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 47 | 30 | 438 | 306 |

| National health service organisation | Operational | Capital value (£ million) | Contract length (operational phase) | Total value of annual unitary payments (cash terms) (£ million) | Total value of annual unitary payments (real terms) (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 30 | 30 | 134 | 93 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 134 | 30 | 832 | 582 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 61 | 30 | 525 | 367 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | No | 129 | 30 | 690 | 483 |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Yes | 32 | 30 | 142 | 99 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 28 | 30 | 338 | 236 |
| Northgate and Prudhoe—Neuro Disability Centre | Yes | 24 | 30 | 62 | 44 |
| King's College Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 76 | 35 | 727 | 520 |
| Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust | Yes | 100 | 28 | 689 | 494 |
| East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust | Yes | 15 | 30 | 63 | 45 |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust | Yes | 16 | 30 | 32 | 23 |
| Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust | Yes | 54 | 30 | 253 | 185 |
| Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust | Yes | 18 | 30 | 72 | 53 |
| Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust | No | 36 | 28 | 139 | 104 |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | Yes | 54 | 30 | 622 | 471 |
| Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 15 | 30 | 51 | 39 |
| Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust | Yes | 94 | 25 | 602 | 471 |
| Total | — | 10,480 | — | 59,396 | 39,406 |

*Note:*
For convenience of calculation, the real terms figures do not take account of the minor variations to date included in the cash figures. The overall effect though is negligible i.e. the aggregate real terms figure of £39 billion is almost identical to the effect of simply stripping out compound inflation at 2.5 per cent. from the total cash figure of £59 billion.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list his Department's *(a)* current and *(b)* planned private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts by (i) total end of life debt owed by the state by final year of payment and (ii) annual state payment by year; and what the total comparative value is of the assets provided. [170540]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are many hundreds of contracts negotiated annually between national health service bodies and private sector suppliers for a full range of services and equipment that involve elements of public private partnerships. These range from service contracts with private hospitals and social care placements to leases of equipment and private finance initiative contracts.

Of the three major areas of public private partnership contracts for which information is collected centrally—private finance initiative (PFI) schemes, NHS local improvement finance trusts (NHS LIFT) and independent treatment centres (ISTCs)—lists have been placed in the Library. For PFI and NHS LIFT the lists show only those schemes which have reached financial close as it is not possible to predict final capital values and annual payments on schemes which are still in the planning or procurement stages. The lists show the estimated capital value of each scheme (an approximation to asset value), where appropriate, as well as the annual unitary payment made by each NHS body to their private sector partner.

For ISTCs, the table shows the total contract value for Wave 1 schemes. The total contract value represents the estimated nominal value at the time of signing, calculated in accordance with an estimate of the inflation index as specified in each contract. Procurement of Phase 2 of the ISTC programme is ongoing and all contractual values remain commercial in confidence at this time.

In the case of the PFI schemes, under current accounting standards the facilities do not appear on the balance sheet of the NHS body during the life of the contract; and by the end of the contract all the debt raised by the private sector has been paid back. So although the facility will have a residual value when it reverts to the ownership of the NHS trust or primary care trust at the end of the contract, it will go on their balance sheets as an asset without an off-setting liability or 'debt'.

In the case of NHS LIFT schemes the facilities also do not appear on the balance sheet of the NHS body during the life of the contract. However, the shorter contract lengths (typically 25 years compared with 30 or more in a PFI scheme) mean there is a small outstanding debt owed by the NHS LIFT project company at the end of the contract (i.e. their outstanding borrowings). In NHS LIFT this is a project company 'risk' in terms of recouping enough from the future use or disposal of the asset to meet this debt (known as 'residual value risk'). The NHS body has an option to buy the facility or walk away from the contract, in which case the project company must look to sell the facility on the open market or lease it out again. So again, there is no 'debt' owed by the NHS body at the end of the contract.

In the case of the ISTCs, where the contract lengths are much shorter, many of the contracts involve a residual value payment to the contractor at the end of the term. This means that in this case the 'residual value' risk lies with the NHS (i.e. the risk here is that the theoretical residual value will exceed the actual market value that can be achieved). So there is a 'debt' owed by the NHS body at the end of the contract.

Information on the ISTC contracts that involve residual value (RV) payments and the amounts in each case have also been placed in the Library.

### Psychiatry: Waiting Lists

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average length of time a patient waited to be referred for psychological therapies in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wirral, West constituency in the last 12 months. [187847]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The length of time a patient treated by Wirral primary care trust waits for psychological therapies varies with the severity of their condition. However, since December 2007, waiting times for mild to moderate mental health treatment are under 18 weeks, and waiting times for more complex therapies and cognitive behaviour therapy are, in the vast majority of cases, a maximum of 18 weeks.

Average waiting times for psychological therapies are not collected centrally. These waiting times will improve over the next few years as the Government's substantial additional investment in improving access to psychological therapies, announced in October last year, begins to be rolled-out across England.

### Regional European Offices: Health

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the address is of each of the regional health Brussels offices. [184646]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Where health is covered at a European Union (EU) level by regional offices in Brussels, it is addressed as part of a broad range of policies. Decisions to fund and prioritise health in regional offices in Brussels are the responsibility of Regional Assemblies and local authorities.

At present, the Northwest Health Brussels office is the only office established by a United Kingdom region to work solely on health affairs at an EU level. This is the office is located at:

North West Health Brussels Office
North West House
Rue du Marteau 21
Brussels
Belgium
B1000

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 25-year olds received treatment for sexually transmitted infections in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in 2007. [179664]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Currently data are only collected nationally on diagnoses in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics and at primary care trust (PCT) level in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP).

Information on the diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in GUM clinics is only available at strategic health authority (SHA) level. The London SHA includes Romford and the Greater London areas. The East of England SHA includes Essex.

The number of selected sexually transmitted infections diagnosed in those under the age of 25 in the London SHA and the East of England SHA represented by gender in 2006, the latest date for which information is available, is shown in table 1.

The total number of chlamydia screens and chlamydia positive screens done by the NCSP, by PCT of residence in 2006 for the London SHA and East of England SHA is given in tables 2 and 3.

*Table 1: Number of selected STIs diagnosed in those under the age of 25 in the London SHA and the East of England SHA represented by gender: 2006*

| | SHA | Male diagnoses | Female diagnoses | Total diagnoses |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | London | 8,872 | 12,534 | 21,406 |
| 2006 | East of England | 4,192 | 6,230 | 10,422 |

*Notes:*
1. Data by age group are only available for the five main STIs, primary and secondary syphilis, uncomplicated gonorrhoea, uncomplicated chlamydia, anogenital herpes (first attack) and anogenital warts (first attack). As such the figures provided in table 1 are for these five STIs only. Data on the treatment of STIs are not available.
2. Data by age group are only available in the following age groups: <20, 20-24, 25-34, 35-44 and 45+.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
4. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with chlamydia several times in one year and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
5. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
6. Data are unavailable for 2007.

*Table 2: Number of all screens and positive screens performed by the NCSP, by PCT of residence: January-December 2006 for the London SHA*

| PCT name | Total screens | Positive | Negative | Percentage positive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | 428 | 46 | 382 | 10.75 |
| Kingston | 262 | 17 | 245 | 6.49 |
| Bromley | 692 | 65 | 616 | 9.54 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 672 | 75 | 584 | 11.38 |
| Barnet | 562 | 35 | 524 | 6.26 |
| Hillingdon | 336 | 40 | 293 | 12.01 |
| Enfield | 614 | 57 | 535 | 9.63 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 181 | 16 | 165 | 8.84 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 516 | 29 | 481 | 5.69 |
| Tower Hamlets | 443 | 27 | 413 | 6.14 |
| Newham | 386 | 27 | 357 | 7.03 |
| Haringey Teaching | 705 | 58 | 626 | 8.48 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 519 | 37 | 480 | 7.16 |
| Ealing | 433 | 43 | 386 | 10.02 |
| Hounslow | 245 | 26 | 218 | 10.66 |
| Brent Teaching | 1,344 | 97 | 1,166 | 7.68 |
| Harrow | 846 | 57 | 734 | 7.21 |
| Camden | 982 | 56 | 902 | 5.85 |
| Islington | 1,260 | 79 | 1,121 | 6.58 |
| Croydon | 646 | 73 | 567 | 11.41 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 355 | 25 | 327 | 7.10 |
| Westminster | 573 | 32 | 536 | 5.63 |
| Lambeth | 4,254 | 376 | 3,788 | 9.03 |

*Table 2: Number of all screens and positive screens performed by the NCSP, by PCT of residence: January-December 2006 for the London SHA*

| PCT name | Total screens | Positive | Negative | Percentage positive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southwark | 3,223 | 300 | 2,862 | 9.49 |
| Lewisham | 4,947 | 509 | 4,312 | 10.56 |
| Wandsworth | 807 | 63 | 735 | 7.89 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 281 | 18 | 262 | 6.43 |
| Sutton and Merton | 684 | 79 | 603 | 11.58 |
| Redbridge | 280 | 23 | 257 | 8.21 |
| Waltham Forest | 291 | 31 | 256 | 10.80 |
| Bexley | 265 | 27 | 237 | 10.23 |

*Table 3: Number of all screens and positive screens performed by the NCSP, by PCT of residence: January-December 2006 for the East of England SHA*

| PCT name | Total screens | Positive | Negative | Percentage positive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Luton | 744 | 82 | 657 | 11.10 |
| South East Essex | 2,102 | 184 | 1,913 | 8.77 |
| Bedfordshire | 755 | 80 | 660 | 10.81 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 128 | 12 | 112 | 9.68 |
| West Hertfordshire | 163 | 13 | 148 | 8.07 |
| Peterborough | 288 | 21 | 236 | 8.17 |
| Cambridgeshire | 592 | 34 | 521 | 6.13 |
| Norfolk | 1,686 | 165 | 1,506 | 9.87 |

*Table 3: Number of all screens and positive screens performed by the NCSP, by PCT of residence: January-December 2006 for the East of England SHA*

| PCT name | Total screens | Positive | Negative | Percentage positive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 335 | 35 | 295 | 10.61 |
| Suffolk | 644 | 93 | 541 | 14.67 |
| West Essex | 90 | 10 | 79 | 11.24 |
| North East Essex | 26 | 2 | 24 | 7.69 |
| Mid Essex | 85 | 3 | 82 | 3.53 |
| South West Essex | 210 | 26 | 184 | 12.38 |

*Notes:*
1. NCSP undertakes screening of asymptomatic infection outside of GUM clinics and includes screens made by the Boots 'Pathfinder' project.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens done and not the number of patients included in the programme.
3. Only those aged <25 who have provided a postcode of residence are included.

*Source:*
The NCSP. Data as of 17 January 2008.

## Smoking

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the introduction of a smoking permit; and if he will make a statement. [187446]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The introduction of smoking permits is not Government policy.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 28 February 2008*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185799]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions began a complete review of all its public facing leaflets during 2006. This initiative has reduced the number of leaflets published by the Department from 178 in June 2006 to just 66 today.

The Department has also procured, from July 2007, a single supplier for its print and associated services which, among other things, will enable us to capture the costs of producing material for the public in the future.

The review of all the Department's leaflets, coupled with the change of supplier, means that obtaining the costs of all of the material published in 2007 could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Disability Living Allowance: Partially Sighted

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 61W, on disability living allowance: partially sighted, if he will include severe sight loss as a criterion for qualifying for the higher-rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance. [187951]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock), on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 434W.

### Housing Benefit: National Insurance

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what mechanisms the requirement for a national insurance number to make an application for housing benefit and council tax benefit was introduced. [190269]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The requirement to provide a national insurance number in order to claim all social security benefits, including housing benefit and council tax benefit, was introduced from 7 November 1997 by section 19 of the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997.

### Lone Parents: Employment

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to help single parents who are in employment to gain the skills to make progress in the workplace. [184665]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

We have a range of measures to ensure that everyone in the work force, including lone parents, has the opportunity to realise their potential and progress in their careers.

Train to Gain is the Government's premier service to employers, helping them to improve business performance by investing in the skills of all of their employees. Employers can access full public funding for employees who undertake skills for life or a first full Level 2 qualification as well as subsidies to aid individuals progress on to higher level skills.

Individuals on a low income undertaking full time learning for their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification are eligible for the Adult Learning Grant. This pays adults (aged 19 plus) up to £30 per week, during term time to help with additional costs of learning (for example; books and travel). Adults can also access free information and advice about learning, work and careers through the national learndirect telephone and online advice service and local nextstep face-to-face service.

By 2010-11 we aim to create an adult advancement and careers service which will help people to progress their careers. We will also work with partners to develop a joined-up advice service covering issues such as housing, employment rights, child care, financial and personal advice and support as well as jobs and skills.

### Mobility Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what regulation the automatic entitlement of registered blind claimants to the higher rate of mobility allowance was removed. [190268]

**Mrs. McGuire:** People who are registered blind have never had automatic entitlement to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or its predecessor mobility allowance.

### Pension Service: Disability and Carer's Service

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the likely effect on his Department's expenditure for the Department in each year until 2025 of merging the Pension Service and the Disability and Carer's Service. [187706]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department's three Year Business Plans for 2008-11 will be published on 28 February 2008, and will be placed in the Library. These will include information about the Department's spending on administration over that period. The business plan for the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will be published ready for its launch on 1 April 2008, and will contain information about resources.

The merging of the Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service will create an opportunity to streamline elements of existing functions, particularly in senior management and internal support services, allowing more resource to be redirected to front-line customer service than would have been possible without the merger. Detailed plans have yet to be drawn up about the size and phasing of this redirection.

The merger itself is not expected to have an impact on expenditure on state benefits (Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)). Levels of benefit expenditure are driven principally by demography and benefit policy. It is not expected that the new Agency will execute policy in a way that will change expenditure levels from what they would have been under two separate agencies.

### Pension Service: Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of staff in the Pension Service and the Disability and Carer's Service in each year until 2018. [187707]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No estimates of work force plans to 2018 have been drawn up. The Department's three Year Business Plans for 2008-11 will be published on 28 February 2008, and will be placed in the Library. The business plan for the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will be published ready for its launch on 1 April 2008, and will contain information about resources.

### Social Security Benefits: Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many tranquiliser addicts are in receipt of disability benefits. [190357]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received winter fuel payments in West Lancashire constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189826]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07, 20,270 people in the West Lancashire constituency received a winter fuel payment. We expect the number to be similar for this winter.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

*The following questions and answers were received for publication on 14 January 2008.*

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced as a result of these flights; [172565]

(2) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172240]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Departmental for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Carers' Allowances

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy to maintain the value of the carer's allowance in real terms. [177029]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Carer's allowance is increased every April in line with movement in the retail prices index and there are currently no plans to change these arrangements. However, the future of carer's allowance is now being examined as part of the review of the Prime Minister's 1999 national carers' strategy. The review is due to be published in spring 2008.

### Child Support Agency

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many child support cases have been passed to the clerical team in Bolton Child Support Agency Office to progress from *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement; [167257]

(2) what the average length of time was taken by the clerical team in Bolton Child Support Agency Office *(a)* to progress to each stage and *(b)* to resolve a child support case passed to them from another area was in the last period for which figures are available; [167258]

(3) how many people work at the *(a)* Falkirk and *(b)* Bolton office of the Child Support Agency. [167260]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 January 2008:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child support cases have been passed to the clerical team in Bolton to progress from *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [167257] and

What the average length of time taken by the clerical team in Bolton *(a)* to progress to each stage and *(b)* to resolve a child support case passed to them from another area was in the last period for which figures are available. [167258] and

How many people work at the *(a)* Falkirk and *(b)* Bolton office of the Child Support Agency. [167260]

The Agency contracted out the management of its clerical cases to Vertex Data Science Ltd in September 2006. They process this work on our behalf at the Bolton site. The Agency's six regional centres refer clerical cases to the Bolton site. Each of these centres are responsible for clients within regions that are not determined by parliamentary constituency or national boundaries. The information you request on the number of cases referred to the Bolton site is therefore not available. However, what I can tell you is that there are around 23,400 live cases in Bolton.

Child maintenance applications are processed clerically where, due to technical issues, they cannot be advanced on our computer system. The point at which this occurs, and the activity required to work the case through to a successful outcome for clients, varies significantly. Cases processed on the computer system are automatically monitored and information recorded. The extra resources required to replicate this for clerical cases, has instead been focused on improving maintenance outcomes for children. The information you requested on the time taken to progress to each stage is therefore unavailable.

There are currently around 1,035 Agency people in the Falkirk Centre, of whom 106 are currently working on clerical cases. Vertex Data Science Ltd is responsible for employing the necessary staff to deliver the clerical case service from the Bolton site.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Support Agency Office

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last visited a Child Support Agency office. [172131]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has not visited any Child Support Agency offices since his appointment in June 2007, but has planned visits in the new year. However, both myself and my noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton made several visits to Child Support Agency offices in 2007.

### Child Support Agency: ICT

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the specification for the CS2 IT project entered into with EDS in September 2000 was changed in each year since 2000. [165077]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 January 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many times the specification for the CS2 IT Project entered into with EDS in September 2000 was changed in each year since 2000. [165077]

The Child Support Agency has requested a total of 130 detailed changes since 2000. The annual breakdown is set out in the table below:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 |
| 2001 | 6 |
| 2002 | 69 |
| 2003 | 35 |
| 2004 | 8 |
| 2005 | 12 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 |

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Community Care Grants

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of internal reviews of community care grant decisions were successful *(a)* at each benefit delivery centre and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available; [174972]

(2) what the average time taken to determine an internal review request on a community care grant decision was *(a)* at each benefit delivery centre and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available; [174973]

(3) how many outstanding internal review requests there were on community care grant decisions at each benefit delivery centre in each month between March and August 2007. [174974]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 January 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what percentage of internal reviews of Community Care Grant decisions were successful at each Benefit Delivery Centre and nationally in the latest period for which figures are available; what the average time taken to determine an internal review request on a Community Care Grant decision was at each Benefit Delivery Centre and nationally in the latest period for which figures are available and how many outstanding internal review requests there were on Community Care Grant decisions at each Benefit Delivery Centre in each month between March and August 2007. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Over the course of 2007 there has been a very large increase in Crisis Loan applications. Extra resources have been provided and we have now nearly doubled our staffing to meet this rising demand. We have had to temporarily divert staff from review activity until these extra resources were in place. Crisis Loan delivery is a priority and unfortunately this has led to backlogs of reviews occurring in some locations. We are working hard to eradicate these backlogs where they have occurred and have instigated activity to prioritise urgent cases.

An 'internal review' has been interpreted as a review at Jobcentre Plus requested by an applicant, i.e. a first review.

The percentage of first reviews of Community Care Grant decisions which were successful at each Benefit Delivery Centre and nationally for October 2007 is given in table 1. A first review is defined as successful if the award is increased on review (where the initial decision was either a partial award or a refusal).

The average time taken to determine a first review request on a Community Care Grant decision at each Benefit Delivery Centre and nationally for October 2007 is given in table 2.

The time to determine an individual first review request is measured in whole working days from the date of receipt of the request to the date of the decision, inclusive. The minimum time recorded to determine an individual first review request is one day, even if the request is determined immediately.

The number of outstanding first review requests on Community Care Grant decisions at each Benefit Delivery Centre at the end of each month from March to August 2007 is given in table 3.

Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

I hope that this is helpful.

## Consolatory Payments

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 329W, on consolatory payments, what the total value of consolatory payments made by the Child Support Agency was in each year since 1992; and what the value was of the single largest such payment. [175485]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 January 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 329W on consolatory payments what the total value of consolatory payments made by the Child Support Agency was in each year since 1992; and what the value was of the single largest such payment.

Such information as is available is included in the following table. Information prior to 1 December 2001 is not available.

| | *Consolatory payments (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 0.696 |
| 2002-03 | 0.661 |
| 2003-04 | 0.406 |
| 2004-05 | 0.582 |
| 2005-06 | 0.608 |
| 2006-07 | 0.666 |

The largest single consolatory payment made by the Agency is £1,550.00.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government transferred each year to the Scottish Executive for the payment of council tax benefit in Scotland in each of the last five years. [176677]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No payments are made by the UK Government to the Scottish Executive for the payment of council tax benefit (CTB) in Scotland.

However, local authorities in Scotland claim subsidy directly from DWP for CTB they pay. The amounts of subsidy paid since 2002-03 are as follows:

*Council tax benefit subsidy paid to Scottish local authorities*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 294 |
| 2003-04 | 307 |
| 2004-05 | 345 |
| 2005-06 | 354 |
| 2006-07 | 359 |

*Note:*
All information is from audited subsidy claims with the exception of that for 2006/07 which is from unaudited claims.
*Source:*
The annual housing benefit/council tax benefit subsidy claims made by local authorities.

## Departmental Buildings

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land of (i) his Department and (ii) the (A) non-departmental public bodies, (B) agencies and (C) independent statutory bodies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since 7 May 1997; what the sale price of each (1) was at the time of sale and (2) is at current prices; and whether the money received was (x) retained by his Department or (y) claimed by the Treasury in each case. [174892]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The entire DWP estate was sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) through its "PRIME" PFI contract to Land Securities Trillium (LST), in April 1998 for the original DSS estate (comprising 972 buildings) and further in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the former Employment Service (ES) estate (comprising 1108 buildings). The proceeds of £250 million for the DSS Estate in April 1998 were released to HM Treasury. In 2003, the Department and LST agreed a vacant possession value of £140 million for the properties covered by the expanded PRIME contract. The Department decided to receive this amount split into an up-front payment of £100 million, which was released to HM

Treasury, and a reduction in the annual unitary charge over the life of the contract, equivalent to the £40 million balance.

Following the expanded PRIME contract in 2003, DWP retained two properties (Ranmoor Hall, Sheffield and Storey Street, Hull) which were subsequently sold in 2005 and 2006 respectively for a total of £5.075 million and the funds transferred to DWP.

We are unable to provide current prices for the full 2080 buildings due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information for the PFI provider.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), at the end of 2004-05, and, as part of a PFI contract, handed over all of the land and buildings at the Sheffield site to ICB Ltd. A prepayment for their fair value of £4.6 million, as determined by the contract, is recognised in the accounts and amortised evenly over the life of the PFI contract. No cash was received for this transaction.

As part of the same deal, HSE received an additional cash payment of £600,000 in 2004-05 (£650,000 at current prices) which was retained by HSE as a profit on disposal and sold the Royal Exchange Building (Sheffield) for £530,000 in 2005-06 (£562,000 at current prices). There was no profit or loss on this sale and HSE retained the cash.

**Departmental Manpower**

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171409]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is as follows:

*1. Number and proportion of Department for Work and Pension (DWP) staff employed within each salary band*

The following table shows the number of staff employed by DWP at September 2007.

| *Civil service grade* | *Total staff* | *Percentage of staff by grade* |
|---|---|---|
| SCS | 293 | 0.28 |
| Grade 6 | 621 | 0.5 |
| Grade 7 | 1,470 | 1.41 |
| SEO | 2,699 | 2.58 |
| HEO | 7,552 | 7.21 |
| EO | 37,469 | 35.79 |
| AO | 49,072 | 46.87 |
| AA | 5,511 | 5.27 |
| DWP Total | 104,687 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. The numbers shown are whole time equivalent (WTE).
2. The data do not include the Rent Service or the Health and Safety Executive.
3. Temporary staff are not included

*2. The title and role of each position within each salary band*

The Department's HR data are compiled using definitions and standards provided by the Office for National Statistics from their Annual Civil Service Employment Survey September 2007.

Each role within every salary band/grade in the Department can be categorised in accordance with the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) career groupings as follows:

| *PSG career grouping* | *Profession* |
|---|---|
| Corporate Service Delivery | Communications/Marketing |
| | Finance |
| | Human Resources |
| | Information Technology |
| | Legal |
| | Other |
| | Procurement |
| Operational Delivery | Operational Delivery |
| Policy delivery | Policy Delivery |

It would be disproportionately costly to collate information about the specific title and role of every position in DWP.

*3. The bonus structure for each salary band*

*(a) Junior Bonus Structure*

DWP employees in pay bands below SCS are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a 'top', 'higher' or 'majority' rating under the annual performance and development system (PDS). There is a guided distribution for performance ratings awarded through PDS which is top 15-20 per cent., higher 30-35 per cent., majority 40-45 per cent. and lower 3-8 per cent. The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

*(b) SCS Bonus Structure*

The structure for bonuses for the SCS pay bands 1, 2 and 3 is set out in the recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and the Government's response to those recommendations.

Pay band 1 and 2 (excluding Executive team) individual bonuses are awarded by the DWP SCS Pay Committee on the recommendation of line managers, based on the level of success with which an SCS member has met their in-year objectives, and relative to all others in their pay band.

Executive team bonuses are awarded by the DWP Remuneration Committee and currently comprise two elements; 80 per cent. of the overall bonus cost envelope for individual bonus (on the same basis as SCS PB1 and 2), and 20 per cent. dependent on the assessment of DWP performance overall.

*4. The retirement provision for each salary band*

DWP has no mandatory retirement age for grades below SCS and subject to satisfactory performance and a requirement for their services, allows employees to choose how long they want to remain in work. For the SCS, the mandatory retirement age is 65.

DWP offers all employees, regardless of grade, an occupational pension scheme when they join the Department. Employees have the choice of a career earnings scheme or a partnership scheme that provides pension benefits based on contributions made.

*5. The expenses provision for each salary band*

Where extra costs are incurred by individuals in connection with their work for the Department expenses are paid against the following categories:

Travel including public transport costs, private mileage for use of own car where appropriate.

Subsistence to covering meals and potential extra costs for being away from normal place of work—including day and overnight rates and hotel costs.

Miscellaneous expenses such as those incurred in connection with permanent transfers and selection interviews.

*6. Total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years for each salary band*

Total expenses incurred in each of the past two years is as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 85.1 |
| 2006-07 | 91.9 |

The figure for 2006-07 represents approximately 2.9 per cent. of total staff costs.

Information is not available for each salary band or, other than at disproportionate cost, prior to 2005-06. The figures provided do not include the Rent Service or the Health and Safety Executive.

*7. Average age of employee and number of (i) women and (ii) men in each salary band*

The following table shows the breakdown of staff at September 2007.

| Civil service grade | Men | Women | Total | Average age (years) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 189 | 104 | 293 | 46.10 |
| Grade 6 | 359 | 262 | 621 | 45.75 |
| Grade 7 | 811 | 660 | 1,471 | 42.53 |
| SEO | 1,255 | 1,444 | 2,699 | 44.10 |
| HEO | 3,011 | 4,540 | 7,551 | 42.96 |
| EO | 12,627 | 24,842 | 37,469 | 43.16 |
| AO | 15,049 | 34,024 | 49,973 | 40.79 |
| AA | 2,164 | 3,346 | 5,510 | 41.85 |
| DWP Total | 35,465 | 69,222 | 104,687 | 42.32 |

*Notes:*
1. The numbers shown are whole time equivalent (WTE).
2. The data do not include the Rent Service or the Health and Safety Executive.
3. Temporary staff are not included.

*8. Ethnic composition*

The following table shows the ethnic mix of DWP staff by grade as at September 2007.

| Ethnic | SCS | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | SEO | HEO | EO | AO | AA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asian and White | * | * | 6 | 5 | 22 | 86 | 141 | 17 |
| Asian (Bangladeshi) | * | * | * | * | 12 | 94 | 189 | 17 |
| Asian (Indian) | * | * | 13 | 29 | 114 | 999 | 1,493 | 209 |
| Asian (Other Origin) | * | * | * | 11 | 22 | 230 | 335 | 41 |
| Asian (Pakistani) | * | * | * | * | 21 | 217 | 648 | 67 |
| Black (African) | * | * | * | 8 | 37 | 323 | 403 | 35 |
| Black (Caribbean) | * | * | * | 18 | 69 | 676 | 709 | 66 |
| Black (Other Origin) | * | * | * | * | 5 | 84 | 85 | 11 |
| Black African and White | * | * | * | * | 5 | 26 | 57 | 8 |
| Black Caribbean and White | * | * | * | * | 12 | 70 | 112 | 9 |
| Chinese | * | * | * | * | 5 | 38 | 83 | 11 |
| Mixed Ethnicity (Other) | * | * | 5 | * | 17 | 113 | 174 | 16 |
| Other Ethnic Origin | * | * | * | 11 | 50 | 245 | 318 | 37 |
| White | 220 | 486 | 1,171 | 2,224 | 6,197 | 29,850 | 4,231 | 4,988 |

*Notes:*
1. Numbers less than 5 have been replaced with (*) because we cannot disclose the information due to protocols which are in place to protect personal information.
2. The numbers in the table show the ethnicity of those staff that have declared their ethnic origin. Not all DWP employees have chosen to do so and therefore the numbers do not add up to the total DWP work force.
3. Temporary staff are not included.
4 The data do not include the Rent Service or the Health and Safety Executive.

## Departmental Pay

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value is of *(a)* pay supplements, *(b)* bonuses and *(c)* other incentive packages that are payable in his Department on the basis of geographic location; how many people are in receipt of each payment; and what the total cost to his Department of each payment was in 2006-07. [171192]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* DWP has four geographical pay areas:

national;

inner London;

outer London; and

specified location zone (SLPZ).

The differential cost is not a standard amount but is calculated in each individual pay range.

The current numbers of staff in post in each individual pay area, the April 2007 value of the average additional cost above national rates for each of the main grades and the estimated total additional cost in 2006-07 are contained in the following tables:

*Table 1: Staff in post (April 2007) and additional average salary value above national rates in 2006-07*

| | SLPZ | | Outer London | | Inner London | | Total staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Staff | £ | Staff | £ | Staff | £ | |
| Band A/AA | 68 | 2,116 | 162 | 2,229 | 355 | 3,379 | 585 |
| Band B/AO | 827 | 2,318 | 2,550 | 2,431 | 3,730 | 3,850 | 7,107 |
| Band C/EO | 865 | 2,333 | 1,978 | 2,682 | 4,593 | 3,395 | 7,436 |
| Band D/HEO | 112 | 2,212 | 233 | 3,024 | 818 | 3,607 | 1,163 |
| Band E/SEO | 27 | 2,108 | 55 | 2,865 | 323 | 3,758 | 405 |
| Band F/Grade 7 | 8 | 3,604 | 19 | 2,220 | 228 | 3,497 | 255 |
| Band G/Grade 6 | 3 | 3,186 | 5 | 1,921 | 71 | 3,518 | 79 |
| Total | 1,910 | — | 5,002 | — | 10,118 | — | 17,030 |

The lower than expected average differences for Grades 6 and 7 in the outer London pay area are because a larger proportion of salaries are lower down the pay scale for this group than elsewhere.

*Table 2: Estimated total additional cost of pay areas in 2006-07*

| | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | SLPZ | Outer London | Inner London | Total |
| Band A/AA | 0.102 | 0.328 | 1.120 | 1.550 |
| Band B/AO | 1.435 | 5.471 | 12.222 | 19.128 |
| Band C/EO | 1.626 | 4.369 | 15.442 | 21.437 |
| Band D/HEO | 0.215 | 0.539 | 2.830 | 3.585 |
| Band E /SEO | 0.058 | 0.142 | 1.206 | 1.406 |
| Band F/Grade 7 | 0.022 | 0.058 | 0.909 | 0.989 |
| Band G/Grade 6 | 0.010 | 0.018 | 0.340 | 0.368 |
| Total | 3.470 | 10.926 | 34.068 | 48.463 |

*Table 3: Estimated total additional cost as a percentage of total paybill*

| | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| SLPZ | Outer London | Inner London | Total |
| 0.16 | 0.51 | 1.58 | 2.24 |

In addition to these pay areas, DWP pays a location based recruitment and retention addition (RRA) to staff based on a number of Scottish islands:

Orkney (Kirkwall);

Shetland (Lerwick); and

Outer Hebrides (Stornoway).

In 2006-07 an estimated 106 staff were eligible for payments at a total cost of some £125,000.

*(b)* DWP does not pay bonuses on the basis of geographical locations.

*(c)* DWP does not have any incentive packages in place that is based on any particular geographical locations.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Departmental employees were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173106]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is in the following table:

| | Number of employees |
|---|---|
| Over £60,000 | 405 |
| Over £100,000 | 48 |

*Note:*
The number of employees shown as being paid over £60,000 does not include those being paid over £100,000.

The table gives figures for the number of employees who were paid over £60,000 and over £100,000 (gross) in total during the financial year April 2006 to March 2007. The figures in the table include bonus payments to employees. The award of performance bonuses, which are used to help drive performance, are dependent on achievement of business objectives, and relative to performance of others within the same pay band.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* loans, *(b)* lump sum payments, *(c)* grants, *(d)* crisis loans and *(e)* budgeting loans have been made by his Department to people in each region in each month since January 2000. [174730]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The available information on Social Fund awards based on Government Office Regions has been placed in the Library.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are made on the immigration status of applicants for disability living allowance who declare themselves to be British; and if he will make a statement. [174752]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the acting chief executive of the disability and carers service, Mrs. Vivien Hopkins. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 11 January 2008:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what checks are made on the immigration status of applicants for disability living allowance who declare themselves to be British; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

I can confirm that where an applicant to Disability Living Allowance declares themselves to be British, they have a National Insurance Number and there is nothing in the information we hold or the customer has provided to contradict the declaration they have made, we enquire no further about their immigration status.

In order to get a National Insurance number applicants have to undergo rigorous checks in respect of their nationality and right to remain in the United Kingdom. This includes document validation.

I hope this reply is helpful.

### Disability Living Allowance: Mentally Ill

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the rights of people with mental illnesses to claim the higher level of mobility benefit under the disability living allowance. [176006]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Our records show that we have received a small number of recent representations relating to the rights of people with mental illnesses to claim the higher rate mobility component.

### Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially sighted people are claiming disability living allowance mobility component. [178954]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available in the format requested. At May 2007 there were 61,420 people in receipt of the mobility component in disability living allowance whose main disabling condition was that they were blind or they were deaf and blind.

### EU Grants and Loans

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed in his Department work on administering EU structural funds, and what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07. [176043]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** In 2006-07, 46 people were employed in the Department for Work and Pensions on administering EU structural funds, and the running costs related to these staff were £2.2 million.

### Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors were employed by the Health and Safety Executive in 2006-07; and how many are expected to be employed in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [173798]

**Mrs. McGuire:** At 1 April 2007, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) employed 1,439 inspectors and it estimates that it will employ approximately 1,400 by 31 March 2008. HSE should be able to provide an estimate of the number of inspectors it expects to employ in 2008-09 following confirmation of its resource settlement for the period April 2008 to March 2011.

### Housing Benefit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people had their *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit claim backdated by more than three months in each of the last five years; [175242]

(2) how much was spent on backdating of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit claims for those whose claims were backdated by (i) less than three months and (ii) three months or more in each of the last five years. [175243]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Prior to April 2007 no information was collected from local authorities on the number of people or the amount of backdating paid out to housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants.

Following the introduction of a new data source, this information will become available in the future but at the moment there are insufficient data to estimate the number of people or the amount spent on backdating.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures have been put in place to ensure that the proposed reduction in backdating of housing benefit claims and council tax benefit claims does not have an adverse impact on vulnerable households. [175244]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We have worked to ensure that people can gain access to housing benefit and council tax benefit quickly and simply by allowing combined claims with DWP administered benefits, creating new opportunities to claim benefits via third sector partners and enabling local authorities to take telephone and electronic claims.

This current package will build on these existing measures to simplify the claims process for pensioners further by allowing people who apply for pension credit by telephone to also claim their council tax and housing benefit at the same time, without the need to

submit a claim form. These measures will reduce the need for backdating for all claimants, including those in vulnerable households.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applicants for incapacity benefit underwent a face-to-face assessment as part of the process to approve their claim in each year since 1997. [173911]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information about the proportion of applicants for incapacity benefits who underwent a face to face assessment and data prior to September 1998 is not available. The available information is in the following table.

*Number of medical examinations for incapacity benefits*

| | £ Number |
|---|---|
| 1 September 1998 to March 1999 | 330,551 |
| April 1999 to March 2000 | 450,962 |
| April 2000 to March 2001 | 374,140 |
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 485,221 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 520,419 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 497,614 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 457,410 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 493,907 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 507,695 |
| April 2007 to 30 November 2007 | 362,773 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures cover recipients in all age groups.
2. The figures represent all medical examinations and include repeat assessments—not just assessments for new claims.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if an applicant for job seeker's allowance (JSA) is to be fast-tracked on to the new gateway from day one of their application, what duration that applicant must have spent previously claiming JSA. [178997]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 718W.

### Occupational Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the aggregate size of contributions to pension funds was in each year since 1997. [175053]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is as follows.

*Total contributions to private pension schemes, 1997 to 2005*

| | Total contributions to pension schemes (£ billion) |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 38.8 |
| 1998 | 41.2 |
| 1999 | 44.0 |
| 2000 | 47.4 |
| 2001 | 49.0 |
| 2002 | 54.4 |
| 2003 | 62.5 |
| 2004 | 67.6 |
| 2005 | 75.5 |

*Notes:*
1. All figures are estimates for the United Kingdom. 2005 is the latest year for which the data are available.
2. The answer covers funded occupational schemes, unfunded occupational schemes, and personal pension schemes.
3. Total pension contributions include both employee and employer contributions.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics (ONS)

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have entered wind-up procedures in each year since 1997; and what percentage of occupational pension schemes operating in each year each figure represents. [175074]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not available in the format requested.

### Occupational Pensions: Low Incomes

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that employers provide access to an occupational pension scheme for their employees; [175326]

(2) what plans he has to give low income employees access to an occupational pension. [175327]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Through the Pensions Bill 2007 currently before Parliament we will introduce a requirement on all employers to automatically enrol workers who are eligible into a qualifying workplace pension scheme. This will help to overcome barriers to saving such as inertia. Our estimates indicate this will result in between six and nine million people newly participating or saving more in workplace pensions, transforming the savings culture in the UK.

The Bill will introduce for the first time a mandatory employer contribution which will provide a clear incentive to save, and help those on low and moderate incomes to build up their pension funds. Overall annual pension contributions are estimated to increase by up to around £10 billion by 2015.

### Pension Credit: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each London constituency did not take up their entitlement to pension credit in each of the last five years. [175357]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Estimates of eligibility and take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is not therefore possible to say how many

people are eligible for pension credit and of those how many did not take up their entitlement in each London constituency.

Latest estimates of take-up rates and the number of pensioners who were entitled to but not claiming pension credit in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/06" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

## Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension alone and *(b)* the basic state pension and pension credits. [174872]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** 9,327,800 pensioners receive state pension and 2,360,900 receive the state pension and pension credit.

*Notes:*

1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extracts of the Pensions Strategy Computer System and Income Support Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. State pension awards include those receiving basic state pension, inherited basic state pension and basic state pension plus additional pension and/or graduated retirement benefit. The figures do not include those receiving only additional pension and/or graduated retirement benefit.

4. Pension credit awards include Guarantee Credit only, Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit and Savings Credit only

5. Includes state pension overseas cases.

6. State pension data for March 2007 have been merged with pension credit data for May 2007 to provide an estimated number getting both benefits. This method is consistent with that used to produce the 5 per cent. Client Group Analysis data.

*Source:*

5 per cent. sample, DWP Information Directorate.

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of pensioners who will retire in the 2007-08 fiscal year and are enrolled in an *(a)* final salary scheme and *(b)* defined contribution scheme. [175060]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested.

## Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Financial Assistance Scheme for pensions has paid out to individuals in each year for which figures are available. [175722]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Total assistance paid out to scheme members since the Financial Assistance Scheme was announced in May 2004 is shown in the following table.

| | *Gross expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 99,333 |
| 2006-07 | 3,730,468 |
| 2007-08 up to and including 28 December 2007 | 8,658,973 |
| Overall total up to and including 28 December 2007 | 12,488,774 |

## Pensions: Insolvency

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of companies which face increases in their annual payments to the Pension Protection Fund as a result of their overturned appeals against its levy. [175065]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Board of Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is responsible for the calculation of the Pension Protection Levy and is required by law to publish in advance the rules it has determined for calculating the levy for each financial year. No eligible scheme is required to pay more than the amount correctly calculated in accordance with the rules determined by the board.

Eligible schemes may use a statutory appeals process to challenge whether an individual levy invoice has been calculated correctly, in accordance with the rules and using the relevant scheme data. As at 31 November 2007, 3,520 invoices have been issued to eligible schemes. Of these 3,520 invoices issued, less than 1 per cent. of schemes (34) had applied for their 2007-08 invoice to be formally reviewed by the PPF. 25 of the applications met the criteria for a review. Nine did not meet these criteria for a number of reasons, including not meeting the 28-day deadline for querying a levy invoice. 10 reviews have been completed. One application for review was successful, resulting in a revised invoice being issued. In nine cases the original invoice was found to be in accordance with the published rules. 15 appeals await completion of the review process. No scheme has been re-invoiced for a higher amount for 2007-08 as a result of an overturned appeal.

Schemes may apply to the Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman if they are dissatisfied with the decision of the PPF's Reconsideration Committee. No applications have been received by the PPFO for 2007-08.

## Pensions: Overseas Residence

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas recipients of the graduated pension have their pensions frozen. [176736]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In March 2007 there were around 300,000 pensioners living overseas with their state pension, which includes graduated retirement benefit, frozen.

*Note:*

The answer covers pensioners with graduated retirement benefit in payment whether as a result of their own accruals or through inheritance.

*Source:*

5 per cent. sample of the Retirement Pension and Widows Benefit dataset.

### Pensions: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Wales had cases managed by the Pension Service's Newcastle office in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [174845]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All new claims to state pension and pension credit in the last 12 months for residents in Wales have been managed by Swansea Pension Centre.

However the National Pension Centre in Newcastle currently manages a caseload of approximately 4.2 million state pension customers. Included in this are 180,000 residents of Wales. All of these cases are historically over 12 months old. National Pension Centre is also responsible nationally for cases requiring specialist action. They own these cases for the duration of the action and currently there are 1,638 cases that reside in Wales.

All the statistics are current as of October 2007.

### Remploy

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value is of work sub-contracted by Remploy's Furniture Group to other companies outside Remploy. [175280]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Remploy has contracted out work to the value of £81,229 from its furniture business in the first eight months of the 2007-08 financial year.

### Retirement: West Midlands

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in the West Midlands who have not made financial provisions for their retirement; and if he will make a statement. [175441]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not available.

### Social Security Benefits: Depression

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits can be claimed by parents of children who have been prescribed drugs for depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; how many cases there were of benefits claimed on this basis in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [174264]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There is a range of benefits that can be claimed by parents of children with health problems. Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. Parents can claim disability living allowance for children who have been prescribed drugs for depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, as long as their disability meets the above criteria. Parents of children who are awarded the middle or highest rate of the care component of disability living allowance may also qualify for carer's allowance or income support if they satisfy the appropriate conditions of entitlement.

For disability living allowance, depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder fall into three categories of disabling condition. The available information about the number of cases is in the following table. Information about the number of parents who claim carer's allowance or income support for children who have been prescribed drugs for depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is not available.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment to people aged under 16*

| | *Learning difficulties* | *Behavioural disorder* | *Hyperkinetic syndrome* |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 1996 | 45,500 | 13,400 | 200 |
| May 1997 | 50,200 | 17,400 | 400 |
| May 1998 | 53,900 | 22,600 | 500 |
| May 1999 | 56,900 | 27,900 | 500 |
| May 2000 | 59,500 | 34,300 | 700 |
| May 2001 | 62,700 | 41,900 | 900 |
| May 2002 | 65,540 | 51,490 | 1,030 |
| May 2003 | 69,130 | 58,600 | 1,010 |
| May 2004 | 71,680 | 64,340 | 1,060 |
| May 2005 | 74,480 | 69,500 | 1,130 |
| May 2006 | 77,920 | 72,080 | 1,140 |
| May 2007 | 83,080 | 72,690 | 2,150 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for May 2002 to May 2007 are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are for cases in payment only, i.e. they exclude cases where payment has been suspended for example where the claimant is in hospital.
3. Figures for May 1996 to May 2001 are taken from a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
4. Figures for May 1996 to May 2001 have also been adjusted in line with the WPLS data and rounded to the nearest hundred.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent WPLS data

### State Retirement Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were underpaid their state pension in each of the last five years; and how many people complained about such underpayments in each year; [170560]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total amount underpaid to recipients of the state pension in each of the last five years; [170561]

(3) how many people have been refused the payment of money underpaid but due to them for their state pension as a result of a complaint taking place outside the one year guideline period since 2001. [170562]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The information on the number of people who have been underpaid state pension in the last five years is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department derives annual estimates of the amount of state pension that is underpaid due to official error through examination of a random sample of cases. The sample is a small one, and as a result the estimates have wide margins of error. As such the estimates should not be used to draw conclusions about changes over time in the level of underpayments. They do allow us to say with confidence that the level has remained very low as a percentage of state pension expenditure over the last five years.

Estimates of underpayments of state pension for the last five years are in the following table.

| | *Underpayments (£ million)* | *Underpayments as a percentage of expenditure* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 80 | 0.2 |
| 2005-06 | 60 | 0.1 |
| 2004-05 | 70 | 0.1 |
| 2003-04 | 20 | 0.0 |
| 2002-03 | 80 | 0.2 |

*Notes:*
1. Monetary estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent.

*Data Source:*
The State Pension Monetary Value of Error Exercise

Complaints data are not separated by individual benefit type and the categories used do not draw out underpaid benefit as a complaint type. We are, however, looking to rectify this in a planned change to our complaints database over the next three months.

Specifically, where it is discovered that a person has been underpaid state pension as a result of an error in the original calculation of their entitlement, arrears of pension are paid from the date from which the person first became entitled. Compensation is considered under the terms of the Departmental Guide to Financial Redress for Misadministration, a copy of which is available in the Library.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/frm/

### Winter Fuel Payments: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many eligible pensioners in Cleethorpes constituency received winter fuel allowance in each year since its introduction. [176867]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

*Cleethorpes constituency*

| | *Payments made* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 16,830 |
| 2000-01 | 18,910 |
| 2001-02 | 19,420 |
| 2002-03 | 19,810 |
| 2003-04 | 20,145 |
| 2004-05 | 20,150 |
| 2005-06 | 20,490 |
| 2006-07 | 20,980 |

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

*Notes:*
Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Hendon

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Hendon *(a)* were entitled to receive and *(b)* have received winter fuel payments in 2007; how many received the over-80s rate of £300; what additional cold weather payments are available to those on pension credit; how many pensioners in Hendon received such additional payments in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [177498]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is not possible to say how many people in Hendon are entitled to receive a winter fuel payment. This is because not everyone aged 60 or over will be entitled to a payment. A person is not entitled to a winter fuel payment if, for example, they are serving a custodial sentence or have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks. Figures for payments made this winter are not yet available. In winter 2006-07 we made 17,760 winter fuel payments to people in the Hendon constituency and of these 4,090 went to people aged 80 or over. We expect the figures for this winter to be similar.

Cold weather payments provide extra help towards heating costs for the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society, including pensioners receiving pension credit, in periods of exceptionally cold weather.

A cold weather payment of £8.50 is made automatically to people awarded pension credit when the average temperature is recorded as, or forecast to be, 0 degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. Savings are not taken into account and cold weather payments are paid in addition to winter fuel payments.

No pensioners in Hendon have received a cold weather payment in the last 12 months as the temperature criterion has not been met.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Administration of Justice

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will discuss the relationship between Sharia law and the English civil law system when he next meets the Archbishop of Canterbury. [188174]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

### Chequers: Official Hospitality

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to publish the names of people he invites to Chequers. [190247]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 286-7W, the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb).

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much has been spent on video recording equipment for the purposes of films for the 10 Downing street YouTube video platform since 27 June 2007; [188850]

(2) how many *(a)* unique hits and *(b)* total visitors the 10 Downing street YouTube video platform received in each month since its establishment; [188851]

(3) how much was spent on website designers to design the 10 Downing street YouTube video platform; [188852]

(4) how many full-time equivalent staff worked on the 10 Downing street YouTube video platform in each month since 27 June 2007; [188853]

(5) what the pay grades are of the staff who work on the 10 Downing street YouTube video platform. [188854]

**The Prime Minister:** For the costs of the No. 10 website including costs associated with the YouTube site, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1134-5W. In addition, six people work in the No. 10 web team. Since May 2007 there have been approximately 2 million film views on the Downing street YouTube site.

### Elderly: Ministerial Responsibility

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will appoint a Minister for older people; and if he will bring forward proposals to appoint a commissioner for older people. [189016]

**The Prime Minister:** The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is responsible in this area at Cabinet level and has responsibility for delivering the agenda across Government. The Government have set a public service agreement (PSA) target to "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being in later life." This is the first time that Government have set a PSA target specifically for older people. It complements other PSAs on, for example, health care and employment that address key concerns for those over 50. Work to deliver this PSA target is being taken forward by a number of Departments.

There is currently no plan to appoint a UK commission for older people.

### Honours

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to bring forward legislative proposals to require the revocation of *(a)* knighthhoods and *(b)* other honours where the behaviour or conduct of the holder is held to be dishonourable by the committee which recommended the conferral of the award. [188313]

**The Prime Minister:** The Sovereign may already, on the advice of Ministers, cancel membership of any of the Orders of Knighthood at any level or appointment as Knight Bachelor.

### Joint Intelligence Committee: Public Appointments

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 127W, on Joint Intelligence Committee: public appointments, whether there was a Civil Service-wide competition held in 2007 for the appointment to the post of Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. [188614]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 127W.

### Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS, on numbers and cost of special advisers, how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female special advisers are paid in each pay band. [189562]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to my written statement on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

### Multi-National Chairmen's Group

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister how many meetings of the Multi-National Chairmen's Group have been held at 10 Downing Street *(a)* since he became Prime Minister and *(b)* during the time his predecessor held office; and if he will publish the minutes of the meetings of the group. [188166]

**The Prime Minister:** Ministers have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

### Official Visits: India

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Prime Minister which representatives of *(a)* industry and *(b)* non-governmental organisations accompanied him on his visit to India in January. [189197]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 747-8W, to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies).

### Operating Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister what the budget is for the running costs of 10 Downing Street in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [189614]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1098-99W.

### Romania

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Prime Minister when he or any of his predecessors last visited Romania, other than for EU or NATO conferences; and whether he plans to make any such visit. [188739]

**The Prime Minister:** Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House.

## WALES

### Sustainable Development: Transport

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure that part of the new funding of £140 million to promote walking and cycling is made available to the devolved Administrations of the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [189214]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular discussions with all members of the Cabinet.

The funding made available to promote cycling and walking in England by the Department for Transport has come from the existing comprehensive spending review settlement for that Department. The settlements for the devolved Administrations were determined by the application of the Barnett formula in the normal way.

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government to ensure that adequate matching funding is available to the successful Connect 2 lottery bid; and if he will make a statement. [189215]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues both in Whitehall and the Assembly Government to discuss issues affecting Wales.

I would like to congratulate Sustrans' successful lottery bid for the UK-wide Connect 2 scheme, which won the public vote for the Big Lottery Fund's "The People's £50 million" contest. The Connect 2 scheme in Wales will see funding for 11 schemes across Wales, including a bridge spanning Cardiff bay and other schemes for Merthyr Tydfil, Newport and Carmarthen.

The UK Government and the Assembly Government match fund a number of schemes, including £60 million in capital grants to improve local roads; £3.9 million on cycling infrastructure schemes to provide infrastructure and promote safe use of the network; £8.1 million in capital grants towards local authority safety schemes; and 5.6 million to local authorities to support local road safety schemes.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181612]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of overseas visits by officials over the last seven financial years are set out as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Number of visits* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 226 | 138,964 |
| 2002-03 | 375 | 240,768 |
| 2003-04 | 423 | 197,297 |
| 2004-05 | 398 | 167,675 |
| 2005-06 | 455 | 251,630 |
| 2006-07 | 405 | 251,328 |
| 2007-31 January 2008 | 164 | 189,277 |

The countries visited are:

Algeria
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia Herzegovina
Botswana
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Korean Republic
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Poland

Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Sandi Arabia
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
USA.

### Extended Schools

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 849-51W, on extended schools, what the equivalent data are for the Wirral. [190031]

**Beverley Hughes:** In 2008-09 to 2010-11 a total of £1.3 billion of funding will be made available nationally to support the development of extended schools. The allocations for the Wirral are set out in the following table.

*Extended schools funding 2008-2011, Wirral LA*

| | *2008-09 (£)* | *2009-10 (£)* | *2010-11 (£)* | *Total CSR period (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Start Up | 1,182,041 | 1,215,524 | 499,875 | 2,897,440 |
| Sustainability | 470,744 | 861,429 | 1,213,686 | 2,545,859 |
| Extended Schools Subsidy Scheme | — | — | — | — |
| Academic-Focused Study Support | — | — | — | — |
| Total Extended Schools Revenue | 1,652,785 | 2,076,953 | 1,713,561 | 5,443,299 |
| Total Extended Schools Capital | 550,038 | 582,778 | 301,211 | 1,434,027 |
| Total Extended Schools Revenue and Capital | 2,202,823 | 2,659,731 | 2,014,772 | 6,877,326 |

[1] Funding not available until 2009-10

The Department has announced the individual local authority allocations for the next three years for the start-up, sustainability and capital funding streams. The Government have not yet announced the individual local authority allocations for the extended schools subsidy and the academic-focused study support funding.

As my answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 849-51W, explained, information is not collected centrally on the number of schools which charge parents for their children to attend extended activities, and what the levels of charges are.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Post Office Closures

9. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Post Office Counters Ltd on its incentive structure for post office closures. [190087]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd. has no staff incentive structure based on numbers of post office closures.

12. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what stage the post office closure consultation programme has reached; and if he will make a statement. [190090]

**Mr. McFadden:** As of this week, 20 area plans have been published and put out to local consultation and final decisions had been announced for 12 of them.

22. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effect of post office closures on local economies. [190100]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of post office closures on local economies. [190098]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have asked Post Office Ltd., in drawing up its proposals for post office closures, to consider a range of local socio-economic factors including the impact on local economies and availability of public transport.

Assessment of the local impact of the proposed closure of specific individual post offices is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd., with input from Postwatch, in developing its area plan proposals and consulting locally on them.

### Regulatory Reform

13. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for further regulatory reform. [190091]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have one of the most respected regulatory reform programmes in the world, focused on improving regulatory outcomes while reducing unnecessary burdens. Our focus is on ensuring this programme delivers effectively.

The Simplification Plans that Departments published in December 2007 showed that Government had delivered £800 million of annual savings for business through these plans.

### Agency Workers

14. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he next expects to meet representatives of small business organisations to discuss the regulation of agency workers. [190092]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department is in regular contact with representatives of small businesses to discuss all issues of relevance to the sector.

### Wind Farms

15. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account he takes of local opinion in determining applications for onshore wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [190093]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Secretary of State takes all representations into account before reaching a decision. Where a local authority, on behalf of the local community, objects to an onshore wind farm application within its boundaries, the Secretary of State is obliged to call a public inquiry. The Secretary of State can also call a discretionary public inquiry in the light of other objections.

### Coal-fired Power Stations

16. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on carbon capture at new coal-fired power stations. [190094]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Following our commitment in last year's Energy White Paper, we will be consulting shortly on carbon capture and storage. This will include seeking views on the recently published draft EU Directive which proposes mandatory carbon capture readiness for all combustion power stations.

### Energy Costs

17. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects of changes in energy costs on energy intensive industries; and if he will make a statement. [190095]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government fully appreciate the significance of energy costs to industry. Therefore my Department meets regularly with members of the Energy Intensive Users' Group and other representative industry groups, to understand the implications for business of changes in these costs. We also seek industry views on strategic energy issues through the Business Energy Forum, which is jointly chaired by Ministers and the CBI.

### Lending

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to prevent unscrupulous lending practices. [190096]

**Mr. Thomas:** I am committed to tackling unscrupulous loan sharks who exploit vulnerable people in our poorest communities. In 2004 we established two pilot enforcement teams in Birmingham and Glasgow to track down and prosecute illegal money lenders.

Following evaluation of the pilots I announced £2.8 million in September for a national crackdown on illegal lending. There's now a team in every region of Britain and we have committed to fund this work through the next spending period.

### E-mail and Postal Fraud

19. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to prevent e-mail and postal fraud. [190097]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government set out their consumer strategy in their publication "A Fair Deal for All". The strategy recognises that enforcement needs to be more effective at stopping those who deliberately set out to defraud consumers, often targeting the most vulnerable. The Office of Fair Trading takes the lead on tackling scams conducted through mass mailings which pose a serious problem for unwary consumers.

Many ISPs are taking active steps to prevent bad traffic reaching their customers and many have spam e-mail boxes which enable their customers to complain about specific e-mails. Both Government and Ofcom are talking to the ISPs about how we might improve standards across the sector and how those improvements might be made more visible to end users. These discussions now need to reflect the recently published proposals from the European Commission regarding the review of the telecoms regulatory framework and which include recommendations designed to reduce the impact of spam.

### Electricity Generation

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research on the effects on mortality rates and livelihoods of different forms of electricity generation per MWh of electricity generated. [190099]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no such plans. If the hon. Member has particular concerns, he could draw them to the attention of the Health Protection Agency or the Health and Safety Executive.

### Renewable Energy

23. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the merits of feed-in tariffs in encouraging local generation of renewable energy. [190101]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government are absolutely committed to the renewables obligation as a market-based mechanism to deliver renewable energy to the UK.

We are now proposing a new renewable energy strategy and we are developing that within BERR. We will be consulting in the early summer and we will be looking afresh at microgeneration and any proposals to boost microgeneration, including a feed-in tariff arrangement.

I want to make it clear that a fresh look at microgeneration is not at all challenging the mainstream renewables obligation, which we think is fit for purpose.

### Flexible Working

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many workers are entitled to request flexible working; and if he will make a statement. [190089]

**Mr. McFadden:** Around six million employees currently enjoy the right to request flexible working, of whom some 3.6 million are parents of young or disabled children. The scope of the law was extended to carers of adults on 6 April 2007, giving the right to an additional 2.65 million employees.

On 6 November 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the Government had decided to extend the scope of the right to request flexible working to parents of older children. Imelda Walsh, HR Director of J Sainsbury plc, was appointed to lead an independent review into what the age cut-off should be. She is expected to report in the spring of this year.

### Bankruptcy: Wales

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcies there were in Wales since 1990, broken down by industry group. [180767]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is not possible from records held centrally and in a readily available format to provide all the information requested. Table 1 provides the statistics which could be compiled in the time available and which most closely match those requested; to provide additional years', or more detailed, figures would incur disproportionate cost.

*Table 1: Bankruptcies in Wales , Government office region (GOR), by Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC)*

| *Traders* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 15 | 9 | 7 | 19 | 11 | 11 | 5 |
| Manufacturing | 28 | 39 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 28 | 27 |
| Construction and Transport | 170 | 156 | 117 | 130 | 107 | 108 | 78 |
| Wholesale and Retail | 109 | 96 | 70 | 53 | 48 | 41 | 34 |
| Services | 140 | 119 | 111 | 99 | 83 | 85 | 90 |
| Other | 88 | 88 | 70 | 82 | 73 | 71 | 66 |
| Total traders | 550 | 507 | 396 | 403 | 338 | 344 | 300 |
| *Non-traders* | 498 | 605 | 795 | 814 | 1,141 | 1,529 | 1,072 |
| *Missing* | 44 | 13 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 18 |
| *Total bankruptcies* | 1,092 | 1,125 | 1,207 | 1,222 | 1,489 | 1,910 | 1,390 |

[1] January to June.

*Notes:*

1. The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. However, only the period from January-June 2006 is provided because of the way the data are held.
2. Only the broad industry groupings under the ITC are shown above, because numbers are relatively small, and to aid interpretation of the figures.
3. By the end of the period shown over 75 per cent. of bankruptcies are recorded as non-traders and so have no associated industry classification.
4. The geographical information presented above is based on bankrupts' postcodes and is subject to an element of missing or unusable data. Nationally, this has been decreasing from around 12 per cent. in 2000 to 4 per cent. in 2006.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167276]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform welcome opportunities to promote and exchange best practice with organisations outside Government by way of secondments.

The details of departmental inward and outward secondments between 1997 and 2005 have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Details of costs are not available. Responsibility for collating details of inward and outward secondments was devolved to departmental groups in 2006 and records from this period are not held centrally. However, in October 2007 departmental groups reported that there were 25 secondees working in BERR from non-Government Departments. A list of these is also being placed in the Libraries of the House.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Protective Clothing

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 82W, on armed forces: protective clothing, what items of equipment personnel are issued for use in self-extraction from minefields. [189587]

**Des Browne:** All deployed personnel are trained in minefield self-extraction procedures using equipment available to them on operations. I am withholding specific details on minefield extraction equipment and techniques as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

### Defence: Expenditure

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate what defence expenditure in 2007-08 would be if *(a)* it was at the same level in real terms as in 1984-85, *(b)* it formed the same proportion of gross domestic product as in 1984-85 and *(c)* if the proportion of public expenditure accounted for by defence expenditure was the same as the average proportion during the 1980s. [190030]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007 (Cm 7091), available on the HM Treasury website, gives outturn figures for Defence spending back to 1987-88. These include figures for Defence spending as a proportion of total managed expenditure and as a percentage of gross domestic product.

The 1999-2000 edition of PESA—also available online—gives figures back as far as 1983-84, but for technical reasons, these are not necessarily consistent with the latest PESA tables and so are illustrative only.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189082]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the number of headcount and full-time equivalent civilian personnel[1] below the age of 18, 18 and over and total civilian personnel who were employed by the Ministry of Defence as at 1 January 2008.

| *Age* | *Headcount*[2] | *Full-time equivalent*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Under 18 | 90 | 90 |
| 18 and over | 80,670 | 78,290 |
| Total civilian personnel[1] | 80,770 | 78,380 |

[1] Civilian personnel includes all non-industrial, industrial and Trading Fund Ministry of Defence personnel, but excludes Locally Engaged Civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries figures for which age data are not known.

[2] Full-time equivalent is a measure of the size of the work force that takes account of part-time hours. Headcount is a measure of the size of the work force that counts all people equally regardless of their hours of work.

*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, and subtotals may not sum to total.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187910]

**Derek Twigg:** For the most part, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to provide details for administrative and clerical grades from 1 December 2006 to 1 November 2007 as this recruitment service is now provided centrally within MOD by the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA). The employment agencies contracted to recruit agency staff are Reed, Hayes, Brook Street, Pertemps, Manpower, Select, Carlisle Recruitment and Adecco. I should stress that the use of these agency staff only occurs after all other employment options have been considered.

For the period 1 December 2006 to 31 March 2007, the average hourly rate paid to employment agencies for administrative and clerical grades was £8.61. For the period from 1 April 2007 to 1 November 2007, the average hourly rate was £8.64.

I am withholding the individual rate for each employment agency as the information is commercial in confidence.

### Iraq: War Crimes

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government have received any requests from the International Criminal Court for UK military personnel to stand trial there for an alleged war crime in Iraq. [188891]

**Des Browne:** No requests have been received from the International Criminal Court.

### Porton Down: Human Experiments

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what settlement has been reached in respect of veterans' claims relating to participation in trials at Porton Down; what the implications of the settlement are for veterans not represented in the claims made; and if he will make a statement. [189696]

**Derek Twigg:** I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent to date on *(a)* surveying, *(b)* preparatory work and *(c)* other work on potential sites for the 2012 Olympics shooting events at (i) Royal Artillery Barracks, (ii) Bisley, (iii) Dartford and (iv) Evershot, Dorset; and if she will make a statement. [188746]

**Tessa Jowell:** While surveys and exploratory visits were made to several existing locations as part of venue considerations at the time of the 2012 bid, any expenditure related to that work was not recorded by venue. Since the bid, only nominal sums have been spent so far on further preparatory works.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what funding is being provided from the public purse for organisations supporting those affected by domestic violence in 2008-09. [187935]

**Barbara Follett:** It is not possible to forecast accurately how much public money will be spent in 2008-09 on organisations supporting those affected by domestic violence, as support is provided through a mixture of central and local government funding.

The Supporting People programme provides the main source of public funding for housing-related support in England. This programme is delivered at a local level and decisions on how much money is spent on services for those affected by domestic violence, or other services, are made by the top tier local authorities, based on a local needs assessment. The 2008-09 allocations for Supporting People amount to £1.686 billion. We do know that top tier local authorities spent £59,333,258 on services for those affected by domestic violence in 2005-06, and £61,645,319 in 2006-07.

In 2008-09 the Calderdale Women's Centre will receive £177,659 to support its work in identifying and supporting women experiencing chronic social exclusion as a result of domestic violence. This money will be made available through the Adults facing Chronic Exclusion Programme, which is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Work and Pensions.

The Ministry of Justice has allocated £3 million per year over the three years from 2008-07 for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, whose aim is the safety and support of victims and their children. This is in addition to annual court business costs.

Finally, the Home Office is investing over £20 million over the next three years on tackling violent crime, including domestic violence. Part of this funding will be used to fund multi-agency work to support victims of domestic violence.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House how many people in her office have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189777]

**Ms Harman:** Following the Machinery of Government changes in May 2007, the Leader of the House of Commons office now forms part of the Cabinet Office.

Staff and managers are able to consider various forms of flexible working, including home working. Arrangements for home working are made locally by individual line managers and no record is held.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House how much staff of each grade in her office spent on first class travel in the last 12-month period for which information is available. [189992]

**Ms Harman:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Grade* | *Cost of first class travel (£)* |
|---|---|
| B2 | 366 |

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Leader of the House how much her office spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189800]

**Ms Harman:** The Leader of the House of Commons Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will be answering this question shortly on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Party Political Funding

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what progress the Electoral Commission has made on clarifying the rules governing the funding of political parties. [185165]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it provides a range of guidance materials and training on party and election finance issues. In addition, and in response to a key recommendation of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, the Commission now offers parties the opportunity to seek an advisory opinion on how particularly complex matters will be treated.

### Electoral Register

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has provided to electoral registration officers on the promotion of credit referencing as a reason to apply for inclusion on an electoral roll on council-maintained websites. [190141]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has issued no guidance on this matter, and does not intend to do so; it does not believe that non-electoral information should be used to encourage electoral registration.

### Electoral Register: Commonwealth

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has provided advice to the Government on updating Electoral Registration form, RP12, on the legal residency qualifications necessary for Commonwealth citizens to register. [190142]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not advised the Government on the content of the form, sometimes referred to as RP12, which is used to apply for electoral registration outside the annual canvass period. I am advised that this form is not statutory and individual electoral registration officers design their own forms. The Commission last advised the Government on the contents of the annual electoral registration form in 2006. At that time, the Commission had no comments to make on the presentation of the qualifications for registration on the form.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Consultants

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [187714]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office incurred no costs on external consultants in 2005-06 or 2006-07.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many receptions were held at Dover house in each of the last five years. [187220]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W. Scotland Office records of events held at Dover house are recorded in financial years rather than calendar years. In financial year 2007-08 there have been 20 receptions held in Dover house thus far, 16 third party and four funded by the Scotland Office. I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that members of the Liberal Democrats in both Houses have taken the opportunity to interact with a range of individuals and organisations by frequent attendance at these receptions.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187545]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office paid £1,759.60 of reimbursable expenses to Senior Civil Service staff in 2006-07.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190807]

**David Cairns:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189792]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office spent £2,451 on water coolers in 2006-07. This figure does not include any bottled water obtained for ministerial hospitality as this is subsumed within the supplier's invoice and not recorded separately.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### British Virgin Islands

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister last visited the British Virgin Islands; and when the next such visit will take place. [190316]

**Meg Munn:** My hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Bill Rammell), visited the British Virgin Islands on 2 to 4 September 2004.

Foreign engagements for Government Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel and an announcement is sometimes not possible until a visit is under way.

### Chevening Scholarship Programme

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1850-1W, on the Chevening scholarship programme, which countries he has identified as key countries of interest for the purposes of the programme. [188761]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]*: The key countries of interest to us in achieving our policy objectives, to which Chevening scholarships are primarily targeted, are:

1. China
2. India
3. Indonesia
4. Brazil
5. Russia
6. Nigeria
7. Egypt
8. Pakistan
9. Iraq
10. Turkey
11. Mexico
12. Malaysia
13. South Africa
14. Iran
15. Hong Kong
16. Zimbabwe
17. Afghanistan
18. Ukraine
19. Syria
20. Korea (South)

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182994]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on advertising. The information required to answer the hon. Member's question could only be collated by requiring individual budget holders in the FCO to examine all invoices for the required years. This could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

### EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* UK funding contribution for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy in the first year after ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [186291]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 19 February 2008]*: The annual budget for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is agreed at an Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting and details published online at

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/publications/budget_en.htm

The UK contributes 17 per cent. of the EU budget for the CFSP, Germany contributes 19.7 per cent. and France 16 per cent..

In 2007 the total budget for the CFSP was €159.2 million—at 17 per cent. the UK's contribution represents €27 million (£20 million).

For 2008 the budget for the CFSP has been set at €285 million—at 17 per cent. the UK's contribution represents €48.5 million (£35.9 million). This increase is due, in part, to the establishment of a large civilian crisis management mission in Kosovo.

The 2009 budget for the CFSP has not yet been set but €1.74 billion (£1.29 billion) has been allocated from the European Commission Budget under the current financial perspective for expenditure on the CFSP between 2007 and 2013. This was agreed at the European Council on 15-16 December 2005 during the UK's presidency of the EU. Details are available online at:

http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293391098&a=Karticle&aid=1115135402893

### Falkland Islands: Oil

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the potential contribution of oil and gas from Falkland Islands waters to the provision of energy in the UK; and whether it is taking steps to support such exploration. [190319]

**Dr. Howells:** While oil companies have produced promising seismic data surveys, only further exploratory drilling will enable us to arrive at a dependable estimate on the size of the reserves of oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. It is therefore not possible to currently assess any potential reserves.

The Government remain committed to the offshore prospecting policy pursued by the Falkland Islands Government.

### Foreign Relations

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and the Governments of *(a)* Gibraltar, *(b)* the Falklands, *(c)* the British Virgin Islands, *(d)* the Cayman Islands and *(e)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [190317]

**Meg Munn:** Relations between the UK and the Governments of Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands are generally very good.

On 4 to 5 December 2007 elected leaders from the Falkland Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands and a number of other Overseas Territories attended the ninth Overseas Territories Consultative Council in London which I chaired. The council held discussions on issues which included constitutional modernisation, human rights, criminal justice and disaster preparedness.

I visited the Cayman Islands on 13 to 14 December 2007 where I met members of Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly, and took part in discussions on a

wide range of issues. I also visited the Falkland Islands from 3 to 5 January and met a wide range of people from government, business and civil society.

In June 2007 a new constitution came into force in the British Virgin Islands. The new constitution is an important step forward for the territory and includes provisions devolving significant powers to the British Virgin Islands Government.

In January 2007 the new Gibraltar constitution came into force which followed the people of Gibraltar's decision to accept the constitution in a referendum in 2006. The new constitution provides for a modern relationship between Gibraltar and the UK. We also work closely with Gibraltar in relation to matters associated with the Trilateral Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the senior civil service in his Department have received an honour. [187127]

**Meg Munn:** The following awards were made to members of the senior civil service in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the diplomatic service and overseas honours list over the last five years:

| | Awards |
|---|---|
| *New year 2008* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| D/KCMG | 2 |
| KBE | 1 |
| CB | 1 |
| CMG | 5 |
| [1]— | |
| *Birthday 2007* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| KCMG | 2 |
| CMG | 7 |
| *New year 2007* | |
| KCMG | 2 |
| CB | 1 |
| CMG | 7 |
| *Birthday 2006* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| D/KCMG | 2 |
| CMG | 6 |
| *New year 2006* | |
| KCMG | 2 |
| CB | 1 |
| CMG | 5 |
| [2]— | |
| *Birthday 2005* | |
| KCMG | 2 |
| CMG | 5 |
| OBE | 2 |
| *New year 2005* | |
| KCMG | 2 |
| Knight Bachelor | 1 |
| CMG | 6 |
| CBE | 1 |
| [3]— | |
| *Birthday 2004* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| KCMG | 1 |
| CMG | 6 |
| OBE | 2 |
| [4]— | |
| *New year 2004* | |
| KCMG | 2 |
| CB | 1 |
| CMG | 7 |
| *Birthday 2003* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| KCMG | 1 |
| CMG | 5 |
| CBE | 1 |
| [5]— | |
| *New year 2003* | |
| GCMG | 1 |
| KCMG | 4 |
| CMG | 5 |
| KBE | 1 |
| CBE | 1 |
| OBE | 1 |

[1] New year 2008: In addition, one member of the British Council was awarded a CMG.
[2] New year 2006: In addition, one member of the British Council was awarded a CMG.
[3] New year 2005: In addition, one member of the British Council was awarded a CMG.
[4] Birthday 2004: In addition, two members of the British Council were awarded a KCMG and CMG.
[5] Birthday 2003: In addition, one member of the British Council was awarded a CMG.

*Note*:
List of acronyms
Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB)
Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)
Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG)
Dame/Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (D/KCMG)
Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE)
Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG)
Knight or Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George (GCMG)
Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

To collate information for earlier years would incur disproportionate cost.

### Iran: Racial Discrimination

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian Government on the persecution

of Jewish people in that country; and if he will make a statement. [188832]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* Judaism is one of the three minority religions officially recognised under the Iranian Constitution. While we do have general concerns about freedom of religion and belief in Iran, we understand that the Jewish community has relatively good relations with the wider Muslim community in Iran. The Iranian Jewish community does face some institutional discrimination, but we do not believe that the community faces systematic persecution. We continue to monitor the situation closely and officials in Tehran and London regularly meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the situation of Jewish people in Iran. In December 2007 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution about human rights in Iran. The resolution, which was co-sponsored by the UK and all other EU member states, acknowledged and expressed concern at the situation of religious and ethnic minorities in Iran. We will continue to make clear to the Iranian authorities that persecution of individuals on the grounds of their religious beliefs is unacceptable and contrary to Iran's international human rights obligations, and that the rights of Iran's religious minorities should be equal to those of all Iranian citizens.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which individuals made which annotations on the hard copy of the John Williams draft of the 2002 Iraq dossier. [188515]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer of 22 February 2008]:* We do not know who authored the annotations, and hold no record on this.

### Israel: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from other Government departments about British relations with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [189007]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses a wide range of foreign policy issues, including our relations with Israel, with representatives from other Government Departments in order to make progress on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's strategic objectives.

### Israel: Overseas Residence

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens *(a)* visited and *(b)* emigrated to Israel in each year since 2000. [189006]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government do not hold the information requested by the hon. Member.

However, the best estimate of the Israeli Bureau of Statistics is that between 120,000 and 150,000 British citizens have visited Israel in each year since 2000.

The Jewish Immigration Agency in Israel has provided the following estimated figures for British citizens emigrating to Israel:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 404 |
| 2001 | 360 |
| 2002 | 295 |
| 2003 | 380 |
| 2004 | 399 |
| 2005 | 487 |
| 2006 | 659 |
| 2007 | 625 |

### Israel: Politics and Government

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the policy of the Government to refuse to recognise Hamas as long as it retains its intent to destroy Israel; and if he will make a statement. [189008]

**Dr. Howells:** We continue to call upon Hamas to adhere to the Quartet's principles: non-violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements. These remain the conditions for a viable peace process. Dialogue with Hamas is impossible so long as it is committed to violence towards Israel. Both Palestinian President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert are committed to peaceful progress towards a two-state solution. We use our efforts to support them.

### Kenya: EU Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his EU counterparts on EU aid to Kenya in light of the political unrest there; and if he will make a statement. [180801]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* I have had full discussions with my European counterparts about the EU's engagement with Kenya, including at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January and 18 February.

Until the country's political leaders agree to resolve the crisis, EU member states and the European Commission cannot conduct business as usual with Kenya. Failure to agree a sustainable and consensual political situation would affect our, and other EU donors' engagement with Kenya.

### Libya: UN World Conference Against Racism

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to Libya on the preparatory meetings of the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism taking place on Jewish holidays. [188752]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no representations to the Libyan chair of the Durban Review Conference preparatory committee.

The Government agree that the timing of the preparatory committee is unfortunate, given that it coincides with important Jewish holidays.

The Preparatory Committee Bureau decided the dates from a small number of available slots suggested by UN officials. The UK does not sit on the bureau. Colleagues from other member states that sit on the bureau assured us that there was no malicious intent when selecting these dates.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the (i) Government of Israel and (ii) Arab states on rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [188993]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is deeply concerned by rocket attacks against Israeli citizens from Gaza. Since Hamas seized control of Gaza, over 2,400 mortars and rockets have been fired into Israel. The launching of rockets against Israeli civilian targets and all forms of violence must stop. Violence serves only to undermine the prospects for peace in the region.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions on the security situation in Gaza. He discussed this issue most recently with Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit on 19 February, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Salah Bashr on 13 February, with the Israeli ambassador to London on 29 January and with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 24 January. I also met the Israeli ambassador on 17 January and discussed this issue. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and our consulate in Jerusalem regularly meet with Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors to discuss Gaza security.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured in rocket attacks on Israel from (i) Gaza and (ii) the Lebanon in each month since 2005. [188994]

**Dr. Howells:** There have been no deaths or injuries to British nationals reported to our embassy in Tel Aviv that were attributed to rocket attacks from either Gaza or Lebanon since 2005.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 177W, on nuclear weapons, which countries were unable to agree in 2007 to the start of negotiations on a fissile material cut off treaty. [189440]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* No member state at the Conference on Disarmament has objected in principle to a fissile material cut off treaty. During the 2007 Conference on Disarmament, a majority of states endorsed commencement of negotiations. China, Iran and Pakistan expressed reservations. The UK continues to support the proposal and is working hard to secure consensus for its adoption in 2008.

### Romania: EU External Relations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the preparedness of *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria to implement EU legislation, with particular regard to social security provisions and the acceptance of contributions from nationals of other EU states; and if he will make a statement. [188735]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** In order to join the EU, Bulgaria and Romania fulfilled the criteria of accession agreed by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993. The 'Copenhagen Criteria' include the adoption of the "acquis communautaire" (the entire body of European legislation). No assessments have been done by HM Revenue and Customs or the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of social security provisions or contributions from nationals of other EU member states for Bulgaria and Romania.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* private sector, *(b)* public sector and *(c)* private/public sector partnership projects have been approved for EU structural funding for (i) Romania and (ii) Bulgaria; and at what cost for each project. [188736]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** No projects have yet been approved and financed for EU structural funding in Bulgaria and Romania. Further information on EU structural funds can be found on the European Commission website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on reforms of the judicial system in Romania, with particular reference to *(a)* the Sunshine Law and the 30-day consultation period, *(b)* combating corruption, *(c)* changes to the fiscal code and *(d)* implementing systems to enable successful bidding for EU structural funds; what assistance the Government have provided to the Romanian Government on such reforms; and if he will make a statement. [188737]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** This month the European Commission issued its interim report on Romania's progress against the post-accession Justice and Home Affairs benchmarks. The Report concluded that progress has been made on the fight against corruption, but that work remains to be done. A copy of the report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/cvm/docs/romania_report_20080201_en.pdf.

A fuller report will be issued in June 2008.

Our embassy in Bucharest reports regularly on judicial reform in Romania. The 'Sunshine Law' refers to the 2003 Romanian Law 52 'Decision-Making Transparency in Public Administration'. This requires

that all draft legislation be submitted to the public for consultation and comment prior to passage and publication. This law is key to the integrity of public administration in Romania.

In October 2007, following the European Commission's monitoring mechanism report, the Romanian Government adopted an anti-corruption action plan covering judicial reform and the fight against corruption. In order to monitor the measures imposed by the action plan, two inter-institutional bodies have been created, which are presided over by the Minister of Justice.

Changes to the fiscal code were made in 2006. The fiscal code has no implication on the judicial system.

The UK provided Romania with practical assistance to support the reforms needed for EU membership including reform of the judicial system and enabling successful bidding for structural funds. This assistance has amounted to an average of £630,000 per annum of direct bilateral assistance for the previous four years. Under the EU's Twinning programme, experts from EU member states are seconded as advisers to Romanian institutions and Government Departments. Currently two UK experts are based in Romania advising on how to manage efficiently the absorption of structural funds and in strengthening the probation service.

### Romania: Official Visits

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he or any of his predecessors last visited Romania, other than for EU or NATO conferences; and whether he plans to make any such visit. [188738]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Romania in early September 2007. While there he called on President Traian Basescu, Prime Minister Calin Popescu-Tariceanu and Foreign Minister Adrian Cioroianu.

### Serbia: EU external relations

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 223-4W on Serbia: EU external relations, what recommendations the EU Task Force has made; whether Serbia signed the interim political agreement with the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [188948]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU Task Force features as part of the interim political agreement with Serbia, drawn up by the EU following the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January. Serbia has not yet signed this agreement. The task force has not met, nor made any recommendations.

### Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the US authorities to make further visits to Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison on a frequent and regular basis in the absence of a permanent UK presence in Malabo. [190196]

**Dr. Howells:** UK consular staff from our deputy high commission in Lagos are providing consular assistance to Mr. Mann. There are currently no plans to request the US authorities to visit him but we intend to raise this with the US authorities.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the medical treatment being provided to Simon Mann in Malabo for his hernia. [190197]

**Dr. Howells:** We have raised specific consular and welfare concerns regarding Mr. Mann with the Equatorial Guinean authorities and we will follow those up.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 179W, on Simon Mann, what reasons he has been given by the Equatorial Guinean embassy for the 24-hour shackling of Simon Mann in custody. [190198]

**Dr. Howells:** We have been given no reasons by the Equatorial Guinean authorities on this point and are seeking an explanation.

### UN World Conference Against Racism

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he will use in determining whether the UK will participate in the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188753]

**Meg Munn:** We want the 2009 Durban Review Conference to contribute to the global fight against racism today. We, and EU partners, are working to achieve this, but it has proven to be a difficult process. Attempts by other blocs of countries to undo agreements and decisions, or expand the remit of the conference beyond a review of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action have not contributed to a consensual approach.

We will continue to work closely with EU colleagues on the Durban Review Conference and will keep our position under review as the process moves forward.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government have made on the agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188816]

**Meg Munn:** The agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism has not yet been discussed in detail. We want the Durban Review Conference to assess how states have implemented the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. There is pressure to include issues not covered by the 2001 document, which we are resisting.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the UN on the inclusion of Holocaust education on the agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism. [188817]

**Meg Munn:** The agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism has not yet been discussed in detail. The Government take work on Holocaust education and remembrance very seriously. Article 58 of the Durban Declaration made clear that the Holocaust must not be forgotten. We will seek opportunities with our EU partners to give Holocaust education and remembrance appropriate attention as negotiations continue.

### Weapons: Proliferation

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the failure of the 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to agree a final document. [185081]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The UK worked hard to achieve an agreed final document at the 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. In a multilateral forum, reliant on consensus, extended procedural delays can prejudice a substantive outcome even when the majority of states present are committed to achieving real advances. Regrettably, in 2005 a delay often days to agree the Review Conference agenda meant there was not enough time to negotiate a substantive final document. UK policy and priorities for the 2010 NPT review cycle are set out in the reply I gave to the right hon. Member on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 176W.

### Zimbabwe

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 140, on Zimbabwe, when he plans to turn to the role of the Government of Zimbabwe in the case of Mr. Simon Mann; for what reason a formal protest has not been made to that Government in relation to the removal of Mr. Mann to Equatorial Guinea from Zimbabwe; and what assessment he has made of the likely inferences to be drawn by the authorities in Equatorial Guinea in relation to the absence of such protest. [190354]

**Dr. Howells:** We have clearly noted our concern via diplomatic note to the Zimbabwean authorities about the circumstances of Mr. Mann's removal from Zimbabwe, which occurred before his legal appeals were exhausted.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Relations

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to *(a)* launch the single portal for cohesion guidance and *(b)* publish the cohesion contingency planning guidance referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190122]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We are currently in discussion with the Institute for Community Cohesion on plans to develop a single portal for cohesion guidance. We expect the portal to be launched in the summer.

We expect to publish guidance for local authorities on cohesion contingency planning shortly.

### Conditions of Employment: Parking

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 669W, on conditions of employment: parking, whether the payment by an employer of the workplace parking tax in a local authority area which levies the tax on workplace parking spaces, would be classed as a taxable benefit in kind by HM Revenue and Customs. [189411]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

There is an exemption from tax for the benefit of workplace parking at or near their workplace provided by employers to their employees. It is therefore highly unlikely that a tax charge would arise where an employer pays a workplace parking tax.

### First Time Buyers

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to increase the number of first-time buyers entering the property market. [190024]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are committed to tackling the problems of housing affordability and last year announced plans to raise annual housing supply to 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016. The Housing Green Paper published in July 2007 "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" sets out further details of our proposals for delivery of those homes, to widen access to home ownership and help more first-time buyers purchase a home.

Through increasing the overall housing supply, the Government aim to address affordability issues, and the problems they can cause for aspiring first-time buyers, over the longer term. In the meantime, our low-cost home ownership programme, enables social tenants, key workers and other priority first-time buyers to get a first step on the housing ladder.

Since 1997, we have helped over 95,000 households into home ownership through shared ownership and shared equity loan schemes. We have also helped over 26,000 key workers into a home since 2001.

The HomeBuy scheme introduced in April 2006 includes three products: Open Market HomeBuy (shared equity), New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership) and Social HomeBuy. The First Time Buyers' Initiative scheme run by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, is part of the New Build product. These schemes help purchasers get on to the housing ladder with shares from 25 per cent.

Between 2006-08 we are investing £970 million through the National Affordable Housing programme to help 35,000 households into low-cost home ownership properties. The Housing Corporation announced its new programme on 26 February and will be funding at least 25,000 low-cost home ownership homes a year from 2008-09 to 2011.

### Heating: Environment Protection

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions officials in her Department have had with counterparts in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in advance of the forthcoming meeting of the Consulting Forum under the Ecodesign of Energy-using Products Directive on requirements for boilers and water heaters. [189044]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Communities and Local Government officials are in ongoing discussions about the Energy-using Products Directive with their opposite numbers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### Heating: Standards

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2047W, on heating: standards, what meetings she has had with *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* industry organisations to discuss possible alterations to the (i) industry guidance and (ii) legal provisions governing hot water systems in homes; what the outcome of those meetings was; and if she will make a statement. [178902]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I will be meeting with Judith Hackitt, chair of the Health and Safety Commission, to discuss how we can further strengthen our working relationship. Officials have already met with officials from the HSE and as a result the HSE and the Department will jointly re-issue the HSE safety alert with advice on the causes and risk factors in accidents involving hot water systems to social housing providers.

Following the incident leading to Rhianna Hardie's death my officials worked with the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (IPHE) to develop a revised version of their information sheet on the safety of water heaters. This was published in April 2007.

Since announcing a review of part G of the building regulations last year, the IPHE and other trade organisations covering installation of hot water and heating systems have been working with officials in CLG to prepare new technical guidance to support more robust regulatory requirements for hot water systems. We will be consulting these proposed changes in April 2008.

### Immigrants: Information Services

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the first information packs for newcomers to the UK to be published by local authorities; and what funding her Department is providing for production of such packs. [187403]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Some local authorities have already published migrant information packs and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) used the best examples from these packs to provide best practice examples for the migrant information pack template which was published on the IDeA website on 4 February. This new resource will save local authorities money by providing a generic information framework that can be supplemented with local information. Communities and Local Government has no plans to provide additional funding for this work.

### Landfill Tax: Hertfordshire

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of increases in landfill tax on the funding of public services in *(a)* St. Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [188884]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The costs of landfill tax, including the increase in the landfill tax escalator, were taken into account when agreeing the local government settlement.

### Local Government Finance

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of *(a)* council tax receipts and *(b)* central Government grant was for local authorities in each county in the east of England region in each of the last 10 years. [188883]

**John Healey:** Details of the levels of council tax requirement and central Government funding to local authorities in each county in the east of England region in each of the last 10 years are shown in the following tables.

*Council tax requirement*

*£ million*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 129.9 | 140.0 | 153.3 | 164.7 | 176.3 | 197.0 | 219.6 | 239.6 | 253.3 | 267.9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 131.3 | 152.3 | 172.1 | 188.9 | 204.8 | 232.2 | 258.7 | 284.1 | 301.5 | 319.6 |
| Essex | 358.1 | 414.8 | 446.8 | 487.6 | 528.9 | 582.1 | 679.9 | 691.2 | 722.3 | 761.4 |
| Hertfordshire | 249.5 | 280.5 | 307.5 | 333.6 | 357.3 | 394.0 | 464.6 | 496.1 | 523.6 | 555.0 |
| Norfolk | 159.8 | 184.7 | 206.1 | 222.4 | 240.4 | 268.8 | 312.6 | 339.1 | 353.2 | 373.3 |
| Suffolk | 143.2 | 157.3 | 171.2 | 185.6 | 201.1 | 228.1 | 273.1 | 291.2 | 302.9 | 319.8 |
| Total | 1,171.7 | 1,329.6 | 1,456.9 | 1,582.7 | 1,708.8 | 1,902.2 | 2,208.5 | 2,341.3 | 2,456.8 | 2,596.9 |

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

*Central Government grants*

£ million

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 377.1 | 399.4 | 417.7 | 454.1 | 490.3 | 507.4 | 578.3 | 615.8 | 673.0 | 728.8 |
| Cambridgeshire | 406.8 | 440.0 | 464.7 | 502.9 | 534.4 | 564.3 | 634.8 | 670.2 | 753.2 | 803.7 |
| Essex | 954.1 | 1,032.4 | 1,094.7 | 1,188.3 | 1,282.7 | 1,366.1 | 1,511.1 | 1,571.6 | 1,673.8 | 1,724.1 |
| Hertfordshire | 617.7 | 649.8 | 678.0 | 748.5 | 810.6 | 824.5 | 909.6 | 977.8 | 1,016.6 | 1,068.5 |
| Norfolk | 473.9 | 487.0 | 518.1 | 560.8 | 605.2 | 640.6 | 713.4 | 756.5 | 809.7 | 866.8 |
| Suffolk | 394.0 | 410.8 | 433.6 | 467.4 | 503.0 | 516.7 | 589.0 | 630.1 | 667.6 | 693.7 |
| Total | 3,223.8 | 3,419.4 | 3,606.8 | 3,922.0 | 4,226.2 | 4,419.5 | 4,936.1 | 5,222.0 | 5,593.8 | 5,885.6 |

Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and police grant) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable the standard spending assessment reduction grant and central support protection grants have also been included.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

These figures are sourced from Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her Department and its predecessors paid money to what was later found to be the incorrect local governmental body in each year since 1997; and what the total value of such incorrect payments is. [189133]

**John Healey:** Our systems do not separately identify adjustments to payments which arose because money was originally paid to an incorrect local government body. The regularity of payments made by the Department and its predecessors are subject to audit arrangements and these have not identified any systemic weaknesses or recurring problems in relation to correct payees. We would seek recovery of any incorrect payments, in line with "Managing Public Money"—the Treasury guidance (replacing "Government Accounting") which sets out principles and standards for Government Departments on managing public resources—and would look to address the problem quickly if errors were brought to light.

### Local Government: Consent Regimes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W, on local government: consent regimes, what the role of the Government Office for the Regions is in exercising the statutory functions in relation to *(a)* the Green Belt Act 1938, *(b)* redundant churches and *(c)* revocation orders. [189245]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government Office network considers referrals under the Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act 1938 and Revocation Orders on behalf on the Secretary of State. Government Offices also consider referrals made where the proposed demolition of a listed church or an unlisted church in a conservation area is contested by a qualifying body.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 586-7W, on non-domestic rates, (1) for what reason transitional relief will not apply to supplementary business rates; and for what reason the decision was previously taken by her Department not to apply relief to business improvement districts following the rates revaluation; [189243]

(2) whether any impact assessment or research has quantified the marginal increase in taxation on an individual business which would be otherwise eligible for transitional relief on the main multiplier as a consequence of transitional relief not being applied to supplementary business rates. [189244]

**John Healey:** Transitional relief is designed specifically to cushion the impact on ratepayers' bills of significant increases and decreases in rateable value following the five-yearly revaluation of non-domestic properties. BID levies and business rate supplements are entirely separate from the revaluation of business rates and are therefore outside its scope.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency has established the proposed property attributes that will form the basis of the regression analysis in its automated valuation process for the forthcoming non-domestic rating revaluation. [189532]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1154W.

### Regional Planning and Development: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding regional planning bodies will receive from housing and planning delivery grant; and what targets they will be required to meet to maximise their funding. [189545]

**John Healey:** All funding for Regional Assemblies from 2008-09 will be from a single funding stream; they will not receive housing and planning delivery grant.

Regional Assemblies are required to prepare a business plan as a condition of their receipt of Government grant, to provide assurance that funds are spent efficiently and in furtherance of the aims for which funding is granted. Performance against business plans will be monitored quarterly.

### Thermal Insulation: Materials

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of appropriate tests for the performance of multi-foil insulation materials other than the hot box; [188184]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* practical and *(b)* environmental merits of multi-foil insulation materials; [188186]

(3) how she plans to comply with the High Court judgment of 2 November 2007 on standards for multi-foil insulation material used in construction. [188194]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Government's position on tests of the performance of multi-foil insulation products and their proposals for complying with the High Court judgment of 2 November 2007 are explained in Communities and Local Government Circular 6/2007 and the parallel letter to local authorities and approved building control inspectors which were issued on 7 December 2007. These can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/

The Department does not assess the practical and environmental merits of particular types of insulation materials, as building regulations and guidance do not make specific requirements for such materials. When issuing approved guidance on achieving compliance with the building regulations' energy efficiency requirements for construction work, it relies upon internationally recognised generic insulation performance values for construction materials and a wide range of expert advice on how these materials can be practically assembled into construction elements such as walls, roofs etc.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer Question 178902 tabled by the hon. Member for Taunton on 28 January 2008 on heating: standards; and what the reasons are for the length of time taken to reply. [190163]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have now replied to the hon. Member's question. I apologise for the delay in responding.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Gloucester, will reply to the letter of 11 January 2008 from the hon. Member for Wycombe on funding arrangements for prevention of violent extremism projects between March and June 2008. [190206]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I have now replied to the hon. Member's letter.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on changes to licensing hours for on- and off-licensed premises; and if he will make a statement. [190199]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I and my predecessors have had discussions with many other Government Departments, local authorities, voluntary groups and representatives of businesses as part of the process of policy development. The discussions have mainly concerned the impact of the Licensing Act 2003, which came into force in November 2005.

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189793]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** As DCMS is an equal opportunities employer we have extended the option to work flexibly to all our staff. We aim to support staff in balancing their work and home responsibilities, and home working is one of a range of flexible working patterns available to staff, which includes

Flexible working hours (formal and informal flexi, compressed hours, term-time working and annualised hours)

Part-time working or job sharing

Home working

In the last 12 months DCMS has authorised 44 people to work from home. However, the Department also supports and encourages the more informal home-working arrangements in which staff may have agreed to work from home on an occasional ad-hoc basis. We do not keep records of the dates when each case was authorised.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189799]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department spent £30,974.95 on bottled water during the period April 2006 to March 2007.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189498]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides tea and coffee for all official meetings from Fairtrade sources; Fairtrade confectionery is always on sale in the staff canteen. These are available all year rather than being confined to a short-term promotion exercise.

### Football Foundation: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding was provided to the Football Foundation in each of the last three years. [190136]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A total of £46.2 million of public funding was awarded to the Football Foundation via Sport England in the last three years.

2005-06: £4.2 million lottery (capital)

2006-07: £20 million exchequer (capital), £1 million exchequer (revenue), £2.5 million lottery (revenue)

2007-08: £15 million exchequer (capital), £1 million exchequer (revenue), £2.5 million lottery (revenue)

The funding was made as part of Government's community sports strategy, investing in both football and multisport facilities.

### National Lottery: Sports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was provided to *(a)* athletics and *(b)* swimming in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex, (iii) the London region and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997; what projects were funded; whether there are restrictions on the use of these funds; and if he will make a statement. [189000]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Financial support for community sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England which dispenses Exchequer and lottery funds for sport. The tables show how much lottery funding has been allocated through Sport England to *(a)* athletics and *(b)* swimming in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex, (iii) London region and (iv) England. Funding for Sport in Wales is distributed by the Sport Council for Wales and does not receive an allocation from DCMS.

| | £ | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Athletics* | *Swimming* |
| *Southend* | | |
| 1997-98 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 0 |
| *Essex* | | |
| 1997-98 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 6,210,923 |
| 2000-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 3,215,102 | 86,883 |
| 2002-03 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 333,860 | 2,083,274 |
| 2004-05 | 80,000 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 80,000 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 0 |
| *London* | | |
| 1997-98 | 0 | 13,825,861 |
| 1998-99 | 1,066,000 | 13,554,609 |
| 1999-2000 | 161,442 | 6,604,153 |
| 2000-01 | 2,327,000 | 750,000 |
| 2001-02 | 4,098,940 | 3,027,328 |
| 2002-03 | 76,555 | 20,475 |
| 2003-04 | 940,466 | 1,675,000 |
| 2004-05 | 10,179,788 | 6,983,500 |
| 2005-06 | 777,302 | 187,530 |
| 2006-07 | 694,996 | 693,000 |
| 2007-08 | 2,492,143 | 0 |
| *England* | | |
| 1997-98 | 2,249,274 | 55,700,872 |
| 1998-99 | 4,834,537 | 56,082,875 |
| 1999-2000 | 7,136,025 | 25,154,681 |
| 2000-01 | 21,489,967 | 22,192,764 |
| 2001-02 | 14,009,026 | 29,920,415 |
| 2002-03 | 10,323,192 | 36,331,316 |
| 2003-04 | 8,943,759 | 21,561,774 |
| 2004-05 | 16,750,978 | 18,987,199 |
| 2005-06 | 5,786,742 | 11,801,663 |
| 2006-07 | 6,567,809 | 6,640,736 |
| 2007-08 | 10,086,870 | 6,138,632 |

In terms of restrictions on the use of funding, these have been consistently in line with lottery policy and each application for funding assessed on its individual merits. Further to this there will have been ad hoc support via the County Sports Partnerships, School Sport Partnerships and local authority sports development officers and while this support is hard to evidence and categorise there will have been benefits to amateur sports clubs from the professional work force.

I will place a summary of projects in Essex, London region and England that have benefited from funding in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people who engaged in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, broken down by region. [187242]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Data from the DCMS' Taking Part survey show the number of people who participated in moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week. The table sets out the data by region.

The moderate intensity level sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on at least three separate days during the past week.

*Moderate intensity, 3 x 30 minutes per week*

| Region | 2005-06 | Percentage 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 21 | 23 |
| North West | 19 | 20 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 21 | 22 |
| East Midlands | 20 | 21 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 20 |
| East of England | 22 | 23 |
| London | 21 | 20 |
| South East | 21 | 22 |
| South West | 23 | 24 |
| England | 21 | 22 |

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 333-4W, on sports, (1) how many people each percentage figure in the tables represents; [189974]

(2) how many people each percentage figure in the tables represents. [189975]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W, the tables show how many people each percentage figure represents, rounded to the nearest 10,000. The data are taken from the DCMS Taking Part survey.

The moderate level intensity sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on three separate days during the past week.

*Moderate intensity, 3 x 30*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage | Number (Thousand) | Percentage | Number (Thousand) |
| Black and minority ethnic | 19.2 | 720 | 19.6 | 760 |
| Limiting disability | 9.5 | 790 | 9.4 | 780 |
| Lower socio-economic | 15.2 | 2,310 | 15.3 | 2,410 |
| Women | 18.5 | 3,640 | 18.3 | 3,680 |
| All Adults | 20.9 | 7,950 | 21.5 | 8,430 |

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

*Active sport, 12 x a year*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage | Number (Thousand) | Percentage | Number (Thousand) |
| Black and minority ethnic | 53.3 | 2,090 | 51.9 | 2,040 |
| Limiting disability | 32.3 | 2,760 | 31.2 | 2,650 |
| Lower socio-economic | 43.4 | 6,840 | 42.2 | 6,720 |
| Women | 47.7 | 9,800 | 46.2 | 9,480 |
| All Adults | 53.7 | 21,330 | 53.4 | 21,310 |

## Sports: Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will collect data on Community Club Development Programme funding allocated to sports clubs in West Lancashire constituency. [189734]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) is administered on Government's behalf by Sport England. Sport England does not collect data about CCDP in the format requested.

Sport England allocates funding to 19 National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGBs) to identify and deliver capital sports facilities projects. Data about CCDP are not collected from the NGBs below county level.

## Swimming: Southend on Sea

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to encourage participation in swimming in Southend; how much his Department spent to promote swimming in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [189001]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Financial support for community sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England which dispenses Exchequer and lottery funds for sport. Sport England advises that to date no funds have been allocated directly to swimming in Southend and that there has not been a Sport England funded promotional campaign for swimming in Southend. In addition Sport England does not collect data on how much it spends promoting participation in specific sports.

However over the period from 1997-98 to 2007-08, Sport England has invested significantly in swimming across England:

| | *Exchequer[1] and lottery funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 55,700,872 |
| 1998-99 | 56,082,875 |
| 1999-2000 | 25,154,681 |
| 2000-01 | 22,192,764 |
| 2001-02 | 29,920,415 |
| 2002-03 | 36,674,976 |
| 2003-04 | 22,011,107 |
| 2004-05 | 19,675,199 |
| 2005-06 | 12,502,663 |
| 2006-07 | 7,588,627 |
| 2007-08 | 6,138,632 |

[1] Exchequer funding figures are only available for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07

Furthermore there is a requirement for swimming provision through the PE and Sports Strategy for Young People. As this is delivered in curriculum time, the source of funding is the Department for Children, Schools and Families and not the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Government funds and resources have been allocated to research and development in finding an alternative to animal testing since 2001. [177932]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

Between 2001 and 2007-08 the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) provided £12,008,000 for research into the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research through response mode funding and strategic programmes. In addition, these Research Councils fund the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NCSRs), established in 2004. Between 2004-05 and 2007-08 the NCSRs has received £5,525,000 from the Research Councils as well as £660,000 from the Home Office. The two Research Councils will provide £12,804,000 to the NCSRs for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

### Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed notice fines were issued in each police force area for the illegal use of a mobile telephone whilst driving in each of the last four years. [189618]

**Mr. Coaker:** It became a specific offence to use a mobile phone while driving in December 2003. The following table gives the figures for 2003, 2004 and 2005, the latest available. The figures for 2006 will be available later in the year.

*Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05*

*Number of offences*

| | *Fixed penalty notices issued* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
| Avon and Somerset | [3]— | 1,902 | 2,502 |
| Bedfordshire | 10 | 579 | 944 |
| Cambridgeshire | [3]— | 219 | 1,347 |
| Cheshire | [3]— | 2,689 | 2,891 |
| Cleveland | 13 | 1,066 | 1,955 |
| Cumbria | 13 | 528 | 1,021 |
| Derbyshire | 13 | 978 | 1,501 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 345 | 796 | 1,482 |
| Dorset | [3]— | 521 | 657 |
| Durham | [3]— | 504 | 963 |
| Essex | [3]— | 2,431 | 4,369 |
| Gloucestershire | 147 | 632 | 1,208 |
| Greater Manchester | [3]— | 8,166 | 12,904 |
| Hampshire | 54 | 2,032 | 4,078 |
| Hertfordshire | [3]— | 2,556 | 3,923 |
| Humberside | [3]— | 581 | 1,202 |
| Kent | 15 | 1,707 | 4,829 |
| Lancashire | 34 | 1,719 | 3,079 |
| Leicestershire | 17 | 759 | 254 |
| Lincolnshire | 7 | 1,529 | 2,514 |
| London, City of | 45 | 137 | 1,647 |
| Merseyside | [3]— | 1,836 | 5,684 |
| Metropolitan police | 621 | 13,581 | 18,035 |
| Norfolk | 17 | 887 | 904 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 297 | 971 |
| Northumbria | 56 | 1,271 | 2,409 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 720 | 1,289 |
| Nottinghamshire | [3]— | 653 | 1,637 |
| South Yorkshire | 28 | 1,978 | 3,978 |
| Staffordshire | 12 | 264 | 2,346 |
| Suffolk | 42 | 978 | 1,707 |
| Surrey | 164 | 2,213 | 3,575 |
| Sussex | [3]— | 546 | 1,105 |
| Thames Valley | 25 | 3,716 | 7,111 |
| Warwickshire | [3]— | 621 | 918 |
| West Mercia | [3]— | 2,200 | 5,246 |
| West Midlands | 144 | 3,864 | 5,065 |
| West Yorkshire | [3]— | 2,368 | 4,272 |
| Wiltshire | [3]— | 700 | 1,226 |
| Dyfed Powys | [3]— | 363 | 623 |
| Gwent | [3]— | 517 | 939 |
| North Wales | [3]— | 999 | 424 |
| South Wales | [3]— | 1,603 | 2,030 |
| England and Wales | 1,888 | 73,976 | 126,768 |

[1] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
[3] Nil.

*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Human Trafficking

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which the most common countries of origin are for people trafficked into the UK. [190077]

**Mr. Coaker:** Victims of human trafficking come from a range of countries. The top five countries of origin for referrals to the Poppy Project are Lithuania, Nigeria, Albania, Thailand and China.

### Individual Support Orders

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individual support orders attached to anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in each local authority area in each quarter since May 2004; [188727]

(2) how many individual support orders attached to anti-social behaviour orders have been given at magistrates courts in each magistrates court area in each quarter since May 2004; [189026]

(3) how much has been allocated to fund individual support orders (ISOs) in 2007-08; and how much of last year's £45 million increase in funding for the Youth Justice Board was spent on ISOs. [189027]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Individual support orders (ISOs) became available from 1 May 2004. Seven ISOs were issued to juveniles (defined as being aged 10 to 17) in 2004, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service. 42 ISOs were issued to juveniles in 2005 (latest available). The data are not available to publish below the England and Wales level.

In 2007-08 the Youth Justice Board invested £31.2 million in grants to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to run a range of targeted prevention programmes. This investment supports over 400 evidence-based programmes across England and Wales. All of these programmes are available to support young people involved in antisocial behaviour and crime in order to reduce their involvement, as part of a tiered approach that involves ISOs where appropriate. As part of the £31.2 million, approximately £458,000 was allocated more specifically to address the needs and risks presented by those involved in antisocial behaviour, some of whom will be subject to an ISO.

### Internet: Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the distribution of responsibilities is between Government Departments and agencies in relation to the regulation of the internet; and if she will make a statement. [188344]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government work closely with the internet industry and law enforcement, through such mechanisms as the Home Secretary's Taskforce on Online Child Protection, to ensure that their internet services are not used for illegal or borderline legal activity. The Home Secretary's Taskforce includes representatives from other Government Departments.

The E-Commerce Directive lays down requirements that apply in relation to the provision of services on the internet. The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible for the E-Commerce Regulations 2002 which implemented the Directive in relation to legislation that predates the 2002 regulations. So far as legislation that postdates the 2002 Regulations is concerned, each Government Department is responsible for ensuring that its legislation complies with the Directive.

### Internet: Regulation

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much she has allocated to policing internet content for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [188349]

**Mr. Coaker:** The police do not police the internet per se; the Government have legislated to prosecute offences based on the crime committed and not the medium used. Internet content is subject to the Obscene Publications Act 1959 as is all published material.

The Home Office allocates core grants to police forces on an annual basis without stipulating where the grant should be spent.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) also receives a budget for law enforcement work to tackle electronic crime. The SOCA budget also includes funding for the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP).

In 2007-08 CEOP received a budget (from SOCA) of £5.657 million. It is yet to be confirmed how much they will receive in 2008-09.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182841]

**Mr. Byrne:** For Home Office headquarters and the Home Office agencies the number of cases of bullying that have been reported in the last 12 months is set out in the following table. Where the figure is fewer than five the exact figure is not disclosed as this could result in an individual's identity being inadvertently revealed.

*2007*

| | *Home Office* | *Criminal Records Bureau* | *Identity and Passport Service* | *Border and Immigration Agency* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| February | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 | 5 |
| April | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 2007 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Home Office* | *Criminal Records Bureau* | *Identity and Passport Service* | *Border and Immigration Agency* | *Total* |
| May | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| June | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| July | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| August | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| September | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| November | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| December | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |

## Migrant Workers: Teesside

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers there were in *(a)* Teesside, *(b)* Stockton South constituency and *(c)* North East England in each of the last three years. [189325]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in (a) Teesside, (b) Stockton South constituency and (c) North East England in each of the last three years. I am replying in her absence. (189325)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16 - 59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Teesside, Stockton South Parliamentary Constituency and North East England, for the twelve month periods ending in June for 2005, 2006, 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent which is currently available.

Teesside has been formed by combining Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar and Cleveland Unitary Authorities.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Number of migrant workers in Stockton South parliamentary constituency, Teesside[1] and North East England in the last three years*

*Thousand*

| | *Employment level* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending June* | *Stockton South* | *Teesside* | *North East* |
| 2005 | 2 | 7 | 29 |
| 2006 | 2 | 8 | 44 |
| 2007 | 2 | 7 | 44 |

[1] Teesside covers the unitary authorities of Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar and Cleveland.

[2] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59. Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

*Note:*

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:

It excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

It excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

It excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).

It is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

Micro-data are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS.

## National Security

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 November 2007 on national security, in which areas the new dedicated regional counter terrorism units are based; how many people work in each unit; how many of the staff are *(a)* police and *(b)* support staff in each unit; and how many of the staff of each unit have been (i) recruited specifically to work for each unit and (ii) seconded from other duties. [165660]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have established counter terrorism units (CTUs) with intelligence gathering and investigative functions in the west midlands, the north-east and the north-west and counter terrorism intelligence units (CTIUs) with intelligence gathering capabilities at locations in Wales, the south-west, the south-east, the east and east midlands.

Each CTU and CTIU is tailored to the region in which it is situated, but when fully staffed, the CTUs will have approximately 260 members of staff each and CTIUs will have approximately 55 members of staff each.

The police officer/police staff configurations will be as follows:

| | Officers | Police staff |
|---|---|---|
| North-east | 169 | 92 |
| North-west | 202 | 59 |
| West midlands | 183 | 78 |
| Wales | 38 | 19.5 |
| South-west | 35 | 20 |
| South-east | 37 | 17.5 |
| East | 36 | 18.5 |
| East midlands | 33 | 21.5 |

The CTUs have currently filled 703 posts of the 783 posts collectively and the CTIUs have filled 237 of the 276 posts collectively. This includes posts where recruitment has been completed, but the post holder has not yet taken up their duties. In the CTUs 499 of these posts are officers and 204 are staff. In the CTIUs 161 of the posts are officers and 76 are staff.

All staff are recruited to specifically work in each unit.

### Surveillance: Members

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of hon. Members who have taken the Oath who have been directly or indirectly the subject of *(a)* surveillance or *(b)* intercept since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [189247]

**Mr. McNulty:** It has been the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on surveillance or interception operations.

## TRANSPORT

### Department Equality

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men work in each bargaining unit of her Department and its agencies. [189099]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The figures shown are actual headcount (not FTEs) and exclude temp/employment agency staff.

| Agency | Percentage Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| DfT | 62 | 38 |
| DSA | 71 | 29 |
| DVLA | 37 | 63 |
| HA | 70 | 30 |
| MCA | 67 | 33 |
| VGA | 73 | 27 |
| VOSA | 68 | 32 |
| GCDA | 90 | 10 |

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Publicity

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's television advertisements aimed at stopping vehicle excise duty fraud. [183503]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Latest road side survey estimates include that vehicle excise duty (VED) revenue lost through evasion is £79 million per year. The current television advertisement, aimed at deterring VED evasion, was produced during the 2006-07 financial year at a cost of £478,409.

It was first on air in May and June 2007 with a second period during January and February 2008.

The media cost, including fees, for television advertisements of this kind in this financial year to date, is £2,300,955.

It is intended to run the advertisement again during 2008-09.

In addition, a 30-second TV 'filler' was commissioned in 2007 at a cost of £111,792. This features a road safety message and is aired by television companies at no cost to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

### Electric Vehicles

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the potential impact of electric personal assistive mobility devices on carbon emissions and congestion; and if she will make a statement; [189387]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential impact of electric personal assistive mobility devices on the Government's *(a)* road traffic congestion and *(b)* carbon emissions targets; and if she will make a statement. [189388]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the impact the introduction of electric personal assistive mobility devices would have on carbon emissions in the UK. [189389]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1347-48W, to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech).

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to amend legislation to permit electric personal assistive mobility devices on the public highway or on pedestrian or cycle facilities; and if she will make a statement. [189622]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are no plans to amend legislation to permit electric personal assistive mobility devices on the public highway or on pedestrian or cycle facilities in the UK.

### Electric Vehicles: Government Cars

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing electric vehicles into the Government car fleet. [190025]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) actively engages with vehicle manufacturers on the development of alternatively powered vehicles, including electric vehicles.

GCDA's car fleet was one of the first in the country to introduce hybrid electric/petrol technology on a large scale. Vehicles solely powered by electricity do not yet have the range or performance to meet the day to day operational needs of the agency.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric vehicles there are in the Government car fleet. [190026]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency currently operates 105 hybrid vehicles but no electric vehicles. This represents 54.4 per cent. of the total car fleet.

**Heathrow Airport**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of passengers using *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports were in transit (i) between domestic and international flights and (ii) between international flights in the last year for which figures are available. [188503]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The following table shows percentage of passengers transferring between domestic and international flights and between international flights at Heathrow and Gatwick in 2006.

*Passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick 2006*

| | Heathrow | | Gatwick | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Passengers (million)* | *Percentage of total passengers* | *Passengers (million)* | *Percentage of total passengers* |
| Total passengers | 67.1 | — | 33.7 | — |
| *of which:* | | | | |
| *Transfer* | | | | |
| Domestic to International | 2.9 | 4 | 1.3 | 4 |
| International to International | 17.1 | 26 | 1.6 | 5 |
| International to Domestic | 2.8 | 4 | 1.2 | 4 |
| Total transfer passengers[1] | 22.9 | 34 | 4.2 | 12 |

[1] This includes domestic to domestic transfer passengers.

**Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what target she has set for carbon dioxide emissions from road vehicles by 2020, expressed in g/km. [188893]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* We believe that 100 g/km should be achievable by 2020, or no later than 2025, at the EU level. We are pushing strongly for the recent European Commission legislative proposal on new car $CO_2$ to be amended to reflect this.

**Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of road tax evasion. [189146]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has in place effective processes to collect Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), making vehicle licensing requirements easier to comply with but harder to avoid.

A comprehensive package of measures is employed to combat VED evasion. This includes targeted advertising, automated penalties generated from the record, use of debt collection agencies, deployment of enforcement officers and use of automatic number plate recognition to detect and prosecute users of unlicensed vehicles. In addition, DVLA and its police and local authority enforcement partners take direct roadside enforcement action to wheel clamp and impound unlicensed vehicles.

The most recent roadside survey of VED evasion estimates that 98.5 per cent. of duty payable in 2007 was successfully collected.

**Railway Stations: Sight Impaired**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to make train stations user-friendly for blind people. [190023]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since the launch of the Railways for All Strategy in March 2006 Access for All funding has been used to support a variety of accessibility improvements that will benefit visually impaired passengers at more than 270 stations. Schemes have included improvements to public address systems, tactile paving, lighting, stair handrails and colour contrasting.

**Railway Stations: West Midlands**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to improve accessibility of train stations in the West Midlands. [190022]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since the launch of the Railways for All Strategy in March 2006 Access for All funding has been used to support a variety of accessibility improvements including accessible toilets, customer information systems and hearing induction loops, at 61 stations in the West Midlands. The Department for Transport has contributed £1.2 million towards projects totalling £3.1 million.

In addition, £160 million was announced by the Department earlier this month for improvements to passenger capacity and access at Birmingham New Street Station. This is in addition to the £128 million of funding pledged by the Department last year.

### Roads

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to issue a manual for streets to aid reconfiguration of existing *(a)* high streets and *(b)* other streets. [186111]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We have no immediate plans to develop a manual specifically for high streets or other roads. Although the Manual for Streets, published in March 2007, focuses on residential and other lightly trafficked roads, many of its key principles are applicable to other types of roads. We are aware of the call for it to be extended in scope and we are considering how we may do this, possibly in partnership with stakeholders.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many scheme impact evaluations she has received from local authorities for road schemes the Department for Transport has funded; and if she will *(a)* list them and *(b)* make them available on the Department's website. [188481]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Evaluation is an integral part of the scheme development and since July 2006, the Department for Transport (DfT) requires local authorities submitting a Major Scheme Business Case to include an outline evaluation plan. We have issued guidance titled "The Evaluation of Local Authority Transport Schemes: A Guide" to local authorities conducting scheme evaluations in December 2006. The guidance is available on the DFT website at the following web link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/major/pdfevalmailocautranpro

This provides detailed guidance for local authorities on how to plan and conduct an effective evaluation.

We do not have any evaluations for those schemes that received funding approval before July 2006 and it will be sometime before we start receiving completed evaluations for schemes receiving funding approval after July 2006.

In addition, we now expect local authorities to make available, on their own websites, scheme evaluations as they become available.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to record centrally expenditure by local authorities on compensation paid as a result of inadequate road maintenance resulting in *(a)* personal injury and *(b)* damage to vehicles. [189100]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Highway maintenance on local roads in England is the responsibility of each local highways authority. This responsibility includes management of claims for compensation for personal injury and damage to vehicles resulting from alleged inadequate road maintenance. There are no plans to introduce central recording of those claims.

### Sea Rescue: Ireland

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the *(a)* Republic of Ireland's coast guard agency, *(b)* Irish Air Corps and *(c)* Irish navy have been involved in marine emergency and rescue in United Kingdom waters in the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [188458]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** According to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency records, in 2006 the Republic of Ireland's coastguard was contacted for assistance 206 times, and the Irish navy three times. In 2007 the coastguard was contacted for assistance 209 times and the Irish navy on one occasion. The Irish Air Corps was not used in either year.

### Trains: Fuels

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration her Department has given to the merits of low-cost ultra-light rail fuelled by biomethane made locally from anaerobically digested organic waste; and if she will make a statement. [188479]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department has not made such an assessment. We are aware of the claims made for the potential benefits of ultra light rail, but in order to properly assess these, we would need to see a business case supporting its application in a specific location. Local authorities are welcome to submit innovative proposals to the Department for funding as pilot or demonstration schemes within the major scheme funding regime. During 2006, the Department part-funded a research project to assess the potential role of biomethane as a renewable transport fuel, although this did not examine it's potential in ultra light rail specifically. A copy of this report has been made available in the House Libraries.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Braintree

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects in Braintree constituency have been funded by the aggregates levy sustainability fund; and what the value is of each project. [189344]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A breakdown by constituency is not available, but the information requested, for the county of Essex, is set out in the following table.

*Aggregates levy sustainability fund projects in Essex*

| *Project title* | *Grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| Access for all Rainham Marshes | 34,999 |
| Aldham Parish Council - Basketball equipment | 3,000 |
| Belhus Cricket Club - New equipment | 3,000 |
| Bell Tower Community Centre Project, Great Waltham/Ford End | 6,650 |
| Berwick Woods - Footpath improvements | 53,783 |
| Boardwalk at Rainham, Wennington and Aveley - RSPB nature reserve | 6,318 |

*Aggregates levy sustainability fund projects in Essex*

| *Project title* | *Grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| Building for the New Millennium, Little Tey | 10,400 |
| Chafford Gorges - Visitor guide | 3,359 |
| Chigborough Lakes | 2,579 |
| Cleaner Village - Purchase of a road sweeper , Silver End | 500 |
| Colne Estuary area community access and biodiversity | 22,986 |
| Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council - Play equipment | 2,000 |
| Danbury - Surface front carpark area | 2,860 |
| Danbury Parish Council - Play area and Dawson Field | 1,190 |
| Eastern Waste - Crushing, screening and infrastructure, Brightlingsea | 226,920 |
| Elsenham Parish Council play area -Replacement signs and teen shelter | 7,500 |
| Erection of Rabbit proof fencing around Ardleigh Recreation Ground | 5,437 |
| Exploring and understanding Gosfield Pits | 3,500 |
| Felsted Memorial Hall redecoration and repair | 6,500 |
| Fingringhoe Wick interpretation | 17,228 |
| Fingringhoe Wick signs and interpretation | 5,070 |
| Grassland management and visitor facilities, Old Hall Marshes | 7,299 |
| Greater Thames survey of known mineral extraction | 168,639 |
| Grove Road play area - Play equipment, Tiptree | 6,011 |
| Grove Road play area - Provision of a Spacenet, Tiptree | 10,400 |
| Hall Marsh - Wet grasslands for wildlife and people | 65,000 |
| Hatfield Peverel Parish Park - Biodiversity report | 1,500 |
| Lodge Farm, St. Osyth,- Archaeology | 393,731 |
| Martins Farm Parish Park | 3,000 |
| Messing cum Inworth Parish Council - Finger post | 2,856 |
| Messing cum Inworth Parish Council - Playground | 3,500 |
| Play area refurbishment, Danbury | 8,810 |
| Play equipment, Bradwell | 6,000 |
| Play Equipment, Fingringhoe | 3,670 |
| Priory Meadow recreation and play area 06-07, St. Osyth | 5,500 |
| Priory Meadow recreational and play area, St. Osyth | 15,000 |
| Provision of floodlighting to multipurpose sports facility, Pleshey | 3,000 |
| Rainham Marshes RSPB | 35,000 |
| Rainham, Wennington and Aveley Marshes RSPB Nature Reserve | 22,000 |
| Rebekah May Birch - Community Wildlife Garden | 4,970 |
| Removal of Pennywort from the Chelmer and Blackwater River Basins | 16,000 |
| RSPB - Enhancement of Lapwing Breeding and Feeding, Tollesbury | 5,933 |
| RSPB - Rainham Marshes Community Consultation | 750 |
| School Grounds Development and Secret Garden, Rowhedge | 900 |
| Shenfield Church butterfly meadow | 2,500 |
| Soil washing facility- Eco Aggregates Ltd, Springfield | 602,239 |
| Stansted Hall Cricket Club - Purchase of equipment and upgrade of facilities | 5,274 |
| Table-top interpretation, Hatfield Forest | 8,000 |
| Thames Chase Feasibility Study | 1,000 |
| Thames Chase Forest Centre | 150,000 |

*Aggregates levy sustainability fund projects in Essex*

| *Project title* | *Grant (£)* |
|---|---|
| The Draqonflies of Essex (Book) | 1,000 |
| The finest prospect in all England: a history of South Essex | 49,494 |
| Upgrading of Parish Councils grass cutting machinery, Sandon | 6,300 |
| Water and Mink Monitoring Project in Thurrock | 7,308 |
| Wildlife Walk, Accessible Pathway and Self Guided, Epping Forest | 3,000 |
| Youth Shelter Provision, Langham | 7,275 |

## Animals: Diseases

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of the expected costs of animal disease and welfare will fall upon the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* farmers under cost-sharing arrangements for each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [183500]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: It is not possible to provide such a breakdown, as the costs to industry and Government will vary. As part of the CSR 07 settlement the Government are committed to reducing DEFRA's animal health and welfare budget by £121 million by 2010-11. This is being achieved through a combination of efficiency savings at no additional cost to the industry; and transfers and charges in full or in part for activities and services which are of direct benefit to the industry whether individually or collectively.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether estimated savings in 2010-11 from cost-sharing in relation to animal disease and welfare include income from levies imposed on the farming industry for the control of exotic diseases. [183501]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: No. We do not anticipate that legislation to facilitate the introduction of other revenue raising mechanisms as part of the wider responsibility and cost sharing agenda for animal health and welfare will be in place before the end of the current CSR settlement period. We are currently consulting on the broad means by which full responsibility and cost sharing might be introduced, with a view to consulting by the end of the year on specific proposals for the establishment of responsibility and cost sharing.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what financial basis and assumptions an annual saving of £121 million by 2011 from cost-sharing for animal disease control and welfare was calculated. [183502]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: An annual saving of £121 million by 2010-11 represents the proportion of the Department's CSR settlement which falls on the Animal Health and Welfare budget. This is being achieved through a combination of efficiency savings at no additional cost to the industry; and transfers and charges in full or in part for activities and services which are of direct benefit to the industry whether individually or collectively.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures relating to vaccination of sheep and cattle have been taken in relation to bluetongue disease. [187567]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has placed an order with Intervet for 22.5 million doses of vaccine for use against bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8), the strain currently in circulation in parts of East and South East England. 20 million doses are reserved for use in England and 2.5 million doses are reserved for potential use in Wales. The UK was the first member state affected by BTV-8 to place an order for vaccine and Intervet has indicated that vaccine will begin to be available from May.

A vaccination delivery plan was published on 18 February and is available on the DEFRA website. It sets out how livestock keepers in the Protection Zone will be able to purchase doses from a vaccine bank through their private vets once vaccine is available. Depending on vaccine availability and the disease situation, once vaccination is progressing broadly across the Protection Zone, the intention is to extend or modify the zone in order to permit further vaccination. This will allow a phased approach as vaccine is delivered.

### Animals: Smuggling

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to manage health risks associated with animals which are smuggled into the UK. [188284]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA, the devolved Administrations and Animal Health publicise the requirements for animals entering the country, including the possible disease consequences of failure to adhere to import requirements. Animal Health carry out checks at ports, as do other bodies. Carriers authorised under the Pet Travel scheme (PETS) are required to be vigilant and take steps to prevent illegal imports. We also receive information from private vets. Animal Health takes action to deal with health risks from illegally imported animals, which may include isolation, return to the country of origin or destruction.

Illegal imports are referred to local trading standards offices to consider appropriate action, including prosecution.

DEFRA and Animal Health have an ongoing exotic disease surveillance programme and agreed contingency plans for dealing with outbreaks of exotic disease.

### Badgers: Devon

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the protection of badgers in Devon in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [189050]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* DEFRA does not hold details of the costs associated with the range of protection afforded to badgers in Devon.

Badgers, including those in Devon, are specifically protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. They are also protected from harm and ill treatment, along with other species, by a range of additional legislation. DEFRA is responsible for policy relating to the Protection of Badgers Act in England, but this is only one part of its wider responsibility for policy relating to wildlife legislation.

### Bonamia Ostreae

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the outbreak of bonamia ostreae in Kent. [188416]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 15 February we issued a notice under the Fish Health Regulations 1997, controlling the movement of molluscan shellfish from the north Kent coast. This followed confirmation of the presence of the parasite bonamia ostreae in a bed of native oysters.

The area subject to movement controls has been selected to ensure maximum protection against any further spread of the disease. Bonamia ostreae causes the serious disease bonamiosis in native oyster stocks, but does not have any clinical effect on any other species of shellfish. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) will be monitoring the extent and effect of the disease in the controlled area.

It is not expected that the controls, which apply to movements of shellfish for the purposes of relaying or re-immersion in the aquatic environment, will interfere with current commercial activity. Bonamiosis has no implications for human health, and native oysters from this area can still be eaten.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Devon

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals removed from farms in Devon as a result of investigations of suspected or confirmed cases of tuberculosis were returned to the human food chain in each of the last five years. [189049]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The following table provides data for 2003 to 2007 on (a) the number of cattle removed from farms in Devon for TB control reasons; (b) the number of cattle with TB suspected at routine slaughterhouse inspection and (c) of these, the number of cattle where infection with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) was subsequently unconfirmed at post mortem examination.

| | *Cattle removed under TB control measures*[1] | *TB suspected at routine slaughterhouse inspection* | *M. bovis unconfirmed at post mortem examination* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 3,767 | 5 | 2,337 |
| 2004 | 4,578 | 4 | 2,186 |
| 2005[2] | 6,660 | 14 | 2,931 |

| | Cattle removed under TB control measures[1] | TB suspected at routine slaughterhouse inspection | M. bovis unconfirmed at post mortem examination |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006[2] | 4,468 | 13 | 1,751 |
| 2007[2] | 5,383 | 29 | 2,013 |

[1] TB reactors, inconclusive reactors or direct contacts.
[2] Provisional figures, subject to change as more data becomes available.

Responsibility for inspecting TB carcasses and their associated offal rests with the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS). Under the EU food hygiene regulations, all the animals from Devon herds with no visible tuberculosis lesions, plus any cattle from those herds with visible tuberculosis lesions localised in one organ or one part of the carcase, will have been considered fit for human consumption by the MHS.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Finance

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money was spent by his Department on the destruction of animals identified as having contracted bovine tuberculosis in 2007. [189543]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The relative TB Control costs for DEFRA in 2006-07 were:

*2006-07*

| Activity | £ million |
|---|---|
| Cattle testing | 37.8 |
| Compensation | 24.5 |
| Surveillance activity by the VLA | 6.4 |
| HQ / Overheads | 1.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Cattle testing—the cost of carrying out the testing of cattle for TB by arranging, assessing and monitoring tests, conducting investigations of incident herds and diagnostic testing by Local Veterinary Inspectors on behalf of DEFRA.
NB: These costs include Scotland and Wales (funded by DEFRA).
2. Compensation—includes payments for 'reactors' and 'contact animals' which are compulsorily slaughtered. This includes 'salvage' money received by the Government for those carcasses which are permitted to go into the food chain or are eligible for over thirty month scheme payments.
NB: These costs include Scotland and Wales and are funded by their respective Governments.
3. Surveillance activity by the VLA—includes all DEFRA funded work carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency relating to TB in cattle and badgers including the supply of tuberculin.
4. HQ/Overheads—includes staff costs for veterinary advice and administration of TB policy in England, Scotland and Wales.

### Carbon Emissions: Aviation

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the climate change impact of UK aviation in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187419]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2005, it is estimated that international and domestic UK aviation (includes all flights that take off from, and land at, a UK airport) accounted for 37.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$), or 6.4 per cent. of UK emissions. This takes no account of the radiative forcing impact of the release of emissions at altitude, not does it reflect the climate impact of aircraft contrails or emissions of other gases not controlled under the Kyoto protocol.

### Coastal Fishing

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has received to plans to permit 30 inshore trawlers from Hartlepool, Lowestoft and the Thames Estuary to land all of their catch above minimum landing sizes; whether they will be compensated; and if he will make a statement. [188432]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 5 February 2008, I announced a pilot project to assess the environmental impacts of inshore fisheries.

Owners of inshore fishing vessels that target quota stocks and operate (i) off the north east coast centred around Hartlepool, (ii) off the east coast centred around Lowestoft, and (iii) in the Thames Estuary, will be invited to participate. The pilot will collect information on a range of indicators including fishing method, catches, discards, marketing and fuel consumption. This, and other information, will help inform the implementation of Fisheries 2027, a long-term vision for sustainable fisheries. DEFRA officials have spoken with a number of fishermen from the above areas who have expressed an interest in participating in the pilot and, in due course, they will be holding meetings in the three pilot areas to discuss details of the Scheme. I have not offered compensation but costs of equipping participating vessels will be met by DEFRA. I will consider extending the pilot to recreational fishing following a review of the first six months of the Scheme which I aim to have operational by the summer.

### Common Fisheries Policy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has discussed reforming the Common Fisheries Policy with his EU counterparts; and if he will make a statement; [188420]

(2) whether he attended the informal Council meeting of 18 February 2008 on the reform of EU fisheries policy; and if he will make a statement; [188421]

(3) what discussions were held at the informal Council meeting of 18 February 2008 on the reform of the EU fisheries policy; what his policy is on Common Fisheries Policy reform; and if he will make a statement. [188422]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK Government are still considering their overall approach to the 2012 reform of the common fisheries policy and have not therefore begun substantive discussions with their European counterparts. We do, however, intend to engage with them and the European Commission at an early stage to ensure the effectiveness of any new policy.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health (Lord Rooker) attended the Informal Meeting of Ministers on 18 February. He participated in the discussion on the Commission's proposed response to the Court of Auditors' special report on the EU's control, inspection and sanction systems, and the Commission's proposals for reform and modernisation of the control system.

### Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made in mapping land as defined by section 15(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; [188447]

(2) what the cost of mapping land as defined by section 15(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has been to date; [188448]

(3) what assessment he has made of the implications of changes to Natural England's budget for the mapping of land as defined by section 15(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. [188449]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In 2003 the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) let a contract to identify land as defined by Section 15(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). The research considered records available through publicly accessible archives, DEFRA, local authorities and some private sources. From the data obtained, a map was developed that shows where land mapped as open country, registered common land or land dedicated under Section 16 of CROW is affected by one or more Section 15 enactment. That map and associated information is available through Natural England's Open Access website.

The majority of the cost of mapping land subject to Section 193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 was integral to the costs of preparing maps of registered common land under Section 4(1 )(a) of CROW. The cost of researching and mapping all other categories of land defined by Section 15 of CROW to date has been £260,000.

It is a matter for the Board of Natural England to propose in its corporate plan what priority to give to individual projects in the light of the financial settlement it has received.

### Departmental Civil Service Agencies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will announce the budgets for his Department's executive agencies for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [188437]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of DEFRA's 2008-09 budgets were announced by the Secretary of State on 21 February. Net controlled executive agencies recover their full economic costs through charges to their customers, including DEFRA, and so do not appear within the detail of the budget announcement. Budget details for gross controlled executive agencies are shown in the table as follows.

*£ million*

| | *2008-09* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Programme* | *Cap* | *Total* |
| RPA Operations | 201.4 | 22.0 | 223.4 |
| RPA OCDS Costs [1] | 32.4 | | 32.4 |
| Marine and Fisheries Agency | 20.5 | 3.0 | 23.5 |
| Animal Health | 114.0 | 14.1 | 128.1 |
| Govt Decontamination Service | 3.0 | 0 | 3.0 |

[1] OCDS (Older Cattle Disposal Scheme) ends February 2009.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185413]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA and its agencies own or maintain a wide range of databases reflecting its diverse policy and regulatory functions. Some of these databases contain large numbers of individual datasets. In addition DEFRA purchases licences for many external datasets to help in its research and analytical activities. A detailed list could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

### Departmental Grants

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will announce the grant-in-aid packages his Department will distribute in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [188438]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of DEFRA's 2008-09 budgets, including grant-in-aid for arms length bodies, were announced by the Secretary of State on 21 February.

Details of 2008-09 budgets for arms length bodies are as follows:

*2008-09*

*£ million*

| | *Programme* | *Cap* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Environment Agency | 466.04 | 329.96 | 796.00 |
| Natural England | 169.86 | 6.14 | 176.00 |
| Carbon Trust [2] | 58.66 | 30.40 | 89.06 |
| British Waterways | 34.10 | 23.55 | 57.65 |
| National Parks | 47.10 | 0 | 47.10 |
| Waste and Resources Action Programme [1] | 40.22 | 3.00 | 43.22 |
| Energy Savings Trust [2] | 35.20 | 1.60 | 36.80 |
| Royal Botanical Gardens Kew | 17.60 | 8.75 | 26.35 |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee | 7.76 | 0 | 7.76 |
| Committee for Rural Communities | 6.40 | 0 | 6.40 |
| ENCAMS | 5.00 | 0 | 5.00 |
| Food From Britain | 4.00 | 0 | 4.00 |
| National Forest Co. | 3.60 | 0 | 3.60 |

| | 2008-09 | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Programme | Cap | Total |
| Gangmasters Licensing Authority | 1.45 | 0 | 1.45 |

[1] WRAP includes funding previously originating from the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme.
[2] Carbon Trust and Energy Savings Trust include Environmental Transformation Fund (Some of this may be reallocated when the ETF becomes operational)

### Departmental ICT

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce automated computer shut down software across his Department. [187904]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA places a high importance on IT energy efficiency measures and seeks to make savings wherever possible.

*(a)* instructions to staff have been provided in a number of ways. As part of our 'big switch' energy efficiency campaign at the start of 2006, we combined online and poster messaging to inform and change staff behaviour to make sure all computers and other electrical equipment is switched off. Seasonal messages are broadcast on DEFRA's intranet to ensure staff turn off equipment over holiday periods. Information and instructions on energy saving measures appear on DEFRA's intranet and there are stickers on computer screens reminding staff to switch off their monitors. There are also checks carried out by security guards on the London estate on their normal night time patrols who switch off machines if found to be powered up without explanation.

*(b)* DEFRA is currently undertaking trials of timer switches on power sockets for printers and copiers. It is also preparing to roll-out a VISTA-based desktop environment within which it will deploy VISTA's inbuilt group policy options to enforce a default switch to the VISTA sleep mode after a pre-set elapsed time of inactivity.

*(c)* There has been an assessment of Nightwatchman technology that provides similar automatic hibernation of devices, but at this stage it has been decided to pursue the VISTA policy option avoiding additional expense. This will be reviewed once we have had sufficient experience of the new VISTA environment and the effectiveness of the proposed configuration.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182717]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Government policy is that a civil servant's pay should reflect their outputs, results and performance.

For the senior civil service (SCS), departments and agencies are responsible for their own reward arrangements within a framework set by Cabinet Office. Below the SCS, departments have delegated authority to tailor reward packages to meet their own business needs.

Under current arrangements, bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year, and are based on a judgement of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers.

Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

The data requested for bonuses paid in DEFRA and its agencies are as follows:

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Total | 9,786.00 | 21,662.00 | 14,950.00 |
| Min | 350.00 | 250.00 | 200.00 |
| Max | 1,299.00 | 6,000.00 | 750.00 |

The information covers people in core-DEFRA and the following DEFRA Executive Agencies: Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency, Government Decontamination Service. It does not include payments made by DEFRA's agencies that have taken pay delegation (Central Science Laboratory, Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Rural Payments Agency and Veterinary Laboratories Agency).

Please note that data prior 2005 are available at disproportionate cost only, as a result of system changes.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184366]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183201]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA was formed in June 2001. Since that time DEFRA's Communications Directorate has not had any direct contracts with any public relations companies as work is contracted through the Central Office of Information. The sub-contracted agencies are listed as follows:

| Agency | Cost (£) | Project | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Good Relations | 5,900 | Sustainable Food and Farming | 2002 |
| Biss Lancaster | 189,367 | Your Countryside your welcome | 2002 |
| Red | 121,849 | Illegal Imports | 2002 |
| Country Porter Novelli | 16,243 | Sustainable Development | 2002 |
| Forster Company | 11,170 | Darwin Initiative | 2003 |
| Media Moguls | 261,559 | Illegal Food Imports Campaign Phase 1 | July 2004 to March 2005 |
| Media Moguls | 22,362 | Illegal Food Imports Campaign Phase 2 | August 2005 to March 2006 |
| Amazon Public Relations | 55,905 | Launch of the Sustainable Development Strategy | January to May 2005 |
| Amazon Public Relations | 18,750 | Sustainable Development case studies | August 2005 to March 2006 |
| Weber Shandwick | 60,000 | Climate Change | October 2005 to March 2006 |
| Amazon Public Relations | 108,577 | Sustainable Development | August 2005 to May 2006 |
| Munro and Forster | 64,424 | Residual Waste | October to December 2007 |
| Trimedia Harrison Cowley | 361,322 | Act on $CO_2$ | January 2007 to March 2008 |

All of the agencies listed have provided specialist skills and services that were not available within DEFRA's Communications Directorate.

### Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Greenway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost of the planned refurbishment of his Department's offices at Kings Pool, York is; and if he will make a statement. [185489]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The planned refurbishment works, undertaken to increase capacity, improve business effectiveness, reduce occupancy cost and facilitate modern working practices at the Kings Pool complex in York is estimated to cost £28.3 million inclusive of VAT. This includes the comprehensive phased refurbishment of both Foss House and Mallard House whilst business as usual continues and includes the construction of a new 'Hub' building, all meeting BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) excellent standards as required by cross-government mandate.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182209]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is established practice not to provide details on pass access to Government buildings for security reasons.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what documents his Department, its predecessor, and its agencies translated for people who do not speak English in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* the last five years; and what the total cost associated was of such translations. [188004]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the last five years, DEFRA's translation section has arranged the translation of the following documents for people in the UK who do not speak English:

Amendment to paragraph of "EC Quality Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables"

"A Retailer's Guide" (2003)

Leaflet entitled "If in doubt, leave it out" (re illegal imports) (2003)

Leaflet on Manual Harvest Workers (2003)

Gangmaster leaflet (2004)

Extracts from Agriculture and Horticulture Act (2004)

Leaflet entitled "Waste - duty of care" (2004)

Leaflet entitled "Food on the Go" (2005)

Two dry cleaning leaflets, reminders about Solvent Emissions Directive (2006)

Summary leaflet, Controls on the handling of waste (2006)

Leaflet about working with poultry (2007)

The cost per language in each of these years is as follows:

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | £ 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arab | 1,066 | 235 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bengali | 1,066 | 0 | 1,045 | 504 | 0 |
| Chinese Simplified | 595 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chinese Traditional | 665 | 1,004 | 1,045 | 424 | 0 |
| Farsi | 0 | 235 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 |
| Gujarati | 1,136 | 0 | 1,045 | 65 | 0 |
| Hindi | 1,136 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kurdish | 0 | 470 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polish | 94 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 118 |

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | £ 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portuguese | 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 |
| Punjabi | 1,136 | 0 | 1,045 | 0 | 0 |
| Russian | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Turkish | 70 | 0 | 1,045 | 431 | 0 |
| Urdu | 1,136 | 2,555 | 1,045 | 504 | 0 |

## Devolution

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials are in contact with (i) Scottish, (ii) Welsh and (iii) Northern Ireland counterparts to discuss (1) fisheries, (2) the marine environment, (3) agriculture and (4) rural affairs; and if he will make a statement. [188439]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My ministerial colleagues and I, and our officials, are regularly in contact with our counterparts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and discuss the full range of our common interests in agriculture, fisheries, the environment and rural affairs. My most recent meeting with my Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland colleagues was on 6 February where we discussed the outcome of the December Agriculture and Fisheries Council and future work on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he and his predecessors met counterparts in the devolved administrations in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [188440]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My ministerial colleagues and I have regular contact, both formal and informal, with our counterparts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Department does not retain central information on the meetings held between my predecessors and their counterparts in the devolved Administrations. To provide a full response to the hon. Member's question would incur disproportionate costs.

## Electricity

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total quantity of electricity in kilowatts was consumed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [188976]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) can confirm that annual electricity consumption from buildings on the DEFRA and Executive Agency estate for which we have contractual responsibility for electricity use are shown in the following table:

*Electricity Consumption (kWh)*

| | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEFRA | 15,647,140 | 17,273,446 | 15,438,600 | 15,958,300 |
| MFA (formed in 1 Oct 2005)[1] | 164,083 | — | — | — |
| SVS (now Animal Health) | 3,358,863 | — | — | — |
| BCMS (joined RPA in 2003) | — | — | — | 1,132,322 |
| RPA | 8,556,851 | 7,637,183 | 7,998,271 | 7,427,798 |
| CEFAS | 5,148,877 | 5,152,393 | 5,080,351 | 5,063,448 |
| CSL | 13,701,553 | 13,210,227 | 11,932,201 | 12,205,053 |
| VLA | 12,786,601 | 10,162,812 | 10,905,900 | 9,884,741 |
| TOTAL | 59,363,968 | 53,436,061 | 51,355,323 | 51,671,662 |

[1] Consumption is total for 2005-06, we are unable to split the data before and after the Agency was formed.

Sustainable Development Commission are verifying government data for 2006-07 which are expected to be published in March.

## Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many non-UK vessels have historic rights to fish within the UK 12 nautical mile limit, broken down by country of origin; what the quota of each is; and if he will make a statement. [188547]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There is no stipulation of the number of non-UK vessels that are entitled to fish within the UK's six to 12 nautical mile zone. However, vessels are restricted entry to our inshore waters on the basis of country and gear type. Those countries who have historic rights to fish are laid down in Annex 1 of the Framework Regulation for the Common Fisheries Policy (Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy), which can be found at:

http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002R2371:EN:NOT

Quota is allocated to member states on the basis of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) sea areas. There is no specific quota for the six to 12 mile zone. Details of the quotas for each species that individual countries have access to can be found in Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and

groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required, which can be accessed at:

http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:019:0001:0203:EN:PDF

## Fisheries: Closures

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fishery closures have taken place in each year since 1997; what the reasons for each closure are; what the duration of each closure is; and if he will make a statement. [188425]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of fishery closures, at a UK level, during the last five years, where a fishery has remained closed until the end of the year are shown in the following table. The reasons for these closures are the exhaustion of UK quota. Some fisheries, such as pelagic ones, have a short season so the impact of what may appear to be a lengthy closure will have had a minimal impact on most fishermen.

| | *Fishery* | *Closure date* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | Sole VIIe | 17 December 2007 | 14 |
| | Cod VIIb-k | 17 December 2007 | 14 |
| | North sea cod | 20 December 2007 | 11 |
| | North Sea plaice | 20 December 2007 | 11 |
| | North sea megrim | 27 November 2007 | 34 |
| | West Coast herring | 17 September 2007 | 105 |
| | Tusk V, VII, VII | 6 July 2007 | 178 |
| 2006 | North Sea plaice | 22 December 2006 | 9 |
| | North Sea hake | 8 October 2006 | 84 |
| | North Sea herring | 20 November 2006 | 41 |
| | West Coast herring | 8 October 2006 | 84 |
| | North Sea mackerel | 19 July 2006 | 165 |
| | North Sea sandeels | 13 May 2006 | 232 |
| | Blue ling VI, VII | 24 June 2006 | 190 |
| 2005 | Irish Sea herring | 4 December 2005 | 27 |
| | Blue ling VI, VII | 18 July 2005 | 166 |
| | Deep Sea shark XII | Unknown | - |
| 2004 | Sole VIIhjk | 18 December 2004 | 13 |
| | Cod VIa | 18 December 2004 | 13 |
| | Anglerfish Vb, VI, XII, XIV | 27 November 2004 | 34 |
| | Argentines V-VII | 3 April 2004 | 272 |
| | Blue ling VI, VII | 9 August 2004 | 144 |
| | Blue Ling II, IV, V | 12 July 2004 | 172 |
| | Ling V | 12 July 2004 | 172 |
| 2003 | Sole VIIe | 18 December 2003 | 13 |
| | North Sea haddock | 15 December 2003 | 16 |
| | Anglerfish Vb, VI, XII, XIV | 15 December 2003 | 16 |
| | North Sea herring | 9 September 2003 | 113 |
| | West Coast herring | 20 October 2003 | 72 |
| | Western blue whiting | 2 April 2003 | 273 |

## Fisheries: Enforcement

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates there were no *(a)* River Class offshore and *(b)* inshore patrol vessels operating in UK waters as part of the Fishery Protection Squadron in each month since April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [188545]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the period 1 April 2007 to 31 January 2008, the dates when no River class patrol vessels were in operation on fisheries protection duties are shown in the following table.

| | *Date(s)* | *Reason* |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| April | 27, 28 | 2 days stand-off |
| May | 11, 12, 26, 27 | 4 days stand-off |
| June | 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 | Davit Failure—all Rivers recalled for davit rectification |
| July | | |
| August | 3, 4 | 2 days stand-off |
| September | | |
| October | 11 | De-ammunitioning |
| November | 23, 24, 25 | 3 days stand-off |
| December | 20-31 | 12 days Christmas-new year leave[1] |
| *2008* | | |
| January | 1-3 | 3 days Christmas-new year leave[1] |

During the period 1 April 2007 to 31 January 2008, the dates when no inshore patrol vessels (Hunt class) were in operation on fisheries protection duties are shown in the following table.

| | *Date(s)* | *Reason* |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| April | 1-20 | 3 Rivers on patrol—20 days not required[1] |
| May | 4-7, 18-20, 27-31 | 3 days stand-off—9 days not required[1] |
| June | 1-4, 13, 19, 20, 29, 30 | 3 days stand-off—6 days not required[1] |
| July | 1-17, 28-31 | 4 days stand-off—17 days not required[1] |
| August | 4, 8-10, 19-31 | 1 day stand-off—12 days not required[1] |
| | | 1 day other duties—3 days defect |
| September | 1-6, 15, 20-24, 29-30 | 1 day stand-off—7 days not required[1] |
| | | 6 days defect |
| October | 1-6, 13, 14, 19-28 | 2 days stand-off—16 days not required[1] |
| November | 2, 3, 10-18, 25 | 2 days stand-off—8 days not required[1] |
| December | 1, 2, 8, 9, 15-31 | 4 days stand-off—17days Christmas leave[1] |
| *2008* | | |
| January | 1-5, 12, 13, 18-31 | 2 days stand-off—19 days not required[1] |

[1] No operational requirements for vessels on these days

## Fisheries: Protection

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding to protect marine biodiversity and fish stocks from *(a)* pollution, *(b)* parasites, *(c)* invasive species and *(d)* other threats in each of the (i) last five years and (ii) next five years; and if he will make a statement. [188417]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department does not hold the information in the form the hon. Member requests and, due to Departmental reorganisation, comparisons with previous years are not readily available. For 2007-08, the Department's budget for marine and fisheries work is £40 million, this is likely to increase to around £47 million in 2008-09. Some of the funding provided to statutory agencies (such as the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) also contributes to the protection of marine biodiversity.

## Fisheries: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the composition of fishing catches in relation to allocated quota; and if he will make a statement. [188418]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA commissions a range of research work on the composition of fish caught by UK fishermen. Among other uses, this work provides information on factors such as the selectivity of fishing gears and the level of discards of fish. These are used as inputs into the ongoing scientific assessment of the state of fish stocks used to determining the level of fish quotas each year that are allocated to member states.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the catch composition of the catch from vessels involved in the Irish Sea Discard Pilot has been; what the difference between the catch composition and the quota allocation has been; and if he will make a statement. [188419]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Data from the initial period of the pilot project are being compiled by scientists in the UK and Ireland and are not yet available.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what cross-year quota swaps he has made affecting the amount of quota available to the 10m and under fleet in 2008; and if he will make a statement; [188426]

(2) what in-year and cross-quota swaps he has made in each International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Area affecting the quota available for the 10m and under fleet in 2008; what economic assessment he has made of such swaps; and if he will make a statement. [188429]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine and Fisheries Agency has explored, and will continue to explore, all options to acquire additional quota for the inshore fleet through domestic and international swaps, and via quota contributed to the 10 m and under quota allocations by producer organisations under economic link arrangements. A key determinant on whether or not a swap is agreed is if there is economic benefit for the UK in making the swap. Based on this, two international cross-year swaps have been completed with Germany and the Netherlands to acquire an additional 150 tonnes of valuable North sea sole quota in 2008 for inshore fishermen operating in the southern North sea. Additionally, similar cross year swaps have been agreed to gain 38 tonnes of North sea Whiting and 26 tonnes of Irish sea Plaice for the inshore fleet. Other international swaps have also taken place. These will not have been carried out for the specific benefit of the inshore fleet. However, the inshore fleet will have benefited in many instances from a share of the extra fish gained for the UK as a whole.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on fisheries: quota, whether he has now discussed quota management with the Inshore Fisheries Working Group; whether he plans further to discuss quota management with the Inshore Fisheries Working Group; and if he will make a statement. [188427]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA officials meet the Inshore Fisheries Working Group twice a year. The Group discusses a range of issues relevant to inshore fisheries. Should it be appropriate for me to meet the Group, I would be happy to do so.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made any cross-year quota swaps between the quota allocations for 2008 and for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [188428]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The possibility of 2008 to 2009 cross-year swaps will not be considered until much later in the year in the approach to the December Fisheries Council.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to carry out any quota swaps that would alter the availability of quota for the 10m and under fleet in Area VIIe; and if he will make a statement. [188430]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine and Fisheries Agency will explore all possibilities to gain extra quota, including swaps, to enhance the quota allocation for the 10 m and under fleet in Area VIIe, as elsewhere, for stocks where additional quota is needed.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the details of each quota swap made in 2007 were; and if he will make a statement. [188442]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not possible, at a proportionate cost, to provide the details of each quota swap in 2007 as over 100 international swaps and some 1,370 domestic swaps were undertaken last year.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he consulted recreational sea angling interests before quota swaps were made; and if he will make a statement. [188443]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Recreational sea angling interests have not been consulted about quota allocations or swaps as they are not included in the quota allocation system.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Scottish Executive notified him of its proposed changes to quota management; and if he will make a statement. [188612]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I was notified of the Scottish Executive's intentions regarding quota management at a meeting of Fisheries Ministers in Peterhead on 5 October 2007.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1289W, on fisheries: quotas, on what policies the Government engaged with the devolved administrations in the last 12 months. [188670]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government have engaged with the devolved Administrations in the last 12 months on all areas of policy relevant to fisheries management in the UK.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1288W, on fisheries: quotas, whether the draft quota management change programme proposals suggested the decommissioning of 10m and under vessels. [188671]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Decommissioning a proportion of the 10 m and under fleet was one of the proposals under consideration in the context of the quota management change programme.

### Fishing Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to introduce further discard pilot schemes; and if he will make a statement; [188434]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of fish discarded in UK waters in each month since January 2006 by *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels; and if he will make a statement; [188544]

(3) if he will make a statement on the progress being made producing the EU Discard Atlas. [188546]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not possible to provide figures for discards solely in UK waters. The discard estimates used by ICES in stock assessments are carried out in relation to particular sea areas (e.g. the North sea) rather than national waters. The figures for North sea ICES sub-area IV are set out in the following table. Figures from Scotland will not be available until April 2008.

| | | | *Estimated tonnes discarded* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Area* | *Species* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* |
| English and Welsh registered vessels | North sea ICES sub-area IV | Cod | 86.8 | 20.9 | 57.9 | 55.0 |
| | | Haddock | 41.6 | 102.2 | 134.8 | 43.4 |
| | | Plaice | 37.1 | 23.9 | 59.8 | 15.1 |
| | | Sole | 13.9 | 5.5 | 16.4 | 0.8 |
| | | Whiting | 132.3 | 119.9 | 160.5 | 128.6 |

The UK is currently considering further work on discards in the context of the cod recovery plan and to deliver the required objectives on North sea whiting arising from last year's EU/Norway negotiations The proposal for a Discard Atlas intends to review the current knowledge about discards in EU fisheries and undertake a feasibility study on a fisheries information system for EU Fisheries. The study would require extensive work and co-operation between all European marine fisheries research institutes in order to achieve these aims. However, the finances on offer to perform the study are relatively limited, and at present it is not clear whether there will be any consortiums bidding for this work. The deadline for bid submissions was 25 February 2008.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Pesticides

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned into the effect of GM crop technology on levels of pesticides use. [189431]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have not commissioned any research on this topic.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187128]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have three members of the DEFRA SCS in post who have received an honour during their time in the Department.

We do not routinely keep data on:

the number of awards held by individuals,

awards that are not related to official duties,

awards already held by staff before joining the Department.

### Horse Racing: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent communications his Department has had with the British Horseracing Authority on the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, with particular regard to section 4; and if he will make a statement. [187326]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There have been no recent communications between DEFRA and the British Horseracing Authority in relation to section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

### Inland Waterways

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the withdrawal of British Waterways from the Cotswold Canal Partnership on the restoration programme of the Thames and Severn canal. [188006]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The proposed restoration of the Cotswold canals has been endorsed in the Cotswold district council's local plan and the line of the canals is protected.

British Waterways is just one of the 19 members of the partnership. The Cotswold Canals Partnership is committed to the restoration project and will continue with it, given the regeneration benefits in the long term. The timetable for the restoration of these canals will depend upon the availability of funding.

We have always made clear that, while we welcomed the project, this was a matter for the British Waterways Board.

British Waterways remains optimistic that the restoration will be achieved in the future.

### Intimidation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182834]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the last 12 months, five cases of bullying have been reported in the Department and five cases of bullying have been reported by its agencies.

The Department has in place an internal equal opportunities complaints procedure on how to address bullying in the work place. In the last three months, DEFRA has reorganised support mechanisms available to staff who perceive bullying in the workplace, re-launching an in-house trained pool of harassment, bullying and support advisors and an in-house mediation service.

DEFRA also provides an employee support service, a free telephone service that provides confidential advice and counselling to all DEFRA employees on work-related or personal problems.

Information on support mechanisms and the formal procedure for dealing with bullying in the work place is available on the intranet site and is accessible to all staff.

### Land Drainage: Finance

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much the Environment Agency has allocated for land drainage works in each of the last five years, broken down by county; [189351]

(2) what the Environment Agency's expenditure on land drainage in each constituency in the East Riding of Yorkshire has been in each of the last 10 years. [189352]

**Mr. Woolas:** A number of operating authorities—the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards—are responsible for flood risk management, which includes land drainage.

Expenditure on flood risk management is not broken down into separate categories, such as land drainage. Therefore, the information requested is not available.

### Oilseed Rape: Durham

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what acreage of land was given over to oil seed rape production in the County of Durham in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and (e) 2007. [188834]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The area of oilseed rape (winter and spring) in the Durham county council area is shown in the following table.

| | *Area of oilseed rape (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 5,474 |
| 2004 | 6,152 |
| 2005 | 6,063 |
| 2006 | 6,061 |
| 2007 | 6,786 |

*Source:*
June Agricultural Survey

### Rights of Way

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the cost of the Discovering Lost Ways Project has been to date; [188444]

(2) how many unrecorded historic rights of way have been recorded on definitive maps and statements as a result of the Discovering Lost Ways Project; and if he will list them; [188445]

(3) what assessment he has made of the implications of changes to Natural England's budget for the future of the Discovering Lost Ways Project. [188446]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The cost of the Discovering Lost Ways Project to date has been £4.5 million.

The project concentrated initially on developing research procedures and evidence standards. Five lost way claims were lodged in Cheshire with the county council during a county-wide pilot of a claiming process. None of these have yet reached the stage of being recorded on the definitive map and statement.

It is a matter for Natural England to propose in its corporate plan what priority to give to individual projects in the light of the financial settlement it has received. In the case of the Discovering Lost Ways Project, Natural England has recently concluded a fundamental review to ensure that its investment in the project is cost-effective, and that the approach delivers the best prospect of lasting progress in this area. I have

recently been advised of these recommendations. Natural England will announce shortly how it will take the project forward.

### River Colne

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent deaths of fish on the River Colne; how many fish have died; and what steps he has taken to determine the cause of death. [188414]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 8 February 2008, the Environment Agency received reports of fish deaths on the River Colne (which flows through Huddersfield in West Yorkshire) and investigated immediately. Initially, only stone loach were affected. However, as the event progressed, larger fish including trout and grayling were also found to be dead or dying. Samples were taken by Environment Agency officers and these are currently being analysed at its laboratory. Early analysis has not detected any pollutant which would have caused a fish kill. However, the Environment Agency believes that a spillage of pollution probably entered the river on 7 February and was slow-acting in nature.

A follow-up survey found 893 dead stone loach, two dead minnows, 57 dead trout and 10 dead grayling in 1.1 km of river. The survey reported live fish and invertebrates in the affected reaches indicating that life in the river is recovering.

### Rural Areas: Community Councils

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department is working with other Departments to encourage recognition of the services provided by rural community councils. [188230]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government recently recognised the importance of the rural community councils (RCCs) by announcing new funding worth over £10 million to the network over the next three years. We are keen to ensure that rural interests are taken fully into account in policy making and delivery across all Departments and at all levels of government. Where appropriate, DEFRA will continue to raise the potential contribution of the RCCs, as it has (with the Department for Communities and Local Government) in relation to local area agreements and the delivery of public service agreement 21, on building more cohesive, empowered and active communities.

### Rural Areas: Housing

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made as part of the feasibility study for a rural affordable housing fund since August 2007. [189184]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* As part of its preparations for the comprehensive spending review (CSSR), during the summer of 2007, DEFRA asked the Housing Corporation to provide advice on the feasibility of a potential revenue funding programme to support activity to improve the delivery of affordable rural housing at local level. We always made it clear that this would be considered in the light of the CSR settlement.

That advice has now been carefully considered. However, given the Government's undertakings on increases in housing supply generally—which will benefit rural as well as urban areas—we have concluded that the value of a small Challenge Fund would not be enough to merit a switching of resources away from other priority areas of DEFRA's business.

The Government have already set out proposals to increase the supply of housing and will be allocating £8.4 billion across the regions over the next three years. The Housing Corporation will be tasked with spending this money most effectively. The Government's long-term housing supply and affordability public service agreement (PSA) target specifically covers rural as well as urban affordability.

In addition, the Housing Green Paper sets out the Government's intention to establish a national target for rural affordable housing. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) is in the process of developing this target, based on advice from the regional assemblies and the Housing Corporation. It is much more important to ensure that these measures work for rural areas, rather than to focus attention on small packets of funding from DEFRA.

Together with CLG, we remain committed to addressing the affordable rural housing problem. At a national level, the policies and funding to deliver are largely in place, but we want to ensure that it feeds through into delivery.

That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to carry out a review to find out how land use and planning can better support business and deliver affordable housing in rural areas. The hon. Member will report to both DEFRA and CLG in the summer.

### Scottish Fisheries Council

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1295W, on Scottish Fisheries Council, when he was first informed that the Scottish Executive was establishing this body; and if he will make a statement; [188591]

(2) what discussions he has had with counterparts in the Scottish Executive on the Scottish Fisheries Council meeting held on 22 January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [188592]

(3) whether he plans to discuss the Scottish Fisheries Council with his Scottish counterpart; and if he will make a statement. [188593]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA was alerted to the establishment of the Scottish Fisheries Council last autumn. The Scottish Fisheries Council was set up to advise Scottish Ministers on their devolved responsibilities. It has no role in relation to English fisheries or reserved UK responsibilities. I would therefore not expect to be involved in discussion of its deliberations, unless there is a particular issue arising from it which my Scottish Executive counterpart wishes to draw to my attention. DEFRA

continues to liaise closely with the Scottish Executive and other devolved administrations over UK fisheries policy. I last met devolved Administrations' Fisheries Ministers on 6 February, but the Scottish Fisheries Council was not discussed.

### Seas and Oceans: Treaty of Lisbon

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the treaty of Lisbon on the Government's legislative proposals within the draft Marine Bill [190204]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The text of the new Treaty was intended to clarify EU competence for conservation of marine biological resources. The proposals for the draft Marine Bill will not amend EU competencies so we do not envisage any changes to the proposals under the Bill.

### Sexual Harassment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184686]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The figures for this information relate to core DEFRA and the following agencies Animal Health, PSD, GDS, MFA, PSD, RPA, VLA and CEFAS.

The internal formal equal opportunities complaints procedures, including support mechanisms available to staff who perceive harassment and discrimination, are on DEFRA's intranet site and all staff have access to them.

Under the above procedures, in the last 12 months, a number of complaints have been made by staff; due to the small number of cases, the precise number of complaints cannot be provided on grounds of confidentiality.

In the last three months, DEFRA has reorganised support mechanisms available to staff who perceive sexual harassment and discrimination, re-launching an in-house trained pool of harassment, bullying and support advisers and an in-house mediation service.

DEFRA also provides an employee support service, a free telephone service that provides confidential advice and counselling to all DEFRA employees on work-related or personal problems.

### Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184103]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The value of grants provided by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to each of these councils in 2006-07 and 2007-08, or planned for 2008-09, is given in the following table.

£

| *Grant description* | *Shropshire county council* | *Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council* | *Telford and the Wrekin borough council* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Animal health direct funding | 140,165 | — | 32,400 |
| WPEG[1] (revenue) | 164,538 | 39,267 | 159,485 |
| WPEG (capital) | 164,538 | 39,267 | 159,485 |
| Contaminated land capital grant | — | 26,970 | 62,975 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Animal health direct funding | 127,332 | — | 30,618 |
| Aggregates levy sustainability fund | 100,000 | — | — |
| WPEG (revenue) | 296,261 | [2]— | 167,086 |
| WPEG (capital) | 296,261 | [2]— | 167,086 |
| Contaminated land capital grant | — | [3]— | — |
| Air quality capital grant | — | 25,000 | — |
| *2008-09* | | | |
| Animal health direct funding | [4]— | — | [4]— |
| Waste infrastructure capital grant | 508,508 | — | 290,619 |
| Contaminated land capital grant | [4]— | — | |

[1] Waste performance and efficiency grant (WPEG)
[2] The waste performance and efficiency grant under Shropshire county council is an aggregate allocation for the county council and all the district councils in the Shropshire area (including Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council). WPEG was linked to local area agreements in 2007-08; allocations for all county and district councils were therefore paid as an aggregate sum for collective investment. Telford and the Wrekin is a separate unitary authority.
[3] Two bids being assessed.
[4] Not yet known.

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

### Village Halls: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department gives support to rural communities for the maintenance and improvement of village halls and community centres. [189343]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Support is provided in many ways, both for the fabric of rural community buildings, including village halls, and for those who are responsible for running them. Over the past five years, through a variety of DEFRA programmes, including the Rural Social and Community Programme, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, LEADER+ programme and the Rural Enterprise Scheme, DEFRA has invested more than £12 million to support a wide range of rural community assets.

### Whales

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which non-governmental organisations he has discussed whaling in each month since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [188594]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet members of the Wildlife and Countryside LINK whale working group and the whalewatch coalition which together comprise the principal anti-whaling non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the UK. My hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) met the group on 26 April 2007 and had frequent and close contact with NGOs present at the 59th meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Anchorage. Since taking up office in June 2007, I have attended an extremely productive meeting with officials and the group on 11 October, and have also met representatives of some NGOs individually, including the International Fund for Animal Welfare. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (Hilary Benn) has also had discussions with Greenpeace.

### Whales: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 246W, on whales, when he expects he will be able to list the countries in receipt of the protecting whales document without compromising the UK's efforts to persuade them to join the International Whaling Commission and adopt an anti-whaling stance; and if he will make a statement; [188214]

(2) how many non-International Whaling Commission members he sent the Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility document to; and if he will make a statement; [188549]

(3) whether the 18 countries he has written to on anti-whaling are the only non-International Whaling Commission members he has *(a)* contacted on whaling and *(b)* distributed the Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility document to; and if he will make a statement; [188550]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1295-6W, which *(a)* heads of state, *(b)* heads of government, *(c)* foreign counterparts, *(d)* ambassadors and *(e)* other foreign government officials he has contacted on whaling; and if he will make a statement; [188551]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pro-whaling and *(b)* anti-whaling countries he has distributed the Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility document; and if he will make a statement; [188552]

(6) what further measures he is taking to persuade nations that currently support whaling to oppose whaling; and if he will make a statement. [188553]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As stated in my answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1296W, I consider that it would be inappropriate to provide details of both the pro/anti-whaling countries and International Whaling Commission (IWC)/non-IWC member countries the UK has lobbied on this issue and the letters and documents sent to them. This is because this information could compromise our efforts to persuade countries to join (or in some cases not to join) the IWC or to support the UK in its opposition to whaling. As this process is ongoing it is unlikely that we will consider it appropriate to release these details in the medium term.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts will continue to lobby countries in support of the UK's position, seeking to encourage new anti-whaling members to the IWC and endeavouring to change the opinion of governments which currently support whaling.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he received responses to the *(a)* original and *(b)* revised Protecting Whales - a Global Responsibility document which he sent to other governments; and if he will make a statement. [188657]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts regularly report back on this issue. The information that we receive informs subsequent discussions that the UK has with countries, whether or not they are members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Formal replies to ministerial approaches by way of letters are rare, but a lack of response does not necessarily indicate lack of action. I do not believe that any of those who joined the IWC last year actually responded to the letters that had been sent.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last undertook a review of international research evidence on *(a)* the upper time limit for abortions and *(b)* conditions for obtaining an abortion in each country in the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [189018]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is commissioning the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to review all research evidence on abortion, to update their guidance on "Termination of pregnancy for fetal abnormality. Fetal awareness," and the "Care of women requesting induced abortion."

Legislative conditions for obtaining an abortion in the European Union is a matter for individual member states.

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many type 1 accident and emergency departments there are in England; and how many accident and emergency departments are co-located with an NHS walk-in centre. [189228]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information is not available in the format requested. For the quarter ending in December 2007, national health service trusts in England self-reported a total of 203 type 1 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) services and 74 NHS walk-in centres in England, directly provided by the NHS, as part of the Department's QMAE dataset. However based on a recent departmental audit there are now at least 90 NHS walk-in centres in England—the balance, including six commuter walk-in centres, being commissioned by NHS organisations from independent sector providers.

It is not possible to say whether any of these walk-in centre services are co-located with type 1 (major) departments.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of accident and emergency attendances of co-locating an accident and emergency department with a walk-in centre. [189229]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There has been limited assessment made. A study was funded by the Department and carried out by the University of Bristol, covering a small number of accident and emergency (A and E) departments that had established services they termed walk-in centres in or near the major A and E department. A publication based on this was published in the *Emergency Medicine Journal* in 2007 (using information from 2004). This work did not draw definitive conclusions on the effect of walk-in centres on A and E attendances, and the effect varied from site to site.

However, it is a matter for the local national health service to ensure the provision of urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs. What is important is that patients have access to the most appropriate care in a timely manner.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances at *(a)* walk-in centres, *(b)* minor injuries units and *(c)* type one accident and emergency departments there were in each quarter since the quarter ending December 2002. [189570]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The available information is shown in the following table.

| | Quarter | Number of attendances at Type 1 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) services | Number of attendances at Type 3 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) services[1] | Number of attendances at national health service walk-in centres |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | | | | |
| | Q3 | 2,882,500 | 425,090 | – |
| | Q4 | 2,930,874 | 408,342 | – |
| 2003-04 | | | | |
| | Q1 | 3,217,931 | 497,135 | 266,492 |
| | Q2 | 3,281,186 | 530,917 | 385,447 |
| | Q3 | 3,106,667 | 419,832 | 354,510 |
| | Q4 | 3,059,698 | 415,065 | 375,392 |
| 2004-05 | | | | |
| | Q1 | 3,377,850 | 505,666 | 459,096 |
| | Q2 | 3,381,219 | 540,570 | 478,209 |
| | Q3 | 3,257,398 | 450,033 | 516,853 |
| | Q4 | 3,249,353 | 424,429 | 577,272 |
| 2005-06 | | | | |
| | Q1 | 3,520,931 | 525,848 | 646,998 |
| | Q2 | 3,403,089 | 546,747 | 634,489 |
| | Q3 | 3,346,995 | 484,321 | 616,165 |
| | Q4 | 3,282,671 | 489,873 | 612,305 |
| 2006-07 | | | | |
| | Q1 | 3,509,770 | 583,148 | 629,417 |
| | Q2 | 3,493,340 | 630,587 | 613,750 |

| | Quarter | Number of attendances at Type 1 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) services | Number of attendances at Type 3 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) services[1] | Number of attendances at national health service walk-in centres |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Q3 | 3,307,210 | 539,723 | 563,233 |
| | Q4 | 3,292,269 | 569,649 | 566,592 |
| 2007-08 | | | | |
| | Q1 | 3,463,734 | 601,297 | 635,286 |
| | Q2 | 3,384,988 | 611,183 | 614,381 |
| | Q3 | 3,305,613 | 560,804 | 607,225 |

[1] Minor injury units are likely to fall within the definition for type three (minor injury and illness) A and E services, however, this may also include other minor injury and illness units.

*Note:*
Attendances at NHS walk-in centres were included in the QMAE collection from Q1 2003-04.

*Source:*
Department of Health QMAE dataset.

## Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments were subsequently admitted to hospital via A&E in each quarter since the quarter ending December 2002. [189569]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is set out in the following table.

| | Quarter | Number of attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) departments (all types of A and E) | Number of emergency admissions via A and E (all types of A and E) | Proportion of attendances admitted (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | Q3 | 3,435,018 | 574,983 | 16.7 |
| | Q4 | 3,469,562 | 583,491 | 16.8 |
| 2003-04 | Q1 | 4,132,497 | 584,987 | 14.2 |
| | Q2 | 4,347,584 | 604,515 | 13.9 |
| | Q3 | 4,027,622 | 637,406 | 15.8 |
| | Q4 | 4,009,142 | 640,840 | 16.0 |
| 2004-05 | Q1 | 4,502,578 | 666,393 | 14.8 |
| | Q2 | 4,556,695 | 688,378 | 15.1 |
| | Q3 | 4,374,927 | 721,394 | 16.5 |
| | Q4 | 4,402,980 | 737,203 | 16.7 |
| 2005-06 | Q1 | 4,859,578 | 733,409 | 15.1 |
| | Q2 | 4,744,255 | 716,326 | 15.1 |
| | Q3 | 4,605,971 | 751,348 | 16.3 |
| | Q4 | 4,549,360 | 749,993 | 16.5 |
| 2006-07 | Q1 | 4,891,724 | 739,588 | 15.1 |
| | Q2 | 4,892,182 | 752,049 | 15.4 |
| | Q3 | 4,559,139 | 768,784 | 16.9 |
| | Q4 | 4,579,230 | 776,710 | 17.0 |
| 2007-08 | Q1 | 4,856,732 | 757,249 | 15.6 |
| | Q2 | 4,763,362 | 753,187 | 15.8 |
| | Q3 | 4,625,426 | 788,405 | 17.0 |

*Note:*
Attendances at walk-in centres were included in the QMAE collection from quarter 1 2003-04.

*Source:*
Department of Health QMAE dataset

## Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a standard labelling regime for alcoholic products, with particular reference to *(a)* alcohol content in units and *(b)* guidelines for daily alcohol consumption. [190201]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government announced in May 2007 that that they had reached a ground-breaking agreement with the alcohol industry, meaning that, by the end of 2008, most alcoholic drinks labels should include alcohol unit information and the daily sensible drinking guidelines. This agreement is United Kingdom-wide.

In addition, the Government also announced revised wording on the advice on sensible drinking information on labels for pregnant women or those women who are trying to conceive. Although this is not formally part of the voluntary agreement that has been reached with the industry, it is being strongly encouraged to implement the pregnancy advice.

'Safe. Sensible. Social. - the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', published in June 2007, includes a commitment by the Government to consult by the end of 2008 on possible legislative options should insufficient progress by the industry have been made then.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Marketing

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the introduction of a statutory code of practice on the marketing of alcohol. [190200]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The regulation of alcohol advertising in the United Kingdom is currently a mix of statutory regulation and co-regulation. The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is responsible for enforcing the current rules.

Ofcom and the ASA jointly published 'Young People and Alcohol Advertising' in November 2007, a research report on the impact of alcohol advertising on young people following the tightening of the advertising codes in October 2005.

Broadly the research showed that the revised rules on alcohol advertising have ensured that fewer young people feel that television advertisements are aimed at them.

In January 2008, the Department commissioned an independent national review, by the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield, of the evidence on how and in what circumstances price, advertising and other forms of promotion drive overall consumption of alcohol and alcohol-related harm. This will report in summer 2008.

Depending upon the findings of this review, the Government have made it clear that they are prepared to consider strengthened controls, including, if necessary, legislation.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 9 January 2008, Official Report, column 575W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, (1) if he will break down the information provided by the sex of those admitted; [186989]

(2) how many children aged *(a)* under eight, *(b)* eight to 12, *(c)* 13 to 16 and *(d)* 17 to 18 years were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each strategic health authority area in England as a result of drinking alcohol in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years, broken down by sex. [186992]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Such information as is available for the 10 new strategic health authorities formed on 1 July 2006 has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area and *(d)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997;[†] [187614]

(2) how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments involving children under the age of 18 years there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area and *(d)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [187617]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows finished in-year admission episodes where the patient was admitted via accident and emergency departments with an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis. This is broken down by age and by the patient's primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust. The latest available data are for 2006-07.

| | *East of England SHA area[1] of residence* | | | *Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA of residence* | | | *Suffolk PCT area of residence* | | | *West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under 18* | *18 and over* | *n/k* | *Under 18* | *18 and over* | *n/k* | *Under 18* | *18 and over* | *n/k* | *Under 18* | *18 and over* | *n/k* |
| 2006-07 | 497 | 9,522 | 6 | 203 | 4,700 | * | 37 | 1,124 | * | 13 | 562 | * |
| 2005-06 | 485 | 8,970 | * | 242 | 4,357 | * | 50 | 924 | * | 22 | 388 | * |
| 2004-05 | 538 | 7,945 | * | 258 | 3,680 | * | 85 | 1,315 | * | 37 | 377 | * |
| 2003-04 | 498 | 6,682 | * | 235 | 3,461 | * | 83 | 953 | * | 29 | 331 | * |
| 2002-03 | 440 | 5,223 | * | 196 | 2,607 | * | 61 | 850 | * | 15 | 267 | * |
| 2001-02 | 458 | 5,006 | * | 196 | 2,463 | * | 83 | 663 | * | 18 | 236 | * |
| 2000-01 | 432 | 4,776 | 51 | 207 | 2,267 | 48 | 66 | 617 | * | 18 | 207 | * |
| 1999-2000 | 487 | 4,901 | * | 212 | 2,423 | * | 57 | 612 | * | 16 | 181 | * |
| 1998-99 | 410 | 4,636 | 7 | 188 | 2,316 | * | 55 | 598 | * | 8 | 184 | * |

1. *[Official Report, 19 May 2008, Vol. 476, c. 2MC.]*

| | East of England SHA area[1] of residence | | | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA of residence | | | Suffolk PCT area of residence | | | West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | 18 and over | n/k | Under 18 | 18 and over | n/k | Under 18 | 18 and over | n/k | Under 18 | 18 and over | n/k |
| 1997-98 | 467 | 4,824 | * | 208 | 2,293 | * | 58 | 559 | * | 17 | 179 | * |
| Total | — | — | 67,287 | — | — | 32,771 | — | — | 8,852 | — | — | 3,107 |

[1] East of England SHA area includes the following historic organisations:
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA
Essex SHA
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA.

*Notes:*
*Finished in-year admissions:*
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
*Data Quality:*
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Assessing growth through time:*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected, the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
*All Diagnoses count of Mentions:*
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.
*Diagnosis Codes Used:*
F10 - Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 - Alcoholic liver disease
T51 - Toxic effect of Alcohol
*Ungrossed Data:*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Low Numbers:*
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 0 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).
*PCT and SHA Data Quality:*
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

## Ambulance Services

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect centrally information on the numbers of ambulances operating in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region. [189600]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has no current plans to collect centrally information on the numbers of ambulances operating in each constituency and region. Each ambulance service should plan to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

## Ambulance Services: East Riding

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the response times of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service were in the East Riding of Yorkshire for each of the last two years, broken down by postcode. [189456]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The information of percentage of response within targets set is collected but is available only at Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust level. This information is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

## Ambulance Services: Standards

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many turnarounds took more than an hour in each ambulance authority in England during the last year for which figures are available. [189425]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Antenatal Care

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women did not receive the number of antenatal appointments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by maternity unit. [188177]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) were commissioned by the Department to produce this guideline (published in 2003) to define the type of antenatal care to be provided, including recommendations for the baseline care for pregnant women and national quality standards for the type, quantity and provision of antenatal care including screening programmes to support all women in receiving equitable care based on current best practice. This guideline is currently being revised and due to be published in March 2008. When

published, it will include an assessment tool that will assist professionals in how to identify those women for whom additional care is recommended.

### Arthritis: Drugs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 865W, on arthritis: drugs, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend since 2004 in *(a)* the number and *(b)* the net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community. [185598]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since 2004 the number of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England and the net ingredient cost (NIC) of these drugs, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, as listed at paragraphs 10.1.1 (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), 10.1.2 (Corticosteroids) and 10.1.3 (Rheumatic disease suppressant drugs) of the British National Formulary, have shown different trends in both use and cost. Some of the drugs listed are prescribed for other medical conditions.

Factors likely to have contributed to the observed trends include:

withdrawal of some medicines within the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug group;

specific medicines coming off patent;

the publication of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on newer disease-suppressing drugs.

### Community Nurses: Disadvantaged

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop a Family Nurse Programme in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [186187]

**Ann Keen:** The joint Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families Family Nurse Partnership intervention, supports vulnerable first time young mothers from the 16th week of pregnancy until the child is aged two years. It is being piloted across in England at 10 sites. 20 new pilot sites will be approved in March 2008.

The position in the rest of the United Kingdom is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

### Departmental ICT

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180569]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information technology (IT) projects currently being undertaken by the Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency are shown in the following table.

| *Name of project* | *Start date of project* | *Original planned completion date of project* | *Current expected completion date of project* | *Planned cost of project (£000)* | *Current estimated cost of project (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NHS Reference Costs 2008 | March 2007 | December 2008 | December 2008 | 1,[illegible]34 | 1,227 |
| Delphi - DH intranet enhancement | June 2006 | July 2007 | [1]On hold | 399 | 357 |
| Management of electronic documents system enhancement | September 2007 | July 2008 | July 2008 | 250 | 250 |
| Medical benefits system replacement | January 2007 | December 2007 | [2]March 2008 | 680 | 705 |
| SHOWA -integration of DH human resource and finance systems | January 2007 | April 2008 | April 2008 | 10,516 | 10,516 |
| Central alert system | February 2008 | July 2008 | July 2008 | 432 | 432 |
| Advisory Committee for clinical excellence awards | April 2007 | February 2008 | February 2008 | 700 | 706 |
| Enterprise Architecture -upgrade of DH application infrastructure | June 2007 | February 2008 | March 2008 | 2,159 | 2,159 |
| Mobile working programme phase 1 | January 2007 | March 2008 | March 2008 | 560 | 560 |
| Lotus notes 7 Upgrade - DH email system | October 2006 | October 2007 | February 2008 | 1,960 | [3]2,125 |
| Pharmacy replacement | September 2008 | November 2008 | November 2008 | 150 | 150 |
| NHS car leasing | December 2008 | July 2008 | July 2008 | 100 | [4]120 |
| HR Enterprise Business Model | January 2008 | April 2008 | April 2008 | 143 | 143 |
| Sentinel PV enhancements | July 2007 | March 2008 | March 2008 | 336 | 336 |
| Sentinel PV data remediation | July 2007 | March 2008 | March 2008 | 728 | 728 |

[1] The Delphi project is on hold pending completion of work on the Departmental IT infrastructure. Three out of four project modules have been completed.
[2] The Medical Benefits project is three months behind schedule and £25,000 over budget because of underestimation of supplier costs and unexpected technical complexities.
[3] Lotus Notes upgrade budget overspend and delay in implementation caused by unexpected technical issues.
[4] The NHS Car Leasing project is £20,000 over budget because the original planned cost was an estimate made for budgetary costs before the procurement exercise was complete. This has now been concluded and the confirmed development cost of the project is £120,000.

The IT projects currently being undertaken by Connecting for Health are shown as follows:

*Connecting for health*[1]

| *Programme area* | *Contractor* | *Lifetime contract value (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Spine | BT | 620 |
| N3 broadband network | BT | 530 |
| Choose and Book core contract | Atos Origin(SchlumbergerSema) | 64.5 |
| London Local Service Provider (LSP) | BT CCA | 996 |
| North East LSP | Accenture | 1,099 |
| North West/West Midlands LSP | CSC | 273 |
| Eastern LSP | Accenture | 934 |
| Southern LSP | Fujitsu | 986 |
| Total | | 6,202.5 |

[1] There is no single national start or completion date for the national programme for information technology as a whole, or for its individual systems and services.
The aim is to achieve substantial integration of health and social care information systems in England under the national programme by 2010. Clearly systems will need to be upgraded in the light of new technology and new national health service requirements beyond that date. The approach, in line with best practice, is to implement new services incrementally, avoiding a 'big bang' approach, and providing increasingly richer functionality over time.
The value of the original contracts let in 2003-04 for the core components of the national programme amounts to £6.2 billions over ten years, and this has not increased.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the expired vaccines were not used, broken down by type of vaccine. [188507]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Changes in vaccination policy can result in changes to the vaccines offered in the routine childhood immunisation programme. While we aim to keep vaccine wastage to a minimum, such policy changes can lead to some vaccines being written off if they are no longer used in the routine programme.

The reasons why expired vaccines were not used are listed as follows.

Some BCG vaccine was writtem off following the change in BCG vaccination policy in 2005. The programme changed from a universal to targeted programme, leading to a reduction in demand.

In 2005 demand for MMR vaccine increased following the mumps outbreaks in older teenagers. For a short period, the suppliers could only provide additional supplies of MMR vaccine destined for other countries, and hence with different product labelling than UK stock. Even though the vaccine itself was identical to UK licensed product, the labelling difference meant that the vaccine was not licensed for use in the UK. Once further supplies of UK licensed vaccine were received, the unlicensed MMR vaccine was no longer used, leading to write off.

In 2004 vaccines containing live oral polio were removed from the childhood programme and replaced with three new combination vaccines containing an inactivated polio vaccine. This resulted in the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine; and the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine becoming redundant.

In 2003 a major Hib catch up campaign was launched using a single antigen Hib (haemophilus influenzae type B) vaccine. This vaccine is not used routinely in the childhood programme, and some stock left over from the Hib catch-up campaign date expired in 2006-07.

## Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181608]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the number and cost of these visits would incur disproportionate cost to obtain. However, all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the Department's travel policy and the "Civil Service Code".

Information on the Government's annual publication about overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

This list includes details about the number of officials accompanying the Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of lists covering information going back to the 1997-98 financial year are available in the Library.

## Endometriosis National Awareness Week

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if his Department will take steps to support Endometriosis National Awareness Week on 3 to 9 March; [189837]

(2) what advice his Department gives primary care trusts on treatment of endometriosis. [189890]

**Ann Keen:** It is not a matter for the Department to give advice to commissioning bodies on treatment of particular conditions. It is for the Royal Colleges to give advice to practitioners while the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. NICE guidance suggests the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprophen in the first instance for the treatment of endometriosis as well as trialling the contraceptive pill. If neither of these treatments work, then NICE recommends surgery to remove endometrial deposits. If conservative methods do not work, and symptoms remain severe then NICE recommends hysterectomy, with or without removal of the ovaries.

1.*[Official Report, 26 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 2MC.]*

The Department currently provides core funding under its section 64 scheme to the National Endometriosis Society (now known as Endometriosis UK) and has also funded Endometriosis UK for a project concerned with developing information services for endometriosis. We wish the Endometriosis National Awareness Week every success.

### Exercise

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on exercise referral schemes in each of the last five years. [188375]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Exercise referral schemes are run in most primary care trusts (PCTs) and there are various models. For example, some leisure centres will offer cut price or free exercise sessions for an agreed period. The criteria for referral also vary across localities.

The Department does not keep a national register of practices which offer these schemes, the number of participants or costs of exercise referral schemes. These details are held locally by PCTs or local authorities.

The Government are currently piloting a physical activity care pathway in London, intended to provide health practitioners in general practice with the tools they need to promote physical activity and 'signpost' patients to a wide range of community-based opportunities for exercise, including exercise referral schemes.

### Food: Advertising

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take on producing codes governing the advertising and promotion of unhealthy foods to children across non-broadcast media; and if he will make a statement. [188558]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The advertising industry's Committee on Advertising Practice (CAP) is responsible for the self-regulatory British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotions and Direct Marketing, which contains rules of the content of advertising in non-broadcast media. In July 2007, CAP updated this code to tighten the rules governing the advertising of food and drink to children in line with new restrictions on broadcast advertising. The Department is working with key external stakeholders to address concerns about other forms of marketing including in store promotions and food packaging.

### General Practitioners: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people had a consultation with their GP within 48 hours of requesting an appointment in Bexley borough in the latest period for which information is available. [189400]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not collected in the format requested. Data are held at primary care trust (PCT) level, not constituency or borough level. The general practitioner (GP) Patient Survey 2007 showed that 84 per cent. of people living in Bexley Care Trust area reported having a consultation with their GP within 48 hours of requesting an appointment, compared with a national figure of 86 per cent. 2007 is the latest period for which data are available.

The public service agreement target is for all patients to have the opportunity to see a GP within 48 hours. GP practices that achieve national access standards as measured by the results of the national GP Patient Survey are rewarded. Using the survey data, PCTs are working with local practices to deliver improvements in GP access in areas with the poorest reported satisfaction.

### General Practitioners: Kent

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP super clinics he plans to establish in Kent. [189426]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Following the announcement by the Secretary of State on 10 October 2007, to invest new resources into primary medical care, every primary care trust (PCT) in the country will be procuring a new general practitioner-led health centre during 2008-09. This includes the three PCTs in Kent.

### General Practitioners: Telephone Services

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to replace 0844 numbers with 0800 numbers for patients calling their GPs. [189563]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is currently gathering evidence on the use of 0844 numbers in general practice and will consider what further action is necessary in light of that evidence.

### General Practitioners: Telephones

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines he has issued to primary care trusts on the use of premium rate telephone numbers by GPs for patients calling their surgeries. [190033]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** General medical services (GMS) contractors were banned from using premium rate numbers (09 or 087) via The National Health Service (Primary Medical Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations SI 2005 No. 893. The ban came into force in April 2005.

The ban did not include 084 numbers. However, on the 11 April 2005, the Department wrote to primary care trust chief executives advising them to discourage general practitioner practices from changing from geographically based numbers to '084' numbers until after the outcome of the Ofcom consultation was known.

The Department is currently gathering evidence on the use of 0844 numbers in general practice and will consider what further action is necessary in light of that evidence.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department received from people asking for general practitioner surgeries to open for longer hours in the last period for which figures are available. [188581]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Since 1 October 2007 the Department has received 86 letters from members of the public that supported extended opening hours for general practitioner (GP) practices. In addition, patient surveys and public discussions have consistently told us that improving access to GP services should be a priority for the national health service.

Last year's GP patient survey (the largest of its kind) showed that 16 per cent. of people were unhappy with the opening hours of their GP practice: that is nearly six and a half million unsatisfied patients.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Labelling

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason imported produce from outside the EU derived from GM components is not required to be labelled as such. [187977]

**Dawn Primarolo:** All food and feed imported into the United Kingdom from third countries, or in free circulation within the European Union (EU), must comply with relevant EU legislation. The labelling requirements for genetically modified (GM) food and feed are set out in the directly applicable Regulations (EC) Nos. 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed) and 1830/2003 ('Traceability and Labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)'), the intention of which is to facilitate consumer choice. GM food and feed may only be marketed in the EU if it has been authorised following a process which involves a rigorous safety assessment.

Food and feed which contains, consists of, or has been produced from authorised GMOs has to be labelled as such. There is no provision in the legislation for 'non-GM' and 'GM free' labelling. Such labelling may, however, be used in the UK on a voluntary basis, as appropriate to the product concerned. The Food Standards Agency has expressed the view that the use of the terms 'non-GM' and 'GM free' should mean that food and feed labelled in this way is completely free from the use of GM technology.

### Gynaecology: Endometriosis

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the treatment of endometriosis. [189889]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department's National Institute for Health Research is funding the following study:

Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust—Endometriosis and cultural diversity: improving services for minority ethnic women.

Research on endometriosis also forms part of the work programme of the institute's Oxford and Hammersmith, St. Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centres.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with endometriosis, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

In 2005-06, the MRC spent £2.3 million on endometriosis and the general physiology of the endometrium.

Recent MRC-funded research projects of particular relevance to endometriosis include:

Dr. C. M. Becker, University of Oxford—Transgenic mouse model of endometriosis;

Professor H. Mardon, University of Oxford—Molecular dissection of extracellular matrix signalling and function in the human endometrium;

Dr. R. Varma, University of Birmingham—Identification and importance of tumour suppressor genes in endometriosis and endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer; and

Dr. K. T. Zondervan, University of Oxford—The genetic epidemiology of endometriosis.

MRC-funded research at the MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit in Edinburgh also focuses on uterine biology including endometriosis. Further information about the unit's research can be found at:

www.hrsu.mrc.ac.uk/themes/uterine_biology/uterine_biology.php

### Health Education: Elderly

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage elderly people to keep active and fit. [187703]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department and the national health service promote the benefits of physical activity to professionals and people of all ages and stages of life. The Department is keen to target those individuals most at risk of inactivity for whom the greatest health gains can be made. Primary care trusts are required to have systematic and managed health promotion programmes, including action on exercise, that are responsive to local needs.

The Department is piloting a physical activity care pathway model in a number of general practitioner practices in London. Many sedentary older people will benefit from the care pathway model, which aims to encourage behaviour change and increased physical activity levels through a patient led approach. The care pathway signposts patients to a range of options to increase their activity levels, including exercise referral schemes where appropriate.

Other targeted actions include the national step-o-meter programme, which provides health professionals with free pedometers for loan to adult patients and the Department's local exercise action pilot scheme which included interventions targeted across the life course, including older people.

### Health Professions: Labour Turnover

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average length of service of *(a)* nurses, *(b)* NHS trust chief executives, *(c)* midwives, *(d)* nursing support staff, *(e)* manual staff, *(f)* GPs, *(g)* dentists, *(h)* consultants and *(i)* staff and associate doctors in each of the last 10 years. [187087]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

An individual's length of service may be affected by many factors, including age at the time of qualification, any career breaks or even retirement.

## Health Professions: Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average final salary of *(a)* nurses, *(b)* NHS trust chief executives, *(c)* midwives, *(d)* nursing support staff, *(e)* manual staff, *(f)* GPs, *(g)* dentists, *(h)* consultants and *(i)* staff and associate doctors at the end of service in each of the last 10 years. [187088]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not available centrally.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* nurses, *(b)* NHS trust chief executives, *(c)* midwives, *(d)* nursing support staff, *(e)* manual staff, *(f)* GPs and *(g)* dentists in each pay band under the Agenda for Change in each year since 2004; and what the lower and upper limits were in each pay band in each year. [187089]

**Ann Keen:** The proportion of nurses, midwives and nursing support staff in each pay band under Agenda for Change are available using the occupational codes within organisations which are now on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR). The following table outlines this information. Data presented are for the national health service in England.

*Estimated proportion of staff in each Agenda for Change band, as at end of December 2007*[1]

| | | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Qualified nurses (including midwives)* | *Qualified nurses (excluding midwives)* | *Midwives* | *Support to doctors and nurses*[2] |
| Band 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Band 2 | — | — | — | 43 |
| Band 3 | — | — | — | 34 |
| Band 4 | — | — | — | 17 |
| Band 5 | 50 | 52 | 8 | 3 |
| Band 6 | 31 | 29 | 63 | 1 |
| Band 7 | 16 | 15 | 27 | 1 |
| Band 8a | 2 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Band 8b | — | 1 | — | — |
| Band 8c | — | — | — | — |
| Band 8d | — | — | — | — |
| Band 9 | — | — | — | — |

"—" Denotes no staff in that pay band, or number of staff in that pay band rounds to 0 per cent.

[1] Data presented for qualified nurses, midwives and support to doctors and nursing staff.

[2] This group includes healthcare assistants, support workers, nursery nurses, nursing assistants, clerical and administrative clinical support and maintenance and works staff working in clinical support, in line with census classifications.

*Notes:*

1. Figures based on a sample of 88 per cent. of NHS organisations. Organisations included are those which were paying staff via ESR by December 2007.
2. Figures based on full-time equivalent staff in each grade.

*Source:*

Data taken from the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) Data Warehouse for December 2007, extracted 19 February 2008.

It is not possible to present data for 'manual staff' as this is not a recognised occupational code category.

NHS chief executives, general practitioners and dentists are not covered by the Agenda for Change pay system.

Only estimated proportions in each band are presented. As the ESR does not yet cover all NHS organisations, it is not possible to produce exact numbers of staff in each pay band.

The lower and upper band limits of the Agenda for Change bands from November 2007 are shown in the following table:

| *Band* | *Minimum* (£) | *Maximum* (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Band 1 | 12,182 | 13,251 |
| Band 2 | 12,577 | 15,523 |
| Band 3 | 14,437 | 17,257 |
| Band 4 | 16,853 | 20,261 |
| Band 5 | 19,683 | 25,424 |
| Band 6 | 23,458 | 31,779 |
| Band 7 | 28,313 | 37,326 |
| Band 8a | 36,112 | 43,335 |
| Band 8b | 42,064 | 52,082 |
| Band 8c | 50,616 | 62,402 |
| Band 8d | 60,669 | 75,114 |
| Band 9 | 71,646 | 90,607 |

## Health Services: Cancer

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 464-6W, what his estimate is of the costs of *(a)* community rehabilitation and care, *(b)* additional monitoring and treatment, *(c)* ambulatory care and (d) programme management and monitoring in each of the next five financial years. [188810]

**Ann Keen:** The estimated costs of community rehabilitation and care, additional monitoring and treatment, ambulatory care and programme management and monitoring for the next five financial years are in the following table. Estimated costs for additional monitoring and treatment and ambulatory care are not available separately as the additional treatment may occur in a number of non-inpatient settings including ambulatory care.

£ million

| | *Community rehabilitation and care* | *Additional monitoring, treatment and ambulatory care* | *Programme management and monitoring* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 5.6 | 25.3 | 5.0 |
| 2009-10 | 10.2 | 46.3 | 5.0 |
| 2010-11 | 17.5 | 79.9 | 5.0 |
| 2011-12 | 26.8 | 122.1 | 5.0 |
| 2012-13 | 39.6 | 180.6 | 5.0 |

## Health Services: Neurology

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage collaboration between specialist centres in England and Welsh local health boards to improve levels of treatment in England for patients resident in Wales diagnosed with neuromuscular disorders. [190355]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has no specific plans to further encourage collaboration between specialist centres in England and Welsh local health boards.

It is the responsibility of Welsh local health boards to commission services to meet the needs of their local population living with neuromuscular disorders. This can include the commissioning, and funding, of diagnosis and treatment at specialist neuromuscular centres in England if deemed appropriate.

## Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of finished consultant episodes of treatment given to citizens of other European Economic Area member states in the UK in 2006-07. [188182]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data from Leeds Primary Care Trust, who collect data from national health service trusts on the number of overseas visitors to the United Kingdom from bilateral health care agreement countries, show that in 2006-07, 5,766 European Economic Area (EEA) citizens were treated on the NHS of which 5,033 were visitors and 733 were referrals. Cost of treatment totalled £15,051,634 of which £10,585,167 was for visitors and £4,466,467 was for referrals. The way in which the NHS collects this data means that they cannot be broken down by consultant episode.

However, those EEA citizens who are in the UK on a more long term basis, for example to work or to study, or because they are now ordinarily resident in the UK, are not included. Successive Governments have not required the NHS to provide these statistics.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* citizens of other European Economic Area (EEA) member states who received health treatment in the UK and *(b)* UK citizens who received health treatment in other EEA member states in 2006-07 under reciprocal health care arrangements. [188312]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data from Leeds PCT who collect data from national health service trusts on the number of overseas visitors to the United Kingdom show that in 2006-07, 5,766 European Economic Area (EEA) citizens were treated on the NHS of which 5,033 were visitors and 733 were referrals.

In 2006-07 the UK was competent for the health care of approximately 164,000 pensioners living in other EEA member states. Due to the scale of the total claims that the UK received and because of the nature of the bilateral agreements that the UK has with some EEA countries, we do not have accurate figures of the total number of UK citizens treated in other EEA member states.

## Health Services: Property

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to build, purchase or rent any capital or land assets under the Inpatient Management Programme. [188912]

**Ann Keen:** As stated in the 'Cancer Reform Strategy' the Inpatient Management Programme will focus initially on providing support and guidance on service improvements for a range of patients.

Capital and accommodation needs arising out of changes to models of care, such as an increase in treatments provided outside the inpatient setting, will be met by primary care trusts.

## Health Services: Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 108W, on health services: standards, if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation given by Tricia Cable of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority at the meeting of 5 June 2007; [180847]

(2) on what clinical evidence his Department based its decision that the 18 week referral to treatment target would only apply to 95 per cent. of non-admitted patients and 90 per cent. of admitted patients; [180851]

(3) on what date his Department decided that the 18 week referral to treatment target would only apply to 95 per cent. of non-admitted patients and 90 per cent. of admitted patients. [180852]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A copy of the presentation given by Tricia Cable has been placed in the Library.

The operational standards for 18 weeks are based on evidence from studies of over 3,000 patient pathways and over 3,700 out-patient bookings. In addition to gathering evidence on clinically complex cases, these studies looked into the impact of patient choice and co-operation on patient pathways.

On 13 December 2007, the Department confirmed the operational standards for 18 weeks in the operating framework for the national health service in England 2008-09.

### HIV Infection

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was from diagnosis of HIV to treatment in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [187734]

**Dawn Primarolo:** These data are not collected centrally.

### Hospitals: Thames Gateway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to make an announcement on new hospital provision serving the Thames Gateway area; and if he will make a statement. [187682]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) in the Thames Gateway area are responsible for commissioning health services for existing and new populations in the region. It is for the local health economy (national health service trusts, PCTs and strategic health authorities) to develop proposals and present business cases with value for money and affordable solutions for new hospital and primary care facilities.

More generally, the Government's plans for investment in the Thames Gateway were published in November 2007 by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 'Thames Gateway: The Delivery Plan.' Chapter three, 'Quality of Life', refers to investment in health care and sets out details of the hospital and primary care facilities either already completed or due to open by 2010-11.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what intended savings are expected to result from the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff; what the costs to date of the review have been; and what savings have been achieved by the current price freeze on Part IX products; [187838]

(2) what the cost of consultations relating to Part IX of the Drug Tariff was in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how much was spent in each year on consultancy work relating to the consultations. [187930]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The review of part IX of the Drug Tariff is ongoing, but in the last consultation entitled "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances - and related services - to Primary Care. Revised Proposals", which was published in September 2007, proposed options regarding the reimbursement for item price that would reduce reimbursement for the cost of appliances to the national health service by £25 million.

The review of part IX of the Drug Tariff is addressing £487 million of NHS spend has been conducted in two phases:

Phase 1, which addressed dressings and reagents, concluded in October 2006 and provided savings of £24 million per year for primary care. The cost for this phase of activity was £1.3 million (excluding VAT); and

Phase 2, which is addressing stoma and urology, has cost £0.8 million (excluding VAT) to date.

The agreement that allows companies to seek price increases related to products listed in part IX of the Drug Tariff expired in April 2006. Therefore, the application for price increases related to the current part IX consultation for products contained in parts A, B and C has been suspended. It has been estimated that the value of this suspension to date is £14.1 million between April 2006 and November 2007.

The in-year costs are shown in the following table.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 0.1 |
| 2006 | 1.2 |
| 2007 | 0.8 |

These costs were for the services of professional advisers. The Department's costs are part of its ongoing operational budget.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason an impact assessment was not produced alongside the public consultation on changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [188217]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Two partial regulatory impact assessments have been published alongside the public consultation on proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances in primary care: one in October 2005 and November 2006. Copies of these are available in the Library. At the time the Department felt there was no material difference between the consultations which started in September 2007 and November 2006 and decided that the previous partial impact assessments would be sufficient.

A final impact assessment will be published before any decisions are made and all parties will have the opportunity to comment on it.

### Midwives

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of midwifery graduates started working as midwives in the NHS within six months of graduation in each of the last five financial years. [188141]

**Ann Keen:** The percentage of midwifery graduates who started working as midwives in the national health service within six months of graduation is not collected. However the annual work force census on 31 September 2006 showed there were 24,469 qualified midwives working in the NHS in England an increase of 2,084 (9 per cent.) since 1997.

### Midwives: Manpower

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in each *(a)* region and *(b)* NHS Trust in each financial year since 1997-98, broken down by pay band. [188143]

**Ann Keen:** The number of midwives that were employed in each strategic health authority and national health service trust as of 30 September each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library. The NHS workforce census does not break the figures down by pay band.

### Midwives: Student Wastage

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the dropout rate from midwifery degree courses has been at each institution offering such degrees in each of the last five years. [188144]

**Ann Keen:** Information on what the dropout rate from midwifery degree courses has been at each institution offering such degrees in each of the last five years is not held centrally. These data will be held by each strategic health authority as part of their contract monitoring processes.

### NHS Foundation Trusts

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* contracted to manage NHS foundation trust ballots. [188934]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not hold this information. Information relating to the elections to the governing bodies of individual national health service foundation trusts can be obtained by contacting the Chairmen of the respective trusts.

### NHS: Ancillary Staff

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of staff in each acute hospital trust is classified as non-medical. [187138]

**Ann Keen:** Non-medical national health service staff comprise the entire work force apart from medical which is made up of doctors and dentists. The non-medical work force includes all nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, all scientific, therapeutic and technical staff including all allied health professions, ambulance staff and NHS infrastructure support staff.

The breakdown in proportion for each acute hospital trust is shown in the following table.

| | | *Percentage non-medical staff* |
|---|---|---|
| RA2 | Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust | 87 |
| RA3 | Weston Area Health NHS Trust | 92 |
| RA4 | East Somerset NHS Trust | 91 |
| RA7 | United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | 89 |
| RA9 | South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust | 90 |
| RAE | Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 89 |
| RAJ | Southend Hospital NHS Trust | 91 |
| RAL | Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 87 |
| RAN | Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RAP | North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 88 |
| RAS | Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RAX | Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 88 |
| RBA | Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust | 90 |
| RBB | Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disorders NHS Foundation Trust | 96 |
| RBD | West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RBF | Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust | 91 |
| RBK | Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust | 93 |
| RBL | The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust | 93 |
| RBN | St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RBQ | The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool NHS Trust | 93 |
| RBS | Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RBT | The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RBV | Christie Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RBZ | North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust | 90 |
| RC1 | Bedford Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RC3 | Baling Hospital NHS Trust | 87 |
| RC9 | Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RCB | York Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RCC | Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust | 92 |
| RCD | Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RCF | Airedale NHS Trust | 92 |
| RCU | Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RCX | The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust | 90 |

| | | Percentage non-medical staff |
|---|---|---|
| RD1 | Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust | 89 |
| RD3 | Poole Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RD7 | Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RD8 | Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RDD | Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RDE | Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 90 |
| RDU | Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 91 |
| RDZ | Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 92 |
| RE9 | South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust | 94 |
| REF | Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| REM | Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| REN | Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust | 91 |
| REP | Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust | 92 |
| RET | Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust | 90 |
| RF4 | Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RFF | Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RFR | The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust | 92 |
| RFS | Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 92 |
| RFW | West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 86 |
| RG2 | Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | 87 |
| RG3 | Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RGC | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RGM | Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 91 |
| RGN | Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 95 |
| RGP | James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust | 91 |
| RGQ | Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RGR | West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RGT | Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 86 |
| RGZ | Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | 87 |
| RH8 | Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust | 91 |
| RHM | Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 |
| RHQ | Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RHU | Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RHW | Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RJ1 | Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust | 87 |
| RJ2 | The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RJ5 | St. Mary's NHS Trust | 82 |
| RJ6 | Mayday HealthCare NHS Trust | 88 |
| RJ7 | St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 86 |
| RJC | South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RJD | Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RJE | University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust | 90 |
| RJF | Burton Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RJH | Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RJL | Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust | 92 |
| RJN | East Cheshire NHS Trust | 92 |
| RJR | Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RJZ | King's College Hospital NHS Trust | 83 |
| RK5 | Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust | 93 |
| RK9 | Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 |
| RKB | University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | 88 |
| RKE | The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 87 |
| RL1 | Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RL4 | The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RLN | City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust | 91 |
| RLQ | Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RLT | The George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust | 91 |
| RLU | Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust | 93 |
| RM1 | Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust | 89 |
| RM2 | South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RM3 | Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RM4 | Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | 92 |
| RMC | Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RMP | Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust | 90 |

| | | Percentage non-medical staff |
|---|---|---|
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust | 91 |
| RN3 | Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust | 88 |
| RN5 | North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RN7 | Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust | 89 |
| RNA | Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RNH | Newham University Hospital NHS Trust | 87 |
| RNJ | Barts and the London NHS Trust | 84 |
| RNL | North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RNQ | Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RNS | Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |
| RNZ | Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust | 91 |
| RP4 | Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust | 85 |
| RP5 | Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust | 92 |
| RP6 | Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 84 |
| RPA | Medway NHS Trust | 91 |
| RPC | Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 87 |
| RPL | Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RPR | Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | 89 |
| RPY | Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 87 |
| RQ3 | Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust | 88 |
| RQ6 | Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RQ8 | Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 90 |
| RQM | Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | 84 |
| RQN | Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | 85 |
| RQQ | Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust | 91 |
| RQW | The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 89 |
| RQX | Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 88 |
| RR1 | Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RR7 | Gateshead Health NHS Trust | 92 |
| RR8 | Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RRF | Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust | 92 |
| RRJ | Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust | 92 |
| RRK | University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 83 |
| RT3 | Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust | 88 |
| RTD | The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RTE | Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RTF | Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust | 91 |
| RTG | Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 91 |
| RTH | Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 |
| RTK | Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RTP | Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust | 90 |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RTX | Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | 92 |
| RV8 | North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 86 |
| RVJ | North Bristol NHS Trust | 91 |
| RVL | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 |
| RVR | Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RW | East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust | 89 |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 91 |
| RVY | Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | 91 |
| RW3 | Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RW6 | Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RWA | Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RWD | The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RWE | University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust | 88 |
| RWF | Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust | 89 |
| RWG | West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RWH | East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 89 |
| RWJ | Stockport NHS Trust | 92 |
| RWP | Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RWW | North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RWY | Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust | 91 |
| RX1 | Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RXC | East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RXF | Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |

| | | Percentage non-medical staff |
|---|---|---|
| RXH | Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | 87 |
| RXK | Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RXL | Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust | 92 |
| RXN | Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 90 |
| RXP | County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 91 |
| RXQ | Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 88 |
| RXR | East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 90 |
| RXW | Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust | 90 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages are based on headcount figures.
2. Non-medical staff includes qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff, qualified ambulance staff, support to qualified staff and NHS infrastructure support staff. Non-medical staff excludes all doctors and dentists, general practitioners (GPs) and GP practice staff.

*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## NHS: Finance

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1027-8W, on NHS: finance, (1) when was it agreed that the work programme of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation would include a review of the market forces formula; and what timetable was originally set for the work programme; [184306]

(2) when he expects the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation to publish the results of its work programme. [184307]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the resource allocation formula. ACRA's work programme is set following each allocation round. The elements of ACRA's current work programme were agreed in November 2005.

The intention was for ACRA to finalise its work programme by autumn 2007. However, although ACRA has made good progress on some major aspects of its work programme, it has requested, and been granted, additional time to finalise the work that it is doing to review the formula. Given the importance of the weighted capitation formula it is crucial that ACRA is given the time required to produce a robust and transparent formula.

Only when its work programme is completed will ACRA finalise its recommendations to Ministers on potential changes to the funding formula. Ministers will then look at all of ACRA's recommendations and decide how to take these recommendations into account when making allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

We will inform PCTs of the changes to the formula, and the revenue allocations as soon as is practically possible after the completion of ACRA's work programme. The aim is to announce revenue allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by the summer 2008.

## NHS: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to increase the number of NHS audiovestibular physicians since 1997. [189145]

**Ann Keen:** Workforce planning is a matter for local determination, as local workforce planners are best placed to asses the needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to support this.

National health service audiovestibular physicians are within the audiological medicine specialty, but cannot be separately counted. The number of medical staff within the audiological medicine specialty has increased from 46 in 1997 by 56 per cent. to 72 in 2006.

## NHS: Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average salary paid to staff falling under each of the pay bands under the Agenda for Change programme in each year since 2004. [187090]

**Ann Keen:** The Information Centre produces quarterly estimates of staff earnings across the Agenda for Change programme. These are published and available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/esr_earnings_2007-9/Tables%20Jan08.pdf.

The latest estimates, based on payments to staff between July and September 2007, are:

| Band | Mean basic salary per full-time equivalent[1] £ | Mean total earnings per full-time[2] £ |
|---|---|---|
| Band 1 | 12,800 | 15,500 |
| Band 2 | 13,700 | 15,900 |
| Band 3 | 15,400 | 17,900 |
| Band 4 | 18,400 | 20,800 |
| Band 5 | 22,000 | 26,300 |
| Band 6 | 27,300 | 31,100 |
| Band 7 | 32,500 | 35,800 |
| Band 8a | 38,200 | 41,500 |
| Band 8b | 45,100 | 48,500 |

| Band | Mean basic salary per full-time equivalent[1] | £ Mean total earnings per full-time[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Band 8c | 54,100 | 58,100 |
| Band 8d | 64,400 | 68,700 |
| Band 9 | 76,600 | 81,800 |

[1] Mean basic salary is calculated by dividing the total amount of basic pay earned by staff in the group by the total worked FTE for those staff
[2] Calculated as mean basic salary, but for all earnings. This includes basic salary, plus hours related pay (payment for shift working or additional duties), overtime, occupation payments, location payments and other payments including redundancy pay or payment of notice periods.

Data are not available before 2007 for Agenda for Change groups, as data from the electronic staff record did not cover a sufficient sample of organisations until January 2007.

## NHS: PFI

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2288W, on the NHS: private finance initiative, how much was spent on each of the cancelled projects. [184301]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Central records on abortive development costs to national health service trusts and payments to the private sector for abortive bid costs are only kept on private finance initiative (PFI) schemes with a capital value of over £25 million. These costs to the NHS trusts and payments to the private sector on each of the cancelled projects referred to in the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2288W, above this threshold are as follows:

| Trust | Cost to the Trust for abortive development costs | Payments to the private sector for abortive bid costs |
|---|---|---|
| Berkshire and Battle NHS Foundation Trust[1] | — | — |
| Guy's and St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust[1] | — | — |
| Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | The Trust reported that their abortive development costs were approximately £719,000 | — |
| Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | The Trust reported that their abortive development costs were approximately £4 million | The Department paid £7.3 million at the end of March 2007 to the private sector consortium involved as an *ex-gratia* settlement in recognition of abortive bid costs incurred on the scheme |
| Plymouth NHS Trust | The Trust reported that their abortive development costs were approximately £3.8 million. This is in respect of both the two later projects at Plymouth as well as the earlier single £340 million cancelled PFI scheme at the trust | — |

[1] Berkshire and Battle NHS Trust and Guy's and St. Thomas NHS Trust are both foundation trusts; their abortive costs are not held centrally and the information can be sought from their respective chief executives.

In the written answer given on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1005W, we reported that one scheme had been mistakenly omitted from the list of cancelled schemes given in the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2286W. This was the £250 million PFI scheme at East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust; the trust reported that their abortive development costs were approximately £432,000.

## Nutrition

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population consuming five portions of fruit and vegetables every day in each of the last five years. [184285]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Health Survey for England reports figures on 5 A DAY Consumption each year. The latest updates for the year 2006 were published on 31 January 2008.

Figures for the proportion of the population consuming 5 A DAY between 2002 and 2006 are shown in the following table.

| 5 A DAY Consumption | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Percentage 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adults | 24 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 30 |
| Children | 12 | 11 | 12 | 17 | 20 |

## Nutrition: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutritionists were employed by the NHS in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* the west midlands in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [187735]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not centrally hold data on the number of nutritionists employed by the national health service. However, data for the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) in relation to qualified dietetics staff have been set out in the following table.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified dietetics staff in each specified organisation as at 30 September of each specified year*

| | *NHS organisations within the west midlands SHA area* | *of which Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust* | *of which South Staffordshire PCT* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 283 | 5 | 13 |
| 2003 | 309 | 6 | 12 |
| 2004 | 308 | 7 | 14 |
| 2005 | 328 | 6 | 13 |
| 2006 | 340 | 6 | 12 |

*Notes:*
1. South Staffordshire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT.
2. Cannock Chase PCT, East Staffordshire PCT and South Western Staffordshire PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## Obesity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on obesity, how much of the £94 million allocated in 2008-09 will go directly to primary care trusts as part of their allocations. [188509]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Of the £94 million allocated to obesity in 2008-09, £65.9 million has been put into the overall local allocations for primary care trusts for 2008-09.

## Obesity: Medical Treatments

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on *(a)* obesity-related medication, equipment and treatment, excluding surgery, *(b)* obesity surgery and *(c)* secondary medical problems arising from severe obesity in the last three years. [187697]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on the costs of equipment and treatment within the national health service is not held centrally. However, we do know the cost of prescriptions for medication classed as drugs used in the treatment of obesity dispensed in England. The figures for the latest three years are shown in the following table (costs are net ingredient cost and are expressed in thousands of pounds).

| Chemical | *2004* | *2005* | *£000 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Diethylpropion Hydrochloride | 0.156 | 0.306 | 0.341 |
| Mazindol | 0.138 | 0.209 | [1]— |
| Orlistat | 21,478.666 | 27,124.817 | 32,574.731 |
| Phentermine | 0.406 | [1]— | 0.022 |
| Rimonabant | [2]— | [2]— | 1,469.669 |
| Sibutramine | 9,370.600 | 11,039.715 | 13,722.765 |
| Total | 30,849.967 | 38,165.048 | 47,767.529 |

*Notes:*
[1] No record of drug being dispersed.
[2] Drug not available for prescription until 2006.

We can also provide figures for use of orlistat and Sibutramine in hospitals. These figures are derived at by pricing information on issue of medicines from a sample of hospital pharmacies and have been positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. These costs do not necessarily represent what hospitals paid as hospitals can negotiate their own contracts. The figures are in thousands of pounds.

| *Chemical* | *2004* | *2005* | *£000 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Orlistat | 232.275 | 287.327 | 290.619 |
| Sibutramine | 62.751 | 74.421 | 76.427 |
| Total | 295.026 | 361.748 | 367.046 |

We collect information on surgical procedures but are not able to provide the cost of these procedures. Also, while obesity is a known risk factor for a number of diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, gallstones and osteoarthritis it is not possible to determine what proportion of spending on such diseases is attributable to obesity.

## Obesity: Surgery

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase the resources available to the NHS for surgical intervention in cases of obesity. [187695]

**Dawn Primarolo:** "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives", the Government's strategy for promoting healthy weight, published in January 2008, reaffirmed the commitment that local health services should provide surgical interventions for obese patients where it is deemed clinically appropriate. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has also provided clear guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children. It is, however, up to local areas to decide the best types of treatments, including the level of weight loss surgery, to provide for their own populations, in line with NICE guidance.

## Obstetrics: Manpower

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* obstetricians, *(b)* gynaecologists and *(c)* obstetric and gynaecology consultants were employed in each (i) region and (ii) NHS Trust in each financial year since 1997-98. [188142]

**Ann Keen:** The number of obstetric and gynaecology staff including consultants employed in each strategic health authority and national health service trust as at 30 September of each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

## Paramedical Staff: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics were employed in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available. [187890]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data for the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area, Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust as at 30 September 2006 have been set out in the following table.

*National Health Service hospital and community health services: Paramedics in West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area by organisation as at 30 September 2006*

| *Area / Organisation* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area | 940 |
| *of which -* | |
| Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 222 |
| *of which -* | |
| West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 718 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre, 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census

## Perinatal Mortality

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were stillborn in England in each of the last five years. [172917]

**Ann Keen:** The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) publishes figures on stillbirth and perinatal death for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The figures for the last five years available are shown as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 3,366 |
| 2001 | 3,370 |
| 2002 | 3,542 |
| 2003 | 3,730 |
| 2004 | 3,791 |

*Source:*
CEMACH

In addition, the Office of National Statistics data for England and Wales for 2005 give the number of stillbirths in England and Wales as 3,484.

## Prescriptions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many FP10 forms have been lost in transit from pharmacists to the Prescriptions Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority. [174720]

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many FP10 forms were lost in each year since 1997. [181828]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The Prescriptions Pricing Division (PPD) of the National Health Service Business Services Authority are aware of 220 separate instances, from April 1997 to September 2007, where batches of FP10 prescription forms, submitted for reimbursement by dispensing contractors in England to PPD, were lost or stolen, either in transit from dispensing contractors to PPD or in transit from PPD to dispensing contractors. We understand that where forms have been lost or stolen, PPD or contractors have followed this up with the postal service, courier or the police as appropriate.

On this basis, the number of FP10 forms estimated by PPD as lost or stolen are shown in the following table. This equates to less than 0.01 per cent. of all FP10 forms transferred between the PPD and dispensing contractors.

| *Financial year* | *Estimated number of FP10 prescribing forms lost or stolen (England)[1] (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 17.1 |
| 1998-99 | 14.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 17.8 |
| 2000-01 | 68.8 |
| 2001-02 | 28.9 |
| 2002-03 | 11.9 |
| 2003-04 | 24.7 |
| 2004-05 | 61.7 |
| 2005-06 | 10.4 |
| 2006-07 | 32.5 |
| 2007 (April to September) | 9.9 |

[1] This figure is based on FP10 forms from dispensing contractors in England, but which may include FP10 forms written in Wales or Scotland but dispensed in England.

*Source:*
PPD

## Primary Care Trusts: Finance

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the levels of capitation of primary care trusts; and what plans he has to increase funding to undercapitated trusts; [188915]

(2) for what reasons the Pace of Change funding programme for undercapitated primary care trusts is to be discontinued; and if he will make a statement. [188961]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Pace of change policy for revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) is considered by Ministers prior to each allocations round. However, for the 2008-09 revenue allocations, the decision was made to freeze the weighted-capitation formula to give the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) the time it requires to finalise its review of the formula. Therefore, in 2008-09, all PCTs will be given the same uplift of 5.5 per cent. freezing the distance from target for each PCT. The flat-rate increase of 5.5 per cent. on each PCT's 2007-08 revenue allocation will ensure that every PCT has sufficient growth in funding to honour their service commitments.

Until the impact of the new formula on target allocations is known, it would be irresponsible to continue to move PCTs towards their target allocation under the current formula. Any new formula is likely to have an impact on the target allocation for some PCTs. Some PCTs may move from being under target to over target and vice versa. Giving all PCTs the same uplift avoids moving PCTs towards their current target allocation in 2008-09 and then having to reverse this the following year.

The plan is to make allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by summer 2008 based on a new formula. Pace of change policy has not been discontinued, and

decisions will be made on pace of change for 2009-10 and 2010-11 once we have received ACRA's recommendations on the new funding formula.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each primary care trust's *(a)* actual and *(b)* target funding allocation was in each year since 1997; and what the real term change in funding was from each year to the next. [190265]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Revenue allocations were first made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003-04. Prior to this, the funding was allocated to health authorities.

Tables showing the actual, target and real terms change in funding for each PCT for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

### Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust: Hospitals

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the new general hospital under construction by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust to be completed. [188603]

**Dawn Primarolo:** NHS West Midlands strategic health authority has confirmed that the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS trust has not yet begun construction of the new hospital planned for Smethwick. It is expected that construction of this new health facility will begin in 2011 and complete in 2014. However, these dates are provisional.

### Smoking

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and *(b)* others on links between smoking and blindness; [188340]

(2) if he will commission research into whether there is a link between smoking and blindness. [188341]

**Ann Keen:** Not only is smoking the leading cause of premature death in the United Kingdom, it can also cause many diseases. Evidence shows that smoking can cause blindness through age-related maculopathy and possibly cataracts.

The Department keeps the evidence base around the health effects of smoking under close review, and has recently received submissions from stakeholders elaborating the evidence base around smoking and blindness.

### Smoking: Cheshire

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received support from NHS smoking cessation services in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Cheshire in 2007. [187965]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the number of people who set a quit date and who successfully quit smoking at the four week follow up (based on self-report) through national health service stop smoking services in Warrington primary care trust, Western Cheshire primary care trust and Central and Eastern Cheshire primary care trust for the period April 2006 to March 2007, and for the latest period for which data are available, April 2007 to September 2007 are available from the following publications:

'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007 (Annual statistical bulletin)', Table 5.4, page 65, which was published on 17 August 2007.

'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to September 2007 (Quarter 2 bulletin)', Table 9, page 13, which was published on January 29, 2008.

Both publications have been placed in the Library.

### Social Workers: Manpower

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers there were in Chesterfield in each year since 1997. [187205]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Figures provided by the General Social Care Council indicate that the number of social workers in Chesterfield in each calendar year since 2003 is:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 24 |
| 2005 | 254 |
| 2006 | 314 |
| 2007 | 313 |
| 2008 | 299 |

Figures for the period 1997 to 2003 are not held centrally.

### Tinnitus

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have applied for tinnitus research funding in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [187736]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department's centrally managed health research programmes received one proposal for a research project concerned with tinnitus in the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07. It was from the Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188789]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office has not suspended or dismissed any employee in the last five years for accessing obscene or other prohibited material on work computers.

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189788]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office encourages all staff and managers to consider various forms of flexible working, including home working. Arrangements for home working are made locally by individual line managers and no record is held centrally of numbers authorised to work at home.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by the Prime Minister's Office; [189071]

(2) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189085]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office currently employs no staff under 18 years of age.

### Review of Government Information Assurance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of Nick Coleman's 2007 Review of Government Information Assurance. [181233]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 689W, to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark).

### Voluntary Organisations: Driving

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the third sector and *(b)* insurance providers on the personal insurance liability of drivers when they volunteer as car and minibus drivers for voluntary organisations; [188328]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on local authority provision of insurance for volunteer minibus drivers providing services within the third sector. [188330]

**Phil Hope:** In 2002 the Home Office Active Communities Directorate, which is now part of the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office, set up the Working Group on Insurance and the Voluntary Sector. The Working Group sought to address the concerns of the voluntary sector about the cost of insurance premiums. It included officials from Government and representatives from the insurance industry and the third sector. The work of the group included discussions on personal insurance liability for volunteer drivers. The working group met on a number of occasions and ceased its work in 2005. As a direct result of the group's work two documents were published to help third sector organisations address insurance issues. The first was a risk toolkit produced by Volunteering England and the second a document by the Association of British Insurers. Both provide advice on insurance for volunteers and the third sector. Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

The possibility of local authority provision of insurance for volunteer minibus drivers has not been the subject of discussions with ministerial colleagues.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Electricity

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the availability of supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of such availability in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [190003]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1086W.

### Bolivia: Overseas Aid

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 60-1WS, on Latin America (Development), which organisations in Bolivia will receive funding and what conflict sensitive assessment of funding disbursement will be conducted in the light of separatist inspired violence in Bolivia. [188879]

**Mr. Malik:** Additional funding will be channelled to a shortlist of UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Latin America that currently receive funding through our programme partnership agreement. However, allocations to specific organisations have not yet been made, so it is not possible at this stage to say which organisations in Bolivia will receive funding. Once allocations are decided I will be happy to provide this information.

DFID is committed through our conflict policy paper to ensuring that our development work takes better account of its possible effects on conflict.

Currently the Department is piloting 'conflict audits' in a number of countries to help us review how well we integrate conflict into our development work. In addition, we are working with UK NGOs on learning lessons about the conflict sensitivity of development programmes. We expect to work with the UK NGOs in Latin America, including Bolivia, to apply these lessons.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188782]

**Gillian Merron:** The holding of a central disciplinary record commenced in October 2004. DFID suspended and dismissed fewer than five civil servants for accessing obscene material on DFID computers in 2005. There were no cases of accessing other prohibited material.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189796]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently changed its restaurant service provider, and detailed records are not available. However, we estimate that DFID has spent in the region of £10,500 last year. Bottled water was provided for some official meetings in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money. Since January 2008, however, we no longer purchase bottled mineral water but instead use bottled filtered mains water that is prepared on site. This change was made on the grounds of economy and environmental benefits.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established; [166528]

(2) what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible; [166529]

(3) how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment; [166530]

(4) when he will answer Questions *(a)* 166530, *(b)* 166528, and *(c)* 166529, on telephone contact centres, tabled on 15 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne; [190876]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has only been in existence since June 2007, when it was formed from elements of the old Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families) and Department for Trade and Industry (now Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform). DIUS currently relies on DCSF and BERR to provide telephone inquiry services on its behalf and I would refer you to the answers they have given to this question.

The cost of running the Aimhigher Student Finance contact centre since the DIUS began (end June 2007) has been £117,247,84. This is a freephone line so has generated no income.

The contract for this service includes the provision of data by the supplier to enable the Department to ensure the supplier is meeting the key performance indicators set out in the contract.

### Education: Carers

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is considering to encourage unpaid carers to access learning opportunities in mainstream education; and if he will make a statement. [189213]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has agreed with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that it will produce a special leaflet for learning providers highlighting carer issues and promoting the extra uplift in learner support funding which is available to learning providers. Additionally the LSC will issue a new leaflet produced by the National Institute for Continuing Adult Education (NIACE) which promotes learning for carers. This will be used to promote the opportunities that can be made available to carers.

The Department has contributed to the Employment Task Force review of the New Deal for Carers Strategy with recommendations to improve access to learning for carers. The report is expected to be published in May 2008.

Adult learners, including carers, on low incomes and in receipt of an income-based benefit are entitled to access Further Education (FE) free of charge. In addition adult learners, including carers, with low skills who wish to access basic literacy and numeracy courses, a first full level 2 course or who are aged 19-25 years and who wish to access a first full level 3 course, are entitled to access these courses free of charge. Young people aged 16-18 can access learning opportunities in mainstream education free of charge.

### Higher Education: Expenditure

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much expenditure on higher education research projects has been used to buy-out the teaching time of the researchers in the latest year for which figures are available. [186392]

**Ian Pearson:** Since the introduction of the full economic costs (FEC) regime in April 2006, Research Councils have ceased to provide specific funding to buy-out the teaching time of researchers. Specific buy-out funding is included in some grants that started before that date, and have yet to be completed.

Under FEC, funding is provided for the research time of academic staff. During the year July 2006 to June 2007, the amount committed by Research Councils to cover researcher time (taking Principal Investigators and Co-investigators for all eligible organisations) amounted to £110 million for direct costs, plus £80 million for overhead costs.

### ICT: Training

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent from *(a)* the Capital Modernisation Fund and *(b)* the New Opportunities Fund on establishing UK online centres in West Lancashire constituency since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [189809]

**Mr. Lammy:** UK online centres were established by the then Department for Education and Employment from 1999. These centres are effective in reaching out to the most excluded in communities and have helped reduce the digital divide by providing individuals with access to the internet and e-learning.

Nationally, £199 million capital funding was made available from the Treasury's Capital Modernisation Fund and £77.5 million revenue funding from the New Opportunities Fund (now called the Big Lottery Fund) to help fund UK online centres in deprived communities. Information is not held at constituency level and the details requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Innovation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to encourage innovation in his Department in the last 12 months. [180355]

**Ian Pearson:** The departmental strategic objectives published in October 2007 set out the Department's aim to be innovative in what we do, and a programme of work is in place which will help ensure we achieve this. For example, rather than having fixed desks and workstations, all staff (including the Permanent Secretary) have been issued instead with lap top computers which will support more effective and flexible working practices. A pool of policy specialists is being created, enabling a quicker response to deal with particular issues. This will all be underpinned through the development of a new set of corporate values and behaviours and a culture that will ensure that DIUS operates innovatively and effectively.

The Department is committed to working openly with partners and customers. For example, we now have a Minister with explicit responsibility for listening to students and ensuring the student voice is heard in Government. We are also working with our partners, including students in universities and colleges, on issues such as the redesign of our London office.

The Department also has the overall responsibility on behalf of Government to promote the commercial exploitation of creativity and knowledge by supporting research and innovation. We aim to create the right environment for innovation through a combination of: investment in the science base; financial support for companies; fiscal incentives for innovation; and through maintaining a world class innovation infrastructure in the UK. In order to lead this work the Department has appointed a Director of Innovation for driving forward its work in this area.

### Postgraduate Education: Arts

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what financial provisions were made available to students for postgraduate education in the arts in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [185308]

**Ian Pearson:** In 2007 the Arts and Humanities Research Council made postgraduate training awards to students in the arts worth a total of £6 million.

### Research: University of Wales

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent initiatives have been taken by his Department's technology strategy board to promote the commercialisation of research findings from the University of Wales. [186820]

**Ian Pearson:** The business focused Technology Strategy Board currently supports 27 collaborative R and D projects involving the University of Wales and its affiliated institutions. This translates to grant funding worth £7.16 million. This support enables business and research communities to work together on R and D projects from which successful new products, processes and services can emerge.

The Technology Strategy Board is also providing support for 31 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships involving the University of Wales. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships enable companies to access knowledge and skills from the UK knowledge base (further and higher education institutions or research organisations) for use in the strategic development of the business. Each partnership employs one or more high-calibre KTP associate (NVQ Level 4 in an appropriate subject; HMD; foundation degree; degree and higher degree; post-doc) for a project lasting one to three years.

### Skilled Workers: Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees in West Lancashire constituency are covered by the Government's Skills Pledge. [189805]

**Mr. Lammy:** As at December 2007, there were four employers covering 440 employees in the West Lancashire constituency who have made the Skills Pledge.

### Students: Finance

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will review the definition of taxable income as applied to the income of a student's natural parents, the parent's partner and the student's partner to exclude such part of a pension income as is paid to an ex-partner under a divorce settlement in developing future financial assessment policy for student support arrangements; [184399]

(2) when he will provide an answer to question 184399, on student support, tabled on 30 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Warrington, South. [189322]

**Bill Rammell:** The assessment of a student's entitlement to financial support while attending a course of higher education is based on the student's household income. This is generally the residual income of the eligible student, aggregated with the residual income of the student's parents; or where appropriate the student's parent's partner, the student's spouse or partner.

For the purposes of determining the residual income of an eligible student and the relevant people in the household, certain specified deductions are made from their taxable income. 'Taxable income' is defined in the Student Support Regulations as a person's taxable

income from all sources computed as for the purposes of either (i) the Income Tax Acts; (ii) the income tax legislation of another member state which applies to the person's income; or (iii) where the legislation of more than one member state applies, the legislation under which the person in question is considered to be paying the largest amount of tax during the period covered by the assessment. Such taxable income includes taxable pension income.

The Government have no plans to review the current financial assessment procedures.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations he has received proposing changes to the method of calculating interest on student loans since June 2007. [185235]

**Bill Rammell:** During the third reading of the Sale of Student Loans Bill on 23 January representations were made by my hon. Friends the Members for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) and for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) who suggested that the consumer prices index (CPI) should be used in place of the retail prices index (RPI) when determining the rate of interest on student loans.

My hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) has also made representations on this matter in early-day motion 263 which suggests changes to the method of calculating interest on student loans.

In addition the Department has received some 206 written representations since June 2007 about the student loan interest rate. We are not able to say how many of those proposed changes to the method of calculating interest.

We do not believe that it is necessary to change the way interest is calculated. Student loans are not like commercial loans. The Government make no profit but subsidise the interest rate and absorb other associated costs. Interest is charged using a widely recognised measure of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed. This is achieved by linking the interest rate for student loans to the annual rate of inflation as defined by the RPI. The interest rate is recalculated each year at the beginning of September using the RPI figure from the previous March. This is the methodology that has always been used. Over time it ensures the student loan interest rate will be equivalent to the rate of inflation but with a time lag.

For the vast majority of student loan borrowers, who have income contingent loans, any increase in interest rate will not affect borrowers' ability to pay, or the amount that they are liable to pay each month. Repayments are linked to the ability to pay and this amounts to 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000.

### Students: Pharmacy

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the pharmacy profession of his Department's proposal to withdraw funding for the teaching of students studying for qualifications deemed to be of an equivalent or lower level to those they have already received; and if he will make a statement. [174218]

**Bill Rammell:** The vast majority of pharmacy students already study the subject as a first degree rather than as an equivalent or lower level qualification. The redistribution of £100 million by 2010 would enable the same number of pharmacy students to be funded as now but with even more studying the subject as a first degree. In that way we will increase and widen participation which is our top priority. We also value those who have already got a first HE qualification and who want to retrain in a different subject. There will be opportunities for them available, for example, through Foundation Degrees and employer co-funded provision.

In addition, there will be a review mechanism each year to look at individual subjects of particular economic or social importance. We are asking the Funding Council each year to look at levels of demand for subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and to advise us on the best way forward. The first such review should take place starting in December 2008, in the light of entry data for the 2008-09 academic year. That would be an opportunity to have another look at pharmacy and other subjects in the light of the data that will then be available.

### Vocational Training: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employers in the North West signed up to the Skills Pledge, in each year, broken down by *(a)* sector and *(b)* size of employer. [184302]

**Mr. Lammy:** As at December 2007, the available information indicated that there were 39 employers in the North West who had made their commitment to the Skills Pledge, since it was launched in June 2007. 21 of the 39 employers in the North West had fewer than 250 employees with the remaining 18 having between 250 and less than 5,000. A breakdown by sectors is not currently available.

## JUSTICE

### Bail: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants on bail between pleading guilty or being found guilty and sentence subsequently failed to attend court for sentencing in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [189154]

**Mr. Hanson:** Bench warrants are issued when defendants on bail fail to appear at a Crown court.

The information sought was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table details, for Crown court cases dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, the number of defendants on bail between pleading guilty or being found guilty and being sentenced who had a least one bench warrant issued against them. All have since been sentenced.

*Crown court cases dealt with 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of defendants with at least one bench warrant issued | 27 |

### Custodial Treatment

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in custody in 2007; and what proportion of the population this figure represented. [189152]

**Mr. Hanson:** On 31 December 2007, there were 80,867 people held in custody in England and Wales. This represented 147 per 100,000 of the national population.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189084]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested figures are in the following table. The latest period for which the statistics are available is the year to September 2006 and so pre-date the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

*Ministry of Justice agencies staff under 18 years old, as at 30 September 2006*

| | *Headcount as at 30 September 2006* | *Full-time equivalent as at 30 September 2006* |
|---|---|---|
| *Ministry of Justice headquarters* | | |
| Former Department for Constitutional Affairs (excluding agencies)[1] | 1 | 0.32 |
| *Ministry of Justice agencies* | | |
| HM Courts Service[1] | 32 | 29.30 |
| Office of the Public Guardian[1] | 1 | 1.00 |
| Tribunals Service[1] | 10 | 7.98 |
| HM Prison Service[2] | 10 | 10.00 |
| Ministry of Justice total | 54 | 48.60 |

[1] Source: Former Department for Constitutional Affairs Central HR Information System.
[2] Source: Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1110W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department has spent on *(a)* corporate display materials, *(b)* publications, *(c)* public information booklets, *(d)* building signage, *(e)* hard stationery and *(f)* lanyards since its establishment; [189358]

(2) how much each of his Department's agencies spent on branded products in each of the last five years. [189359]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007, my Department's HQ costs for the items listed in the question, incorporating the Ministry of Justice branding, have been as follows:

| | *Item* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* | Corporate display materials | 14,865 |
| *(b)* | Publications | 256,000 |
| *(c)* | Public information booklets | 183,000 |
| *(d)* | Building signage | 16,335 |
| *(e)* | Hard stationery | 46,607 |
| *(f)* | Lanyards | 1,500 |
| | *In addition, my Department produced:* | |
| *(g)* | Pens | 858 |
| *(h)* | Notepads | 335 |

Some of the agencies have been in existence for less than the five years specified and therefore, where possible, we have provided the data available to us. Details of spending which the agencies provided are given as follows (figures rounded to the nearest 1,000):

| *Agency* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £ |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service[1] | 477,000 | 561,000 | 853,000 |
| Office of the Public Guardian[2] | 161,000 | — | — |
| National Offender Management Service[3] | 141,000 | [4] — | [4] — |
| Tribunals Service[5] | 103,000 | 162,000 | — |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform[6] | 166,000 | [4] — | [4] — |

[1] HMCS created on 1 April 2005.
[2] OPG created on 1 October 2007.
[3] NOMS created in May 2004.
[4] Figures not available for these years.
[5] The Tribunals Service created on 1 April 2006.
[6] OCJR figure covers public information booklets and publications only.

## Electoral Register: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people not registered to vote in each London borough. [189397]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government have made no estimate of the number of people not registered to vote in each London borough. However, the Electoral Commission undertook a pilot research study in 2007 to examine possible methods for measuring the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register in Greater London.

I understand from the Electoral Commission that the methodologies used in the London pilot were shown to be unsuitable for drawing firm conclusions about the integrity of electoral registers. This was particularly the case for borough by borough analysis, due to small sample sizes. The pilot study brought to light some key registration trends in Greater London; in particular, it estimated that 80 per cent. of those who were eligible, were registered. Due to small sample base sizes at the borough level, the data is not sufficiently robust at local authority level to provide reliable estimates.

Recent changes brought about by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 have placed a greater emphasis on getting eligible electors registered. During the annual canvass, Electoral Registration Officers are required to take all necessary steps to ensure that electors are encouraged to register, which include sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house enquiries and inspecting other records that they are permitted to inspect.

## Firearms Act 1968: Convictions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1188W, on Firearms Act 1968: convictions, what proportion of those convicted over the age of 18 years received custodial sentences. [189362]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested on persons aged 18 and over found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for offences under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 is provided in the following table.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act, broken down by police force area and age group, England and Wales, 2006*[1,2,3]

| *Police force area* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | | *Number and percentage of those aged 18 and over sentenced to immediate custody* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All ages* | *Aged 18 and over* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Avon and Somerset | 24 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 37 |
| Bedfordshire | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 50 |
| Cambridgeshire | 11 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 20 | 16 | 16 | 2 | 13 |
| City of London | 6 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cleveland | 8 | 8 | 8 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 7 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | 11 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 38 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 12 | 11 | 11 | — | — |
| Dorset | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Durham | 7 | 6 | 6 | — | — |
| Essex | 34 | 26 | 23 | 6 | 26 |
| Gloucestershire | 4 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 20 |
| Greater Manchester | 108 | 94 | 90 | 18 | 20 |
| Hampshire | 27 | 24 | 23 | 6 | 26 |
| Hertfordshire | 24 | 23 | 21 | 9 | 43 |
| Humberside | 13 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 45 |
| Kent | 27 | 28 | 27 | 11 | 41 |
| Lancashire | 24 | 18 | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| Leicestershire | 18 | 16 | 15 | 4 | 27 |
| Lincolnshire | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 40 |
| Merseyside | 54 | 56 | 54 | 13 | 24 |
| Metropolitan Police | 385 | 317 | 274 | 98 | 36 |
| Norfolk | 12 | 9 | 9 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 6 | 5 | 5 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 100 |
| Northumbria | 43 | 34 | 30 | 5 | 17 |
| Nottinghamshire | 28 | 30 | 29 | 11 | 38 |
| South Yorkshire | 40 | 35 | 31 | 11 | 35 |
| Staffordshire | 10 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 56 |
| Suffolk | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Surrey | 7 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 29 |
| Sussex | 20 | 15 | 14 | 3 | 21 |
| Thames Valley | 27 | 20 | 19 | 5 | 26 |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act, broken down by police force area and age group, England and Wales, 2006*[1,2,3]

| Police force area | Proceeded against | Found guilty | | Number and percentage of those aged 18 and over sentenced to immediate custody | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All ages | Aged 18 and over | Number | Percentage |
| Warwickshire | 8 | 6 | 6 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 13 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 27 |
| West Midlands | 84 | 78 | 69 | 25 | 36 |
| West Yorkshire | 45 | 47 | 43 | 13 | 30 |
| Wiltshire | 14 | 7 | 6 | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Gwent | 11 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| North Wales | 16 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 38 |
| South Wales | 16 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 40 |
| England and Wales | 1,258 | 1,077 | 991 | 291 | 29 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

### Internet: Suicide

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Australian Government on legislative changes to make the operation of internet sites about suicide more difficult. [189056]

**Maria Eagle:** Officials in the Ministry of Justice have discussed with their Australian counterparts the effectiveness of legislation introduced there to combat suicide websites—the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Act 2005. I understand that since the legislation came into force in January 2006 there have been no prosecutions.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will establish an independent body to review complaints about internet sites operated from outside the UK which encourage suicide. [189057]

**Maria Eagle:** The Internet Watch Foundation considers complaints about websites where the content is criminally racist, obscene or contains indecent photographs of children. No UK body would have the authority to take action on complaints about internet sites hosted abroad, nor are we convinced of the need for a separate regulatory body in respect of websites that, whilst considered harmful or offensive, are not necessarily illegal.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken with internet service providers to reduce the numbers of sites about suicide; and whether he has pursued the idea of a kite mark for internet sites. [189058]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government have worked with the internet industry, through the Department of Health's suicide prevention strategy and otherwise, to discourage them from hosting sites which may encourage suicide. Typically, indeed largely because of the responsible approach taken by UK internet service providers, such sites tend to be hosted abroad. Work on developing a kite mark standard for internet filtering software is being taken forward through the Home Secretary's task force for child protection on the internet.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many completed inquests suicide was found to have been assisted by internet sites in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the suicide was committed by someone under the age of 18. [189060]

**Maria Eagle:** Information collected by the Ministry of Justice relates solely to the number of verdicts of suicide returned; no information is collected regarding the circumstances of each case or the age of the deceased. The total number of verdicts of suicide returned at inquests by coroners in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which data are available is as follows:

*Total number of verdicts of suicide returned by coroners in England and Wales 2002-06*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 3,242 |
| 2003 | 3,255 |
| 2004 | 3,368 |
| 2005 | 3,235 |
| 2006 | 3,220 |

*Note:*
Statistics for 2007 are not yet available.

### Prisoners on Remand: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants remanded in custody pending trial in Northern Ireland have subsequently been acquitted or not found guilty in each of the last five years. [189155]

**Mr. Hanson:** The custody or bail status of defendants may change during the period pending trial in the Crown court.

The information sought was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table details, for Crown court cases dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, the number of defendants who were found not guilty on all charges and who had been remanded in custody at some stage pending trial.

*Crown court cases dealt with 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of defendants in custody at some stage pending trial who were subsequently found not guilty on all charges | 75 |

### Prisoners Release: End of Custody Licence

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early from HMP Peterborough under the End of Custody Licence scheme in each month since the scheme's inception. [190029]

**Mr. Hanson:** The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years may be released under licence from prison up to up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

The following table shows the number of prisoners that have been released early from HMP Peterborough under the End of Custody Licence scheme in each month since the scheme began on 29 June 2007.

| *Period of Release* | *Number of Releases* |
|---|---|
| 29 June-5 July | 37 |
| 6-31 July | 40 |
| August 2007 | 61 |
| September 2007 | 38 |
| October 2007 | 72 |
| November 2007 | 77 |
| December 2007 | 63 |

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment have been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Data on releases up to the end of January 2008 will be published on 29 February 2008 according to the schedule of MoJ statistical publications.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-stats-schedule.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Young People

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 18 years are being held in adult prisons. [187451]

**Mr. Hanson:** Juvenile prisoners are usually held in designated juvenile units and prisons. In exceptional individual circumstances juveniles may be held separately within an adult prison for a short period.

### Prisons: Education

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of education in each prison in each of the last three years. [189443]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested with regards to public prisons could not be produced within the deadline. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

It will not be possible to give figures for the cost of education within contracted prisons. The cost of education in these establishments is subsumed within the overall cost per place that the Ministry of Justice pays to the contractor.

### Re-offenders: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders are believed to have re-offended while on probation in Bexley in each of the last five years. [189385]

**Mr. Hanson:** The National Statistics relating to re-offending do not presently include a local authority level breakdown. Figures for proven re-offending within two years by adults released from prison or starting a community sentence have been published for 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The most recent data was published in the 2007 report, "Re-offending of adults: Results from the 2004 cohort" which is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

We have developed more timely area-based management information on a different basis from the National Statistics. These show for each of the 42 probation areas, the proportion of those on the probation caseload who re-offend within three months and are convicted within six months of the end of every quarter. These experimental statistics are circulated to probation areas four times a year.

From April 2008 onwards, we will be providing further management information on re-offending at the level of local area agreements.

## Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 201-02W, on secure training centres: restraint techniques, for what reasons the populations of all the institutions listed in the Answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 150W, on secure training centres were not provided; and if he will provide these figures. [190021]

**Mr. Hanson:** The previous reply gave details of the end-of-month population of the secure training centres. I am sorry that data on young offender institutions and secure children's homes were not included.

The following table shows the end-of-month population for the period April-November 2007 for all establishments in the under-18 secure estate. This information has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

| *Establishment* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hassockfield | 57 | 56 | 58 | 55 | 58 | 56 | 49 | 53 |
| Medway | 64 | 60 | 65 | 67 | 71 | 69 | 76 | 74 |
| Oakhill | 51 | 57 | 57 | 49 | 42 | 51 | 46 | 47 |
| Rainsbrook | 81 | 80 | 82 | 85 | 86 | 81 | 84 | 84 |
| Ashfield | 320 | 349 | 348 | 344 | 344 | 367 | 372 | 357 |
| Parc | 57 | 53 | 52 | 54 | 58 | 54 | 56 | 53 |
| Brinsford | 129 | 149 | 144 | 142 | 149 | 158 | 156 | 134 |
| Castington | 142 | 145 | 135 | 134 | 148 | 159 | 145 | 141 |
| Feltham | 215 | 197 | 222 | 230 | 235 | 234 | 223 | 215 |
| Hindley | 137 | 136 | 137 | 145 | 159 | 177 | 173 | 173 |
| Huntercombe | 304 | 299 | 309 | 319 | 316 | 335 | 344 | 352 |
| Lancaster Farms | 198 | 195 | 214 | 220 | 124 | 153 | 213 | 212 |
| Stoke Heath | 163 | 176 | 175 | 182 | 198 | 194 | 137 | 140 |
| Thorn Cross | 25 | 26 | 24 | 21 | 20 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| Warren Hill | 187 | 178 | 185 | 190 | 197 | 176 | 195 | 191 |
| Werrington | 130 | 130 | 128 | 145 | 168 | 163 | 150 | 112 |
| Wetherby | 278 | 295 | 310 | 328 | 335 | 328 | 335 | 345 |
| Cookham Wood | 12 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Downview | 12 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 13 |
| Eastwood Park | 13 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 15 | 15 |
| Foston Hall | 10 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| New Hall | 18 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 21 | 19 |
| Aldine House | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Atkinson Unit | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Aycliffe | 28 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 26 |
| Barton Moss | 20 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 20 |
| Clayfields | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| East Moor | 34 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 33 | 36 | 33 | 30 |
| Gladstone House | 15 | 14 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 15 |
| Hillside | 13 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 13 |
| Kyloe House | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Lincolnshire | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Orchard Lodge | 17 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 17 |
| Red Bank | 28 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 26 |
| Sutton Place | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Swanwick Lodge | 10 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 12 |
| Vinney Green | 20 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 20 |

## Trials: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trials on indictment in Northern Ireland have been retrials in each of the last five years; and of those retrials how many have been *(a)* second and *(b)* third re-trials. [189153]

**Mr. Hanson:** A retrial will only take place when a jury has been unable to reach a verdict or a retrial has been ordered by the Court of Appeal.

Information on the number of retrials in Northern Ireland was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this date without incurring disproportionate cost.

For Crown court cases dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, the total number of retrials were four, of which two were second retrials.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions retrials in Northern Ireland have resulted in defendants being found *(a)* guilty and *(b)* not guilty in each of the last five years. [189156]

**Mr. Hanson:** A retrial will only take place when a jury has been unable to reach a verdict or a retrial has been ordered by the Court of Appeal.

Information on the number of retrials in Northern Ireland was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table details, for Crown court defendants dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, the outcome of those trials which have been retrials.

*Crown court January October 2006 to 30 September 2007*

| | *Cases dealt with* |
|---|---|
| Total number of retrials | 4 |
| Number of defendants found guilty on re-trial | 2 |
| Number of defendants found not guilty on re-trial | 2 |

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions re-trials on indictment in Northern Ireland have taken place *(a)* within three months of, *(b)* between three months and six months of and *(c)* six months or more after the original trial in each of the last five years. [189157]

**Mr. Hanson:** A retrial will only take place when a jury has been unable to reach a verdict or a retrial has been ordered by the Court of Appeal.

Information on the number of retrials in Northern Ireland was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table details, for Crown court cases dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, the number trials on indictment that have been retrials.

*Crown court cases dealt with 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total number of retrials | 4 |
| Less than 3 months since original trial | 0 |
| 3-6 months since original trial | 3 |
| 6 months plus since original trial | 1 |

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many re-trials on indictment in Northern Ireland have been for reasons of a jury being discharged before being sent out to decide their verdict in the last five years; and how many have been for reasons of a jury being unable to reach a verdict. [189158]

**Mr. Hanson:** A retrial will only take place when a jury has been unable to reach a verdict or a retrial has been ordered by the Court of Appeal. A defendant will not be re-tried because the jury has been discharged before it reaches a verdict.

A jury can be discharged for any number of reasons at any stage prior to the conclusion of the trial. In these circumstances the case will continue with a new jury.

Information on the number of retrials in Northern Ireland was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this without incurring disproportionate cost.

For Crown court cases dealt with in Northern Ireland between October 2006 and September 2007, there were four retrials on indictment, all of which were due to the jury failing to reach a verdict.

## Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* major and *(b)* minor injuries were caused through the use of restraint in young offenders institutions and secure training centres since April 2007, broken down by region. [188317]

**Mr. Hanson:** The data requested has been provided by the Youth Justice Board and is shown in the following tables. The information is based on the Youth Justice Board's regional structure.

*Young offender institutions, April to December 2007*

| | *April* | | *May* | | *June* | | *July* | | *August* | | *September* | | *October* | | *November* | | *December* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* |
| North West | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Midlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| South West | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Secure training centres, April to December 2007*

| | *April* | | *May* | | *June* | | *July* | | *August* | | *September* | | *October* | | *November* | | *December* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* |
| North West[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Midlands | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Secure training centres, April to December 2007*

| Region | April | | May | | June | | July | | August | | September | | October | | November | | December | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* | *A* | *B* |
| South East | 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| South West[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wales[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] There are no secure training centres in the North West, the South West or Wales.

*Note:*
Column A shows minor injuries and column B major injuries. Minor injuries include redness to skin, welts, scratches or bruising, grazes, nose bleeds, concussion and sprains. Major injuries include serious cuts, fractures, loss of consciousness and damage to internal organs.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the retail price would be of *(a)* a bottle of wine, *(b)* a bottle of whisky and *(c)* a pint of lager if real prices had been maintained since 1960. [189054]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the price would be in shops in 2008 of a) a bottle of wine, b) a bottle of whisky and c) a pint of lager if real prices had been maintained since 1960. I am replying in her absence. (189054)

The average shop price for bottled beer, measured by pint, in 1960 was 9.3 pence. If its price had increased in line with the total Retail Prices Index (RPI) it would have cost 156.8 pence in January 2008.

Information is not available for the change in the price of a bottle of wine, a bottle of whisky or a bottle of lager since 1960. A retail price index covering all alcoholic beverages is available from 1962. Between January 1962 and January 2008 the price of alcoholic beverages rose by 1510 per cent, compared with an increase of 1489 per cent in the total RPI over the same period.

### Bingo

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on *(a)* employment and *(b)* Exchequer revenues of (i) recent and (ii) planned closures of bingo clubs. [189738]

**Angela Eagle:** The state of the bingo industry is incorporated into the forecast of total gambling receipts, which includes bingo duty receipts, and will be published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the introduction of a single rate of capital gains tax on *(a)* mutual funds and *(b)* insurance bonds before 9 October 2007. [190165]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keeps all aspects of policy under review.

### Customs Officers: Northern Ireland

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs personnel were on duty at *(a)* Belfast International, *(b)* Belfast City and *(c)* Londonderry airport on a routine basis during 2007. [190080]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC does not release the numbers of front line Customs staff that it deploys at a local level as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the review of data handling procedures by Kieran Poynter of PricewaterhouseCoopers will include an examination of potential data breaches connected with third parties hacking into computer systems of HM Revenue and Customs and other Government Departments and agencies. [190337]

**Jane Kennedy:** Kieran Poynter was asked by the Chancellor to conduct an independent review of HMRC's data handling, the full terms of reference of which have already been made available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

An interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and the final report is expected during the first half of 2008.

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189772]

**Angela Eagle:** Home working is approved locally by individual managers and records are not kept centrally.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W, on departmental marketing,

what the cost to his Department of Government and departmental branded products was in each of the last five years. [189377]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Entrust

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value of the assets of ENTRUST is; and to whom these assets would revert in the event of ENTRUST ceasing to trade. [189911]

**Angela Eagle:** From ENTRUST's annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007, the total value of assets, after liabilities, was £2,351,429. In the event of ENTRUST ceasing to trade any remaining assets after creditors were paid would pass to a successor regulatory or charitable body.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189502]

**Angela Eagle:** Catering products provided via the Treasury restaurant facilities in 1 Horse Guards Road and 100 Parliament Street are supplied by the catering sub-contractor employed by the PFI provider. The catering contractor currently provides Fairtrade products such as teas, coffees, snacks and confectionery through the catering facilities throughout the building; Fairtrade teas and coffees are served at all official meetings.

For Fairtrade Fortnight, the catering contractor has placed posters within the restaurant facilities, highlighting the Fairtrade products available.

### Fuels: Prices

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* rising fuel costs and *(b)* fuel duty on the holiday industry in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [189871]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on fuel duty are taken as part of the Budget process, alongside other taxation issues. When taking these decisions, the Chancellor considers a range of factors. This includes the environmental, social and economic impact of any changes, including the impact on UK industries, such as the holiday industry.

### Industry: Motor Vehicles

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy made by the motor manufacturing industry. [189985]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what recent assessment he has made of the contributions to the economy made by the motor manufacturing industry. I am replying in her absence. (189985)

The motor manufacturing industry contributed 0.4 per cent of the UK's total gross value added in 2003, based on the latest estimates from ONS's national accounts. In addition, the table below shows the latest estimates of growth in the volume of economic activity of the motor manufacturing industry since 1980, based on ONS's monthly Index of Production (IoP).

*Annual growth in the volume[1] of output of the UK motor manufacturing industry[2]*

| *Period:* | *Percentage change on the previous year* |
|---|---|
| 1980 | -12.7 |
| 1981 | -19.8 |
| 1982 | -3.7 |
| 1983 | 5.0 |
| 1984 | -4.3 |
| 1985 | 5.5 |
| 1986 | -5.4 |
| 1987 | 8.8 |
| 1988 | 15.3 |
| 1989 | 5.4 |
| 1990 | -7.9 |
| 1991 | -10.9 |
| 1992 | 2.0 |
| 1993 | 0.3 |
| 1994 | 7.6 |
| 1995 | 5.1 |
| 1996 | 7.1 |
| 1997 | -0.3 |
| 1998 | 4.9 |
| 1999 | 0.8 |
| 2000 | -6.3 |
| 2001 | -9.2 |
| 2002 | 8.2 |
| 2003 | 3.4 |
| 2004 | 1.1 |
| 2005 | -1.5 |
| 2006 | -5.4 |
| 2007 | 7.2 |

[1] Chained volume measure of output.
[2] Based on class 34.1 of the UK's Standard Industrial Classification: Manufacture of motor vehicles
*Source:*
ONS Index of Production

### Pensioners: Stockton on Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many pensioners there were in Stockton South constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available; [189329]

(2) how many pensioners in Stockton South constituency were aged over 75 years in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189332]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions concerning the total number of pensioners and the number of pensioners who are aged over 75 in Stockton South constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (189329, 189332).

The latest population estimates for Parliamentary Constituencies are for mid-2005. The number of pensioners has been calculated as the total of all persons of pensionable age—males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over. This estimate is 16,500. The estimate for pensioners aged over 75 is 5,600. These estimates are rounded to the nearest 100.

### Private Finance Initiative: Insurance

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding for *(a)* private finance initiatives and *(b)* public private partnerships has been underwritten by (i) monoline insurers and (ii) monoline insurers that have recently been downgraded. [190300]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury does not hold a record of the amount of funding for private finance initiatives and public private partnerships that is underwritten by monoline insurers. The ability of private finance initiatives or public private partnerships to fulfil their contractual obligations to the public sector is unaffected by any downgrading of monoline insurers.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the consequences of a monoline insurance failure or downgrading for the ability of *(a)* private finance initiatives and *(b)* public private partnerships to fulfil their contractual obligations to the Government. [190303]

**Angela Eagle:** The ability of private finance initiatives or public private partnerships to fulfil their contractual obligations to the public sector is unaffected by any downgrading of monoline insurers.

### Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of letters received by HM Revenue and Customs whose processing has not yet been concluded. [187596]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the last 12 months around 26 million items of correspondence have been received by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC estimates that there were approximately 800,000 items of post (letters and forms) due to be processed as at end of January 2008. This represents around 3 per cent. of all correspondence received.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-6W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, how many data guardians have been appointed; and how many of these were appointed from *(a)* within existing HM Revenue and Customs staff, *(b)* within existing HM Treasury staff and *(c)* elsewhere. [189372]

**Jane Kennedy:** A data guardian role has also been created in each HMRC business unit to monitor data handling and transfer arrangements in all of HMRC's business areas. Guidance was provided on the competencies, experience and knowledge that the role would require. 37 data guardians have been appointed.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-6W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, what training has been given to the new data guardians; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such training. [189373]

**Jane Kennedy:** Support for the HMRC data guardians has included awareness events, written material and access to additional support and guidance of departmental security specialists. The Department continues to assess any on-going training requirements which are funded from within the Department's budget.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 675W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, which officials in HM Revenue and Customs were designated as responsible for data protection before 23 November 2007. [189374]

**Jane Kennedy:** As principal accounting officer, the HMRC chairman was responsible for the Department's data protection arrangements.

### Smuggling: Tobacco

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people had tobacco goods confiscated on entry to the UK in the last year for which figures are available; and how much tobacco was seized. [189866]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not held centrally.

For the 2006-07 financial year 228 tonnes of tobacco were seized. This, and other seizure information can be found in HMRC's annual report.

### Stamp Duties

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to his Department from the payment of stamp duty in *(a)* England, *(b)* South East England and *(c)* London. [189306]

**Angela Eagle:** Stamp duty land tax receipts for each region of the UK can be obtained from:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-056.xls

for 2005-06 and from

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0607.xls

for 2006-07.

Regional breakdowns of stamp duty receipts from residential property transactions for earlier years are available at:

http:/www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-2.xls

### Tax Credit Office: Administration

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 677W, on Tax Credit Office: administration, how many complaints were handled by the tax credit office in 2006-07. [189375]

**Jane Kennedy:** For the information requested I refer the hon. Member to the information published in Annex F of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) departmental report presented to Parliament in May 2007 (cm7107) and available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

### Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the British Beer and Pub Association, *(b)* the Gin and Vodka Association, *(c)* the Scotch Whisky Association, *(d)* the Wine and Spirit Trade Association and *(e)* the National Association of Cider Makers on proposals to vary tax rates on alcoholic drinks. [190128]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Taxation: Gaming

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average effective tax rate is for online bingo games. [189731]

**Angela Eagle:** The way in which information is collected by HMRC does not allow it to identify separately duty paid in respect of online bingo. It is therefore not possible to give a reliable estimate of the average effective tax rate on online bingo.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* other Treasury Ministers have had with representatives of the gaming industry on the effective tax rates for *(a)* bingo and *(b)* other gaming products. [189740]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials met with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Taxation: Private Companies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what European Court of Justice rulings have resulted in the Government paying tax back to private companies in the last 10 years. [188887]

**Jane Kennedy:** There have been a considerable number of cases involving tax issues pursued before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) since 1998 and a complete list of the direct tax cases and indirect tax (VAT) cases may be found on the courts website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/infringements/case_law/index_en.htm

However HMRC does not keep records of the precise impact any ECJ judgments may have on either litigation pursued solely in the UK courts or on specific decisions that may have been taken in their dealings with individual taxpayers as a result of any such decision. It follows that there are no records held that would indicate what impact, if any, such decisions may have had in terms of paying tax back to private companies. The information requested could not be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for the online tax filing self-assessment service being out of action on 31 January. [189891]

**Jane Kennedy:** A total of over 204,000 customers were able to file online on 31 January, a record number. The problems arose because of a rapid and unexpected rise in access to the online service over a short period of time.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions and for what length of time the online tax filing service has been out of operation in the last six months. [189892]

**Jane Kennedy:** Between the 1 August 2007 and the 31 January 2008 the SA online filing service was out of operation on 19 separate occasions for an overall total of 113 hours. Ten of these disruptions and 62 of the total hours were for planned and essential maintenance and upgrades by either HMRC or the Government Gateway. Other disruptions to the service were as a result of technical failures.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to rectify the problems with the online tax self-assessment system which occurred at the end of January. [189893]

**Jane Kennedy:** In April 2008 IT updates for the SA online system will remove the dependency on the infrastructure that failed as part of a planned improvement to the system. In addition, HMRC are reviewing their regime for performance testing of online services to improve the rigour around the testing of peak demands.

### VAT: Charitable Donations

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to make charity text donations VAT free. [190056]

**Jane Kennedy:** Donations to charity, including those made by text message, are outside the scope of VAT—which means that no VAT is payable on them.

However, VAT is chargeable in the normal way on charges made by telecoms providers for text services. This reflects the requirements of the European VAT agreements signed by successive Governments.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have been incorrectly awarded tax credits, excluding cases of deliberate fraud, in each of the last 10 years; [189299]

(2) what the total value of incorrectly awarded tax credits was in each of the last 10 years. [190583]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the error and fraud statistics published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

### Welfare Tax Credits: Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual percentage rate of staff turnover was for staff working on tax credits in each year since 2003. [187623]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is available only at disproportionate cost as HM Revenue and Customs employ staff in various parts of the Department to work on different aspects of tax credits work.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 29 February 2008*

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Open University: Admissions

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students are registered with the Open University, broken down by constituency; [179959]

(2) when he expects to reply to question 179959, tabled on 14 January. [187182]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: The latest available information is given in the following table. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in January 2009.

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Aldershot | 440 |
| Aldridge-Brownhills | 165 |
| Altrincham and Sale West | 245 |
| Amber Valley | 220 |
| Arundel and South Downs | 325 |
| Ashfield | 210 |
| Ashford | 365 |
| Ashton under Lyne | 185 |
| Aylesbury | 505 |
| Banbury | 460 |
| Barking | 175 |
| Barnsley Central | 150 |
| Barnsley East and Mexborough | 130 |
| Barnsley West and Penistone | 180 |
| Barrow and Furness | 260 |
| Basildon | 255 |
| Basingstoke | 400 |
| Bassetlaw | 245 |
| Bath | 370 |
| Batley and Spen | 185 |
| Battersea | 300 |
| Beaconsfield | 270 |
| Beckenham | 400 |
| Bedford | 345 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 255 |
| Bethnal Green and Bow | 315 |
| Beverley and Holderness | 235 |
| Bexhill and Battle | 255 |
| Bexleyheath and Crayford | 205 |
| Billericay | 275 |
| Birkenhead | 175 |
| Birmingham, Edgbaston | 280 |
| Birmingham, Erdington | 220 |
| Birmingham, Hall Green | 175 |
| Birmingham, Hodge Hill | 115 |
| Birmingham, Ladywood | 260 |
| Birmingham, Northfield | 210 |
| Birmingham, Perry Barr | 165 |
| Birmingham, Selly Oak | 355 |
| Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath | 235 |
| Birmingham, Yardley | 140 |
| Bishop Auckland | 160 |
| Blaby | 275 |
| Blackburn | 175 |
| Blackpool North and Fleetwood | 170 |
| Blackpool South | 165 |
| Blaydon | 155 |
| Blyth Valley | 180 |
| Bognor Regis and Littlehampton | 205 |
| Bolsover | 205 |
| Bolton North East | 160 |
| Bolton South East | 145 |
| Bolton West | 215 |
| Bootle | 115 |
| Boston and Skegness | 245 |
| Bosworth | 265 |
| Bournemouth East | 290 |
| Bournemouth West | 315 |
| Bracknell | 430 |
| Bradford North | 165 |
| Bradford South | 190 |
| Bradford West | 175 |
| Braintree | 390 |
| Brent East | 270 |
| Brent North | 215 |
| Brent South | 225 |
| Brentford and Isleworth | 400 |
| Brentwood and Ongar | 270 |
| Bridgwater | 285 |
| Brigg and Goole | 180 |
| Brighton, Kemptown | 270 |
| Brighton, Pavilion | 460 |
| Bristol East | 290 |
| Bristol North West | 325 |
| Bristol South | 285 |
| Bristol West | 535 |
| Bromley and Chislehurst | 315 |
| Bromsgrove | 195 |
| Broxbourne | 230 |
| Broxtowe | 280 |
| Buckingham | 445 |
| Burnley | 125 |
| Burton | 290 |
| Bury North | 185 |
| Bury South | 195 |
| Bury St. Edmunds | 340 |
| Calder Valley | 305 |
| Camberwell and Peckham | 280 |
| Cambridge | 535 |
| Cannock Chase | 215 |
| Canterbury | 350 |
| Carlisle | 150 |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 295 |
| Castle Point | 215 |
| Central Suffolk and North Ipswich | 335 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Charnwood | 260 |
| Chatham and Aylesford | 250 |
| Cheadle | 215 |
| Cheltenham | 335 |
| Chesham and Amersham | 350 |
| Chesterfield | 265 |
| Chichester | 305 |
| Chingford and Woodford Green | 255 |
| Chipping Barnet | 285 |
| Chorley | 255 |
| Christchurch | 280 |
| Cities of London and Westminster | 635 |
| City of Chester | 275 |
| City of Durham | 320 |
| City of York | 385 |
| Cleethorpes | 185 |
| Colchester | 450 |
| Colne Valley | 250 |
| Congleton | 230 |
| Copeland | 215 |
| Corby | 300 |
| Cotswold | 280 |
| Coventry North East | 185 |
| Coventry North West | 240 |
| Coventry South | 210 |
| Crawley | 345 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 205 |
| Crosby | 190 |
| Croydon Central | 375 |
| Croydon North | 425 |
| Croydon South | 370 |
| Dagenham | 175 |
| Darlington | 235 |
| Dartford | 275 |
| Daventry | 515 |
| Denton and Reddish | 200 |
| Derby North | 265 |
| Derby South | 300 |
| Devizes | 465 |
| Dewsbury | 150 |
| Doncaster Central | 205 |
| Doncaster North | 150 |
| Don Valley | 235 |
| Dover | 295 |
| Dudley North | 155 |
| Dudley South | 145 |
| Dulwich and West Norwood | 460 |
| Ealing, Acton and Shepherds Bush | 365 |
| Ealing North | 355 |
| Ealing, Southall | 325 |
| Easington | 105 |
| East Devon | 285 |
| East Ham | 215 |
| East Hampshire | 380 |
| East Surrey | 375 |
| East Worthing and Shoreham | 275 |
| East Yorkshire | 250 |
| Eastbourne | 370 |
| Eastleigh | 285 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Eccles | 190 |
| Eddisbury | 255 |
| Edmonton | 225 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 190 |
| Elmet | 190 |
| Eltham | 230 |
| Enfield North | 245 |
| Enfield, Southgate | 260 |
| Epping Forest | 285 |
| Epsom and Ewell | 290 |
| Erewash | 255 |
| Erith and Thamesmead | 315 |
| Esher and Walton | 315 |
| Exeter | 465 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 275 |
| Fareham | 350 |
| Faversham and Mid Kent | 340 |
| Feltham and Heston | 215 |
| Finchley and Golders Green | 440 |
| Folkestone and Hythe | 330 |
| Forest of Dean | 220 |
| Fylde | 240 |
| Gainsborough | 310 |
| Gateshead East and Washington West | 160 |
| Gedling | 275 |
| Gillingham | 335 |
| Gloucester | 300 |
| Gosport | 355 |
| Grantham and Stamford | 390 |
| Gravesham | 265 |
| Great Grimsby | 155 |
| Great Yarmouth | 315 |
| Greenwich and Woolwich | 370 |
| Guildford | 380 |
| Hackney North and Stoke Newington | 345 |
| Hackney South and Shoreditch | 315 |
| Halesowen and Rowley Regis | 175 |
| Halifax | 205 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | 225 |
| Halton | 170 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 385 |
| Hampstead and Highgate | 355 |
| Harborough | 290 |
| Harlow | 295 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | 315 |
| Harrow East | 280 |
| Harrow West | 295 |
| Hartlepool | 150 |
| Harwich | 290 |
| Hastings and Rye | 370 |
| Havant | 215 |
| Hayes and Harlington | 165 |
| Hazel Grove | 200 |
| Hemel Hempstead | 315 |
| Hemsworth | 210 |
| Hendon | 355 |
| Henley | 335 |
| Hereford | 335 |
| Hertford and Stortford | 390 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Hertsmere | 255 |
| Hexham | 220 |
| Heywood and Middleton | 200 |
| High Peak | 295 |
| Hitchin and Harpenden | 385 |
| Holborn and St. Pancras | 335 |
| Hornchurch | 160 |
| Hornsey and Wood Green | 500 |
| Horsham | 415 |
| Houghton and Washington East | 120 |
| Hove | 375 |
| Huddersfield | 165 |
| Huntingdon | 545 |
| Hyndburn | 155 |
| Ilford North | 220 |
| Ilford South | 245 |
| Ipswich | 305 |
| Isle of Wight | 630 |
| Islington North | 325 |
| Islington South and Finsbury | 305 |
| Jarrow | 135 |
| Keighley | 230 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 280 |
| Kettering | 385 |
| Kingston and Surbiton | 340 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 105 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 175 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | 130 |
| Kingswood | 305 |
| Knowsley North and Sefton East | 100 |
| Knowsley South | 115 |
| Lancaster and Wyre | 275 |
| Leeds Central | 210 |
| Leeds East | 100 |
| Leeds North East | 245 |
| Leeds North West | 230 |
| Leeds West | 210 |
| Leicester East | 150 |
| Leicester South | 250 |
| Leicester West | 250 |
| Leigh | 155 |
| Leominster | 270 |
| Lewes | 330 |
| Lewisham, Deptford | 340 |
| Lewisham East | 285 |
| Lewisham West | 345 |
| Leyton and Wanstead | 340 |
| Lichfield | 225 |
| Lincoln | 375 |
| Liverpool, Garston | 125 |
| Liverpool, Riverside | 185 |
| Liverpool, Walton | 105 |
| Liverpool, Wavertree | 145 |
| Liverpool, West Derby | 110 |
| Loughborough | 265 |
| Louth and Horncastle | 310 |
| Ludlow | 240 |
| Luton North | 200 |
| Luton South | 260 |
| Macclesfield | 265 |
| Maidenhead | 335 |
| Maidstone and The Weald | 390 |
| Makerfield | 135 |
| Maldon and East Chelmsford | 290 |
| Manchester, Blackley | 195 |
| Manchester, Central | 290 |
| Manchester, Gorton | 235 |
| Manchester, Withington | 305 |
| Mansfield | 255 |
| Medway | 300 |
| Meriden | 215 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 420 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 295 |
| Mid Norfolk | 345 |
| Mid Sussex | 395 |
| Mid Worcestershire | 270 |
| Middlesbrough | 115 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | 190 |
| Milton Keynes South West | 895 |
| Mitcham and Morden | 260 |
| Mole Valley | 325 |
| Morecambe and Lunesdale | 200 |
| Morley and Rothwell | 210 |
| New Forest East | 250 |
| New Forest West | 225 |
| Newark | 260 |
| Newbury | 415 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne Central | 215 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend | 155 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne North | 180 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 185 |
| Normanton | 210 |
| North Cornwall | 405 |
| North Devon | 380 |
| North Dorset | 400 |
| North Durham | 160 |
| North East Bedfordshire | 340 |
| North East Cambridgeshire | 385 |
| North East Derbyshire | 200 |
| North East Hampshire | 420 |
| North East Hertfordshire | 355 |
| North East Milton Keynes | 1,025 |
| North Essex | 295 |
| North Norfolk | 375 |
| North Shropshire | 260 |
| North Southwark and Bermondsey | 370 |
| North Swindon | 300 |
| North Thanet | 255 |
| North Tyneside | 205 |
| North Warwickshire | 180 |
| North West Cambridgeshire | 485 |
| North West Durham | 205 |
| North West Hampshire | 430 |
| North West Leicestershire | 235 |
| North West Norfolk | 320 |
| North Wiltshire | 475 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Northampton North | 275 |
| Northampton South | 505 |
| Northavon | 325 |
| Norwich North | 355 |
| Norwich South | 390 |
| Nottingham East | 310 |
| Nottingham North | 205 |
| Nottingham South | 260 |
| Nuneaton | 220 |
| Old Bexley and Sidcup | 230 |
| Oldham East and Saddleworth | 205 |
| Oldham West and Royton | 155 |
| Orpington | 310 |
| Oxford East | 410 |
| Oxford West and Abingdon | 470 |
| Pendle | 155 |
| Penrith and The Border | 235 |
| Peterborough | 365 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 275 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 325 |
| Pontefract and Castleford | 155 |
| Poole | 285 |
| Poplar and Canning Town | 340 |
| Portsmouth North | 265 |
| Portsmouth South | 385 |
| Preston | 170 |
| Pudsey | 250 |
| Putney | 325 |
| Rayleigh | 270 |
| Reading East | 435 |
| Reading West | 350 |
| Redcar | 160 |
| Redditch | 245 |
| Regents Park and Kensington North | 350 |
| Reigate | 345 |
| Ribble Valley | 185 |
| Richmond Yorks | 285 |
| Richmond Park | 395 |
| Rochdale | 190 |
| Rochford and Southend East | 345 |
| Romford | 210 |
| Romsey | 275 |
| Rossendale and Darwen | 205 |
| Rother Valley | 175 |
| Rotherham | 125 |
| Rugby and Kenilworth | 325 |
| Ruislip-Northwood | 235 |
| Runnymede and Weybridge | 290 |
| Rushcliffe | 385 |
| Rutland and Melton | 320 |
| Ryedale | 240 |
| Saffron Walden | 430 |
| St. Albans | 370 |
| St. Helens North | 165 |
| St. Helens South | 150 |
| St. Ives | 370 |
| Salford | 165 |
| Salisbury | 565 |
| Scarborough and Whitby | 270 |
| Scunthorpe | 150 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Sedgefield | 155 |
| Selby | 275 |
| Sevenoaks | 285 |
| Sheffield, Attercliffe | 140 |
| Sheffield, Brightside | 100 |
| Sheffield Central | 210 |
| Sheffield, Hallam | 200 |
| Sheffield, Heeley | 155 |
| Sheffield, Hillsborough | 210 |
| Sherwood | 285 |
| Shipley | 270 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | 340 |
| Sittingbourne and Sheppey | 320 |
| Skipton and Ripon | 265 |
| Sleaford and North Hykeham | 510 |
| Slough | 295 |
| Solihull | 270 |
| Somerton and Frome | 320 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 495 |
| South Derbyshire | 275 |
| South Dorset | 380 |
| South East Cambridgeshire | 545 |
| South East Cornwall | 340 |
| South Holland and The Deepings | 305 |
| South Norfolk | 380 |
| South Ribble | 160 |
| South Shields | 125 |
| South Staffordshire | 180 |
| South Suffolk | 310 |
| South Swindon | 370 |
| South Thanet | 260 |
| South West Bedfordshire | 385 |
| South West Devon | 310 |
| South West Hertfordshire | 420 |
| South West Norfolk | 480 |
| South West Surrey | 345 |
| Southampton, Itchen | 275 |
| Southampton, Test | 315 |
| Southend West | 340 |
| Southport | 245 |
| Spelthorne | 265 |
| Stafford | 300 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 165 |
| Stalybridge and Hyde | 205 |
| Stevenage | 335 |
| Stockport | 255 |
| Stockton North | 155 |
| Stockton South | 250 |
| Stoke-on-Trent Central | 155 |
| Stoke-on-Trent North | 150 |
| Stoke-on-Trent South | 185 |
| Stone | 220 |
| Stourbridge | 210 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 360 |
| Streatham | 405 |
| Stretford and Urmston | 280 |
| Stroud | 330 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 380 |
| Sunderland North | 90 |
| Sunderland South | 85 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Surrey Heath | 365 |
| Sutton and Cheam | 250 |
| Sutton Coldfield | 295 |
| Tamworth | 230 |
| Tatton | 230 |
| Taunton | 340 |
| Teignbridge | 410 |
| Telford | 210 |
| Tewkesbury | 275 |
| The Wrekin | 310 |
| Thurrock | 320 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 365 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 305 |
| Tooting | 420 |
| Torbay | 380 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 450 |
| Totnes | 315 |
| Tottenham | 365 |
| Truro and St. Austell | 310 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 330 |
| Twickenham | 450 |
| Tyne Bridge | 165 |
| Tynemouth | 300 |
| Upminster | 170 |
| Uxbridge | 265 |
| Vale of York | 335 |
| Vauxhall | 370 |
| Wakefield | 240 |
| Wallasey | 205 |
| Walsall North | 150 |
| Walsall South | 145 |
| Walthamstow | 345 |
| Wansbeck | 185 |
| Wansdyke | 255 |
| Wantage | 465 |
| Warley | 180 |
| Warrington North | 225 |
| Warrington South | 265 |
| Warwick and Leamington | 335 |
| Watford | 375 |
| Waveney | 360 |
| Wealden | 380 |
| Weaver Vale | 230 |
| Wellingborough | 425 |
| Wells | 350 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 295 |
| Wentworth | 130 |
| West Bromwich East | 130 |
| West Bromwich West | 125 |
| West Chelmsford | 400 |
| West Derbyshire | 290 |
| West Dorset | 345 |
| West Ham | 260 |
| West Lancashire | 170 |
| West Suffolk | 300 |
| West Worcestershire | 245 |
| Westbury | 370 |
| Westmorland and Lonsdale | 260 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 335 |
| Wigan | 140 |
| Wimbledon | 350 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Winchester | 450 |
| Windsor | 330 |
| Wirral South | 180 |
| Wirral West | 235 |
| Witney | 415 |
| Woking | 395 |
| Wokingham | 385 |
| Wolverhampton North East | 130 |
| Wolverhampton South East | 105 |
| Wolverhampton South West | 190 |
| Woodspring | 280 |
| Worcester | 275 |
| Workington | 200 |
| Worsley | 185 |
| Worthing West | 240 |
| Wycombe | 330 |
| Wyre Forest | 240 |
| Wythenshawe and Sale East | 265 |
| Yeovil | 350 |
| Aberavon | 120 |
| Alyn and Deeside | 175 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 90 |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | 210 |
| Bridgend | 215 |
| Caernarfon | 130 |
| Caerphilly | 155 |
| Cardiff Central | 250 |
| Cardiff North | 215 |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | 240 |
| Cardiff West | 225 |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | 145 |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | 160 |
| Ceredigion | 200 |
| Clwyd South | 175 |
| Clwyd West | 165 |
| Conwy | 165 |
| Cynon Valley | 85 |
| Delyn | 165 |
| Gower | 145 |
| Islwyn | 120 |
| Llanelli | 135 |
| Meirionnydd Nant Conwy | 100 |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | 100 |
| Monmouth | 265 |
| Montgomeryshire | 185 |
| Neath | 150 |
| Newport East | 150 |
| Newport West | 165 |
| Ogmore | 135 |
| Pontypridd | 170 |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | 195 |
| Rhondda | 70 |
| Swansea East | 140 |
| Swansea West | 150 |
| Torfaen | 155 |
| Vale of Clwyd | 140 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 265 |
| Wrexham | 125 |
| Ynys Mon | 165 |
| Aberdeen Central | 270 |

*Number of students enrolled at the Open University, by parliamentary constituency, in the UK*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *OU students* |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen North | 185 |
| Aberdeen South | 235 |
| Airdrie and Shotts | 145 |
| Angus | 210 |
| Argyll and Bute | 255 |
| Ayr | 155 |
| Banff and Buchan | 225 |
| Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross | 245 |
| Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley | 165 |
| Central Fife | 135 |
| Clydebank and Milngavie | 140 |
| Clydesdale | 205 |
| Coatbridge and Chryston | 135 |
| Cumbernauld and Kilsyth | 150 |
| Cunninghame North | 200 |
| Cunninghame South | 105 |
| Dumbarton | 240 |
| Dumfries | 195 |
| Dundee East | 155 |
| Dundee West | 145 |
| Dunfermline East | 160 |
| Dunfermline West | 230 |
| East Kilbride | 225 |
| East Lothian | 220 |
| Eastwood | 185 |
| Edinburgh Central | 390 |
| Edinburgh East and Musselburgh | 280 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 430 |
| Edinburgh Pentlands | 235 |
| Edinburgh South | 310 |
| Edinburgh West | 245 |
| Falkirk East | 175 |
| Falkirk West | 195 |
| Galloway and Upper Nithsdale | 195 |
| Glasgow Anniesland | 125 |
| Glasgow Baillieston | 75 |
| Glasgow Cathcart | 160 |
| Glasgow Govan | 185 |
| Glasgow Kelvin | 245 |
| Glasgow Maryhill | 130 |
| Glasgow Pollok | 95 |
| Glasgow Rutherglen | 120 |
| Glasgow Shettleston | 105 |
| Glasgow Springburn | 120 |
| Gordon | 280 |
| Greenock and Inverclyde | 130 |
| Hamilton North and Bellshill | 120 |
| Hamilton South | 105 |
| Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber | 350 |
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun | 155 |
| Kirkcaldy | 145 |
| Linlithgow | 220 |
| Livingston | 265 |
| Midlothian | 150 |
| Moray | 360 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | 125 |
| North East Fife | 250 |
| North Tayside | 215 |
| Ochil | 185 |
| Orkney and Shetland | 260 |
| Paisley North | 115 |
| Paisley South | 95 |
| Perth | 290 |
| Ross, Skye and Inverness West | 315 |
| Roxburgh and Berwickshire | 180 |
| Stirling | 185 |
| Strathkelvin and Bearsden | 205 |
| Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale | 250 |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 320 |
| West Renfrewshire | 150 |
| Western Isles | 125 |
| Belfast East | 205 |
| Belfast North | 155 |
| Belfast South | 300 |
| Belfast West | 130 |
| East Antrim | 205 |
| East Londonderry | 200 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 185 |
| Foyle | 255 |
| Lagan Valley | 265 |
| Mid Ulster | 110 |
| Newry and Armagh | 165 |
| North Antrim | 230 |
| North Down | 225 |
| South Antrim | 240 |
| South Down | 190 |
| Strangford | 230 |
| Upper Bann | 245 |
| West Tyrone | 150 |
| Guernsey | 640 |
| Isle of Man | 320 |
| Total UK | 173,115 |

*Notes*:
1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to the total.
2. These figures exclude 3,445 students whose parliamentary constituency was not known. This includes a small number of overseas students.

*Source*:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## TRANSPORT

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on departmental vehicles, what the cost of maintaining and servicing vehicles owned by her Department and its agencies was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [187897]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The requested information, where available, has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Heathrow Airport: Public Transport

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve transport links between the South West and Heathrow airport. [190430]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The AirTrack scheme, on which BAA is currently consulting, and for which they are preparing a Transport and Works Act application, would provide a direct rail link from Heathrow Terminal five to the rail network to the south and west at Staines. Crossrail would also provide additional rail access to the airport, including to mainline train services to the south west. The upgrade of Reading station will benefit passengers on the Great Western main line travelling to the airport. The Highways Agency is developing technology schemes to improve journey time reliability on the M3 and M4.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Pay

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will publish the Maritime and Coastguard Agency pay comparison study. [189623]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has published its recent pay benchmarking analysis on its internal website.

A version of this analysis will be placed in the Libraries of the House once all commercial aspects have been checked.

### Roads: Accidents

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 737W, on roads: accidents, how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries occurred on roads in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in each year from 2001 to 2005, broken down by age group of those so killed and injured. [190431]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of deaths and injuries resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in Cornwall and England in 2001 to 2005 by age of casualty are shown in the tables.

*Casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents, by age of casualty: Cornwall 2001-2005*

*Number of casualties*

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] |
| 0-4 | 0 | 46 | 1 | 37 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 19 |
| 5-7 | 0 | 37 | 1 | 53 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 51 | 0 | 25 |
| 8-11 | 0 | 101 | 2 | 93 | 0 | 88 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 63 |
| 12-15 | 1 | 124 | 1 | 128 | 0 | 97 | 1 | 136 | 1 | 91 |
| 16-19 | 4 | 376 | 10 | 411 | 5 | 440 | 7 | 444 | 6 | 470 |
| 20-29 | 9 | 574 | 11 | 521 | 5 | 582 | 10 | 551 | 17 | 552 |
| 30-39 | 7 | 468 | 7 | 442 | 2 | 480 | 7 | 348 | 6 | 399 |
| 40-49 | 4 | 315 | 6 | 300 | 6 | 350 | 8 | 305 | 2 | 308 |
| 50-59 | 8 | 485 | 4 | 375 | 3 | 266 | 5 | 229 | 3 | 254 |
| 60-69 | 1 | 136 | 1 | 140 | 3 | 160 | 3 | 159 | 8 | 129 |
| 70-79 | 3 | 93 | 5 | 90 | 2 | 113 | 2 | 95 | 1 | 96 |
| 80+ | 3 | 54 | 4 | 59 | 3 | 82 | 1 | 46 | 1 | 58 |
| Total[2] | 40 | 2,809 | 53 | 2,676 | 30 | 2,816 | 44 | 2,694 | 45 | 2,855 |

[1] Slightly or seriously injured
[2] Includes cases where age of casualty is not reported.

*Casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents, by age of casualty: England 2001-2005*

*Number of casualties*

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] |
| 0-4 | 33 | 4,542 | 31 | 4,031 | 28 | 3,815 | 24 | 3,447 | 24 | 3,181 |
| 5-7 | 25 | 5,095 | 21 | 4,621 | 15 | 4,156 | 13 | 3,920 | 12 | 3,529 |
| 8-11 | 38 | 10,590 | 26 | 9,156 | 26 | 8,215 | 30 | 7,939 | 21 | 7,228 |
| 12-15 | 90 | 13,035 | 78 | 12,137 | 72 | 11,462 | 78 | 11,619 | 66 | 10,514 |
| 16-19 | 304 | 30,460 | 332 | 30,025 | 348 | 29,601 | 347 | 29,641 | 326 | 29,579 |
| 20-29 | 620 | 64,242 | 689 | 62,084 | 670 | 58,485 | 614 | 56,606 | 649 | 54,946 |
| 30-39 | 546 | 56,486 | 498 | 53,751 | 507 | 50,227 | 490 | 46,682 | 438 | 43,875 |
| 40-49 | 297 | 34,880 | 364 | 34,497 | 388 | 34,312 | 318 | 33,518 | 339 | 33,338 |
| 50-59 | 260 | 23,622 | 269 | 23,006 | 276 | 22,136 | 222 | 21,501 | 270 | 21,278 |
| 60-69 | 210 | 12,796 | 176 | 12,176 | 204 | 12,346 | 163 | 11,724 | 161 | 11,371 |
| 70-79 | 238 | 8,655 | 229 | 8,587 | 237 | 8,193 | 186 | 7,821 | 194 | 7,370 |
| 80+ | 223 | 4,380 | 236 | 4,385 | 216 | 4,313 | 211 | 4,257 | 226 | 4,137 |
| Total[2] | 2,916 | 276,762 | 2,980 | 266,040 | 3,004 | 254,895 | 2,714 | 246,048 | 2,735 | 237,749 |

[1] Slightly or seriously injured.
[2] Includes cases where age of casualty is not reported.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 18 January, about cuts to grants for the arts DCMS Ref: 86913. [190774]

**Margaret Hodge:** I replied to the letter of 18 January from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 23 February.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Boyhood to Manhood Foundation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provides to the from Boyhood to Manhood Foundation. [176832]

**Mr. Coaker:** The From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation received £4,980 from the fifth round of the connected fund, and £4,950 from the sixth round, which was completed in August 2007. We are working with the organisation to help it develop its business plans for the longer term but are also currently finalising an immediate grant payment so that they may continue their services to boys and young men who may otherwise fall into criminal activity.

### Crime: Rural Areas

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* offences involving violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* car and property crimes there were in rural areas in each year since 1997. [187442]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Table 1: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas—1997*

| *Police force area* | *Offence* | *1997* |
|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | Violence against the person | 3,364 |
| | Sexual offences | 390 |
| | Burglary | 12,668 |
| | Property crime | 55,343 |
| | Vehicle crime | 15,344 |
| Cumbria | Violence against the person | 2,828 |
| | Sexual offences | 229 |
| | Burglary | 6,868 |
| | Property crime | 32,224 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,207 |
| Devon and Cornwall | Violence against the person | 6,589 |
| | Sexual offences | 808 |
| | Burglary | 20,017 |
| | Property crime | 85,692 |
| | Vehicle crime | 23,233 |
| Durham | Violence against the person | 1,924 |
| | Sexual offences | 341 |
| | Burglary | 12,209 |
| | Property crime | 44,514 |
| | Vehicle crime | 11,108 |
| Dyfed-Powys | Violence against the person | 2,132 |
| | Sexual offences | 337 |
| | Burglary | 2,590 |
| | Property crime | 14,722 |
| | Vehicle crime | 2,372 |
| Gloucestershire | Violence against the person | 1,456 |
| | Sexual offences | 240 |
| | Burglary | 11,559 |
| | Property crime | 44,990 |
| | Vehicle crime | 13,748 |
| Lincolnshire | Violence against the person | 3,051 |
| | Sexual offences | 329 |
| | Burglary | 10,551 |
| | Property crime | 39,163 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,624 |
| Norfolk | Violence against the person | 2,889 |
| | Sexual offences | 487 |
| | Burglary | 10,935 |
| | Property crime | 49,038 |
| | Vehicle crime | 11,890 |
| North Wales | Violence against the person | 2,575 |
| | Sexual offences | 480 |
| | Burglary | 7,554 |
| | Properly crime | 36,980 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,911 |
| North Yorkshire | Violence against the person | 2,425 |
| | Sexual offences | 262 |
| | Burglary | 11,359 |
| | Property crime | 46,898 |
| | Vehicle crime | 11,721 |
| Suffolk | Violence against the person | 2,448 |
| | Sexual offences | 400 |

*Table 1: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas—1997*

| Police force area | Offence | 1997 |
|---|---|---|
| | Burglary | 6,094 |
| | Property crime | 31,997 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,687 |
| West Mercia | Violence against the person | 3,175 |
| | Sexual offences | 751 |
| | Burglary | 16,334 |
| | Property crime | 71,410 |
| | Vehicle crime | 18,924 |
| Wiltshire | Violence against the person | 2,373 |
| | Sexual offences | 355 |
| | Burglary | 6,361 |
| | Property crime | 29,727 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,524 |

*Note:*
The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ('A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods') guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 'Rural Crime England and Wales'. Of the 13 forces given in the table, ACORN defines four of them as 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales), and nine of them as 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

*Table 2: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02*

| Police force area | Offence | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | Violence against the person | 5,345 | 6,090 | 6,416 | 7,345 |
| | Sexual offences | 431 | 418 | 464 | 560 |
| | Burglary | 12,759 | 12,377 | 10,243 | 11,161 |
| | Property crime | 59,026 | 59,810 | 55,346 | 59,362 |
| | Vehicle crime | 13,233 | 12,443 | 11,348 | 12,745 |
| Cumbria | Violence against the person | 5,582 | 5,142 | 4,152 | 5,334 |
| | Sexual offences | 200 | 224 | 168 | 199 |
| | Burglary | 5,812 | 5,455 | 4,782 | 4,942 |
| | Property crime | 32,109 | 30,395 | 27,117 | 30,254 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,477 | 5,414 | 4,278 | 4,483 |
| Devon and Cornwall | Violence against the person | 11,758 | 12,479 | 11,992 | 12,434 |
| | Sexual offences | 876 | 936 | 911 | 960 |
| | Burglary | 17,808 | 17,307 | 15,606 | 15,257 |
| | Property crime | 92,381 | 91,288 | 84,823 | 82,186 |
| | Vehicle crime | 22,270 | 21,438 | 20,145 | 17,549 |
| Durham | Violence against the person | 4,955 | 5,397 | 5,180 | 6,410 |
| | Sexual offences | 243 | 251 | 238 | 333 |
| | Burglary | 10,135 | 9,083 | 7,626 | 8,864 |
| | Property crime | 42,891 | 40,886 | 37,128 | 42,340 |
| | Vehicle crime | 10,056 | 9,126 | 8,047 | 7,798 |
| Dyfed-Powys | Violence against the person | 4,680 | 5,519 | 5,424 | 5,517 |
| | Sexual offences | 317 | 292 | 304 | 292 |
| | Burglary | 2,615 | 2,072 | 1,978 | 2,122 |
| | Property crime | 16,216 | 14,999 | 14,788 | 14,928 |
| | Vehicle crime | 2,480 | 2,203 | 2,120 | 2,050 |
| Gloucestershire | Violence against the person | 3,230 | 4,240 | 4,998 | 4,695 |
| | Sexual offences | 344 | 323 | 348 | 267 |
| | Burglary | 10,111 | 9,308 | 7,809 | 8,468 |
| | Property crime | 42,676 | 44,221 | 42,221 | 43,128 |

*Table 2: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02*

| *Police force area* | *Offence* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Vehicle crime | 11,196 | 10,244 | 8,464 | 8,140 |
| Lincolnshire | Violence against the person | 4,239 | 3,866 | 3,743 | 4,812 |
| | Sexual offences | 393 | 325 | 281 | 414 |
| | Burglary | 10,257 | 10,719 | 9,583 | 9,592 |
| | Property crime | 40,036 | 40,302 | 39,261 | 42,565 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,944 | 6,871 | 6,627 | 6,782 |
| Norfolk | Violence against the person | 5,461 | 6,382 | 5,777 | 6,021 |
| | Sexual offences | 508 | 415 | 364 | 509 |
| | Burglary | 10,154 | 10,243 | 9,450 | 9,043 |
| | Property crime | 48,725 | 50,132 | 49,168 | 50,355 |
| | Vehicle crime | 10,834 | 10,428 | 9,823 | 9,797 |
| North Wales | Violence against the person | 4,703 | 5,739 | 5,358 | 7,349 |
| | Sexual offences | 334 | 373 | 406 | 466 |
| | Burglary | 7,226 | 6,892 | 7,246 | 7,368 |
| | Property crime | 36,178 | 36,211 | 39,711 | 43,798 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,254 | 7,501 | 7,186 | 7,661 |
| North Yorkshire | Violence against the person | 4,827 | 5,101 | 4,898 | 5,624 |
| | Sexual offences | 297 | 294 | 289 | 346 |
| | Burglary | 11,237 | 10,402 | 9,829 | 11,656 |
| | Property crime | 47,780 | 45,896 | 44,290 | 50,771 |
| | Vehicle crime | 9,641 | 8,596 | 7,585 | 8,171 |
| Suffolk | Violence against the person | 3,820 | 5,303 | 6,395 | 7,353 |
| | Sexual offences | 405 | 389 | 421 | 486 |
| | Burglary | 6,241 | 6,214 | 5,738 | 6,346 |
| | Property crime | 33,335 | 35,365 | 35,456 | 40,288 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,446 | 6,501 | 6,291 | 6,915 |
| West Mercia | Violence against the person | 6,995 | 8,213 | 7,805 | 17,032 |
| | Sexual offences | 618 | 585 | 537 | 806 |
| | Burglary | 14,631 | 14,313 | 13,369 | 15,398 |
| | Property crime | 70,058 | 72,272 | 66,487 | 80,214 |
| | Vehicle crime | 16,174 | 15,743 | 13,218 | 13,061 |
| Wiltshire | Violence against the person | 4,390 | 4,519 | 4,515 | 4,379 |
| | Sexual offences | 404 | 358 | 334 | 378 |
| | Burglary | 6,129 | 5,718 | 5,043 | 5,824 |
| | Property crime | 31,511 | 31,701 | 30,047 | 32,191 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,759 | 6,598 | 5,271 | 5,264 |

*Notes*:
1. The offence coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 3: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| *Police force area* | *Offence* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | Violence against the person | 12,574 | 13,663 | 13,358 | 10,158 | 10,421 |
| | Sexual offences | 811 | 839 | 771 | 798 | 714 |
| | Burglary | 12,775 | 10,257 | 8,501 | 8,217 | 8,821 |
| | Property crime | 68,904 | 62,777 | 56,949 | 52,888 | 54,229 |
| | Vehicle crime | 13,345 | 10,672 | 9,169 | 8,345 | 8,776 |
| Cumbria | Violence against the person | 5,725 | 6,874 | 9,195 | 9,206 | 8,187 |
| | Sexual offences | 218 | 298 | 344 | 348 | 313 |
| | Burglary | 4,895 | 4,613 | 4,274 | 3,450 | 3,096 |
| | Property crime | 30,054 | 30,570 | 31,712 | 30,783 | 27,875 |
| | Vehicle crime | 4,753 | 4,114 | 3,941 | 3,178 | 2,845 |
| Devon and Cornwall | Violence against the person | 23,720 | 25,969 | 28,335 | 25,305 | 25,027 |
| | Sexual offences | 1,380 | 1,570 | 1,586 | 1,527 | 1,469 |
| | Burglary | 15,700 | 14,024 | 14,012 | 12,519 | 12,459 |
| | Property crime | 99,564 | 97,289 | 97,128 | 91,231 | 91,968 |
| | Vehicle crime | 19,377 | 16,601 | 14,990 | 13,844 | 13,405 |
| Durham | Violence against the person | 7,711 | 6,565 | 7,027 | 9,899 | 10,017 |
| | Sexual offences | 460 | 416 | 447 | 694 | 470 |
| | Burglary | 7,656 | 7,083 | 6,853 | 6,660 | 6,706 |
| | Property crime | 40,758 | 39,373 | 37,829 | 40,083 | 40,236 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,446 | 7,073 | 5,503 | 6,086 | 6,129 |
| Dyfed-Powys | Violence against the person | 6,217 | 7,909 | 8,315 | 7,711 | 7,694 |
| | Sexual offences | 298 | 481 | 508 | 440 | 403 |
| | Burglary | 2,104 | 2,703 | 2,875 | 2,240 | 2,232 |
| | Property crime | 14,802 | 19,628 | 20,744 | 19,039 | 18,940 |
| | Vehicle crime | 2,028 | 2,325 | 2,331 | 1,869 | 2,005 |
| Gloucestershire | Violence against the person | 7,734 | 8,303 | 9,549 | 10,496 | 10,831 |
| | Sexual offences | 519 | 477 | 549 | 670 | 667 |
| | Burglary | 8,694 | 9,072 | 7,142 | 6,260 | 6,413 |
| | Property crime | 45,110 | 46,879 | 41,057 | 39,302 | 38,561 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,740 | 8,407 | 6,759 | 5,698 | 5,263 |
| Lincolnshire | Violence against the person | 9,238 | 10,148 | 10,856 | 10,726 | 10,257 |
| | Sexual offences | 705 | 752 | 824 | 670 | 651 |
| | Burglary | 10,831 | 9,052 | 7,306 | 7,145 | 6,601 |
| | Property crime | 49,850 | 47,213 | 44,620 | 43,752 | 41,920 |
| | Vehicle crime | 7,857 | 6,503 | 5,907 | 5,805 | 5,418 |
| Norfolk | Violence against the person | 10,607 | 11,586 | 12,920 | 12,504 | 11,582 |
| | Sexual offences | 743 | 861 | 896 | 1,473 | 726 |
| | Burglary | 9,681 | 8,169 | 6,577 | 6,000 | 5,591 |
| | Property crime | 57,271 | 54,759 | 49,999 | 47,975 | 47,132 |
| | Vehicle crime | 10,739 | 8,396 | 6,291 | 5,389 | 5,498 |

*Table 3: numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| *Police force area* | *Offence* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Wales | Violence against the person | 11,472 | 10,979 | 12,021 | 12,330 | 14,423 |
| | Sexual offences | 691 | 677 | 670 | 647 | 599 |
| | Burglary | 8,534 | 7,301 | 5,008 | 4,471 | 4,565 |
| | Property crime | 50,250 | 47,526 | 38,448 | 34,199 | 35,331 |
| | Vehicle crime | 8,093 | 7,613 | 5,349 | 4,157 | 4,304 |
| North Yorkshire | Violence against the person | 8,108 | 9,610 | 12,045 | 11,473 | 10,087 |
| | Sexual offences | 504 | 596 | 563 | 631 | 590 |
| | Burglary | 11,511 | 11,062 | 7,759 | 7,324 | 6,836 |
| | Property crime | 56,026 | 58,530 | 46,312 | 43,937 | 41,219 |
| | Vehicle crime | 9,570 | 9,516 | 6,476 | 6,743 | 6,220 |
| Suffolk | Violence against the person | 7,949 | 9,529 | 10,347 | 10,017 | 10,190 |
| | Sexual offences | 675 | 750 | 623 | 662 | 699 |
| | Burglary | 6,248 | 6,396 | 5,090 | 5,292 | 5,162 |
| | Property crime | 38,969 | 40,143 | 38,098 | 38,947 | 37,292 |
| | Vehicle crime | 6,282 | 5,782 | 5,463 | 5,281 | 5,398 |
| West Mercia | Violence against the person | 19,848 | 21,867 | 18,179 | 15,699 | 16,010 |
| | Sexual offences | 1,066 | 1,145 | 1,158 | 1,014 | 917 |
| | Burglary | 16,375 | 15,015 | 12,424 | 11,066 | 9,529 |
| | Property crime | 80,028 | 79,599 | 71,479 | 64,217 | 60,659 |
| | Vehicle crime | 13,076 | 12,134 | 10,943 | 9,752 | 8,865 |
| Wiltshire | Violence against the person | 6,419 | 6,302 | 6,004 | 7,488 | 8,676 |
| | Sexual offences | 705 | 672 | 548 | 575 | 575 |
| | Burglary | 6,242 | 5,929 | 5,120 | 4,791 | 5,142 |
| | Property crime | 35,346 | 34,247 | 31,634 | 31,897 | 34,049 |
| | Vehicle crime | 5,551 | 5,450 | 4,945 | 4,349 | 4,700 |

*Notes:*
1. The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002.
2. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
3. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded level of rural crime was in each of the last five years; and what steps are being taken to combat rural crime. [187563]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information is given in the following table. Offences recorded by the police in rural police force areas fell by 9 per cent. between 2002-03 and 2006-07.

The Home Office has undertaken a number of actions which directly benefit rural communities. These include:

Establishing farm, horse, country and poacher watch schemes

Introducing measures to increase the number of special constables many of whom volunteer in rural police forces. As at 31 March 2007, the figures were at a high of 14,021 which were in part as a result of Specials Capacity Building funding.

*Total offences recorded by the police in rural police force areas*

| *Financial year* | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 851,062 |
| 2003-04 | 855,330 |
| 2004-05 | 810,520 |
| 2005-06 | 782,424 |
| 2006-07 | 772,409 |

*Note:*
The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ("A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods") guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 "Rural Crime England and Wales". The data covers 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

## Illegal Immigrants: Ukraine

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Belarus and *(c)* Moldova on combating illegal migration and human trafficking. [190588]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1660W.

### Immigration Controls

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to improve the UK's immigration system since 1997. [190538]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statement by the Home Secretary on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 351, in which she outlines both the substantial progress that has been made in improving our immigration system and the Government's plans for the next phase of immigration reform—a new deal for citizenship.

### Immigration: Children

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-9WS, on care for children in the immigration system, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after by local authorities will be included in the specialist network; and what estimate she has made of how many each authority can be expected to look after when the special network is set up. [184735]

**Mr. Byrne:** The proposed reforms will focus on unaccompanied asylum seeking children who arrive in the United Kingdom after the commencement of the new support arrangements. The proportion of the group that we place in the specialist network and the number that each authority can take is likely to vary from region to region and will depend on the outcome of discussions now underway with local authorities.

### Migration Advisory Committee

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will include a representative of the British Chinese community on *(a)* the Migration Advisory Committee and *(b)* the Migration Impact Forum; and if she will make a statement. [184739]

**Mr. Byrne:** There is no representative from that or any other community grouping on either body and no plan to appoint representatives at this time.

The Migration Advisory Committee is an independent non-statutory non-departmental public body which will advise Government on where in the economy migration can sensibly fill skills gaps. It is a small committee whose members have been selected through open competition because of their knowledge and expertise. The only exception is that there is one ex officio member from the Sector Skills Development Agency, in recognition of the important link between migration and skills issues.

The purpose of the Migration Impacts Forum is to provide a forum for regular and organised dialogue with frontline professionals outside central Government, focused on the wider impacts associated with migration experienced by local areas. Membership of the MIF includes representatives from local authorities, voluntary and public sectors, the CBI and the TUC.

Both committees welcome representations from community groups.

## HEALTH

### Autism

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will allocate funds to research into the number of adults with autism; [187193]

(2) what assessment he has made of the barriers to adults with autism to public services; [187194]

(3) what steps he is taking to improve the capacity of his Department to meet the needs of people with autism; [187195]

(4) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on reducing barriers to adults with autism to public services. [187196]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department will be taking forward discussions with autism stakeholder organisations on future research.

This work is being supported by the Department's recently appointed specialist adviser on autism whose role is to advise the Department and improve its capacity to meet the needs of people with autism.

"Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. A copy is available in the Library. This document clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder. It is intended to encourage people in the social care and health field to develop local agendas for action.

### Breast Cancer: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer screenings there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [190614]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

### Breast Cancer: Screening

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to increase take-up of breast screening in prisons; [190842]

(2) what percentage of female prisoners eligible for breast screening have been screened in the last three years. [190844]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the percentage of female prisoners eligible for breast screening is not held centrally.

Commissioning responsibility for prison health services transferred to national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2006. PCTs must now aim to

provide health service of an equivalent range and quality to prisoners in their areas. All women prisoners over the age of 50 are therefore entitled to a mammogram.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of regional variations in take-up of breast cancer screening in each of the last three years; [190843]

(2) what percentage of women eligible to receive breast cancer screening have been screened in the last three years in England. [190845]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows both the number of eligible women screened in the last three years and the regional variation of breast screening coverage.

It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate screening services for their local populations.

We are aware of the regional variations of breast screening coverage and Professor Mike Richards, National Cancer Director, has written to the chief executives of all 10 SHAs in England highlighting the future challenges facing breast screening and the importance of maintaining the 36-month screening interval.

*Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 by SHA[1], at 31 March 2005 to 2007*

| | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Eligible population*[2] | *Number of women screened* | *Coverage*[3] *(Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[2] | *Number of women screened* | *Coverage*[3] *(Percentage)* | *Eligible population*[2] | *Number of women screened* | *Coverage*[3] *(Percentage)* |
| | England | 3,574,534 | 2,697,665 | 75.5 | 3,633,181 | 2,756,716 | 75.9 | 3,690,074 | 2,805,717 | 76.0 |
| Q30 | North East SHA | 185,454 | 141,025 | 76.0 | 188,399 | 147,306 | 78.2 | 191,892 | 152,310 | 79.4 |
| Q31 | North West SHA | 497,861 | 376,263 | 75.6 | 503,667 | 373,302 | 74.1 | 509,688 | 377,215 | 74.0 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 362,359 | 278,103 | 76.7 | 367,582 | 285,477 | 77.7 | 373,320 | 282,165 | 75.6 |
| Q33 | East Midlands SHA | 314,378 | 253,352 | 80.6 | 320,704 | 261,389 | 81.5 | 326,715 | 264,296 | 80.9 |
| Q34 | West Midlands SHA | 385,779 | 300,696 | 77.9 | 390,722 | 304,653 | 78.0 | 395,515 | 311,203 | 78.7 |
| Q35 | East of England SHA | 411,562 | 319,669 | 77.7 | 419,809 | 321,241 | 76.5 | 426,810 | 322,621 | 75.6 |
| Q36 | London SHA | 426,185 | 273,910 | 64.3 | 432,043 | 276,066 | 63.9 | 438,260 | 284,901 | 65.0 |
| Q37 | South East Coast SHA | 317,070 | 242,571 | 76.5 | 322,580 | 250,263 | 77.6 | 327,879 | 256,412 | 78.2 |
| Q38 | South Central SHA | 277,173 | 221,312 | 79.8 | 282,724 | 225,029 | 79.6 | 287,677 | 228,549 | 79.4 |
| Q39 | South West SHA | 396,712 | 290,764 | 73.3 | 404,952 | 311,990 | 77.0 | 412,318 | 326,045 | 79.1 |

[1] Historic data have been mapped to the current SHA structure.
[2] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.
[3] Less than three years since last test.
*Notes:*
1. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years. Coverage of the screening programme is best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
2. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001.
3. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.
*Source:*
KC63, the Information Centre for health and social care.

## Cancer: Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the study referred to in paragraph 7.28 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy on cancer treatments in the United Kingdom and the United States. [175100]

**Ann Keen:** A copy of the "Audit of Non Surgical Cancer Admissions Report", (without Appendix B), has been placed in the Library.

Due to the level of detail it contains Appendix B has been withheld to safeguard patient confidentiality.

### Cervical and Breast Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding is available to improve the take-up rate amongst women for cervical cancer screening; [187737]

(2) what funding is available to improve the take-up rate amongst women for breast cancer screening. [187738]

**Ann Keen:** Funding for both breast and cervical screening is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations, this includes funding for the promotion of screening.

It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their PCTs, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate screening services for their local populations and to ensure that they meet national standards.

### Community Care: Medical Equipment

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on community care: medical equipment, which academic organisations form the consortia who will be assessing the whole system demonstrators. [189595]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: The Department has been consulting with a number of eminent researchers from leading academic organisations in order to shape the evaluation methodology for the Whole System Demonstrator programme. These organisations include University College London, the London School of Economics, University of Oxford, Manchester University, Imperial College of London, the Kings Fund and Nuffield Trust together with the University of Birmingham.

We are currently engaged in negotiations with these organisations to formalise contractual relationships to deliver this evaluation.

### Departmental Consultants

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181885]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on consultancy contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185415]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department and its agencies have a number of databases that are used to support its internal management and business processes as well as the delivery of health and social care. Information relating to what databases are owned and maintained by the Department and its agencies has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184340]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not keep figures for missing assets. The figures below are reported losses and thefts, DH do not distinguish between these two groups.

DH Losses / thefts of mobiles, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and laptops 2001-07:

| *Financial year* | *Mobile phones* | *PDA's* | *Laptops* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 36 | 3 | 35 |
| 2002-03 | 37 | 1 | 30 |
| 2003-04 | 29 | 3 | 34 |
| 2004-05 | 15 | 2 | 23 |
| 2005-06 | 11 | 5 | 18 |
| 2006-07 | 18 | 4 | 11 |
| Totals | 146 | 18 | 151 |

Since 2005 all DH laptops been marked with a forensic dye as a proof of ownership and a high visibility label advertising this. Additionally laptops are encrypted to protect any information stored on them and PDAs wipe all the data stored on them after a series of failed attempts to enter the correct user ID and password.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185273]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department uses the Blackberry Enterprise Solution personal digital assistants (PDAs) with recommended procedures and configuration from the Government's technical security authority, CESG, as suitable for processing restricted information. This includes guidance on authentication standards and processes to protect information stored on the device. For example PDAs wipe all the data stored on them after a series of failed attempts to enter the correct user ID and password.

The Department does not distinguish between losses and thefts.

*DH reported losses / thefts for the period April 2002 to March 2007*

| *Financial year* | *PDAs* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1 | 247.71 |
| 2003-04 | 3 | 1,107.29 |
| 2004-05 | 2 | 757.87 |
| 2005-06 | 4 | 1,822.04 |
| 2006-07 | 5 | 1,617.40 |
| Total | 15 | 5,552.31 |

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187499]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In each of the last three years, fewer than five individuals in the Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187517]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service 2006-07" reports the Department as having an average number of working days lost per staff year of 6.4. This equates to a salary cost of just under £2 million.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours per 1,000 patients GP surgeries opened for on average per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [188580]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not hold figures on numbers of opening hours of general practitioner (GP) practices.

We have asked primary care trusts (PCTs) to carry out a baseline audit of current availability of current GP practice opening so that it is possible to measure the success of our aim of 50 per cent. of GP practices in each PCT are offering extending opening hours.

### Health Services: Thames Gateway

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1062-3W, on health services: Thames Gateway, whether changes to the levels of funding allocated to each of the primary care trusts in the Thurrock area have been made as a result of it being designated as a growth area by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [188287]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A "growth area adjustment" is included in revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). This money is to support the development of sustainable communities and is for those PCTs that are going to experience considerable population growth as a direct consequence of the additional housing development in the growth areas. This adjustment is based on the additional increase in population, over and above Office of National Statistics population projections, that is due to the Government initiative. South West Essex PCT benefits significantly from a growth area adjustment to its weighted capitation target.

### Hearing Impaired: Standards

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider introducing an 18-week target for all patients with hearing and balance disorders to be assessed by the appropriate specialist. [188886]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Patients referred for surgical or medical consultant-led care, will be covered by the target of treatment within 18 weeks of referral by December 2008. Local health bodies will not be credible in claiming success on meeting the 18-week target if large numbers of patients are affected by long waits for audiology treatment. From April 2008, the Department will collect information on waits for direct access audiology treatment for patients who are referred directly to audiologists or clinical scientists in audiological medicine.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187126]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of honours awarded to senior civil servants currently employed at the Department over a five-year period from the new year of 2004-08 is as follows:

Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB): two;

Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE): eight; and

Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE): five.

Data are not routinely kept by Department on:

the number of awards held by individuals;

awards that are not related to official duties; and

awards already held by staff before joining the Department.

### Hospitals: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital beds per head of population there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the former Suffolk West Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [187619]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the average daily number of available acute beds per 100,000 population for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 for the organisations requested. Acute bed numbers will go down over time because of changes to the way services are delivered in the national health service (for instance, more services being provided in the community).

| | *Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA)* | *East of England SHA* | *Suffolk West Primary Care Trust* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 213.3 | 167.9 | 2.8 |
| 2003-04 | 218.7 | 172.2 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 211.5 | 171.7 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 198.0 | 162.8 | 0 |

| | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) | East of England SHA | Suffolk West Primary Care Trust |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | n/a | 154.4 | n/a |

n/a = not applicable

*Notes:*
Due to SHA reconfigurations, data from prior to 2002-03 are not available at SHA level.
East of England SHA was created in October 2006 following the merger of three SHAs (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA, Essex SHA and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA).
Population data for mid-year 2007 and beds data for 2007-08 are not yet available.
Suffolk West PCT only provided acute beds in 2002-03. They subsequently provided only geriatric beds.
Suffolk West PCT was formed at the start of 2002-03 from Bury St. Edmonds PCG. The old organisation did not provide any beds.
Suffolk PCT was formed in October 2006 from the merger of Suffolk Coastal PCT, Ipswich PCT, Central Suffolk PCT and Suffolk West PCT. Suffolk PCT does not provide any acute beds.
Figures for 2002-03 to 2005-06 have been updated using revised population statistics issued by the Office for National Statistics.
*Source:*
Department of Health form KH03 and Office for National Statistics for population data.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure continued innovation of new products via proposed changes to the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [189450]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the quality of patient care of the proposed changes to the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [189451]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on patient choice of the proposed changes to the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [189452]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The review of part IX of the Drug Tariff is ongoing; no decisions have been made.

Any proposed changes to the current arrangements would not be intended to stifle innovation. While the Department wishes to ensure both value for money for the national health service the maintenance of patient care, it also wants to ensure that any new arrangements are affordable by dispensing contractors and suppliers.

The Department's assessment to date has been that the proposed changes to the arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff will ensure that no matter where in England a user of a stoma or urology appliance lives, her or his dispensing pharmacist or dispensing appliance contractor will dispense the appliance to the same standard. It is also of the view that these patients will have access to the same services no matter where they live, such as home delivery.

The Department's view is that the proposed new arrangements would give patients greater choice as to who dispenses their appliance. It is also of the view that as no proposals have been put forward to remove any stoma or urology appliance from part IX of the Drug Tariff, patients—in consultation with their prescriber—will continue to have a full choice of appliances.

The process of consultation has afforded interested parties the opportunity to put forward their assessment of the proposed changes and a final impact assessment will be published later in the year and all parties will have the opportunity to comment on it.

### Local Involvement Networks: Trafford

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to put in place interim arrangements for the period between the closure of the Trafford Patient and Public Involvement Forum and the establishment of the Trafford Local Involvement Network. [190427]

**Ann Keen:** A local involvement network (LINk) transitional duty, which will be set out in regulations, will mean that for a period of up to six months, from 1 April 2008, local authorities (LAs) that have not yet successfully contracted with a host organisation, and as a result do not have working LINk arrangements in place, should make other arrangements for ensuring 'LINks activities' may be carried out. This could take a range of forms, although the LA itself will not be able to carry out the activities, nor will an national health service body.

We would expect LAs to invite local people and patient and user organisations with an interest in, and knowledge of, health and social care to participate in what will be the core group of the LINk when a host is appointed.

We strongly encourage LAs to seek people's input. Many organisations already have in place stakeholder groups, members of which may well be ideally placed to form the basis of the LINk, whether it be on a transitional basis or the final version. Clearly existing members of Patients' Forums are well placed to be involved early on, but LINks are to be formed of a much wider base and we have urged LAs seek the involvement of people involved in user and carer groups, and representatives from the wider voluntary and community sector too. Such action will help to ensure that a LA meets its transitional duty.

From 1 April 2008, Trafford metropolitan borough council will be responsible for ensuring that LINk activities take place in its area. Trafford Primary Care Trust (PCT) is working closely with Trafford Council and other partner organisations to establish a Trafford LINk.

Trafford PCT representatives are members on the following LINk related groups:

LINk Task and Finish Group;

LINk Procurement Group; and

LINk Transitional Working Group.

Trafford PCT is also a member of the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership (Trafford Partnership). The primary purpose is to enhance the quality of life and prosperity for all Trafford's residential and business communities. The PCT is currently involved in the development of Trafford Partnership's Community Engagement Strategy.

After 1 April and LINks coming into force, Trafford PCT will continue engaging with its local population to ensure that commissioning processes are informed and influenced by the views and opinions of local people.

## NHS: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve NHS services for hearing and balance disorders. [189144]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Department published an audiology framework in March 2007, "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England", to help local health systems to transform the experience of the audiology service for all their patients, including those with hearing and balance problems. Further good practice guidance on audiology services, including hearing and balance disorders will be published later this year.

## NHS: Private Sector

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place copies in the Library of all guidance his Department has issued to the NHS on the mixing of public and private treatment *(a)* within an episode of care and *(b)* within a care pathway; how he defines an episode of care for the purposes of the former; when the guidance was last updated in each case; and if he will make a statement; [188052]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the mixing of public and private treatment *(a)* within an episode of care and *(b)* within a care pathway; and if he will make a statement; [188053]

(3) what representations he has received from hon. Members, *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* clinicians and *(c)* other interested parties on mixing NHS and private treatment in the last six months; what the content was of these representations; and if he will make a statement. [188054]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is a long-standing principle that an individual cannot simultaneously be a national health service and a privately funded patient of the same national health service hospital within the same episode of care. Allowing top-up payments would risk creating a two-tier service, undermining the core principle of the NHS that treatment is provided free at the point of use, based on clinical need, not ability to pay. I also refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report,* columns 723-24.

Guidance issued to the NHS has established the basic principles of clear separation of public and private treatment. It is for NHS organisations to form policy in line with this guidance and decide the extent of an episode of care or care pathway where a patient decides to self-fund a treatment.

Copies of the guidance are available in the Library. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr. Chope) on 22 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1939W, for details of the guidance.

The Department has received a small number of representations from hon. Members, clinicians and the public on the issue of combining privately funded and NHS funded treatments in the last six months.

## NHS: Standards

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates in the last six months officials in his Department discussed the Quality and Outcomes Framework with representatives of the British Medical Association; what the content of the discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [189467]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** NHS Employers conduct negotiations on the general medical services contract with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the British Medical Association. Officials from the Department are not normally present. Within the last six months, an official from the Department attended only one meeting of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Negotiating Sub Group, on 23 August 2007 as an observer. Wider meetings between departmental officials and representatives of the GPC do also take place regularly but not specifically to discuss changes to the QOF.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 8 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 300W, on NHS: standards, whether the team of experts appointed by NHS Employers and the British Medical Association submitted reports to Ministers to inform the review of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2008-09. [190244]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The expert panel reports written as part of the evidence gathering phase of the development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) are not submitted to Ministers. The reports are submitted to the QOF subgroup to inform the confidential negotiations between NHS Employers and the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association, during negotiation of the general medical services contract. The negotiated agreement is subject to approval by Ministers.

## Obesity: Greater London

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of obese people in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what steps he is taking to reduce obesity in London. [189295]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to monitor the prevalence of obesity in their area and put in place strategies to address the situation. From April 2008, tackling child obesity will be a national priority for PCTs, working with their local partners. This was this set out in the national health service operating framework in December 2007.

More generally, the 2007 comprehensive spending review resulted in a new ambition to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population by enabling everyone to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Our initial focus is on children: by 2020, we aim to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels. The Government have mapped out how this ambition will be delivered in a new £372 million comprehensive cross Government strategy, "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives", launched in January

2008. It identifies the following areas for action: children's health, healthier food choices, physical activity, health incentives and personalised advice and support.

### Obesity: Health Education

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what public health campaigns targeted at the prevention and management of obesity his Department ran in each of the last five financial years; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date was of each campaign; [179121]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent on public health campaigns targeted at the prevention and management of obesity in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [179122]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the past five years, the Department has funded a range of initiatives and materials demonstrating its commitment to the prevention and management of obesity.

The following table gives more information:

| | | | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Campaign* | *Started* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| 5 a Day | 2002-ongoing | 0.50 | 0.48 | 1.03 | 0.90 | 0.92 |
| Maternal infant nutrition | ongoing | 0.28 | 0.46 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.73 |
| School fruit and veg | 2001-ongoing | 0.3 | — | 23.7 | 37.41 | 36.21 |

For obesity campaigns figures are only available for two financial years. In 2006-07 £6.1 million was allocated to obesity campaigns and £1.3 million spent and for 2007-08 the budget allocation was £2.47 million and the forecast is that we will spend £2.6 million.

### Obesity: Surgery

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department monitors primary care trusts' compliance with guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on obesity surgery. [187694]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Performance in implementing National Institute for Heath and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines is included within the scope of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health check. The 2006-07 annual health check self-assessments, which have been subject to targeted and random inspections by the Healthcare Commission, show that 90 per cent. of national health service trusts have assessed themselves as making excellent, good or fair progress towards implementing NICE's clinical guidelines (obesity having a 96.7 per cent. compliance). The full ratings have been published on the Healthcare Commission's website at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/_documents/Annual_health_check_national_overview_2006-2007.pdf

### Organs: Donors

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what response he has made to the recent report of the Organ Donation Taskforce; and if he will make a statement; [188617]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential increases in organ donations possible within the parameters of existing arrangements over the next five years; [188618]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to improve the infrastructure related to organ donations, with particular reference to histocompatibility and immunogenetics laboratories; [188620]

(4) what steps he is taking to encourage older people to become organ donors; [188621]

(5) what steps he is taking to encourage more organ donations from within black and ethnic communities; [188622]

(6) what research his Department has commissioned on providing recognition for the families of organ donors; [188623]

(7) what estimate he has made of the potential costs of the additional training for staff recommended by the Organ Donation Taskforce; [188624]

(8) what assessment he has made of the Organ Donation Taskforce's recommendations on a centralised system for organ donation which is UK-wide; [189201]

(9) what assessment he has made of obstacles within the system of organ donation to ensuring greater availability of organs for transplant; and if he will make a statement; [189202]

(10) what assessment he has made of the Organ Donation Taskforce's recommendation on the reinforcement of training in organ donation and the provision of regular refresher training for staff; [189203]

(11) what steps he is taking to increase the numbers of organ donor transplant co-ordinators; [189216]

(12) what recent discussions he has had on the creation of a UK-wide organ donation ethics group. [189218]

**Ann Keen:** The Government welcome the first report, "Organs for transplants: A Report from the Organ Donation Taskforce", and recommendations of the Organ Donation Taskforce, published on 16 January 2008, which have been accepted by all four United Kingdom Health Ministers. A copy of the report is available in the Library. The report usefully identifies the current barriers to donation in the UK and the investment necessary in the infrastructure to see organ donor rates rise to match other successful countries and achieve a 50 per cent. increase within five years.

Funding of £11 million has been made available for 2008-09 with significant additional funding identified for subsequent years. Work has started with stakeholders to agree what further action, such as research, public awareness campaigns, training and work force requirements, is needed to enable each recommendation to be implemented.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with his American

counterparts on the implementation of real time information technology systems for the administration and co-ordination of organ donations. [189217]

**Ann Keen:** NHS Blood and Transplant has commissioned work to develop and design an electronic system for offering donor organs throughout the United Kingdom. It is hoped that a pilot phase will be introduced by September 2008.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average working hours of donor transplant co-ordinators in the most recent period for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of the stress on co-ordinators from their working hours; and if he will take steps to reduce that stress. [189219]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have accepted recommendations made by the Organ Donation Taskforce, in their report "Organs for Transplant" including the need to expand and strengthen the current network of donor transplant coordinators. To ensure a comprehensive highly skilled, specialised and robust service, extra coordinators will be recruited, and changes made to their employment, training and working arrangements.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donors were registered in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [190589]

**Ann Keen:** This information is provided in the following tables.

*National health service organ donor registrations, 2003 to 2007, residents in Lancashire and England*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lancashire[1] | 17,892 | 21,246 | 25,823 | 25,990 | 23,500 | 144,451 |
| England[2] | 756,588 | 868,333 | 927,390 | 1,010,600 | 864,637 | 4,227,548 |

*Deceased organ donors, 2003 to 2007, hospitals in Lancashire and England*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lancashire[1] | 24 | 27 | 23 | 10 | 15 | 99 |
| England[2] | 598 | 682 | 633 | 647 | 667 | 3,227 |

[1] Lancashire county, excludes Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
[2] Includes Lancashire.

## Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Hospitals Trust: Out-Patients

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many first outpatient appointments in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Hospitals Trust were missed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [187698]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows the combined number of first consultant led out-patient appointments kept and not attended for all specialties at the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust from 2001-02 to 2006-07.

Missed appointments are one area in which the public can make a significant impact simply through making responsible use of health services. It is the Department's policy to help them achieve this through the improvement of appointment procedures and ensuring that patients have the opportunity to make an informed choice of where and when they receive their care. The new choose and book system, introduced in 2004, will help to give patients greater certainty and choice over the time and date of their hospital appointment. There is good evidence from the national programme that booking systems, whether electronic or manual, can play a significant role in helping to minimise the number of patients who fail to turn up for their treatment.

*Out-patient appointments, consultant-led, all specialties Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2001-02 to 2006-07*

| | First attendances seen | First attendances did not attend |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 58,504 | 4,279 |
| 2002-03 | 62,887 | 4,636 |
| 2003-04 | 63,483 | 4,789 |
| 2004-05 | 66,054 | 5,911 |
| 2005-06 | 68,604 | 6,194 |
| 2006-07 | 68,554 | 5,747 |

*Note:*
The latest published data are for quarter ended September 2007, therefore the latest complete year is 2006-07.
*Source:*
Department of Health form QMOP/QM08/QAR

## Polyclinics

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS polyclinics there are in England; and where each is situated. [188208]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information about services commissioned locally by primary care trusts (PCTs). However, following the announcement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 10 October to invest new resources into primary care, every PCT in the country will be procuring a new general practitioner led health centre during 2008-09.

## Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171332]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not have a central record of the costs of overnight accommodation for all Ministers overseas in the last year. To collect the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Details of the cost of overseas travel for Cabinet Ministers, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the "Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers" list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

All travel is made in accordance with the ministerial code.

## JUSTICE

### Domestic Violence: Children

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the Practice Direction on guidance on domestic violence and child contact. [189907]

**Bridget Prentice:** Under schedule 2, part 1 (2) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Lord Chief Justice, or a judicial office holder nominated by the Lord Chief Justice with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor, may make or give designated directions. In the case of family proceedings, the nominated judicial office holder is the President of the Family Division. We are working with the President and other agencies in the development of the Practice Direction. As soon as the Direction is finalised, it will be published.

### Electronic Government

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's strategy is on e-democracy and e-participation. [189909]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government continue to explore and promote the best uses of online technologies in support of public engagement in democratic processes. The strategy for local e-participation is being delivered via the "Connect to your council" take up campaign. The Community Empowerment Action Plan commits the Government to develop on-line tools to support empowerment and democracy and DCLG is working in partnership across Government to establish the best means for delivery locally according to what local areas want and need.

In the Governance of Britain Green Paper the Government set out a long-term aim to investigate the potential benefits of remote electronic voting and to take advantage of emerging communication technologies to provide increased flexibility and choice in the way people vote. In the immediate term we are reviewing the lessons learnt from previous e-voting pilots. This will help to inform our programme of work for electronic voting.

### Electronic Government: Departmental Coordination

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what cross-departmental e-democracy projects his Department has initiated; and if he will make a statement. [189899]

**Mr. Wills:** My Department initiated the Digital Dialogues project that works with other Government Departments in exploring the use of online technologies to promote dialogue between Government and the public. The project is in its third stage. Following each stage, an evaluation report is produced that analysed the case studies and provides supporting guidance on how best Government can use these methods. More information is available at http://www.digitaldialogues.org.uk. We are expecting the evaluation of the third stage to be published in the summer.

### Electronic Government: Finance

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what e-democracy projects his Department *(a)* has funded and *(b)* plans to fund; and what the (i) outcome and (ii) cost of each completed project was. [189897]

**Mr. Wills:** The Department has funded e-participation projects on Government to citizen engagement, citizen video blogging, online citizen juries, web mapping tools on broken civic infrastructure, representative blogging, use of mass media participation tools and applications for young people to engage in political issues. The Department has also funded five local authorities in piloting e-voting (including remote voting) at their local elections in May 2007. A breakdown of the individual projects and associated costs is detailed in the following table.

The outcomes from the e-participation projects have included the active engagement of numbers of people in democratic processes, case studies, guidance material, web resources and tools. Each of the e-voting pilots supported successful elections and provided valuable lessons in relation to the use of the technology.

We will be reviewing the outcomes and lessons learnt from these projects to inform our future plans for e-participation and e-voting.

*e-participation projects*

£

| *Project* | *Costs 2006-07* | *Costs 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Radiowaves | 35,030 (inclusive of VAT) | 148,750 (inclusive of VAT) |
| Heads Up | 15,000 (plus VAT) | n/a |
| Bristol City Council—vlogging | 14,500 (plus VAT) | n/a |
| The Young Foundation—"Fix-My-Street" web mapping tool | 10,100 (plus VAT) | n/a |
| South Kesteven District Council—Online Citizen's Jury | 10,100 (plus VAT) | n/a |
| UK Citizens Online Democracy—Fax your MP | 10,100 (plus VAT) | n/a |
| Gallomanor Communications Ltd.—Councillor 2.0 | n/a | 14,500 |
| Involve—Teleparticipation | n/a | 15,000 (plus VAT) |
| Milo Creative Ltd. "mPower" | n/a | 15,000 (plus VAT) |
| MySociety—GroupsNearYou.Com | n/a | 15,000 (plus VAT) |
| Digital Dialogues | 80,435 | 54,000 |

*e-voting projects at the 2007 local elections in May 2007*

| *Project* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Rushmoor | 579,917.50 |
| Sheffield | 856,897.63 |
| Shrewsbury | 1,096,165 |
| South Bucks | 706,192.20 |
| Swindon | 1,149,969.22 |

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding allocation has been made to e-democracy projects in each of the next three years; and how much of the allocated budget for each year has not been assigned to a specific project. [189898]

**Mr. Wills:** Detailed allocations have yet to be made for e-democracy and e-participation projects in the next three years.

### Marriage: Islam

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for marriages in mosques to be performed in conjunction with the civil marriage law arrangements; what consideration has been given to requiring marriage registrars to attend the mosque to perform the civil marriage arrangements at the time of the religious ceremony; whether consideration has been given to placing mosque marriages on the same basis as church marriages; and if he will make a statement. [189621]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Marriage Act 1949 provides for mosques to be registered for the solemnisation of marriages according to the rites of the Muslim religion. The marriage should be solemnised in the registered mosque, in the presence of two or more witnesses, and in the presence of either a registrar of the registration district in which the building is registered, or a person who has been authorised to perform such ceremonies in that registered building. Such marriages are recognised in law without the need for a separate civil ceremony. Where a mosque has not been registered, a separate civil ceremony is necessary.

These same requirements apply to various other religious marriages, including Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Hindu and Sikh. 785 buildings are recorded by the Registrar General (as at 26 February 2008) as certified places of meeting for religious worship by those professing the Muslim religion in England and Wales. Of those, 152 buildings are also registered for marriage, and of the 152, 36 buildings have authorised persons appointed to attend and register marriages.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 18 January (Reference: 187220). [190620]

**Bridget Prentice:** I replied to the hon. Member on 19 February. I apologise for the delay.

### Ministerial Duties: Electronic Government

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister has lead responsibility for e-democracy and e-participation. [189908]

**Mr. Wills:** I am responsible for e-voting and have the policy responsibility for e-participation at central Government level. Policy for e-democracy and e-participation at the local level is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The lead Minister is Parmjit Dhanda and Baroness Andrews has responsibility for digital inclusion.

### Prison Accommodation

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many additional prison places are to be made available in England and Wales in each of the next three years. [189744]

**Mr. Straw:** In 2008, 2009 and 2010 approximately 2,600, 1,500 and 2,700 additional places respectively are planned for delivery as part of the Prison Capacity Programme.

### Prisoners Release

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the End of Custody Licence Scheme on prison overcrowding. [189745]

**Mr. Hanson:** The ECL scheme was announced on 19 June 2007 and came into effect on 29 June 2007. Prisoners serving between four weeks and four years are released under temporary licence for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. All prisoners released on ECL are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the period of the licence.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely length of operation of the End of Custody Licence Scheme. [189746]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government will keep the End of Custody Licence Scheme under review in light of changes in the prison population and new capacity coming on stream.

### Remand in Custody

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in custody in 1978; and what proportion of the population this figure represented. [189616]

**Mr. Hanson:** The average prison population in England and Wales in 1978 was 41,796. This represented 84 per 100,000 of the national population.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## WALES

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189771]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Six members of Wales Office staff have laptops and related equipment which enables them to work from home. Some use this on an ad hoc basis, while others have a more regular working from home arrangement.

A further four members of staff have Blackberries, which enable them to keep in touch by e-mail while they are out for the office or travelling.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189810]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department spent £1,682.40 on bottled water, for water coolers, in the financial year 2006-07.

No other bottled water was purchased.

### Press

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year from 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189665]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Our costs are not readily available in the format requested, and obtaining these could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The Wales Office does not have any agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189666]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office was established in 1999. Since then, it has employed three press officers in each year.

The Wales Office does not have any agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she intends to commence the provisions of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002; and if she will make a statement. [190776]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (the Act) received Royal Assent in May 2002. Most of the provisions have now been introduced through a series of commencement orders.

The first phase of leasehold reforms came into effect on 26 July 2002, with the second phase coming into effect in two parts on 30 September and 31 October 2003. These measures included: a relaxation of the qualifying rules to make it easier to buy the freehold or a new lease; a new no fault 'Right to Manage' provisions for leaseholders of flats to take over management of their block where they do not wish to or cannot afford to buy the freehold; and new procedures for consultation on service charges.

A further commencement order brought into effect the provisions in Part 1 of the Act relating to Commonhold, on 27 September 2004. Commonhold is a new form of tenure for blocks of flats and other multi-unit properties, under which occupiers would own their units outright, and through a commonhold association own and mange the common parts collectively.

Another phase of the leasehold reforms was brought into effect on 28 February 2005. This provides leaseholders with better protection against forfeiture, and requires landlords to send a written demand for ground rent before it become payable. Leaseholders of houses can also now choose their own buildings insurance.

The most recent phase of leasehold reforms was brought into effect on 1 October 2007. These introduced a requirement for landlords to send a summary of a tenant's rights and obligations including information set out in Regulations, when demanding service charges. A requirement was also imposed upon landlords sending demands for administration charges to serve a notice containing prescribed information about tenants' rights and obligations in relation to such charges.

The remaining provisions of the Act deal with accounting for service charge monies and provide for collective enfranchisement to be exercised through an RTE company. The accounting provisions require landlords to keep service charge monies for each group of service charge payers in separate (designated) accounts; and require landlords to provide a regular statement of account together with other relevant information.

A consultation paper dealing with the accounting provisions was published in July 2007, with a summary of the responses received published in January this year. The summary of responses set out our intentions to proceed with proposals to amend the provisions of the 2002 Act in order to ensure leaseholders are provided with appropriate information and protections without incurring a disproportionate cost. Work is ongoing on the detail of the provisions and amendments to the legislation will be made at the earliest opportunity.

In relation to the RTE company provisions, there are a number of legal and practical difficulties which still need to be resolved and work is continuing in order to determine a way forward. Therefore no timetable has yet been set to bring these provisions into force.

The Welsh Assembly has devolved responsibility for secondary legislation in respect of leasehold provisions in Wales.

### Community Relations: Housing

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to issue revised guidance to local authorities about the strategic housing role and the preparation of housing strategies mentioned in the Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion; and if she will make a statement. [190151]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As indicated in our response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, we aim to publish the revised guidance in late spring.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Local Government Association plan to publish the results of their review of social housing allocation, as mentioned in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190153]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This is a matter for the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Local Government Association.

### Community Relations: Rented Housing

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to publish the results of the policy review of the private rented sector mentioned in the Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion; and if she will make a statement. [190150]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is anticipated that the review of the private rented sector undertaken by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy, University of York, will be published in October 2008.

### Council Tax: Pensioners

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of above-inflation council tax rises since 1997 on the income of pensioners in those areas with such rises. [190531]

**John Healey:** Keeping council tax under control is in the interests of all taxpayers and remains a priority for the Government. We will not hesitate to use our capping powers as necessary to protect taxpayers from excessive increases.

As Sir Michael Lyons recognised in his report on local government last year, council tax benefit is the key to tackling the perceived unfairness of council tax towards all those on low incomes. The Government are working hard to improve take up and have done a great deal to improve pensioner incomes, spending around £11 billion more on pensioners in 2007-08 than if 1997 policies had continued.

### Council Tax: Post Offices

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with local authorities on the premium charged to people who pay their council tax through post offices; and if she will make a statement. [190454]

**John Healey:** I have regular discussions with local authorities on a wide range of issues. The collection of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities which may, if they choose, make arrangements to allow residents in their area to pay their council tax bills over the post office counter.

### Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether domestic properties with a Class U council tax exemption will be liable to pay the new charges for the collection of household rubbish. [189550]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

Domestic properties with a class U council tax exemption are those occupied only by people who are severely mentally impaired who would otherwise be liable to pay council tax.

The exact details of how a scheme might operate would be up to the local authorities running pilots to decide. However, the Government have stressed in their overarching framework that pilot authorities must take account of the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups in devising and running such a scheme. We would expect this group to fall under the definition of a potentially disadvantaged group. Therefore, it may well be that authorities decide to exempt it from the scheme, on the basis that people belonging to it cannot be expected to separate their waste for recycling.

DEFRA intends to provide further details in guidance for local authorities on how to take account of disadvantaged groups.

### Drugs: Waste Disposal

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she gives to *(a)* councils and *(b)* householders in respect of householders wishing to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals. [188474]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

Waste drugs and other pharmaceutical products are defined as clinical waste under the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992.

DEFRA's website includes advice specifically for householders wanting to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals. Normally only small quantities will be unwanted and we advise that they should be returned to the pharmacy for disposal. However, this may not be practicable where householders need to dispose of larger quantities. Where it is not possible to return pharmaceuticals to the pharmacy, we advise householders to ask their local authority (LA) to colleet them. LAs are obliged to collect clinical waste from householders on request, but may make a charge for doing so.

Where LAs are asked to collect pharmaceuticals from householders, they can draw on comprehensive guidance produced by the Department of Health on health care waste for all those involved in its management. The guidance, entitled "Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste", was published by the Department of Health in 2006 and includes advice on the management of waste pharmaceuticals, including appropriate waste receptacles and disposal routes.

## Eco-Towns

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum criteria are for connection from eco-towns to nearby settlements. [189280]

**Caroline Flint:** In the eco-towns prospectus we said that eco-towns must be freestanding settlements, separate and distinct from existing towns and cities, but well linked to them by high quality public transport.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what facilities and amenities will have to be included in an eco-town. [189281]

**Caroline Flint:** As set out in the eco-towns Prospectus we have said that eco-towns should provide for a good range of facilities within the town—a secondary school, a medium scale retail centre, good quality business space and leisure facilities. However, they are not expected to be entirely self-sufficient, and will be closely linked to larger towns and cities that provide for a wider range of needs.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps will be taken to ensure that eco-towns are designed to conserve water and other natural resources. [189282]

**Caroline Flint:** One of the seven key criteria we set out in the eco-towns prospectus covered environmental issues and this includes ensuring that the development incorporates high standards of water efficiency, particularly in areas of the country defined as severely water stressed, and incorporates environmentally sustainable approaches. We have also asked the Town and Country Planning Association to produce worksheets on the practical application of the criteria and this includes the water cycle and green infrastructure.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether eco-towns will be subject to an independent landscape appraisal. [189283]

**Caroline Flint:** As set out in the eco-towns prospectus we have said that there must be a commitment to high standards of environmental sustainability; this will include taking into consideration how the eco-town will affect the existing landscape. All shortlisted eco-towns will be subject to sustainability appraisal and landscape appraisal will be one of the many issues against which eco-towns will be considered.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how eco-towns will be required to demonstrate that the proposed settlement is the most sustainable option for housing and growth. [189286]

**Caroline Flint:** I will shortly announce a consultation paper on eco-towns which will include a shortlist of areas that have been put forward as potential eco-towns. An appraisal of sustainability is being undertaken, of which one of the tests will be to appraise the sustainability of eco-towns.

Furthermore, at the local level, where schemes are considered as part of the local planning process, sustainability appraisal will be undertaken of the strategy as well as of options for delivering the eco-town; this will include the consideration of alternatives. The local planning authority must clearly show how it has taken the requirements of sustainability appraisal into account in developing its policy.

Finally, all eco-towns will be the subject of a planning application. It is likely that the principal planning application for an eco-town would need to be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment which would need to include an outline of the main alternatives considered.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether eco-towns will be required to conform to criteria laid down in the regional spatial strategy and local development framework. [189288]

**Caroline Flint:** Legislation requires that local planning authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Where there are other material considerations, the development plan should be the starting point, and other material considerations should be taken into account in reaching a decision. One such consideration will be whether the plan policies are relevant and up to date.

Material considerations must be genuine planning considerations, i.e. they must be related to the development and use of land in the public interest and would include published planning policy statements such as those on housing and climate change together with any approved policy statement on eco-towns.

The development plan includes the regional spatial strategy (RSS) together with any development plan documents (DPDs) which the local authority has adopted and any "saved policies" still in effect.

## Eco-Towns: Architecture

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what standards of architectural design eco-towns will have to demonstrate. [189284]

**Caroline Flint:** As set out in the eco-towns prospectus we have said that there must be a commitment to a high standard of design throughout the development, across all housing tenures and buildings. This includes commercial and community buildings, and extends to the quality of the streets, public realm, parks and open spaces, and should be consistent with planning policy.

We are also working with CABE, RIBA and the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment to stimulate new architectural thinking for eco-town schemes and these organisations will be running a design competition involving the leading British and international architects and urban and landscape designers to set the standards for the 10 new eco-towns.

### Eco-Towns: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether eco-towns will be required to be carbon neutral. [189285]

**Caroline Flint:** As set out in the eco-towns prospectus, we have said that the whole eco-town development should reach zero carbon standards-not just homes, but schools, shops, offices and community facilities.

### Eco-Towns: Public Participation

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process of public consultation will be undertaken when determining whether to establish eco-towns. [189287]

**Caroline Flint:** I will shortly announce a consultation paper on eco-towns which will include a shortlist of areas that have been put forward as potential eco-towns. The consultation paper and the potential eco-town sites will be the subject of extensive public consultation. Sustainability appraisal will also be carried out and a further consultation will be undertaken on the environmental report as part of this.

Furthermore, when schemes are considered at the local level, as part of the local planning process, the community will be engaged on the strategy as well as any options for delivering the eco-town. The local planning authority must clearly show how it has taken the community's comments into account in developing its policy.

Finally, all eco-towns will be the subject of a planning application and subject to statutory forms of consultation; representations are then taken into account in the determination of the application.

### Eco-Towns: Standards

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria will be used to determine whether eco-towns represent the most efficient use of land. [189289]

**Caroline Flint:** I will shortly announce a consultation paper on eco-towns which will include a shortlist of areas that have been put forward as potential eco-towns.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) such as PPS 1 on the delivery of sustainable development and PPS 3 on housing, require local planning authorities to consider how all development makes the most efficient use of land. An appraisal of sustainability will be undertaken, of which one of the tests will be to appraise the use of land contained in the bids which have been and are being considered.

At the local level, additional sustainability appraisal will be undertaken where proposals are brought through the local planning system. It is also likely that the principal planning application for an eco-town would need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment which would need to include an outline of the main alternatives considered.

### Empty Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether public requests ordering disposal may be made against property which is *(a)* Crown Land and *(b)* owned by Regional Development Agencies. [189533]

**John Healey:** Part 10 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 makes provision for the disposal of public land, including the specific public request to order disposal (PROD) power. Schedule 16 of the Act lists the specific bodies to whom part 10 of the Act applies.

The bodies listed in the question are not listed in schedule 16 of the Act and therefore public requests to order disposal cannot be applied to any land owned by these bodies.

### Empty Property: Surrey

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there are in *(a)* Oxted, Surrey and *(b)* Caterham, Surrey. [188079]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The numbers of vacant dwellings by ward, indicated by council tax data provided by Tandridge district council, are tabulated as follows. The figures presented are for all vacancies at 31 March 2005, including those that have been empty for less than six months. This is the most recent information for ward level vacancies in Tandridge.

*Total vacancies in Tandridge district council by ward at 31 March 2005*

| *Ward name* | *All vacant dwellings (excluding second homes)* |
|---|---|
| Bletchingley and Nutfield | 76 |
| Burstow, Horne and Outwood | 50 |
| Chaldon | 10 |
| Dormansland and Felcourt | 34 |
| Felbridge | 18 |
| Godstone | 51 |
| Harestone | 56 |
| Limpsfield | 44 |
| Lingfield and Crowhurst | 38 |
| Oxted North and Tandridge | 71 |
| Oxted South | 55 |
| Portley | 33 |
| Queens Park | 37 |
| Tatsfield and Titsey | 15 |
| Valley | 73 |
| Warlingham East and Chelsham and Farleigh | 46 |
| Warlingham West | 33 |
| Westway | 29 |
| Whyteleafe | 43 |
| Woldingham | 24 |

### Floods: Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the cost of the clean up of the floods of summer 2007 on local authority budgets. [189092]

**John Healey:** It is for individual local authorities to assess the impact of the cost of the clean up of the summer 2007 floods on their budgets, as the extent of that impact will depend on a range of factors specific to each authority. These factors include how they have dealt with the need to maintain adequate insurance cover, what level of reserves they maintain, and what sources of funding are available to them to cover the costs.

Central Government have made available a comprehensive funding package of up to £78 million to date to assist the affected regions in the aftermath of the floods. We took the decision to focus much of this resource on local authorities in the greatest need, including by making available up to £20 million in flood recovery grant, £14 million to help cover the costs of damage to schools and children's services, and over £16 million for repairs to the local highway with more to come as claims are assessed.

As part of this Government funding package, local authorities have also been able to claim under the Bellwin scheme for all eligible costs incurred on or in connection with the taking of immediate action to safeguard life and property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.

### Health and Safety Executive

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, on the Health and Safety Executive, what estimate her Department has made of the number of homes in the country with water heaters of the kind involved in the death of Rhianna Hardie. [178625]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are no official statistics on the number of different types of hot water systems in homes. The Health and Safety Executive's advice in their 2007 safety alert is that the risk is greatest for homes where cold water cisterns are located above bedrooms. This is most likely in houses built between 1945 and 1975 and where these homes have or used to have a back boiler.

### Health Hazards: Boilers

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister took in 2002 following representations from the Health and Safety Executive on the threat of scalding water leaks from water tanks, following an incident in Penzance. [183240]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Following a request from ODPM officials, information was provided to us by the HSE on the circumstances leading up to the accident. This information was taken into account in our work with relevant trade and industry bodies to develop minimum standards of competence for the Building Regulations Competent Persons Schemes and in our preparations for a planned review of part G of the Building Regulations to fully consider all aspects of hot water safety.

Neither the Department nor the HSE initiated a publicity campaign in light of the house assessment that this was a tragic accident arising from a rare set of circumstances.

### Housing Renewal Areas: Private Sector

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 36W, on housing renewal areas: Private sector, if she will place in the Library the names of those individuals who have been asked to undertake the review of buy to let accommodation and student accommodation in the private rented sector; what the terms of reference of the review are; and if she will make a statement. [189391]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** An independent policy review of the whole of the private rented sector was commissioned in January. The review is being undertaken by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York and is due to report by the end of October 2008. The aim of the review is to improve our policy understanding of the private rented sector, looking at the barriers that exist towards ensuring it consistently offers a fit for purpose product, the role it has into the future and the actions that could be taken to influence and support that role. The press release announcing the review and the terms of reference have been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Housing: Tenant Mobility

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 18 September 2006, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS, on Housing Employment Mobility Services, whether her Department recouped the £1.06 million and associated costs following the termination of its contract with Scout Solutions Projects Limited to deliver mobility services for social tenants in the UK. [189408]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government is bound by the Lord Chancellor's pledge on the "Settlement of Government Disputes Through Alternative Dispute Resolution" where this is appropriate and is obliged if possible to seek a negotiated settlement of dispute. Following the written ministerial statement of 18 September 2006, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS the Department entered negotiations with a view to settlement of the dispute with the former moveUK contractor.

A confidential settlement was achieved on 7 June 2007 with an exchange of rights and assets. The settlement negotiated by the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Legal Directorate at Communities and Local Government was approved by HM Treasury and Counsel as an appropriate settlement representing value for money to the public purse having regard to: the chances of success; professional costs and other fees and expenses likely to be incurred; irrecoverable costs; the duration of proceedings and further delays to the delivery of public services.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to ensure that social housing providers take account of the importance of companion animals to tenants. [189196]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Most housing providers have a companion animal (pet) policy. However it is for individual landlords to decide if they wish to have one, and if so how to communicate that policy to their tenants.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, and 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 691W, on housing: local incomes, whether any deposit of the householder is applied to reducing *(a)* Part 1, *(b)* Part 2 or *(c)* Part 3 of the amount given to the household. [189239]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Under current arrangements any deposit would be applied to part 3.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, and 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 691W, on housing: local incomes, what negative equity liability the householder has on the *(a)* Part 2 and *(b)* Part 3 of the loan if housing prices fall by more than (i) 15 per cent. or (ii) 17.5 per cent. of the original purchase price over the course of the loan. [189240]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** If the value of the property were to fall the householder would be liable for any negative equity on part 1 and 2 of the loan. This is a common allocation of risk in the mortgage market.

### Housing: Prices

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had 15 the percentile house prices that were 70 per cent. of the national level. [190709]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Based on HM Land Registry house price data for April to June 2007, there were 20 local authorities that had 15th percentile house prices that were less than 70 per cent. of the national level.

The 20 local authorities with 15th percentile house prices that were less than 70 per cent. of the national level during April to June 2007 are:

Barrow-In-Furness
Blackburn with Darwen
Bolsover
Burnley
Copeland
Derwentside
Easington
Hartlepool
Hyndburn
Kingston upon Hull
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
North East
Pendle
Sedgefield
Stoke-on-Trent
Teesdale
Wansbeck
Wear Valley.

### Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homes that meet the decent homes standard but do not meet the thermal comfort standard. [187019]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In order to meet the decent homes standard a home must provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort as defined in "A Decent Home: definition and guidance for implementation" available at:

www.communities.gsi.gov.uk.

### Local Authorities: Standards

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities she expects to include Best Value Performance Indicators *(a)* No. 1, *(b)* No. 2 and *(c)* No. 3 as one of their priority targets in their 2008 local area agreements. [190116]

**John Healey:** Best value performance indicators are being abolished with effect from 1 April 2008 and will be replaced with a single set of 198 national indicators, which was announced by the Secretary of State in October 2007. The national indicator set includes:

NI 1: Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area,

NI 2: Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood, and

NI 3: Civic participation in the local area.

Local authorities are currently negotiating with their local partnerships and Government offices to agree which of the 198 indicators in the national indicator set will be included in their LAA. The negotiations will not conclude until June 2008.

### Local Government

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* estimate her Department has made of and *(b)* research her Department has conducted into the cost of (i) local authority reporting to central Government and (ii) local government inspection by external inspectors and auditors. [189519]

**John Healey:** A PricewaterhouseCoopers report "Mapping the Performance Landscape", commissioned by this Department and published in July 2006, estimated that the costs of reporting performance information to central Government was of the order of £2.6 million. This estimate is based on a study of four local authorities. The Department for Communities and Local Government will begin research during the 2008-09 financial year to consider the savings due to the introduction of the new performance framework.

The Department is responsible for sponsorship of the Audit Commission. The Audit Commission is the only inspectorate of local government to charge a fee element to authorities for inspection. The total inspection fee income in 2006-07 published by the Commission was around £11 million. The Department also pays grant to the Commission to underwrite the cost of its inspection activity. In 2006-07, this grant totalled almost £26 million. The Department does not hold information about the costs of inspection of local authorities by other local inspectorates.

**Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry: Finance**

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for the Lyons Inquiry was. [190543]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, (column 627W).

**Local Government Finance: Disadvantaged**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which funding streams the index of multiple deprivation, or elements of it, is used as a mechanism in whole or in part to allocate central funding to local areas. [189546]

**John Healey:** The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) has been used by Communities and Local Government to determine eligibility for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which was in operation between 2001 and 2008. The Department has also recently used the IMD as the basis for two of the three criteria used to determine eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

I am also aware that the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) has used the IMD or elements of it to allocate funding for a number of its programmes; and that the Department of Health has used the IMD either as an element or to allocate funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations.

**Local Government Finance: Empty Property**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the re-use of empty domestic dwellings will be incentivised in the allocation mechanisms of housing and delivery grant. [189547]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government published draft allocation criteria for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant for consultation in October 2007, which closed on 17 January. We will set out final allocation criteria in due course taking account of the views expressed in the consultation.

**Markets: Planning**

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the extent to which local authorities have used Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres to support and develop the role of street markets in their own town centres; and if she will make a statement. [189132]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government's planning policy for town centres, Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6), recognises that street and covered markets (including farmers' markets) can make a valuable contribution to local choice and diversity in shopping, the vitality of town centres and to rural economies.

PPS6 asks local authorities to seek to retain and enhance their existing markets and, where appropriate, re-introduce or create new ones. They are also asked to ensure that existing markets remain attractive and competitive by investing in their improvement. It is for local authorities to decide on the level of support they give to street markets in their town centres, as appropriate to their particular area.

**Roads: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Lancashire County Council to empty gullies on principal roads in 2006-07. [189876]

**John Healey:** Highway maintenance is one of the services supported via formula grant. Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. councils are free to spend the money on any service provided they meet their statutory obligations. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service.

In addition, Lancashire received £14.332 million of capital funding for highway maintenance in 2006-07. This funding is not ring-fenced and authorities have discretion to spend it in line with their priorities.

**Taxation: Burglar Alarms**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether account is taken of security systems and burglar alarm systems by the Valuation Office Agency when revaluing a property for *(a)* non-domestic rates and *(b)* council tax. [189549]

**John Healey:** Security and alarm systems are taken into account when assessing a property for non-domestic rates.

Similarly, such systems should be taken into account when reviewing a banding for council tax although, in practice, the effect on value is extremely unlikely to result in a home being placed in a different band.

**Thames Gateway**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 589-91W, on the Thames Gateway to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar if she will list the central Government departments that are involved in the Thames Gateway. [189404]

**Caroline Flint:** The following Government Departments are involved in the Thames Gateway:

Communities and Local Government
Department of Health
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
UK Trade and Investment
Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
HM Treasury
Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Work and Pensions
Department for Transport
Department for Culture Media and Sport
Home Office
Cabinet Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice

### Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, which local authorities which were in receipt of Deprived Areas Fund, but which did not receive Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, will not receive Working Neighbourhood Funding following the end of any transitional relief. [189401]

**John Healey:** The authorities listed were in receipt of Deprived Area Fund but did not receive Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and will not receive an allocation of funding from WNF following the end of transitional relief.

Luton
Kensington and Chelsea
East Lindsey
Redbridge
Wandsworth
West Lancashire
Calderdale
Waveney
Southend-on-Sea
Tendring
Allerdale
Torbay
North Somerset
Gloucester
Ashford
Portsmouth
Bassetlaw
Lancaster
Scarborough
East Riding of Yorkshire
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Darlington
King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Peterborough
Merton
Bexley
Bedford
Warrington
Chester-le-Street
Bournemouth
Weymouth and Portland
Charnwood
East Staffordshire
North Devon
West Lindsey
Chester
Corby
Wyre
Carlisle
Swindon
Newark and Sherwood
Crewe and Nantwich
Boston
Shepway
Dover
High Peak
Milton Keynes
Isle of Wight
City of London
Maidstone.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Plastics: Recycling

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department holds on *(a)* which local authorities collect mixed plastic for recycling and *(b)* what recycling method is used after collection from residents in each case. [188864]

**Joan Ruddock:** "Mixed plastics" is a term used within the recycling sector to refer to plastic packaging other than plastic bottles.

DEFRA does not hold records on which local authorities collect mixed plastics for recycling or what method of recycling is used after collection.

Local authorities report the tonnages they collect for recycling, which includes plastics, to WasteDataFlow. However, it is not possible to differentiate mixed plastics from other types of plastic collections in this data source.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is undertaking trials with a number of technologies aimed at understanding the best ways to handle mixed plastics from an environmental, economical and technological perspective. The programme is investigating three main areas: collection, reprocessing, and end markets. Different recycling and recovery options are being considered as part of this work.

WRAP and Recoup conduct an annual survey of local authorities which gathers data on waste plastics collections. The 2008 survey will be undertaken shortly, and will include specific questions on mixed plastics.

When the data from this survey has been analysed, it should provide more information on those local authorities collecting mixed plastics.

### Waste Management: Standards

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the individual results for each of the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste partners for 2005-06 and 2006-07. [189260]

**Joan Ruddock:** We expect the 2005-06 results from individual delivery bodies delivering the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme to be published in March. We plan to publish aggregated results for 2006-07 around the same time, followed by individual delivery body results by late summer. I will arrange for copies of both sets of results to be placed in the House Library when they are available.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the criteria for funding agreements are with each of the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste partners for 2007-08. [189261]

**Joan Ruddock:** In developing the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW), DEFRA has sought the views of various business and environment stakeholders including the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Green Alliance. With regard to planning for the year 2007-08 of the programme, these and other organisations were invited to a stakeholder event (held in May 2006) followed by a consultation on specific proposals for activity (from October to November 2006). These various dialogues helped inform the overall coverage of the programme.

In addition, DEFRA and HM Treasury have established programme criteria, which must be met before funds can be granted for activities. BREW funding:

(i) can only be spent in England (except under the circumstances outlined below);

(ii) can only be used to support measures related to business; it cannot be used to support local authorities, or organisations whose waste is treated as 'household waste' (e.g. schools), except under the circumstances outlined in the following paragraph;

(iii) must provide additional value (against a 2004/5 baseline) and not displace other sources of funding in order to meet the above conditions; and

(iv) should provide a potential benefit to those sectors paying landfill tax and where possible address those sectors most affected by landfill tax increases.

Exceptions to the conditions described above are that:

(a) BREW funding may be used to fund a programme that is located outside England or would also have benefits outside England, providing that the target of the programme is England and primary benefits are to business in England; and it would be impractical to run the programme without such external benefits occurring;

(b) BREW funding can be used to involve local authorities in a programme where such involvement provides significant benefits to business rather than the local authority.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Administration of Justice

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W, on armed forces: inquests, how much was spent on legal representation and advice on each coroner's case heard in which legal proceedings are complete in each year. [186703]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The amount spent on each coroner's case heard in England and Wales for each year in which the inquest has completed is as follows:

| | *Name* | *Date of inquest* | *Costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | CplM Phillips and Rifleman I Coman | March 2003 | 5201.72 |
| 2004 | Sapper L M Passmore | July 2004 | 18,218.01 |
| | Cpl J M Pears | 8 November 204 | 15,624.67 |
| | Cpl T Rees | August 2004 | 7313.01 |
| | Pte D J Shipley | August 2004 | 16,814.67 |
| | LBdr S A Walmsley | 2 November 2004 | 11,288.96 |
| 2005 | MEM G J Benton | 9 February 2005 | 22,695.19 |
| | Lt J Christie | 22 May 2005 | 24,834.41 |
| | Lt Col Van der Horst | 8 November 2005 | 27,893.33 |
| | LBdr R Wilson | 13 December 2005 | 8054.31 |
| | Cdre D White | 29 September 2005 | 3112.32 |
| 2006 | Gdsmn A J Wakefield | 11 December 2006 | 10,791.65 |
| | RMP case: | March 2006 | 81,607.48 |
| | Sgt Hamilton-Jewell | — | — |
| | Cpl Aston | — | — |
| | Cpl Long | — | — |
| | Cpl Miller | — | — |
| | LCpl Hyde | — | — |
| | LCpl Keys | — | — |
| | Pte J Collinson | 20 February 2006 | 180,008.25 |
| | LCpl A J Craw | 8 January 2006 | 23,050.61 |
| | Fus S Henderson | 27 November 2006 | 24,033.87 |
| | Capt Holmes and Pte Ellis | 27 November 2006 | 5840.26 |
| | Marine C Maddison | 20 November 2006 | 39,063.23 |
| | Fit Lt Main and Fit Lt Williams | 30 October 2006 | 963.74 |
| | Sig D W Didsbury | 15 January 2006 | 10,220.23 |

| | Name | Date of inquest | Costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sgt S Roberts | 11 December 2006 | 44,041.58 |
| | Pte J G Smith | 6 November 2006 | 14,126.57 |
| | Fus S Manning S and Fus D Meade | 15 November 2006 | 14,701.63 |
| 2007 | Cpl G Pritchard | 10 September 2007 | 3122.40 |
| | LCpl Brackenbury | 14 September 2007 | 2987.89 |
| | LCpl Hetherington | 25 September 2007 | 1858.78 |
| | Pte Wysoczan | 25 July 2007 | 5700.62 |
| | Sgt W J D McLellan | 25 January 2007 | 357.80 |
| | Lt McCaulay | 12 March 2007 | 39,833.92 |
| | Fus G Gentle | 29 October 2007 | 132,625.21 |
| | Cpl S Albutt | 5 February 2007 | 70,260.03 |
| | 2nd Lt Shearer, Pte Spicer and Pte Hewett | 30 January 2007 | 28,400.70 |
| | LCoH M Hull | 12 March 2007 | 102,097.37 |
| | Cpl Thorpe and LCpl Hashmi | 11 October 2007 | 1686.31 |
| | Lynx crash: | 21 June 2007 | 24,124.14 |
| | Wg Cdr Coxen | — | — |
| | Flt Lt Mulvihill | — | — |
| | Capt Dobson | — | — |
| | Marine Collins | — | — |
| | Lt Cdr Chapman | — | — |
| | Pte Morris and Pte Lewaicei | 28 February 2007 | 10,006.08 |
| | Major Ward | 16 April 2007 | 32,474.39 |
| | Cpl Cosby | 15 October 2007 | 65,410.59 |
| | LCpl Nicholls, 2nd Lt Johnson and Capt Eida | 17 September 2007 | 1977.86 |
| | LCpl L McCulloch | 28 November 2007 | 1357.61 |

*Note:*
In some cases where inquests have completed, there may be future small residual charges made to close files.

The cases listed are those where the inquest has completed and are recorded in the year when this took place but the expenditure may have been spread over a number of previous years.

The increase in the number of cases in 2006 and 2007 reflects the increased volume of inquests held in Oxfordshire following the provision of additional resources to clear the backlog of inquests into operational deaths overseas.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's plans are for accommodation disposal in each of the next three years; and how much he expects to be generated by each disposal, with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 936-7W, on Armed Forces Housing. [162193]

**Derek Twigg:** The majority of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales is leased from Annington Homes Ltd and properties no longer required for defence purposes are returned to the company. Although no receipt accrues to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in respect of properties returned, there are savings in rent, contributions in lieu of council tax and maintenance. The following number of SFA properties are due to be returned to AHL in this and the next three financial years:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 273 |
| 2008-09 | 403 |
| 2009-10 | 102 |
| 2010-11 | 1 |

Although receipts from the sale of AHL properties is a matter for AHL, the MOD has received some £48 million under its in gain-share agreement with AHL from the sale of properties by the company over the last three years. It should be noted that sales do not necessarily relate to the year the properties are released to AHL.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, surplus SFA are sold on the open market. We currently have plans to dispose of 600 properties in Scotland and 800 in Northern Ireland over the next three years.

Receipts from house sales will depend on market conditions at the time of sale, the area and the type of property. To release any valuations we may have carried out ahead of the sale, would, in any case, be likely to influence the market and these are thus regarded as commercially confidential until the sale is complete.

Overseas, the majority of SFA are returned to the host government when no longer needed, but SFA on permanent joint operations bases are owned by the MOD. When they are no longer required, the future of these properties is determined by the MOD.

In respect of single living (barrack) accommodation (SLA), this is usually within the wire of a service establishment and the disposal normally forms part of the disposal of the wider site. Receipts cannot, therefore, be estimated specifically for SLA.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that Ministry of Defence training is not provided to overseas military pilots from regimes associated with *(a)* repression of minorities and *(b)* ethnic cleansing. [187879]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence provides training to other countries in accordance with defence policy and wider HMG policy objectives. The countries to which we provide training are under continuous review, and the record of a regime is one of many factors that are taken into account when deciding whether to provide pilot training. Proposals to change policy towards pilot training are brought forward, as necessary, as circumstances change.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 87W, on armoured fighting vehicles, how the internal space requirement for the Panther vehicle compares with the Cheetah vehicle; and what the minimum space requirement is. [188748]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** For Panther the original Iveco vehicle has five seats, which is reduced to either four or three, depending on the specific Bowman radio installation. In the event of Panther being deployed on operations, there would be a requirement to fit a suite of force protection measures. These can be accommodated in a 'pod' at the back of the vehicle, rather than in the main crew compartment.

Cheetah has six seats, which would reduce to either five or four, depending on the specific Bowman installation. Cheetah lacks the additional equipment stowage area at the back of the vehicle which means that additional force protection equipment would have to be accommodated inside the crew compartment, potentially reducing the available crew space further.

Regarding the minimum space requirements for the protected patrol vehicle programme, for which the Cheetah vehicle was previously considered, I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or could be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Arms Control

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will meet representatives of Soroptimist International to discuss disarmament matters. [190195]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Ministers and officials regularly meet with a wide range of Non-Governmental Organisations to discuss disarmament issues. Any request by Soroptimist International would be considered in the usual way.

### BOWMAN combat radio system

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Bowman radio system provides *(a)* secure voice communications and *(b)* interface with other key battlefield communications at tactical level. [187198]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Bowman radio system provides secure voice communications.

Improvements to Bowman connectivity are being addressed as part of the capability uplift which is already underway.

### British Overseas Territories: Armed Forces

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military units raised in the Overseas Territories have served alongside or been embedded in UK units in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other theatres in the last two years; and if he will state in each case the (i) numbers, (ii) ranks and (iii) role and function of such units; [188297]

(2) how many military units raised in the Overseas Territories have served alongside or been embedded in *(a)* UN forces, *(b)* EU forces and *(c)* forces of other international organisations involved in military deployments in the last two years; and if he will state in each case the (i) numbers, (ii) ranks and (iii) role and function of such units. [188295]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No military units raised in the Overseas Territories have served alongside or been embedded with either UK forces, UN forces, EU forces or forces of other international organisations on operations over the past two years; although a number of individual volunteers from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment are regularly attached to UK units serving on operations, and a total of 32 individuals up to the rank of Major have deployed in various roles to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans in the last two years.

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year *(a)* from 2000 to 2003 and *(b)* since 2005-06; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year since 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180701]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information held centrally in the name of the Capita Group plc is provided in the following table. Information on contracts with subsidiary companies could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Excluded are any contracts placed on behalf of other Government Departments, joint venture/alliance contracts, contracts placed through collaborative projects such as the Typhoon/Euro fighter and those awarded by the MOD's Trading Funds.

| *Financial year* | *Contract payments (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 219 |
| 2001-02 | 14 |
| 2002-03 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 19 |

One contract, currently worth approximately £21,000 has been awarded to the Capita Group since 2000-01. This is a five-year contract for the supply and support of management information software for service children's education. This contract was not awarded competitively as the source code for the software meeting the defence requirement is proprietary to the Capita Group. No provision was made for penalties, although a standard clause on default provides a remedy for any failure of the

contractor to deliver or perform on time. No provision was made for contract renewal without competition. The expenditure in 2000-01 and 2000-02 represents residual payments made against a contract awarded before 2000.

### Commonwealth: Armed Forces

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown by rank and nationality of all Commonwealth soldiers serving in the Army. [189270]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The strength of the Commonwealth component of the Army broken down by paid rank and nationality is provided in the tables.

*Trained Regular Army Officers by Paid Rank and Nationality as at 1 January 2008*

| | Regular Officer Paid Rank | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nationality* | *Colonel* | *Lieutenant Colonel* | *Major* | *Captain* | *Subaltern* | *Total* |
| Total | 5 | 10 | 50 | 65 | 45 | 180 |
| Australian | 0 | * | 15 | 10 | * | 30 |
| Barbadian | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| British Commonwealth | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 5 |
| Canadian | * | * | 5 | 5 | * | 15 |
| Citizen of Fiji | 0 | 0 | * | * | 0 | * |
| Citizen of Sri Lanka | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * |
| Ghanaian | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * | * |
| Indian | * | * | * | * | 0 | 10 |
| Jamaican | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * |
| Kenyan | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * |
| Malaysian | 0 | 0 | * | * | 0 | * |
| Maltese | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | * |
| New Zealander | 0 | * | 10 | 5 | * | 20 |
| Nigerian | 0 | 0 | * | * | 0 | * |
| Pakistani | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * |
| Sierra Leonean | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| South African | 0 | 0 | * | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| St. Lucian | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| Trinidad and Tobago Citizen | 0 | * | * | 0 | 0 | * |
| Ugandan | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| Zambian | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| Zimbabwean | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 20 |

*Note:*
All figures are provisional

*Trained Regular Army Other Ranks by Paid Rank and Nationality as at 1 January 2008*

| | Regular Other Rank Paid Rank | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nationality* | *Warrant Officer 1* | *Warrant Officer 2* | *Staff Sergeant* | *Sergeant* | *Corporal* | *Lance Corporal* | *Private* | *Total* |
| Total | * | * | 10 | 35 | 530 | 1,955 | 3,240 | 5,770 |
| Antiguan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | 0 | * |
| Australian | 0 | * | * | * | 5 | 5 | 10 | 30 |
| Bangladeshi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 5 |
| Barbadian | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * | * | 10 |
| Belizean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * |
| Botswanan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 5 |
| British Commonwealth | 0 | * | * | 0 | 0 | * | * | 5 |
| Canadian | * | 0 | * | 10 | * | 5 | 15 | 40 |
| Cameroonian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 5 | 20 | 30 |
| Citizen of Fiji | 0 | 0 | * | * | 170 | 695 | 1,025 | 1,890 |
| Citizen of Seychelles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | 5 | 10 |
| Citizen of Sri Lanka | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 10 |
| Dominican | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 15 | 20 |
| Gambian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 20 | 75 | 95 |
| Ghanaian | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 30 | 155 | 465 | 650 |
| Grenadian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 20 | 25 | 50 |

*Trained Regular Army Other Ranks by Paid Rank and Nationality as at 1 January 2008*

| | Regular Other Rank | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Paid Rank | | | | | | | |
| *Nationality* | *Warrant Officer 1* | *Warrant Officer 2* | *Staff Sergeant* | *Sergeant* | *Corporal* | *Lance Corporal* | *Private* | *Total* |
| Guyanese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| Indian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 10 | 35 | 50 |
| Jamaican | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 300 | 380 | 740 |
| Kenyan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 20 | 65 | 105 |
| Malawian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 85 | 120 |
| Malaysian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * |
| Maltese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | * |
| Mauritian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 5 | 15 | 25 |
| New Zealander | 0 | * | * | * | 10 | 10 | 10 | 40 |
| Nigerian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 15 | 50 | 65 |
| Pakistani | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 5 |
| Papua New Guinean | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * | * |
| Sierra Leonean | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | 5 | 30 | 40 |
| Singaporean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| South African | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 55 | 200 | 400 | 655 |
| St. Kittian and Nevisian | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * |
| St. Lucian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 80 | 90 | 195 |
| Swazi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Tanzanian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * |
| Trinidad and Tobago citizen | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 10 | 25 | 30 | 65 |
| Tongan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 5 | 10 |
| Ugandan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 10 | 40 | 50 |
| Vincentian | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 55 | 100 | 85 | 245 |
| Zambian | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Zimbabwean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 60 | 195 | 190 | 450 |

All figures are provisional

*Notes:*

1. Due to the ongoing validation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
2. The figures are for trained regular army personnel (Officers and Other Ranks) and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.
3. All data have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality.
4. Numbers less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*'.

### Defence Equipment: Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects an order to be placed with Force Protection Inc for the additional 140 Mastiff/ Cougar vehicles. [187812]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We have already ordered the additional Mastiff vehicles and negotiations are ongoing with the US Department of Defence and the manufacturer to agree the precise delivery schedule.

### Defence: ICT

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been changes in his Department's approach to information technology as a result of virtualisation; and if he will make a statement. [188635]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Department is aware of the potential advantages offered by virtualisation. The term virtualisation covers a broad range of technical opportunities that have been around since the 1970s and the MOD over this period has made use of these techniques.

In relation to the current growth in the virtualisation market, MOD and its commercial suppliers are considering the use of virtualisation techniques to pursue a number of benefits:

To reduce the number of servers required to host legacy and future applications;

To reduce the number of operating systems that are required to host legacy and future applications;

For Information Assurance and business continuity reasons to allow load balancing and fault tolerance capabilities;

As a way of running an application securely among other potentially less secure or resilient applications; and

To ensure users can access legacy applications in a seamless manner from modern infrastructures.

This list of examples is not exhaustive and the MOD just like any other Government or commercial enterprise will assess and exploit virtualisation as it continues to evolve.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on externally provided *(a)* consultancy and *(b)* other services in each of the last 10 years. [189602]

**Derek Twigg:** Summaries of MOD expenditure on external assistance, of which management consultancy is a part, are available in the Library of the House for the years 1995-96 to 2006-07. These summaries also include expenditure on certain other advisory services. Expenditure on the full range of other services which MOD procures is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2007-08 will be placed in the Library before the summer recess.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187536]

**Derek Twigg:** Total reimbursable expenses paid to MOD senior civil service staff between 1 February 2007 and 31 January 2008 were £540,000.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187496]

**Derek Twigg:** Data for the number of civilian staff retiring from the Department on grounds of stress-related illness are not centrally held.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced through framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189192]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* No translation or interpreting work is currently outsourced by the Ministry of Defence Language Service through framework agreements with commercial providers. Equivalent information for any work outsourced by other parts of the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1492W, on departmental vehicles, how many white fleet vehicles his Department and its agencies leased in each year since 2001. [187804]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The number of white fleet vehicles leased by the Department in each year since 2001, (i.e. non-operational vehicles in England, Scotland and Wales), cannot be broken down into yearly totals, however the following 'snapshots' are available.

| *Date, as at:* | *Number of vehicles leased* |
|---|---|
| 1 September 2001 | 8,063 |
| 1 September 2002 | 8,910 |
| 31 March 2003 | 12,754 |
| 31 March 2004 | 13,723 |
| 31 March 2005 | 14,211 |
| 31 March 2006 | 14,599 |
| 31 March 2007 | 15,009 |
| 31 December 2007 | 15,138 |

Details of the number of white fleet vehicles leased by the MOD since 2001 in overseas theatres-by the MOD police, DSTL and Trading Funds-are not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Future Rapid Effect System

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the number of units required for the Future Rapid Effect System. [189273]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) is currently in its assessment phase; work on detailed requirements is continuing, and the fleet requirements for each FRES family will not be confirmed until the main investment decisions are taken.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military helicopters were leased commercially by his Department in each year since 1997; what types of helicopters were leased; and what the cost of leasing was in each year. [183082]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The numbers of helicopters leased by the Department in each year since 1997 and their associated costs are shown in the following table.

| *Helicopter type* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sikorsky S61N | [1]— | [1]— | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Dauphin AS365N2 | [1]— | [1]— | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Bell 212 | — | — | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Bell 412 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Single Squirrel HT1/HT2 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 37 |
| Eurocopter AS355F1 Twin Squirrel | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Agusta A109E Power Elite | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| Total cost each year (£ million) | 20 | 23 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 35 | 44 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |

[1] No data available.

In addition, during December 2007, MI-8 helicopter flying hours were commercially leased to help deliver mail and parcels to troops in Afghanistan. This cost has been incorporated into the 2007-08 total.

Leasing arrangements do not all follow the same pattern with some forming part of Multi-Activity Contracts. This information is not held centrally and in compiling this answer, it has been identified that information was omitted from my reply to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W. The costs for financial years 2004-05, 2005-06; 2006-07 and 2007-08 are £48 million, £49 million, £50 million and £51 million respectively.

### Navy

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships there are in the Royal Navy. [189460]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Navy currently has 75 surface ships of the following types: Landing Platform Dock, Landing Platform Helicopter, Aircraft Carriers, Destroyers, Frigates, Mine Countermeasures ships, River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, Inshore Patrol Craft and Survey Ships. In addition, the Royal Navy has 13 submarines (ballistic and fleet).

### Navy: Manpower

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many admirals there are in the Royal Navy. [189461]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are two admirals, six vice admirals and 25 rear admirals currently serving in the Royal Navy. These numbers include admirals in Ministry Defence tri-service appointments.

### Radar

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether funds will be made available for a third radar station at Staxton Wold if the new T102 radar is found to mitigate the effects of wind turbines; [186996]

(2) what his policy is on the use of the new T102 air defence radar near onshore and offshore wind turbines; and what assessment he has made of the effect of wind farms on the T102 radar system. [186997]

**Derek Twigg:** The T102 radar is a non-deployable air defence radar and will continue the role currently undertaken by the T93 radar contributing to the United Kingdom Air Surveillance and Control System. It is scheduled to replace the two T93 radars currently in operation at the Remote Radar Head (RRH) Trimingham and RRH Brizlee Wood with two new T102 radars during 2008. On current plans, we do not propose to procure a third T102 radar as we are scheduled to replace the T93 radar installed at Staxton Wold with a T101 transferred from another unit and this replacement radar will remain in service until 2017.

Although it is hoped that the T102 radar will be able to mitigate some of the adverse effects of wind turbines we have, as yet, made no assessment of the effect of wind farms on the system. Once the radars are delivered, an operational assessment will be undertaken. This will include an assessment of the effect on the radar returns of those existing wind turbine developments that fall within the radar coverage area.

If the mitigation provided by the T102 is not enough, we are ready to look with other stakeholders (e.g. DBERR and individual wind farm developers) at other possibilities to ensure we have the radar coverage needed in the air space above wind turbines.

### Royal Military Academy: Foreigners

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are used to decide which nationalities of foreign citizens may be trained at RMA Sandhurst. [189441]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Places at RMA Sandhurst are allocated in accordance with defence policy and wider Government conflict prevention objectives.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign citizens were trained at RMA Sandhurst since 1997; and of what nationalities. [189444]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** 800 students from 79 countries have trained at RMA Sandhurst since 1997. Their nationalities are set out in the following table:

| *Country* | *Total* | *1977* | *1988* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Commissioning Course* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 2 | — |
| Albania | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Algeria | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Antigua | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Armenia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Azerbaijan | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Bahrain | 45 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Barbados | 3 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Belize | 32 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Bhutan | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Bolivia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Botswana | 15 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |

| Country | Total | 1977 | 1988 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brunei | 39 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| China | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Czech Republic | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Egypt | 5 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| El Salvador | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ethiopia | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Fiji | 16 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Gambia | 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Georgia | 4 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ghana | 6 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Guatemala | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Guyana | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Hungary | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Iraq | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Ireland | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jamaica | 51 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Jordan | 23 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Kenya | 9 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kuwait | 55 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | — |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Latvia | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lesotho | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Lithuania | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Luxembourg | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Malawi | 14 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| Maldives | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Malta | 12 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Mauritius | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mauritania | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Morocco | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mozambique | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Namibia | 4 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Nepal | 25 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Nigeria | 14 | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Oman | 55 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Pakistan | 14 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Palestine | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Papua New Guinea | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paraguay | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Philippines | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Qatar | 27 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | 3 | 1 |
| Rwanda | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 13 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Senegal | 11 | — | — | 3 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Singapore | 16 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Slovenia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| South Arica | 6 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Sri Lanka | 8 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Sudan | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Swaziland | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Syria | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tanzania | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Thailand | 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Tonga | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| Country | Total | 1977 | 1988 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trinidad and Tobago | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uganda | 8 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ukraine | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| United Arab Emirates | 72 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| Uruguay | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uzbekistan | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Yemen | 20 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 4 | 5 | 3 | — | 3 | 3 | — |
| Zimbabwe | 8 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 774 | 79 | 71 | 63 | 60 | 68 | 71 | 73 | 69 | 69 | 59 | 67 | 25 |
| *Professionally Qualified Officer* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bahrain | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Brunei | 4 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Estonia | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 7 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | 1 |
| *TA Commissioning Course* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bermuda | 19 | — | — | 5 | 2 | — | — | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Grand totals | 800 | 79 | 71 | 68 | 63 | 69 | 71 | 77 | 72 | 73 | 62 | 68 | 27 |

[1] 2008: January course only.

## UN Resolutions

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government have taken in support of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [190194]

**Des Browne:** The UK is one of only six countries to have drawn up a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. This outlines how the UK implements the resolution in a wide range of areas. The main focus for the Ministry of Defence is to ensure that female personnel are deployed in appropriate numbers on operations, and that the provisions of UNSCR1325 are reflected in operational planning, doctrine and training.

The Department has conducted an audit of existing training which concluded that British military personnel generally receive sufficient training to ensure that they are compliant with the intent of the resolution. Following the recommendations of the audit, we have also ensured that the resolution is covered in relevant doctrine, and that pre-deployment training includes relevant briefings on the role/relevance of gender to the specific society living in the operational area.

More information on the Government's efforts to implement UNSCR 1325 is available on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1142534038014

## Weapons

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to purchase replacement barrels for the GPMG and 0.5 calibre M2 heavy machine gun. [187482]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The current in-service GPMG and 0.5 cal heavy machine gun (quick change barrel) (HMG (QCB)) is designed to enable their barrels to be changed easily. Spare barrels are purchased with all new weapons and, in addition, replacement barrels (and other consumable spares) are routinely purchased as part of ordinary provisioning activity.

The 0.5 cal M2 heavy machine gun underwent a significant modification programme in 1999 to incorporate a new quick change barrel and become the current in-service 0.5 cal HMG (QCB). Modified M2s currently account for around 40 per cent. of the HMG (QCB) fleet, the remainder being new buys made to HMG (QCB) specifications. All replacement barrels for HMGs are therefore QCBs, not the original M2 barrels.

# FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

## Bombs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to *(a)* participate in future Oslo Process conferences, *(b)* sign up to a treaty to prohibit the use, production and transfer of cluster munitions and *(c)* declare a moratorium on the use, production and transfer of cluster munitions until a treaty is in place; and if he will make a statement. [189448]

**Dr. Howells:** We look forward to taking part in the next Oslo Process conference in Dublin in May when negotiations on a treaty are due to conclude. We have been fully committed to the Oslo Process from the start. We were among the original 46 nations that supported the Oslo Declaration in February 2007,

which began this process to conclude a legally binding instrument to prohibit those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians in 2008. We are pleased to have associated ourselves with the Wellington Declaration (22 February 2008) that brings us a step closer to achieving this aim.

We and our EU partners also want the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) to adopt a legally binding instrument on cluster munitions as soon as possible. This would ensure that our humanitarian objective is fully achieved as the CCW includes the main users and producers of these weapons who have remained outside the Oslo Process.

In March 2007 my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary announced the withdrawal of the UK's basic cluster munitions (systems that have neither target discrimination capability, nor an in-built self-destruct mechanism). The Government believe withdrawing a weapon, as we did, is more sustainable than a moratorium because the weapons are clearly put beyond use. We cannot exclude the use of the cluster munitions that we retained in certain circumstances.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188785]

**Dr. Howells:** No official has been dismissed from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the last five years for accessing obscene or other prohibited material on work computers.

Guidance is circulated to staff on a regular basis on the use of work computers. This includes a reminder that failure to comply with the guidance may result in disciplinary action under the FCO's Misconduct Procedure.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182520]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employed 36 press officers in the 2006-07 financial year, 30 in 2005-06, 26 plus one part-time officer in 2004-05 and 41 in 2003-04. There are no records for the number of press officers pre-2003. The FCO does not have a "communications officer" grade.

The Central Office of Information publishes the "White Book" twice a year, which contains listings of FCO and other Government Department press officers.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182718]

**Meg Munn:** Press officers' bonuses totalled £4,320 for the 2006-07 financial year and £4,900 for the 2005-06 financial year. The highest and lowest bonuses were £750 and £280 for 2006-07 and £600 and £300 for 2005-06. No bonuses were paid in 2004-05 or 2003-04. There are no records for bonus payments pre-2003.

Bonuses recognise a well-performed one-off task or exercise, for example exceptional achievement outside the job specification or exemplary meeting of an objective.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 52W, on departmental internet, where the locally-engaged commercial officer was engaged. [189355]

**Meg Munn:** The locally engaged commercial officer referred to in the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 52W was engaged by our embassy in Santiago.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189080]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs three civil servants who are under 18 years of age. All are full-time employees.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187505]

**Meg Munn:** As there have been fewer than five people who have taken ill health retirement due to stress-related illness we are unable to provide the information requested by the hon. Member on grounds of confidentiality.

### Falkland Islands

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Falkland Islands *(a)* Governor and *(b)* Government on South Georgia, South Orkney, South Sandwich and other territories in the South Atlantic. [190905]

**Dr. Howells:** The Governor of the Falkland Islands is also the Commissioner for South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, but the two positions are separate and distinct. He has no responsibility for any of the other Overseas Territories in the south Atlantic, nor South Orkney, which is administered as part of the British Antarctic Territory. The Falkland Islands government has no responsibilities in relation to South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney or any other territories in the south Atlantic.

The Governor/Commissioner maintains a regular dialogue with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials to ensure that the priorities set out in the 1999 White Paper on the Overseas Territories are being met.

**Falkland Islands: Oil**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to support the secure development of oil and gas exploration facilities in the Falkland Islands waters. [190318]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* As my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) stated in his written answer to my hon. Friend on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1157W, the Government will play a role in supporting the secure development of oil and gas exploration facilities in the Falkland Islands territorial sea and continental shelf. The Government are responsible for the external security and defence of the Falkland Islands. The provision of routine security and policing of oil rigs is a matter for the Falkland Islands government and the oil exploration companies.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have held with *(a)* the Falkland Islands Government and *(b)* the Argentine Government on exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. [190320]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Government hold regular discussions with the Falkland Islands Government on issues including the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. Most recently, these have included meetings between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Director General for Defence and Intelligence and other FCO officials with representatives of the Falkland Islands Government in January and February 2008.

There have been no discussions, with the Argentine Government, on the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters since the South West Atlantic Hydro Carbons Commission ceased to meet in July 2000. On 27 March 2007, the Argentine Government announced its repudiation of the 1995 Joint Declaration on hydrocarbon exploration in the special co-operation area. We regret the Argentine decision, which makes future co-operation in this area more difficult. But we remain committed to promoting practical cooperation with Argentina in the South Atlantic and on broader international issues.

**Falkland Islands: Politics and Government**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Falkland Islands about constitutional reform there. [190906]

**Dr. Howells:** Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have held two rounds of talks in Stanley with the Select Committee on the Constitution, of which all are Falkland Island councillors. The first round was held in December 2007 and the second in February 2008. The discussions are progressing well.

**Israel: Human Rights**

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 709-10W, on Israel: human rights, whether the human rights abuses referred to breach the human rights provisions of any EU trade agreements. [189407]

**Dr. Howells:** The European Commission does not consider that Israel's actions are in breach of the human rights provisions of any EU trade agreements.

Dialogue between the parties continues to be the best hope of a peaceful and secure future for both Israel and the Palestinians. We will continue to raise our concerns about human rights issues with Israel and the Palestinian Authority both bilaterally and with EU partners. The EU's relationship with Israel provides the framework for free and frank discussion of issues of concern, including human rights.

**Oslo Process Conference**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK representatives are attending the Oslo Process conference in New Zealand from 18 to 22 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [189449]

**Dr. Howells:** Eleven UK representatives were accredited. Five were officials based at our high commission in Wellington, of whom three actually attended conference events. Four officials travelled from the UK—two from the Ministry of Defence, one from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and one from the Department for International Development. Two officials from the UK Permanent Representation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva attended the conference, including the head of delegation, ambassador John Duncan.

**Simon Mann**

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on relations between Equatorial Guinea and the United Kingdom of the abduction and imprisonment of Simon Mann by that country. [190353]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The UK has limited bilateral contact with Equatorial Guinea. The removal of Simon Mann to that country has increased our contact with Equatorial Guinean authorities, as we have sought consular access to Mr. Mann and made representations as to his welfare.

**Sudan: China**

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the *(a)* political and *(b)* humanitarian situation in Darfur. [187790]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed with Chinese Premier Wen, when they met in Beijing in January, that they would work together to advance both political talks and deployment of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur. Since then my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has discussed the issues further with Premier Wen and Chinese State Councillor Tang, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang in advance of his own visit to China on 27 February.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, my noble Friend the Minister of State for the UN, Africa and Asia, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, and other ministerial colleagues and officials have also raised these points with the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa during the Envoy's visit last week to London, and in particular have encouraged him to urge restraint on all sides during his forthcoming talks in Khartoum and N'Djamena.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Iraq: Documents

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish the detailed comments passed on by Ann Taylor to John Scarlett on the draft dossier on Iraq on 19 September 2002 which were referred to in evidence to the Hutton inquiry (ISC/3/0003). [178800]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office has no record of any written comments passed on by Ann Taylor to John Scarlett on the draft dossier. John Scarlett held a meeting with Ann Taylor on 19 September 2002 to brief her about the contents of the draft dossier. This briefing was given to her in her capacity as Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee.

### Refuges: Finance

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department is taking to support the work of women's refuges and crisis centres in *(a)* Skelmersdale and *(b)* in England. [189736]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

There is a range of support for victims of domestic violence. Some victims will be accommodated in refuges, but sanctuary schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for others, while some victims will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary. In 2006-07, over £61 million of Supporting People funding was used to provide housing related support for victims of domestic violence in England. Services are commissioned by top-tier local authorities to meet local needs. As such Government collect no data on the level of support in Skelmersdale itself. However, our records indicate that in 2006-07 Lancashire county council spent over £1.2 million to provide housing related support for victims of domestic violence.

### Special Adviser Legal Expenses

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 911-2W and the letter of 18 December 2007 from the Cabinet Secretary to the Chairman of the Public Administration Select Committee, what contribution the Labour Party made towards legal expenses incurred in relation to special advisers. [180310]

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-6W, on honours: criminal investigation, and with reference to the letter of 18 December 2007 from the Cabinet Secretary to the Chairman of the Public Administration Committee, what the financial contribution was from the Labour Party to the costs of external legal advice for special advisers. [181338]

**Edward Miliband:** The Labour Party contribution towards the cost of legal expenses incurred by Government in relation to special advisers is £85,380.89.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Actis

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the Government calculated the value of the 60 per cent. stake in Actis prior to its sale in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [189574]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID and an Independent Committee of the CDC Board commissioned KPMG, Corporate Finance Consultants, to undertake an objective valuation of the whole business and then to advise on the appropriate value of the 60 per cent. ownership interest. The valuation methodology was comprehensive and based on standard practice.

The valuation advice was reviewed and accepted by the Independent Committee and verified by DFID's independent financial adviser, Campbell Lutyens and Co Ltd.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) advisers and (ii) consultants for services in relation to the sale of Actis; and if he will make a statement. [189575]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID spent £14,651 on internal advisers and £2,708,362 on consultants in relation to the establishment and sale of Actis. However, part of this amount was spent on consultants who worked on the overall reorganisation of CDC which included, but went beyond the establishment of, the Actis Partnership. We are not able to disaggregate those costs that relate only to the establishment and sale of the Actis Partnership.

The restructuring was a complex process that required expert advice on a range of issues. It is entirely normal for Government Departments to seek and use outside expertise when dealing with these issues.

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advice his Department is providing to the Government of Afghanistan on the provision of alternative livelihoods to those within the drugs economy. [190444]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** In February 2008, DFID and the World Bank launched a report entitled Afghanistan-Economic Incentives and Development Initiatives to Reduce Opium Production. Following wide consultation, including with a number of Afghan ministries, the report identifies areas for investment which will progressively reduce over time Afghanistan's dependence on opium. The recommendations in the report are addressed to both the Government of Afghanistan and the international community.

The report recommends four entry points for shifting incentives away from drugs towards legal livelihoods:

(i) increasing investment in integrated agricultural support programmes, irrigation and livestock;

(ii) supporting rural enterprise and job creation;

(iii) expanding rural infrastructure programmes particularly roads and water; and

(iv) strengthening village and district level governance bodies.

A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Afghanistan: Education

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* schools, *(b)* teachers and *(c)* pupils in Afghanistan, in the last two years, broken down by state. [188198]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Data are not currently available in the time frame requested. However, we estimate that there are currently around 5.4 million children now in school in Afghanistan, over a third of them girls. This is up from an estimated one million children in 2001, of whom very few were girls, who were officially denied access to education under the Taliban. 27 per cent. of girls and 44 per cent. of boys in rural areas now attend school, and 51 per cent. of girls and 55 per cent. of boys in urban areas now attend school.

Current Government of Afghanistan figures estimate that there are currently 8,000 useable schools in Afghanistan and between 30,000 and 40,000 students complete high school every year, with one third going on to further education.

The Ministry of Education in Afghanistan has published its National Education Strategic plan for Afghanistan 2006-10. A copy has been placed in the Library for further information.

### Afghanistan: Health Services

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* health care facilities, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* people treated in Afghanistan, in each of the last two years, broken down by province. [188199]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** This information is not publicly available, however DFID obtained the following figures from the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health:

*2007*

| *Province* | *Healthcare facilities* | *Doctors* | *Number of people treated* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kabul | 124 | 1,461 | 1,226,552 |
| Kapisa | 35 | 30 | 508,076 |
| Parwan | 58 | 51 | 683,387 |
| Wardak | 49 | 76 | 615,250 |
| Logar | 39 | 46 | 425,654 |
| Ghanzi | 68 | 136 | 640,935 |
| Paktya | 31 | 131 | 287,511 |
| Nangahar | 84 | 260 | 1,200,396 |
| Laghman | 27 | 68 | 428,468 |
| Kunar | 26 | 54 | 399,679 |
| Badakshan | 58 | 70 | 550,718 |
| Takhar | 57 | 110 | 655,459 |
| Baglan | 44 | 110 | 596,897 |
| Kunduz | 46 | 79 | 679,519 |
| Samangan | 30 | 34 | 382,301 |
| Balkh | 97 | 315 | 849,549 |
| Jawzjan | 25 | 135 | 383,048 |
| Fariyab | 38 | 103 | 427,588 |
| Badghis | 31 | 48 | 321,050 |
| Hirat | 68 | 148 | 1,074,780 |
| Farah | 28 | 56 | 233,318 |
| Nimroz | 13 | 22 | 168,670 |
| Hilmand | 38 | 57 | 200,483 |
| Kandahar | 37 | 80 | 408,581 |
| Zabul | 13 | 11 | 144,195 |
| Uruzgan | 7 | 26 | 167,661 |
| Ghor | 36 | 18 | 257,223 |
| Bamyan | 48 | 65 | 384,610 |
| Paktika | 31 | 58 | 267,515 |
| Nuristan | 16 | 24 | 162,837 |
| Sari Pul | 43 | 38 | 509,469 |
| Khost | 28 | 91 | 334,142 |
| Panjsher | 21 | 18 | 141,793 |
| Daykundi | 30 | 15 | 220,126 |

The only data available for 2006 are for the number of patients treated in each province:

| *Province* | *Number of people treated* |
|---|---|
| Kabul | 834,509 |
| Kapisa | 424,921 |
| Parwan | 645,791 |
| Wardak | 545,630 |
| Logar | 417,853 |
| Ghanzi | 608,897 |
| Paktya | 242,205 |
| Nangahar | 957,070 |
| Laghman | 359,482 |
| Kunar | 354,908 |

| Province | Number of people treated |
|---|---|
| Badakshan | 465,660 |
| Takhar | 578,883 |
| Baglan | 521,099 |
| Kunduz | 679,946 |
| Samangan | 308,049 |
| Balkh | 810,687 |
| Jawzjan | 212,671 |
| Fariyab | 350,528 |
| Badghis | 217,912 |
| Hirat | 1,058,528 |
| Farah | 259,207 |
| Nimroz | 83,545 |
| Hilmand | 248,698 |
| Kandahar | 315,568 |
| Zabul | 126,296 |
| Uruzgan | 144,275 |
| Ghor | 225,520 |
| Bamyan | 341,344 |
| Paktika | 212,000 |
| Nuristan | 160,178 |
| Sari Pul | 373,470 |
| Khost | 242,526 |
| Panjsher | 176,783 |
| Daykundi | 73,001 |

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187469]

**Gillian Merron:** Central records are held by DFID for a maximum of seven years before destruction. Our central records show property lost or stolen since calendar year 2001 as follows. Value shown is the amount recorded in the losses register. Replacement values are not recorded centrally; as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

| | Lost | Stolen | Total No. | Total value (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mobile/ Conference/ Satellite Phones | 10 | 19 | 29 | 3,302.92 |
| PDAs | 0 | 2 | 2 | 170.45 |
| Laptops | 3 | 37 | 40 | 39,743.59 |
| IT Equipment | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5697.40 |
| Project Equipment/ Cash | 0 | 6 | 6 | 37,830.02 |
| Cameras/Video Camera | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1919 |
| Motorcycle | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1644 |
| Journals/Books | 1 | 0 | 1 | 93.00 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 1 | 240.00 |

### Departmental Travel: Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [187746]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187664]

**Gillian Merron:** DFID's expenditure on Eurostar for the period April 2006 to March 2007 was £84,960 for first class travel and £40,163 for other class travel.

DFID's total expenditure on first class travel for the period April 2006 to March 2007 was £322,617. Travel data disaggregated by staff grade is not routinely maintained and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate cost. The Department has no agencies.

All travel is undertaken in compliance with DFID rules set out in the Staff Handbook.

### Infant Mortality

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made towards meeting Millennium Development Goal 4 on reducing child mortality. [188031]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The latest assessment of progress towards Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 is included in the annual "State of the World's Children Report" by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) published in January 2008. Overall in 2006, global child deaths reached a record low of 9.7 million, down from 13 million in 1990. The report showed that solid progress has been made in a number of countries such as Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The report also highlighted that a concentrated push is required to accelerate progress in West Africa and parts of Asia to cut child deaths. MDG 4 is inextricably linked to MDG 5 (to improve maternal health) as 40 per cent. of children under the age of five are dying within a few days of birth. This is why the Prime Minister has called for 2008 to be a year of action towards meeting the MDGs especially those concerned with child mortality (MDG 4) and maternal health (MDG 5), which remain the most off-track.

### Jamaica: Sugar

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the distribution of funds committed in support of the transition of the Jamaican sugar industry in the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol countries as part of the reform of the EU sugar regime. [189445]

**Mr. Thomas:** To access their allocation under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol countries (AMSP), each eligible country had to submit a National Action Plan (NAP) showing how they intend to spend the money. The focus of the Government of Jamaica's (GoJ) NAP is to improve the competitiveness of the sugar cane industry through greater private sector involvement and to develop sustainable alternative economic activities for rural farmers who are not able to stay in the industry. Given the increased competition that Jamaican sugar now faces in the

world market and the opportunity that this increased competition brings, the GoJ approach appears to be along the right lines. The mechanism for delivery of the funds to the GoJ is through direct budget support, backed by a wide range of macroeconomic targets.

Both DFID Caribbean and the EC delegation in Jamaica will continue to monitor the implementation and effect of the AMSP on the various aspects of the Jamaican economy. However, since 2007 represents the first year of allocation to the GoJ under the AMSP, it is not envisaged that a full assessment will be undertaken until late 2009. This assessment will be lead by the EC delegation in Jamaica.

**Kosovo: Higher Education**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of students enrolled in tertiary education in Kosovo, broken down by sex; and if he will make a statement. [190000]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Second Millennium Development Goals Report for Kosovo states that in 2004-05 there were 28,935 students in tertiary education, of whom 46 per cent. were female.

**Kosovo: HIV Infection**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the prevalence of *(a)* HIV/AIDS and *(b)* tuberculosis in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [190002]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** While health data in Kosovo are weak, HIV prevalence is widely estimated to be low. Despite a number of risk factors which could increase HIV infection rates, the UN considers Kosovo to be on track to meet the MDG target on HIV/AIDS.

TB incidence in Kosovo averages 48 new cases per 100,000. This is slightly higher than neighbouring countries, reflecting overall lower average health outcomes in Kosovo.

**Kosovo: Income**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of Kosovo's *(a)* gross national income and *(b)* average earnings per head of population in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [190004]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Statistics Office of Kosovo and the International Monetary Fund estimate that gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for 2006 is €1,117. There are no published estimates of gross national income (GNI), but gross national disposable income (GNDI) per capita has been estimated at €1,268. According to the Statistics Office of Kosovo, the average income earner received €2,032 in 2005.

The Department for International Development is working with the Government of Kosovo and other donors to promote a strategic approach to poverty reduction with a focus on economic growth.

**Kosovo: Infant Mortality**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the levels of *(a)* infant and *(b)* maternal mortality in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [190001]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Kosovo has yet to establish reliable health statistics and the data currently available are limited and of poor quality.

The most reliable estimate of infant mortality currently available is a 2003 survey which showed 35 to 49 deaths per thousand live births. The number of officially registered maternal deaths gives an average rate of 12.6 per 100,000 births for the period 2000-05.

The Department for International Development is working with other donors to improve the quality of health care delivered by municipal governments. We are also supporting the government of Kosovo to improve its statistics systems.

**Kosovo: Poverty**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the level of poverty in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [189997]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Based on national data, the World Bank estimates that 45 per cent. of the Kosovo population live beneath the national poverty line. Of these, 15 per cent. are classed as extremely poor. This makes Kosovo the poorest country in the Balkans.

The Department for International Development is working with the Government of Kosovo and other donors to promote a strategic approach to poverty reduction with a focus on economic growth.

**Kosovo: Unemployment**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of levels of *(a)* youth, *(b)* female and *(c)* total unemployment in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [189998]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Unemployment in Kosovo is among the highest in the world. National statistics place unemployment among people aged 15 to 24 at 70 per cent., unemployment of women at 60 per cent., and total unemployment at 41 per cent.

The Department for International Development is currently working with key donor partners to assist the government of Kosovo in formulating a strategy for economic growth in Kosovo.

**UN Convention Against Corruption**

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK has implemented the UN Convention against Corruption. [190873]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 9 February 2008.

## TREASURY

### Taxation: Gambling

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which gambling products are subject to more than one ad valorem tax. [190437]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1059W to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming).

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Income Support: Pensioners

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Nottingham North constituency received assistance under the minimum income guarantee in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187296]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In Nottingham North, 4,760 households were in receipt of the pension credit guarantee credit as at August 2007—of which 1,910 households were in receipt of the guarantee credit only and 2,850 households were in receipt of both the guarantee credit and savings credit.

*Notes:*

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 31 August 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. We have taken the minimum income guarantee to mean the pension credit guarantee credit.

3. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

### Low Incomes

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of water bills as a proportion of incomes of less than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* 60 per cent. of the median in each year since 1997. [185864]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 February 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of water bills as a proportion of incomes of less than (a) 30 per cent, (b) 40 per cent, (c) 50 per cent, and (d) 60 per cent of the median average in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (185864).

The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent of median. The sample size for the number of households with an income below 30 per cent of median is too small to yield reliable results. In addition presenting information for households with an income of 40 or 50 per cent of median income can be misleading. One reason for this is that households stating the lowest incomes may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many households who report very low incomes appear to have high spending equivalent to households higher in the income distribution.

The table provided shows water bill expenditure as a percentage of unequivalised disposable income for households that have income of 40, 50 and 60 per cent below median income. Due to the issue of small sample size, an average for the period 2000/01 to 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 2005/06 has been provided. Data for 1997/98 to 1999/00 are not readily available.

*Water bills as a percentage of median household disposable income[1], United Kingdom*

*Percentage*

| | *Households where income is below* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *40 per cent. of median[2]* | *50 per cent. of median[2]* | *60 per cent. of median[2]* |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 |

[1] Unequivalised household disposable income.
[2] Ranked by unequivalised disposable income.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics from Expenditure and Food Survey.

### National Carers Strategy

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the review of the National Carers Strategy will be completed. [188978]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department is currently drafting the revised strategy following an extensive regional and national consultation process involving carers and representative organisations. The Department plans to publish the new strategy in late spring 2008.

### National Insurance: Fraud

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reduce national insurance number fraud. [184800]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Jobcentre Plus already has a robust adult national insurance number (NINO) allocation process which includes thorough face-to-face interviews with applicants, and the use of specialist document examination tools for verification of identity documents.

This robust process has resulted in 1,020 refusals during 2006-2007 due to suspect identity documentation and led to 364 prosecutions. A further 12,602 refusals between April 2006 and November 2007 were made on the basis of failing to provide sufficient evidence of identity. An additional 8,643 applications have been refused between July 2006 and November 2007, on the basis of failing to provide proof of the right to work.

We are continually looking to strengthen our checks on the identity of individuals and we will be taking full advantage of the opportunities from biometric development and other cross-government initiatives as they become available.

### New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to amend the requirement that participants in the proposed flexible New Deal complete four weeks of full-time activity; and if he will make a statement. [176855]

**Mr. Timms:** Flexible New Deal providers will provide programmes of support that address individuals' needs which may include periods of full-time activity to help customers get and sustain work. The expectation remains that no customer who completes 12 months on the flexible New Deal could have done so without undertaking an appropriate period of full-time activity. The Government will work with providers on the best way to include this in flexible New Deal contracts.

### Offices: Pension Service

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to co-locate the Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service staff in the same offices. [187709]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** There are no current plans in place to change the locations of staff. Some staff are already co-located.

### Pension Credit

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received pension credit in each year since its inception. [186670]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is in the following table.

In Northern Ireland Pension Credit administration is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

*The number of households receiving pension credit 2003-2007*

| | *Jarrow Constituency* | *South Tyneside Local Authority* | *North East Government Office Region* | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 4,640 | 9,060 | 124,280 | 2,084,700 |
| May 2004 | 5,460 | 10,580 | 147,570 | 2,490,760 |
| May 2005 | 5,800 | 11,290 | 156,680 | 2,682,730 |
| May 2006 | 5,870 | 11,350 | 157,430 | 2,717,390 |
| May 2007 | 5,900 | 11,320 | 157,440 | 2,733,500 |

*Notes:*

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension Credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 is as at November.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

*Source:* DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

### Pension Service: Disability and Carer's Service

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of the merger plan for the Pension Service and the Disability and Carer's Service in the Library. [187710]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The business plan for the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will be published ready for its launch on 1 April 2008, and this will contain information about how the merger will be taken forward from that date.

### Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the evidential basis is for the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency providing a more effective service; [188775]

(2) what account was taken of the proportion of the customers of the Disability and Carers Service who are now also customers of the Pension Service in deciding to establish the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency. [188776]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The decision to create the new agency took into account evidence from the customers of the currently separate Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service. Customers say that the most difficult problems they face are when they need to deal with more than one part of the Department for Work and Pensions, and that these overlaps occur most often when benefits for disabled people and carers are involved. The decision also reflects work undertaken by the two agencies—for example in how we serve carers, how we provide a face-to-face service where we need to—which concluded that the existence of two agencies created barriers to customer service that had to be removed. The new agency will also create efficiencies through merging the top teams and, over time, the support functions of the existing agencies, which will allow proportionately more resource to be redirected to front-line customer service.

Currently 53 per cent. of Disability and Carers Service customers are over pension age and are customers of both agencies. Demographic changes mean that this overlap will increase over time. On current estimates, by 2015, we can expect a 40 per cent. increase in the number of disability living allowance recipients who are pensioners. The increasing shared customer base was a principal factor in the decision to establish the new agency.

### Pensioners: Poverty

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of levels of pensioner poverty; and what steps he is taking to improve the financial prospects of pensioners in Essex. [185049]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Since 1997 over one million pensioners have been lifted out of poverty (measured by 60 per cent. of relative income after housing costs). Pensioners are now no more likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole.

There are a range of measures to improve pensioner incomes, such as minimum income guarantee and its successor pension credit, winter fuel payments, free TV licences for those aged 75 and over, and above inflation increases in the basic state pension.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised)'. The latest information available shows that in 2005-06, 17 per cent. of pensioners were living in households with below 60 per cent. of median income (after housing costs). This equates to 1.8 million pensioners.

We support future pensioners in building up their retirement incomes. We have reformed the state pension to make it simpler, fairer and more generous, ending some of the historical inequalities in entitlement, especially for women. Our reforms will ensure that the state pension will continue to provide a credible foundation for additional pension saving.

The Pensions Bill includes our proposal to automatically enrol eligible workers into a workplace pension scheme or a new savings system of personal accounts, which will help people on lower incomes to build up their own pension pot to provide a private pension income to supplement that received from the state.

### Pensioners: Stockton-on-Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Stockton South constituency received assistance under the minimum income guarantee in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189333]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In Stockton South 3,040 households were in receipt of the pension credit guarantee credit as at August 2007—of which 1,070 households were in receipt of the guarantee credit only and 1,970 households were in receipt of both the guarantee credit and savings credit in Stockton South.

*Notes:*

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the work and pensions longitudinal study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the QMS scan at 31 August 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and QMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. We have taken the minimum income guarantee to mean the pension credit guarantee credit.

3. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either or themselves only or on behalf of a household.

### Pensions

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to make pensions provision to meet demand over the next 20 years. [185683]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Our White Paper Security in Retirement: towards a new pensions system set out an integrated package of reforms designed to meet long-term pension challenges and demand.

The first part of this package was implemented by the Pensions Act 2007 which addresses the historic inequalities in entitlement, especially for women; and provides for a gradual increase in state pension age to ensure the system is sustainable in the face of demographic change. Together, the measures ensure there is a solid foundation upon which people can plan for their retirement.

Building on these reforms, the current Pensions Bill will extend the benefits of a workplace pension across the working age population through the introduction of auto-enrolment into a qualifying pension and the introduction of simple, low-cost, personal accounts for those without access to a good quality workplace pension. The Bill will simplify pensions and enable more individuals to take responsibility for saving for their own retirement.

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who are eligible to claim pensions credit but do not do so. [189560]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Estimates of take-up rates and the number of eligible pensioners not claiming pension credit are available in the DWP publication series entitled 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up'. Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

### Unemployment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 730-1W, on unemployment, how many households included no-one in full-time employment in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 1979. [179703]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The available information is shown in the following table.

Information on the number of households which included no-one in full-time employment in 1979 is not available.

*Working-age households in which no-one works full-time, United Kingdom, April-June 1997 (not seasonally adjusted)*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Workless households | 3,118,000 | 18.1 |
| Households with employed persons in which no-one works full-time | 1,316,000 | 7.7 |
| All households in which no-one works full-time | 4,434,000 | 25.8 |

*Notes:*

1. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (male aged 16 to 64 or female aged 16 to 59).
2. Estimates have not been adjusted for households with unknown economic status.
3. Base for percentages excludes households with unknown economic status.
4. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey household dataset

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 3 March 2008*

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Advertising

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [187715]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office spent £17,510 in 2006-07 and nothing in 2005-06 on advertising.

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189775]

**David Cairns:** All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, which are both committed to achieving a work life balance for all staff. No staff in the Office have formally worked from home in the last year.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which public relations companies had contracts with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible since 2004. [187716]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on public relations since 2004.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many journeys his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants made between London and Scotland on official business in each month since May 2007. [187062]

**David Cairns:** The information requested is set out in the following table. There were no journeys by car. In relation to ministerial journeys, the information relates to travel paid by the Scotland Office. This does not include weekly travel between London and Ministers' homes in Scotland, paid by the House of Commons.

*Number*

| | *Air* | | *Rail* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Ministers* | *Civil Servants* | *Ministers* | *Civil Servants* |
| May 2007 | 0.5 | 22.0 | 0.5 | 8.0 |
| June | 4.0 | 29.5 | — | 11.0 |
| July | 1.5 | 23.5 | — | 12.5 |
| August | 1.0 | 7.0 | — | 4.0 |
| September | 2.0 | 17.5 | — | 7.5 |
| October | — | 26.5 | — | 7.0 |
| November | 0.5 | 18.0 | — | 10.0 |
| December | 0.5 | 16.5 | — | 5.5 |
| January 2008 | 3.5 | 21.5 | — | 8.5 |

*Note:*
A return journey is classed as one journey; if, for example, the outward leg of a journey is undertaken by air and the return by train, this is shown as 0.5 of a journey under each column.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will take steps to promote fair trade fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189507]

**David Cairns:** Fairtrade fortnight was recently promoted on the intranet to which all staff in the Scotland Office have access.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191256]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not centrally record the number of litres of bottled water that are purchased.

## TRANSPORT

### A1: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response she has made to the inspector's report into the proposed A1 upgrade between Dishforth and Barton. [187043]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The inspector's report is currently being considered and a decision on the published scheme will be made as soon as possible.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by her Department. [189076]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Civil service statistics are collected by ONS from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. The latest published statistics are for the year to 30 September 2006. This shows for the Department for Transport a headcount of 20 and 10 FTEs aged under 18 years.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in her Department. [188796]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The salary range for each pay band in the Department for Transport is given in the following tables which show the minimum and maximum salary for each grade encompassing the individual pay rates of the central Department and agencies.

| Grade | Location | Minimum | £ Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|
| AA | Outside London | 10,850 | 16,141 |
| | London | 13,865 | 19,973 |
| AO | Outside London | 14,742 | 19,853 |
| | London | 17,499 | 23,355 |
| EO | Outside London | 18,689 | 26,099 |
| | London | 22,086 | 28,706 |
| HEO | Outside London | 23,147 | 33,260 |
| | London | 25,949 | 36,238 |
| HEO/SEO | Outside London | 28,356 | 33,710 |
| | London | 31,369 | 37,291 |
| SEO | Outside London | 30,625 | 41,692 |
| | London | 34,199 | 47,258 |
| Grade 7 | Outside London | 38,269 | 56,830 |
| | London | 43,440 | 67,248 |
| Grade 6 | Outside London | 48,070 | 64,787 |
| | London | 54,508 | 68,190 |

| Grade | Minimum | £ Ceiling |
|---|---|---|
| SCSPB1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCSPB2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCSPB3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

*Specialist grades which are outside of the aforementioned*

| | Minimum | £ Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| *Traffic management* | | |
| 1A | 16,719 | 18,466 |
| 1B | 17,248 | 20,912 |
| 2 | 23,716 | 28,751 |
| 3 | 37,516 | 45,478 |
| *Accident and nuclear* | | |
| SEO | 53,481 | 62,792 |
| Grade 7 | 65,500 | 75,000 |
| Grade 6 | 72,500 | 85,000 |
| Coastguard technical S level | 34,564 | 43,525 |
| Senior driving examiners | 24,258 | 26,866 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current average basic pay for full-time equivalent *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) AA, (ii) AO and (iii) EO or equivalent grades is in each of her Department's bargaining units. [190272]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The current average basic pay for men and women within each of the Department's bargaining units is shown in the following table. London and outside London salaries are included within the averages shown.

| | AA | | AO | | EO | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| DfT(C). | 16,902.33 | 17,341.00 | 22,196.29 | 21,903.30 | 25,958.74 | 26,410.67 |
| VOSA | 12,510.00 | 16,240.00 | 16,860.00 | 20,520.00 | 22,600.00 | 25,970.00 |
| DVLA | 13,653.90 | 13,486.41 | 16,656.34 | 16,710.04 | 20,315.39 | 20,344.85 |
| VCA | 15,660.00 | 14,895.00 | 18,343.00 | 18,259.00 | 22,250.00 | 23,032.00 |
| HA | 15,688.00 | 15,402.00 | 16,653.00 | 16,530.00 | 20,459.00 | 20,300.00 |
| MCA | 13,751.74 | 13,581.47 | 16,838.16 | 17,178.70 | 21,880.16 | 23,215.66 |
| DSA | 14,855.50 | 14,600.20 | 17,276.50 | 17,205.46 | 21,802.30 | 21,685.47 |
| GCDA | — | — | 21,749.01 | 21,134.34 | 25,391.66 | 26,228.63 |

*Note:*
VOSA levels made up of both technical and non-technical staff. Technical posts attract a market premium and these posts are predominantly filled by male staff.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions from hon. Members for answer on a named day received by her Department have received a *(a)* holding answer and *(b)* substantive answer by the named day in each year since 2001. [190293]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002. Figures between that date and the beginning of parliamentary session 2002-03 are not available.

The requested information from the beginning of session 2002-03 is contained in the following table:

| | *Named-day parliamentary questions receiving a holding answer* | | *Named-day parliamentary questions receiving a substantive answer on the due date* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Parliamentary session* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2002-03 | 117 | 21.8 | 420 | 78.2 |
| 2003-04 | 147 | 29.4 | 353 | 70.6 |
| 2004-05 | 76 | 32.2 | 164 | 67.8 |
| 2005-06 | 288 | 25.9 | 826 | 74.1 |
| 2006-07 | 119 | 16.6 | 599 | 83.4 |

My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the due day. Unfortunately this is not always possible but the Department for Transport makes every effort to achieve the timescales.

### Driving Tests

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether delegated examiners may conduct driving tests for candidates who *(a)* they have personally trained and *(b)* have been trained by an organisation where the delegated examiner is the head of training; and if she will make a statement. [190243]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is a condition of approval that delegated examiners are not permitted to conduct driving tests for candidates that they have personally trained.

A person may be a delegated examiner and head of training but is not permitted to conduct driving tests for candidates they have personally trained.

### First Great Western: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 147W, on First Great Western: standards, what her timescale is for a reassessment of the ability of First Great Western Franchise to comply with the current franchise; and if she will make a statement. [188278]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS.

### Hacking

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the use of a hacking tool or other malicious software enabling information to be *(a)* retrieved and *(b)* manipulated by a third party has been detected on a (i) network or (ii) computer in her Department. [190335]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for this Department to confirm whether it holds information about attacks against its IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful this Department is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences.

### Minibuses: Concessions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will extend concessionary fare schemes to cover the provision of volunteer car and minibus services. [188331]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government have no plans at present to extend the coverage of statutory concessionary travel to cover the provision of volunteer car and minibus services, although a small number of community transport-type services may already be eligible for the statutory concession. Our current focus is on the successful implementation of the new all-England off-peak bus travel concession from April this year.

Any changes to the scope of concessionary travel would have to be fully funded and the impacts considered carefully following consultation with all the interested parties. Local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions over and above the statutory minimum at their own expense.

### Railways

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which community rail partnership projects she has visited since her appointment as Secretary of State; and which representatives of train operating companies she has met. [168691]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Since her appointment, the Secretary of State has met with representatives of the following train operating companies or franchise owning companies: Arrive, Chiltern Rail, EWS, First Group, Go-Ahead Group, National Express Group, SERCO-NedRailways, Stagecoach Group, Virgin Trains. She has also met representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). In addition my right hon. Friend has visited the community rail project at Walkden station.

### Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average weight of *(a)* an electric and *(b)* a diesel train carriage is; and what the average weight will be of each of those referred to in the rolling stock plan of 30 January. [190607]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The Department does not compile this information, but it is available through the railway trade press.

### Trains: Design

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides on train cab design best practice. [190171]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has not published any guidance on cab design. Best practice guidance on the design of train cabs is published by the Railway Safety and Standards Board on behalf of the industry.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Tourists

**Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many visitors to the Houses of Parliament undertook a public tour in each of the last five years. [190812]

**Nick Harvey:** Figures given are for calendar years:

*Members' tours (free)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 95,990 |
| 2004 | 111,656 |
| 2005 | 106,844 |
| 2006 | 127,736 |
| 2007 | 133,533 |

Figures are for bookings taken and permits issued by the Central Tours Office and do not include guests escorted personally by passholders. They also do not include schools coming via the Parliamentary Education Service or Clock Tower Tours.

*Summer opening (paying)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 86,806 |
| 2004 | 93,314 |
| 2005 | 79,170 |
| 2006 | 87,294 |
| 2007 | 89,300 |

*Totals (both categories)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 182,796 |
| 2004 | 204,970 |
| 2005 | 186,014 |
| 2006 | 215,030 |
| 2007 | 222,833 |

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House how many people over the age of 55 have commenced employment in her Office in each of the last three years. [191525]

**Helen Goodman:** None.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Leader of the House how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions from hon. Members for answer on a named day received by her Office have received a *(a)* holding answer and *(b)* substantive answer by the named day in each year since 2001. [190295]

**Helen Goodman:** The information requested is as follows;

| | *Answered substantively* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Session* | *Percentage* | *Number* |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 100 | 18 of 18 |
| 2006-07 | 100 | 40 of 40 |
| 2005-06 | 100 | 72 of 72 |
| 2004-05 | 100 | 14 of 14 |
| 2003-04 | 100 | 42 of 42 |
| 2002-03 | 96 | 44 of 46 |
| 2001-02 | 98 | 95 of 97 |

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has answered 100 per cent. of the 186 named day questions received in the last five Sessions on time. Just four questions have received holding replies since the 2001-02 Session, and none in any of the last five Sessions.

### World Squares for All Steering Group

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Leader of the House what representations she has received on the work of the World Squares for All Steering Group; what *(a)* political and *(b)* official representation the House has on the group; what submissions have been made by the House to the group; and what discussions she has had with other Ministers about the group. [190140]

**Helen Goodman:** The World Squares for All Steering Group has been established under the leadership of the Greater London Authority and includes representatives from a range of affected interests. The group aims to redefine the heart of London—specifically Trafalgar square, Parliament square and the Whitehall conservation area. The latest stage of its work is the Parliament square improvement project.

Representation of the House on the group is a matter for the administration of the House under the ultimate authority of the House of Commons Commission.

Parliament is represented on the group by the parliamentary director of estates or a representative, and by the manager of Visitor and Public Information Projects. The House has no political representation on

the group. Officials have received briefings from the architects, Hawkins Brown, and from Transport for London, and have consulted the Joint Committee on Security on security aspects of the plans. The Group on Information for the Public has submitted to the Parliament square improvement project a briefing on Parliament's priorities for the redevelopment of the square.

The Administration Committee, chaired by my hon. Friend the Member for Aberdeen, North (Mr. Doran), has heard a presentation from representatives of the Parliament Square Improvement Project, who sought the advice of the Committee on how Members of Parliament could be consulted about the plans. At the Committee's request, the group will shortly write to all Members, before the start of wider public consultation.

The Leader of the House has received no representations and has held no discussions on this issue.

## WALES

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191259]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None. The nature of the Wales Office's responsibilities means that such assessments will rarely be called for.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190810]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office has not initiated or approved any private finance initiative projects in the last three years.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190289]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The total number of named day questions received by my department and answered substantially are listed as follows:

| | *Total received* | *Substantive answer* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 59 | 54 |
| 2002 | 80 | 55 |
| 2003 | 34 | 18 |
| 2004 | 19 | 16 |
| 2005 | 17 | 16 |
| 2006 | 27 | 27 |
| 2007 | 24 | 24 |

### Television Screens

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191073]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## DEFENCE

### Surface Fleet

9. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on future orders for the surface fleet of the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [190366]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We continue to make good progress on the future orders for the surface fleet of the Royal Navy. We have committed to ordering two new aircraft carriers and have placed orders for six Type 45 destroyers. It is our intention, in addition, to deliver replacement vessels in the future for Type 22 and 23 frigates, and elements of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

### Attack Submarines

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future number of attack submarines in the Royal Navy. [190368]

18. **Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of attack submarines for the Royal Navy. [190375]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Our judgment remains that in the medium term, a fleet of eight of the current classes of attack submarine will be sufficient to meet the full range of tasks. By 2022 we will have completed the transition to the more capable Astute class, for which it remains our plan to order seven boats. Over the next 14 years, attack submarine numbers will fluctuate between seven and eight as Astute replaces the current classes.

### Watchkeeper

12. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when army training will start on the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle; and where in the UK it will take place. [190369]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We plan to begin classroom based training for the Watchkeeper programme in September next year at Larkhill, and live flying in March 2010 at Parc Aberporth in West Wales.

### Armour

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether future armoured fighting vehicles purchased by his Department will have chassis armour and bolt-on armour. [190370]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A combination of base and bolt-on armour is likely to be used for most future

armoured fighting vehicles. It allows us to reconfigure the armour solution to counter threats as they emerge, and to take advantage of the latest armour technologies.

### Afghanistan

14. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security conditions in Afghanistan. [190371]

**Des Browne:** The security situation in Afghanistan is stable if fragile in places. The Afghan National Army and troops from the 40-nation International Stabilisation Assistance Force are actively engaged in operations to maintain the pressure on the Taliban and extend the authority of the Government of Afghanistan.

### Mental Health

16. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to work with the NHS in developing effective mental health care for service veterans. [190373]

22. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilot schemes he has established for the identification of veterans in need of mental health services and for the provision of such services. [190379]

**Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on the regional pilots to improve mental health care for veterans. [190378]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD, the four UK health departments and Combat Stress have been working together with clinical experts and the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS) to develop a new model of community-based veterans mental healthcare that will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems. Pilots have been launched in Staffordshire and Shropshire, Camden and Islington, Bishop Auckland and Cardiff Vale. These will be followed shortly by pilots in Lothian and Cornwall. Following two years of piloting and evaluation it is planned to roll the model out across the UK.

### Future Rapid Effects System

17. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of the future rapid effects system. [190374]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Future Rapid Effect System is progressing well. We have selected the system of Systems Integrator, completed the Utility Vehicle design trials and issued a pre-Qualification Questionnaire for the Utility Vehicle Integrator in recent months. FRES is currently in its assessment phase and work on detailed requirements is continuing.

### Devonport

19. **Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Devonport naval base. [190376]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced in July 2007 at the conclusion of the Naval Base Review, the most effective means of supporting the Royal Navy is to retain all three naval bases, including Devonport.

In doing so we will continue to work with industry to develop innovative programmes that deliver effective, efficient and sustainable support to the Royal Navy.

### Deployment Strength

23. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the deployable strength is of the Army. [190380]

25. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the deployable strength is of the Army. [190382]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 27 February 2008, the Army currently has 67,400 personnel within its deployable formations. 53,400 of these personnel are presently graded as deployable, with a further 7,600 personnel graded as being deployable in a limited range of roles. Non-deployable personnel will include those who are medically unfit and those filling key roles in support of families of those service personnel who are not deployed.

Additionally there are elements of the Army that are deemed as being in non-deployable posts employed in essential roles often directly supporting operations within the training organisations, staff headquarters and the regional forces command structure.

### Skill Force

24. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of initiatives in the city of Nottingham by Skill Force to use the talents of retired military personnel. [190381]

**Des Browne:** Skill Force is involved in the city of Nottingham helping difficult to reach young people during term-time through an alternative curriculum that includes team building and problem solving skills, leading to a variety of awards and qualifications. They are currently working in three Nottingham schools, but such has been their success that they hope to expand to cover five schools in the city from September of this year. As with the rest of the Skill Force project, they are making an extremely valuable contribution to efforts to tackle social exclusion among young people.

### Health Care

**Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking with the Secretary of State for Health to ensure that GPs provide priority treatment to veterans. [190372]

**Derek Twigg:** The Health Secretary announced in November an extension of NHS priority treatment. From 1 January all veterans, not just war pensioners, should receive priority access to NHS secondary care for conditions which are related to their service. The Department of Health has issued guidance on the new provision. Defence and Health officials and the

ex-Service organisations are now working together on communicating the new arrangement to GPs and the veterans' community and monitoring its effectiveness.

### NATO Bucharest Summit

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the forthcoming NATO Bucharest summit. [190377]

**Des Browne:** The UK will look to the Bucharest summit to reaffirm NATO's solidarity and commitment to its operations and missions—particularly in Afghanistan, where we need to build on the success NATO has achieved to date, and agree a comprehensive plan for the future. We will want it to maintain momentum on capability developments and force generation, both for current operations and more widely. Heads of State and Government will consider membership invitations for those countries currently participating in Membership Action Plans.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which elements of the Afghanistan Combined Joint Statement of Requirements remain unfulfilled. [188232]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Among other requirements, NATO currently needs more training and mentoring personnel, combat forces in the south and east of Afghanistan and key enablers, such as helicopters, to meet the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements for Afghanistan.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sea king helicopters are to be fitted with Carson blades; and how many of those helicopters with such blades will be deployed in Afghanistan. [188616]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We are fitting 14 Sea King HC4 helicopters with Carson blades. We have deployed a number of Sea King helicopters fitted with Carson blades to Afghanistan, and expect to deploy more later this year. I am withholding information on the exact number of helicopters deployed as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Armed Forces: EU Institutions

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel are attached to the *(a)* European Union Military Staff, *(b)* European Defence Agency, *(c)* European Union Military Committee and *(d)* other EU institutions. [190715]

**Des Browne:** 17 British military personnel are currently seconded to the EU Military Staff in Brussels, and there are two British military staff officers currently working in the European Defence Agency.

The European Union Military Committee is a regular meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff or their representatives from the EU member states, not a standing EU structure. There is one British military officer who is seconded as the military adviser to the permanent Chairman of the EU Military Committee.

There are no British military personnel seconded to other EU institutions.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation units in (i) Germany, (ii) Cyprus, (iii) Gibraltar and (iv) the Falklands Islands there were in each of the four charge grades at the most recent date for which figures are available. [182325]

**Derek Twigg:** Services Family Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA) in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands is at the following Grade for Charge (GfC).

*SFA*

| | Grade 1 | | Grade 2 | | Grade 3 | | Grade 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Cyprus | 0 | — | 504 | 27 | 140 | 8 | 1,589 | 65 |
| Gibraltar | 82 | 17 | 66 | 14 | 90 | 19 | 239 | 50 |
| Falklands/ Ascension Islands | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0 | — | 80 | 100 |
| Germany | 2,212 | 17 | 6,010 | 47 | 3,481 | 27 | 1,149 | 9 |

*SLA*

| | Grade 1 | | Grade 2 | | Grade 3 | | Grade 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Germany | 2,356 | 14 | 1,494 | 9 | 4,186 | 24 | 8,989 | 53 |
| Cyprus | 67 | 4 | 14 | 1 | 534 | 36 | 882 | 59 |
| Falklands/ Ascension Islands | 14 | <1 | 0 | — | 0 | — | 6,105 | >99 |
| Gibraltar | 325 | 83 | 24 | 6 | 41 | 11 | 0 | — |

The low grade given to SLA in the South Atlantic Islands for example reflects the remote location and environmental factors rather than the actual condition of the accommodation which is considered reasonable. It should be noted that a large proportion of overseas SLA is only used during operational deployments. Although much of this accommodation is G4fC, residents are not charged for it.

In Cyprus, some 650 bed-spaces will be upgraded by 2012 for use on a permanent basis. In addition, there are ongoing programmes of improvement work in all the above locations including the Hired Accommodation Revitalisation Programme project, which aims to replace or upgrade the entire hired estate in Germany over the next five years.

Over the next decade the MOD will spend over £8 billion on accommodation, including some £3.1 billion on bringing accommodation up to the top condition. This will include the delivery of some further 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces by 2013.

### Checkmate

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the ability of Checkmate technology to improve the UK Network Centric Warfare capability; and if he will make a statement. [188747]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 13 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1881W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

### Civil Contingency Reaction Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the reservists who make up the operational capability of Civil Contingency Reaction Forces are on active duty overseas. [190603]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 1 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 1137W, to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis).

### Committee of Permanent Representatives

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1401W, on the Committee of Permanent Representatives, how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military personnel from his Department are part of the staff of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (i) I and (ii) II. [190835]

**Des Browne:** The Committee of Permanent Representatives does not have a dedicated staff.

There are two MOD civilians working in the UK Permanent Representation to the EU on a national basis who for part of their time support the UK Permanent Representative on European security and defence policy matters considered in the Committee of Permanent Representatives II.

There is no defence business that relates to the Committee of Permanent Representatives I.

### Departmental Redundancy

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the reasons are for the consideration of one-fifth of defence intelligence staff posts in London for abolition; [189427]

(2) whether he has consulted the former Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence, John Morrison, about the potential impact of a one-fifth reduction in defence intelligence staff posts in London. [189429]

***Mr. Bob Ainsworth:*** *MOD* is currently streamlining its Head Office as part of the Department's response to its capability review. The Defence intelligence staff fall within the remit of this streamlining programme.

No Ministers have consulted Mr. Morrison. We will keep the wider intelligence and security community engaged as the work is taken forward.

### Departments: Charities

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Estate (Aldershot) billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005 to 2007. [152355]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested will need to be collated and this will take a little time. I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

*Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Nick Harvey:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 September 2007, (Official Report, column 1617W) about the amount Defence Estates (Aldershot) was billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since 2005-2007.

I apologise for the delay in writing to you following our meeting on 12 December, which was due to the time required to retrieve and review our available information. Unfortunately, the review has shown that it is not possible to separately identify liability charges for charity events.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### EU Defence Policy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 37-38W, on EU defence policy, what his definition is of statute, seat and operational rules; and if he will make a statement. [190826]

**Des Browne:** We understand the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency as described in the Lisbon treaty to be the instrument setting up the European Defence Agency, its headquarters and the rules under which it operates.

### EU Defence Policy: Finance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he had with European Defence Ministers on the financing of EU military operations under the Athena Mechanism at the recent meeting in Brdo, Slovenia; and if he will make a statement. [190720]

**Des Browne:** The Athena Mechanism ensures that EU member states pay an equitable share of common costs for agreed EU military operations. This mechanism was not discussed at the informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers held in Brdo, Slovenia on 21-22 February 2008.

### Future Large Aircraft: Procurement

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the number of A400M aircraft to be ordered. [189275]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* combat and *(b)* peacekeeping operations in Iraq in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [190062]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Combat activities commenced on 20 March 2003 and ceased on 1 May 2003 spanning two financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04 totalling £2,158 million. All subsequent years are categorised as peacekeeping operations.

The costs of operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the MOD' Annual Report and Accounts. The total annual costs of operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 including the cost of combat activities are in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *Operations in Iraq* | *Expenditure on capital equipment* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 629 | 218 | 847 |
| 2003-04 | 1,051 | 260 | 1,311 |
| 2004-05 | 747 | 163 | 910 |
| 2005-06 | 798 | 160 | 958 |
| 2006-07 | 787 | 169 | 956 |
| Grand total | | | 4,982 |

An estimated cost of £1,648 million for 2007-08 was included in the Spring Supplementary Estimates published in February, which is due to be voted on by Parliament shortly.

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence expected to apply for *(a)* the UK Gateway scheme and *(b)* indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules in 2008-09. [189895]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* We estimate that there are approximately 400 former members of staff who are eligible for the LECs assistance scheme. Around half of those already assessed as eligible and who have informed us of their preferred form of assistance, have opted for the Gateway scheme.

Staff who left MOD's employment prior to 8 August 2007 are not eligible for indefinite leave to enter the UK on an exceptional basis. Seven current staff members made redundant since 8 August 2007 have chosen this option.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much financial support the Government paid to Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the *Ministry of Defence awaiting* resettlement under the UK Gateway programme in third countries in each month since October 2007; and how many Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have received financial support whilst awaiting resettlement. [189896]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* No financial assistance has yet been paid to former staff members seeking resettlement to the UK under the Gateway programme. The focus of our effort has been on assessing the eligibility of those applying to the scheme from within Iraq, and on undertaking the necessary security checks on those seeking resettlement. The first tranche of this work is now largely complete, and we expect that a significant number of former Ministry of Defence employees and their dependents (in excess of 100 individuals) will soon leave Iraq for a third country for assessment under the Gateway programme. Financial assistance will be paid to these individuals, as well as to any eligible former employees who have already left Iraq, in the coming weeks.

As of 21 February, the Ministry of Defence has paid over $450,000 to former staff members who opted for the financial package of assistance.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 24 January, on low flying aircrafts (reference: MC00711/2008). [191221]

**Derek Twigg:** I replied to the hon. Member on 28 February 2008.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours helicopters can undertake before they must be taken out of service, broken down by type of helicopter. [189269]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Different helicopter types have differing Structural Integrity design philosophies. They do not all have a set number of flying hours before they must be taken out of service as indicated in the following table.

| *Aircraft type* | *Finite life—designed fatigue life-flying hours* |
|---|---|
| Agusta A109A/AM | No |
| Attack Helicopter | Yes—9,000 hours |
| Chinook Mk2/2a | No |
| Gazelle | Yes—15,000 hours |
| Lynx Mk3, Mk7, Mk8, Mk9 | Yes—7,000 hours |
| Merlin Mk1 and Mk3 | Yes—10,000 hours |
| Puma HC1 | No |
| Sea King Mk3/3a, Mk4, Mk5 Mk6c, Mk7 | No |

The structural integrity of airframes is assured by regular maintenance and replacement of fatigue-sensitive

components after a set period of use. In all cases, the maintenance policy and lives of key components are regularly reviewed to ensure it supports the safe operation of the aircraft. Helicopters with designed fatigue lives can fly beyond the design life when specific actions are taken. Actions may include the replacement of significant structural items and the instigation of enhanced inspections and maintenance.

### Nimrod Aircraft: Procurement

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the number of Nimrod MRA4 aircraft to be ordered. [189276]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries provided the requirement for NATO's Operational Reserve Force in each year since 2001; and which countries will provide the requirement until 2010. [190694]

**Des Browne:** During this period, there was an Operational Reserve Force for ISAF from August to December 2006 which was provided by Romania.

For the Balkans, the reserve was called the Over the Horizon Force until mid-2002 with the UK, France, Germany, Italy and the US all contributing battalions. Since mid-2002, the Operational Reserve Force has comprised three battalions provided by the UK, Germany and Italy.

As commitments to the Operational Reserve Force are made on an annual basis, there is no programmed rota for 2009-10.

### Reserve Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservist personnel were deployed overseas at the most recently available date, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* service. [190650]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 31 January 2008, the number of volunteer reservists deployed on operations was:

| | *Royal Navy Reserve* | *Royal Marines Reserve* | *Territorial Army* | *Number Royal Auxiliary Air Force* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TELIC (Iraq) | 44 | 0 | 124 | 30 |
| HERRICK (Afghanistan) | 10 | 77 | 528 | 17 |
| TOSCA (Cyprus) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| OCULUS (Balkans) | 1 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Global Counter Terrorism | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Total: | 56 | 77 | 682 | 47 |

There were also 616 other reservists undergoing pre-deployment training, receiving medical treatment, or on post operational leave, and in addition 41 sponsored reserves involved in operations but who are not necessarily permanently based in an operational theatre.

### Spearhead Land Element

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether it is fully equipped; whether the SLE is deployed; and when the future SLE will take over. [190671]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Second Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is currently fully equipped in accordance with the joint rapid reaction force directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by the Second Battalion The Rifles, who will assume this role from 30 March 2008.

### Type 45 Destroyers

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made any changes to the planned in-service dates of Type 45 Destroyers. [189278]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Carers' Allowances

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the earnings limit for carer's allowance was last increased. [189030]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The earnings limit for carer's allowance was last increased in October 2007. Recipients of carer's allowance can now earn up to £95 a week after deduction of allowable expenses.

### Child Support: Administration

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on what basis the decision not to initially migrate existing cases onto the new child support system was made; and if he will make a statement; [188520]

(2) when all child support cases will have been transferred to the new child support system. [188759]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 226W, to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown).

### Delivery Notices

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the letter of 28 January 2008 from the Minister of State for Pensions to the hon.

Member for Northavon, if he will place in the Library a copy of the departmental leaflets issued after 2001 which stated that people would be advised about delivery notices by letter. [184456]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The relevant extracts from documents NP46 and N17A have been placed in the Library.

### Employment: Prisoners Release

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Government assistance is provided for prisoners to secure work on release from prison; and what changes in types of support have been made since 1992. [191210]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Jobcentre plus offers extensive help to those leaving prison. The following have all been introduced since 1992.

Employment and Benefit Surgeries—In prison-based Employment and Benefit Surgeries, Jobcentre Plus advisers work in co-operation with the Prison Service and other agency staff to address the key employment and benefit needs of prison inmates during both the entry and pre-release stages of their period in custody.

New Deal—Offenders are entitled to early entry, from day one of their claim, to the new deals, including the New Deal for Young People, which applies to 18 to 24-year-olds, thereby giving them access to help with finding a job and dealing with their barriers to employment.

Freshstart—Freshstart involves pre-arranging a new jobseeker interview to claim benefit (jobseeker's allowance) at the prisoner's home Jobcentre Plus office, on release. As well as speeding up the process for receiving benefit, the individual is exposed at the earliest opportunity to jobs and the prospect of engaging with mainstream provision, to which, in most cases, they will have early entry status. Last year 35,000 interviews were booked

Rapid Reclaim Process—Jobcentre Plus also operate a "Rapid Reclaim Process" for jobseeker's allowance, income support and incapacity benefit (employment support allowance also when introduced). This service is available if a short-term prisoner reclaims within 13 weeks of their last claim and circumstances have not changed. There are simpler and shorter forms and the processing of the benefit is easier.

Progress2work and progress2workLinkUP—Special programmes aimed at helping clients with drug misuse, the homeless, ex-offenders, and alcohol misusers deal with the particular barriers to work that they face. Both programmes are run by specialist providers who have established expertise in dealing with the issues faced by these client groups. Progress2work is a national programme; progress2workLinkUP is in almost half of Jobcentre Plus districts.

Early Custody Licence—DWP shared services administer grants on behalf of the Ministry of Justice for those released on early custody licence.

Exit to Work—Exit to Work is an action-research project trailing a new way of engaging employers and moving ex-offenders into work. The project is being managed by Working Ventures UK in collaboration with DWP, Jobcentre Plus, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Ministry of Justice. Exit to Work takes a two-pronged approach to tackling employment and skills-related issues for offenders:

> a network of seven Job Developers (across Birmingham, London, Manchester, Merseyside, Tepsside, and South Yorkshire) whose role is to be a single point of contact for the employer, to help them understand the benefits of recruiting ex-offenders and how to mitigate the risks and to orchestrate the range of support available to provide the employer with a seamless package; and

managing an information and vacancy sharing website, which allows CVs of ex-offenders to be uploaded, evaluated, and accessed on behalf of potential employers.

Jobcentre Plus engages with young offenders both in custody and in the community. Dependant upon the customer's age, a range of support becomes available.

Young offenders in custody have access to employment and benefit surgery advisers and can get employment and training advice as well as Freshstart appointments upon release to claim jobseeker's allowance.

At age 18 offenders released from custody and community sentenced offenders have early entry to New Deal and access to specialist help via progress2work and Progress2work Link Up. Advisers regularly review activity and job search efforts and on a longer term basis, customers have to undertake mandatory activities such as New Deal for Young People. New Deal for young People has now been in operation for over 10 years and has helped thousands of young offenders to enter work and training.

### Income Support: Lone Parents

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his Department's publication, Ready for Work, what forecast he has made of the likely number of lone parents claiming income support in each quarter to 2011, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* family size; and what assessment he has made of the effect on these numbers on changes in his Department's spending on (i) benefits and (ii) benefit administration. [176943]

**Mr. Timms:** The full information requested is not available. The Impact Assessment published alongside the publication "Ready for Work" presented our current estimates of the impact of the proposals on benefit case loads and costs.

### Pensioners: Aberavon

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners there were in Aberavon constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [190218]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at May 2007, there were 13,540 recipients of state pension in the Aberavon parliamentary constituency.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Pensions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of people who were not sent a letter from his Department in 2004-05 in connection with the deficiency notices exercise who would have been sent such a letter but for the fact that the then Inland Revenue had ceased sending them deficiency notices prior to 1996-97; and if he will make a statement; [167266]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, on pensions, how the target group of 632,000 was defined; and which categories of pensioners in the target group were not sent letters. [181991]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answers 22 November 2007 and 25 January 2008]:* In total, we estimate that around one million people[1] who reached state pension age between 6 April 1998 and 23 October 2004:

(a) were not entitled to a full basic pension on their own contributions; and

(b) had a deficient contribution record in one or more of the years 1996-97 to 2001-02.

Of these, 632,000 who were resident in the UK satisfied the conditions for receiving a deficiency notice. In addition, a further 40,000 pensioners who were resident overseas satisfied the conditions. This group, including those overseas, was defined as the target group.

However, only those people in the target group who could improve their ongoing pension entitlement were contacted and thus excluded:

(i) people already receiving a full basic pension derived wholly or in part from their former spouse's contributions; and

(ii) married women already receiving a pension derived wholly or in part from their husband's contributions who could not improve their ongoing overall pension entitlements by paying additional contributions.

Of the remaining approximately 350,000[2], it is not possible to readily identify those who could improve their ongoing pension entitlement.

Pursuant to my written answers of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2376W, and 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, the figure of 470,000 referred to in these answers related to the total number of pensioners contacted regarding deficiencies in their contribution records and included around 55,000 who had already paid contributions. The figure of 414,427 pensioners automatically contacted by the Pension Service during the period September 2004 to September 2005 quoted at page 197 of the Department's Resource Accounts for 2006-07 relates to the number of pensioners who were informed of deficiencies in their contribution records in that period. No further deficiency notice letters were automatically issued by the Pension Service after the end of September 2005.

Pursuant to my written answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2376W, the response rate of 62 per cent. quoted was incorrect. It was calculated by reference to a total figure of 470,000 letters issued and the 290,000 customers contacts referred to in the answer. However, it has subsequently become apparent that the figure of 290,000 comprises contacts from individuals who had received an automatic deficiency notice and those who had not. It is not possible to disaggregate the figure of 290,000 to separately identify contacts by people who had received an automatic deficiency notice. Similarly, it is not possible to disaggregate the figure of 69,249 individuals who have made additional contributions. Therefore the figure of 24 per cent. relating to the proportion of respondents who made additional contributions is also incorrect.

[1] Source: Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04.

[2] Figure rounded to the nearest 50,000.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people who will receive pension forecasts in 2008. [174801]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Pension Service issues an individual pension forecast when a customer request is made via the e-service channel, over the phone or on completion of form BR19.

Based on the number of requests received in 2007, we anticipate that around 300,000 individuals will receive an individual pension forecast in 2008.

Due to IT changes which need to be made as a result of the Pensions Act 2007, the Pension Service is temporarily unable to provide an individual pension forecast to customers who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010.

To help them plan for retirement, the Pension Service is able to offer these customers personalised information on potential state pension entitlement, based on the pension qualifying years they have from their national insurance record. Around 125,000 customers have benefited from this service. The Pension Service expects full forecasting services will be available in spring 2008.

## Pensions: Taxation

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the additional costs in *(a)* benefit payments and *(b)* administration that would be incurred as a result of HM Revenue and Custom's proposals to tax small pensions retrospectively for the year 2007-08. [190850]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not available.

### Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the payment of benefit to families in polygamous marriages; and if he will make a statement. [188967]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W.

### Social Security Benefits: Prisoners Release

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ex-prisoners of working age were claiming *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance and *(d)* another working age benefit (i) three, (ii) six and (iii) 12 months after being released from prison in each year since 1997. [191209]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available.

### State Retirement Pensions: Anniversaries

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration his Department has given to the erection of a memorial to celebrate the centenary of pensions; and if he will make a statement. [188957]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have no plans to erect a memorial.

We plan to mark the centenary of the introduction of the state pension as a key element of the celebrations around the second UK Older People's Day in October 2008.

### Winter Fuel Payments: West Midlands

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a winter fuel payment in *(a)* Warley constituency and *(b)* Sandwell Metropolitan borough council area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189626]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07, 14,080 people in the Warley constituency and 54,360 people in Sandwell metropolitan borough council received a winter fuel payment. We expect the numbers to be similar for this winter.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Devon

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has received from Milk Link on cases of suspected bovine tuberculosis in Devon; how many such cases were reported by Milk Link in each of the last three years; and what steps his Department has taken as a result. [190575]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Responsibility for reporting suspected cases of bovine tuberculosis rests with veterinary surgeons (on farms) and meat hygiene service inspectors (at slaughterhouses).

Therefore, no suspected cases of bovine tuberculosis have been reported to my Department by Milk Link, which I understand, is a milk wholesaler business.

### Energy: Conservation

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the proposed implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive for boilers being outside the scope of the Directive. [189251]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials regularly meet and have discussions at EU level, including on energy efficient products, and have held formal and informal meetings with the Commission on the Energy Using Products Directive.

The Commission is currently analysing responses from the boiler and water heater industry on its proposals for implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive. DEFRA officials are due to attend a Consultation Forum (comprising the Commission, European Trade Associations and other member state representatives) on the directive on 29 February 2008.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will meet representatives of the controls industry to discuss their proposal for the creation of a separate standard for controls rather than the bundled approach proposed in the energy-using products directive; [189253]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the consequences Lot 1 of the energy-using products directive will have on the UK heating controls industry; [189255]

(3) whether the Government have considered using industry expertise to work with the European Commission to produce a separate standard for heating controls rather than including them with boilers as outlined in the energy using products directive. [189258]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials have invited key stakeholders, including members of the boiler and water heater industry, to discuss implementation of the energy using products directive and raise any concerns

on implications for the UK. The Commission is currently analysing responses from the industry and the alternative proposals it has put forward.

The Government's market transformation programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of implementation of the energy using products directive, based on the Commission's current proposals.

DEFRA officials will also shortly be attending meetings with the European trade associations in order to learn more about the issues the boiler and heating industry face across Europe.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on DEFRA's website.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what position his officials will be taking on the Energy-using Products Directive at the Implementing Measure Consulting Forum on 29 February. [189254]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government generally see Consultation Forum meetings as an opportunity for industry to let the Commission know of their concerns directly. The Government are aware that the industry has raised significant concerns about these proposals and DEFRA officials are assessing the feedback we have received, with a view to relaying these concerns to the Commission at the Consultation Forum meeting on 29 February 2008.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to the report produced by the consultancy commissioned by the European Commission to write a preparatory study for the Energy-using Products Directive. [189257]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials are aware of the report, produced by the consultancy VHK on behalf of the Commission, on implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive.

The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing its recommendations and assumptions.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the Energy Using Products Directive ensures the maximum potential carbon savings of heating controls are realised. [189259]

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government are taking to maximise the carbon reduction impact of the energy-using products directive, with reference to heating controls; [189464]

(2) what steps he plans to take to take account of the potential effects of the energy-using products directive in developing the proposed strategy for developing the market for advanced heating controls in new and existing homes. [189476]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to raising product efficiency. We are working with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry and the European Commission to develop proposals which will maximise the standards and efficiency of products covered by the energy using products directive.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration the Government have given to the development of a discrete standard for heating controls under the Energy-using Products Directive; and if he will establish a working group including industry experts to examine this matter. [189465]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials have held a range of meetings with key stakeholders, including members of the boiler and water heater industry, to present the Commission proposals and discuss concerns on implementing the energy using products directive in the UK. The Commission and DEFRA officials are currently analysing responses from the industry and the alternative proposals it has put forward.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what account the Government has taken of the potential electrical and electronic waste arising after 2013 in its consideration of the implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive in relation to supply system bundles; [189470]

(2) what estimates he has *(a)* made and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effect of the Energy-using Products Directive on the UK boiler industry; and if he will make a statement. [189472]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of the implementation of the energy-using products directive, based on the Commission's current proposals.

Officials are due to attend a meeting of the Consultation Forum (comprising the Commission, European Trade Associations and other member state representatives) to discuss the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters on 29 February.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the heating controls industry to discuss the creation of a separate standard for controls, with reference to the implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive. [189479]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials have held a number of meetings with key members of the boiler and water heater industry to present the Commission proposals under the energy-using products framework directive and to discuss the implications of these for UK industry. DEFRA officials are currently analysing responses from the industry and the alternative proposals it has put forward.

DEFRA officials will shortly be attending meetings with the European Trade Associations in order to learn more about the issues this industry faces across Europe.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the scope of the Energy-using Products Directive as it relates to boilers. [189481]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials regularly meet and have discussions at EU level, including on energy efficient products, and have held a number of meetings with the Commission on the energy-using products directive, including an informal meeting on the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters.

The Commission is currently analysing responses from the boiler and water heater industry on its proposals for boilers and water heaters. DEFRA officials are due to attend a Consultation Forum (comprising the Commission, European Trade Associations and other member state representatives) on these proposals on 29 February.

### Energy: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to cap transmission charges if Ofgem implements a new payment system based on generator distance from population centres. [189446]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

In the GB electricity market, Transmission Network Use of System Charges (TNUOS) are already charged on a cost-reflective locational basis, such that generators furthest from centres of demand pay a higher charge to reflect the additional transmission network costs. Ofgem are considering whether such arrangements should also apply to transmission loss charges, which currently do not vary by location.

The Government has no intention of capping these charges for the generality of users. However, section 185 of the Electricity Act 2004 gives the Secretary of State the power to adjust such charges in an area which has high potential for the development of renewable generation and where the charges would otherwise be a material hindrance to that development. The Government has said that it intends to exercise this power for the Scottish islands, subject to the statutory tests set out in section 185 being met. In particular, the Government would need to be satisfied that the level of transmission charges in the absence of a scheme constitutes a material hindrance to the development of renewable generation in those locations.

### Incinerators: Hazardous Substances

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when consultations have taken place with incinerator operators on an eco-toxity test for incinerator bottom ash; [189838]

(2) what testing his Department has commissioned of the toxicity of incinerator bottom ash; [189939]

(3) what consultation he plans on the testing regime for incinerator bottom ash; [189940]

(4) what the timetable is for the introduction of the new test of toxicity for incinerator bottom ash. [189941]

**Joan Ruddock:** I understand that the waste industry is taking forward an initiative to identify a protocol for the ecotoxicity testing of Incineration Bottom Ash (IBA). The initiative will use a direct testing method on IBA, where the validity of classification results from the desktop method remains uncertain. This uncertainty arises because of the potential for ecotoxic metal substances in IBA to exist as the metal or other non-ecotoxic form; something that the desktop analytical method cannot determine.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency support this initiative, considering that the classification of IBA will remain "non-hazardous" pending the results of the direct testing.

The Environment Agency will review this decision when results from direct testing have been provided. No consultation is planned by my Department on this issue.

### Lymington River: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the timetable is within which the Marine and Fisheries Agency plans to determine the application by Wightlink for shore works on the Lymington river; and if he will make a statement; [190276]

(2) whether the Marine and Fisheries Agency plans to consult when making an appropriate assessment on shore works to accommodate larger ferries in the Lymington river under the provisions of the Habitat Directive. [190277]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In July 2007, Wightlink applied to the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) for a licence to undertake modification works to piles, fendering and linkspan bridges comprising parts of the ferry terminals at both Lymington and Yarmouth. The MFA's controls under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and the Coast Protection

Act 1994 (CPA) only apply to the works proposed seawards of Mean High Water Spring Tide line (i.e. only including the foreshore).

Permissions related to the works have also been sought from other regulators, including the respective local authorities, the Environment Agency, and the Lymington and Yarmouth harbour authorities.

In progressing the FEPA and CPA applications, the MFA is working with these regulators to address the need for more environmental data. The MFA have taken the view that the intended works should be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' in compliance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994, which should also have regard to the potential effects on nature conservation that may arise from the operation of the proposed larger ferry vessels.

A meeting was convened in January with the other regulators and Natural England to clarify what statutory responsibilities applied to the various elements of the project and how their possible effects were to be assessed. A subsequent meeting was held with Wightlink, primarily to discuss what additional data regulators and their advisers considered necessary.

Wightlink also met separately with Natural England to clarify what further information would be needed to support an appropriate assessment, and they have commissioned marine consultants to prepare a report that will be submitted to each of the regulators. Lymington Harbour Commissioners have also set in train arrangements to monitor the hydrodynamic effects of the existing ferries as basis for considering any constraints that may be necessary, for health and safety reasons, to the operation of the new vessels.

In determining their respective applications, regulators will individually and jointly, make an assessment of the additional data in so far as it applies to their responsibilities. This will enable them to determine the extent of any adverse risk to protected conservation sites, whether any mitigation is required and, if so, how this can be ensured.

As the consultation process raised no concerns in respect of only those elements of the works proposed at Yarmouth, Wightlink made a further application to the MFA earlier this month in respect of those works. This application has been determined and a FEPA Licence and CPA consent were granted on 21 February.

### Peregrine Falcons

**Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions there have been for offences involving wild-taken peregrine falcons since 1981; and what effect the introduction of DNA testing of birds in 1992 has had on the number of such offences. [188490]

**Joan Ruddock:** Records of offences and convictions do not distinguish between species. DNA testing techniques have provided a useful additional investigative tool for wildlife law enforcers, but it is not possible to measure their effect on the number of such offences.

### Warm Zones Programme: North East

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households have had roof and wall installations under the Warm Zone scheme in *(a)* Stockton South, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the North East. [188965]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| | *Households fitted with cavity wall insulation under the warm front scheme* | *Households fitted with loft insulation under the warm front scheme* |
|---|---|---|
| Stockton South | 1,287 | 1,368 |
| Teesside[1] | 9,094 | 10,918 |
| North East | 58,260 | 54,369 |

[1] Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough South and Cleveland East, Redcar, Stockton North and Stockton South.

### Waste Disposal: Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by small businesses as a consequence of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations. [189542]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

A full regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the UK WEEE regulations. There are no derogations for small businesses to be excluded from the scope of the WEEE directive. The UK WEEE regulations ensure that small businesses are not disproportionately affected and both the registration fees for producers and distributors are scaled according to company size.

### Waste Disposal: Small Businesses

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the WRAP SME recycling programme on increasing the rate of recycling waste since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [191242]

**Joan Ruddock:** The aim of WRAP's SME recycling programme was, through a series of trials, to increase and improve recycling services for small to medium enterprises. These businesses can find it difficult to access appropriate recycling services for the waste they generate for a variety of reasons; for instance, because they lack the internal resources needed to establish and manage a recycling scheme, and because individual SMEs generate relatively small quantities of waste.

WRAP's programme has involved a range of feasibility and demonstration trials to develop appropriate recycling services, charging mechanisms, sales and marketing approaches and advice on staff involvement in recycling. The overall aim was to make recycling at work easy, convenient and cost-effective. A number of deliverables were measured for these trials,

related to developing economic models for collection and good practice guidance for recycling service providers.

WRAP's activities formed a research, rather than a delivery programme. Therefore, impact in tonnage terms was not the primary purpose. Early figures indicate that over 3,000 SMEs were recruited to recycling services. However, it is important to recognise that the key performance indicators for this programme revolved around information relating to how businesses could be recruited to recycling, what systems worked for them, what charging regimes could be employed and what collection frequencies are appropriate to make recycling more attractive to SMEs. The findings from the trials will be made available through Good Practice Guidance and Executive Summaries. These will be available on WRAP's website. The programme will be subject to a full evaluation at the end of this financial year, and the results will be published in WRAP's next annual review.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Broadcasting: Radio

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions have taken place with RTE on the effect on listeners in Northern Ireland of the removal of FM radio band from the end of March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [188818]

**Mr. Woodward:** The decision to switch off medium wave transmission of RTE Radio 1 is a matter for RTE and the Irish broadcasting authorities. I understand that RTE Radio 1 will remain available to listeners in Northern Ireland on FM and Long Wave (LW) bands and also on a variety of other platforms such as satellite television and the internet.

### Crime: Cannabis

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much time the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on work to tackle the illegal production and distribution of cannabis in each of the last two years. [186985]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI do not record police time specifically spent on tackling the illegal production and distribution of cannabis.

PSNI activity against drug crime focuses on the most significant criminal individuals and groups engaged in drug trafficking and supply.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property was lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was in each case. [187476]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the property which has been lost or stolen from the Northern Ireland Office (excluding its Agencies and NDPBs) since 1997.

| *To 31 December* | *Lost* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | No Records Available | No records available |
| 1998 | None | 1 x Laptop |
| 1999 | None | 1 x Camcorder 1 x Laptop |
| 2000 | None | None |
| 2001 | 7 x Mobile Telephones | 1 x Mobile Telephone 1 x Laptop |
| 2002 | 2 x Mobile Telephones | 1 x Personal Digital Assistant |
| 2003 | 2 x Mobile Telephones | None |
| 2004 | None | 3 x Mobile Telephones 1 x Laptop |
| 2005 | 2 x Mobile Telephones | 1 x Mobile Telephone 1 x Personal Digital Assistant |
| 2006 | 2 x Mobile Telephones | 1 x Laptop |
| 2007 | 5 x Mobile Telephones | 1 x Mobile Telephone 2 x Laptops |
| 2008 to date | None | None |

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187509]

**Mr. Woodward:** The total statutory sick pay (SSP) paid to employees in 2006-07 was £168,478, however SSP covers only a small proportion of the cost of sickness absence, as the Department also has an occupational sickness pay scheme, the costs of which cannot be isolated out from the overall payroll costs.

We receive a statistical analysis based on average salaries, grade, and days lost, which estimated the cost to the Department for 2006-07 at £1.7 million. This figure excludes the NI Prison Service and the Department's NDPBs.

The Northern Ireland Office takes the management of sickness absence very seriously and has robust policies and procedures in place to deal with inefficiency which results from poor attendance. The health and safety of everyone in the Department is of paramount importance; we have a duty of care to help prevent staff becoming ill and to support them when they are.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181530]

**Mr. Woodward:** In the Northern Ireland Office's travel budgets, expenditure relating to journeys within and outside the UK are included together.

These figures are based on calendar year rather than financial year and cannot therefore be compared with the figures shown in the travel budgets. The following table shows the overseas travel costs from April 2004 to December 2007:

| | *Total costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| April to December 2004 | 85,013 |
| January to December 2005 | 184,055 |
| January to December 2006 | 131,907 |
| January to December 2007 | 80,889 |

Expenditure for travel in the NIO is held for the current financial year to date plus the previous five financial years. The following table provides details of the NIO's total travel expenditure (excluding agencies and NDPBs) and compares this against the total departmental expenditure (excluding agencies and NDPBs) in each year since 2002-03:

| | *Total travel expenditure (£)* | *Percentage of travel expenditure against departmental expenditure* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 4,238,875 | 0.463 |
| 2003-04 | 4,354,144 | 0.492 |
| 2004-05 | 4,140,237 | 0.442 |
| 2005-06 | 4,248,807 | 0.387 |
| 2006-07 | 4,996,164 | 0.477 |
| Total | 21,978,227 | 0.450 |

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is available in the Library for the reference of Members.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181598]

**Mr. Woodward:** The number of visits is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

My Department has recorded the cost of overseas travel by air and rail from April 2004 to December 2007. The countries visited include the USA, Republic of Ireland and other European countries. This information is set out in the following table.

| | *Total costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| April to December 2004 | 85,013 |
| January to December 2005 | 184,055 |
| January to December 2006 | 131,907 |
| January to December 2007 | 80,889 |

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental rules.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190280]

**Mr. Woodward:** Electronic records are only available from 18 May 2005 onwards. To obtain the information requested prior to this date would involve an extensive manual trawl of records which could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The following table provides the information that is available.

| | *Total number of PQs received*[1] | *Total number of named day questions* | *Holding answers issued* | | *Substantive answers issued* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 18 May 2005 to end 2005 | 2,846 | 363 | 168 | 46 | 195 | 54 |
| 2006 | 4,023 | 617 | 377 | 61 | 240 | 39 |
| 2007[2] | 1,421 | 220 | 105 | 48 | 115 | 52 |
| 2008 up to 22 February 2008 | 146 | 21 | 5 | 24 | 16 | 76 |

[1] Inclusive of transfers and withdrawals.
[2] Reduction in the overall number of PQs received due to the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly (8 May 2007).

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on employment agencies, which recruitment agencies his Department has used in each year since 1998; and how much each agency was paid in each year. [189361]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office (excluding its Agencies, NDPBs and Public Inquiries) spent on recruitment agencies in each financial year since 1998-99. These figures include both the costs for appointing staff to the department and the salaries paid to these temporary staff members.

| *Recruitment Agencies used* | *Recruitment Agencies costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| *1998-99* | |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 27,051 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 21,878 |
| Lynn Recruitment | 2,421 |
| Total | 51,350 |
| *1999-2000* | |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 35,190 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 1,594 |
| Lynn Recruitment | 428 |
| Total | 37,212 |

| Recruitment Agencies used | Recruitment Agencies costs (£) |
|---|---|
| *2000-01* | |
| Diamond Recruitment | 6,997 |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 29,466 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 445 |
| Total | 36,908 |
| *2001-02* | |
| Diamond Recruitment | 11,649 |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 28,029 |
| Total | 39,678 |
| *2002-03* | |
| Diamond Recruitment | 3,438 |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 25,543 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 4,967 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 32,322 |
| Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd. | 15,074 |
| Total | 81,344 |
| *2003-04* | |
| Diamond Recruitment | 9,700 |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 24,915 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 32,432 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 31,518 |
| Select Recruitment | 1,318 |
| Total | 99,883 |
| *2004-05* | |
| Diamond Recruitment | 14,812 |
| Excel Recruitment Ltd. | 14,473 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 31,740 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 29,993 |
| Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd. | 6,553 |
| Select Recruitment | 23,783 |
| Total | 121,354 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Brook Street (UK) Ltd. | 2,404 |
| Diamond Recruitment | 10,555 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 76,451 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 31,992 |
| Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd. | 5,512 |
| Select Recruitment | 9,389 |
| Total | 136,303 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Brook Street (UK) Ltd. | 913 |
| Diamond Recruitment | 10,333 |
| Grafton Recruitment | 112,394 |
| Hays Accounting Personnel | 43,846 |
| Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd. | 1,522 |
| Total | 169,008 |

## Inquiries

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the costs to date have been of the inquiries into *(a)* Bloody Sunday, *(b)* Robert Hamill death, *(c)* Rosemary Nelson's death, *(d)* Pat Finucane's death and *(e)* Billy Wright's death. [187830]

**Mr. Woodward:** The costs to the end of January 2008 for the inquiries are as follows:

| | Cost (£ million) |
|---|---|
| The Bloody Sunday inquiry | 181.4 |
| The Robert Hamill inquiry | 13.0 |
| The Rosemary Nelson inquiry | 24.5 |
| The Billy Wright inquiry | 13.2 |

An inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane has not yet been established.

The Wright and Hamill inquiries are operating under the Inquiries Act 2005. The Nelson inquiry is operating under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. The Bloody Sunday inquiry is operating under the Tribunals Act 1921.

## Prisoners: Education

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners detained in Northern Ireland have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received student loans in each of the last five years. [189291]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised that no prisoners have applied for student loans in the last five years.

## Prostitution

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the level of the vice trade in Northern Ireland in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [189827]

**Paul Goggins:** The true extent of the vice trade is very difficult to quantify, particularly as brothels tend to operate in one location for a short period of time before moving to avoid the attention of local police. The PSNI are taking part in Operation Pentameter 2, a UK-wide operation against human trafficking, which will improve our understanding of the scale of human trafficking and the illegal sex trade in Northern Ireland. In 2005 (the latest year for which data are available), three people were prosecuted and convicted in Northern Ireland for brothel-keeping.

As well as impacting on individuals, prostitution causes real problems for communities. In recent months, therefore, police have mounted three investigations where controlling prostitution was suspected. A file has been sent to the Public Prosecution Service, and €15,000 was seized under the proceeds of crime legislation.

In response to community concerns, I intend to include extension of the offence of kerb crawling to Northern Ireland, and a new offence relating to soliciting, in the draft Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order on which I have recently been consulting.

## Terrorism

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in the anti-terrorist operation against associates of the Real IRA in Vilnius, overseen by the Lithuanian authorities, Garda Siochana, PSNI, British Intelligence Agencies and Interpol, which resulted in the arrest of Michael Campbell. [189055]

**Paul Goggins:** It would not be appropriate to comment on anti-terrorist operations or who may be involved in them. The prosecution of the individual referred to is a matter for the prosecuting authorities in Lithuania.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to answer question *(a)* 181598 and *(b)* 181530, on departmental travel, tabled on 21 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Taunton; and what the reason for the time taken to respond is. [191243]

**Mr. Woodward:** Questions *(a)* 181598 and *(b)* 181530 were both answered today.

Each of these questions requested details of departmental travel including travel outside of the United Kingdom. To ensure accuracy in the answers, extensive cross-referencing was required between different parts of the Department, which proved to be more time consuming than originally expected.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Chad: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Chadians who are *(a)* resident in internally displaced people's camps and *(b)* refugees; and what steps his Department is taking to provide assistance to such people. [189619]

**Gillian Merron:** There are currently approximately 180,000 internally displaced people in Chad, the vast majority of them distributed across sites in the east of the country. In 2007-08, the UK Government have committed £6.5 million in Chad through humanitarian agencies to collectively address the needs of the internally displaced, the refugees and the host population. This support has been used for the provision of water and sanitation facilities, food, medical assistance, shelter and other relief items to these groups.

The recent attack by rebels on N'Djamena (the capital of Chad) resulted in the flight of refugees into neighbouring Cameroon; approximately 10,000 still remain there. The United Nations recently made an allocation of approximately £2.4 million for these refugees from its Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), to which the UK is the largest donor (20 per cent.).

Approximately 25,000 Chadian refugees also reside in Sudan. These receive indirect support from the UK through the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund in Sudan, to which the UK is contributing £35 million in this financial year.

### Developing Countries: Diseases

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the funding of the public-private product development partnerships for diagnostics for neglected diseases. [189268]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government are a strong supporter of public-private product development partnerships for neglected diseases, recognising the need to develop new diagnostics.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced over $60 million in support for TB diagnostics research in September 2007 in a grant to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), who also receive funding from the Dutch Government, EU and USAID. DFID staff have had a number of meetings with FIND and we will be considering funding for diagnostics in the context of DFID's new research strategy 2008-13.

### Infant Mortality

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the merits of including in the millennium development goals framework equity objectives to close the gap in child mortality between the richest and poorest 20 per cent. of developing countries' populations. [188918]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK Government believe that equity objectives do currently underpin the millennium development goals' framework. The millennium declaration clearly states that signatories accept a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, with a particular duty to children.

### Press

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189686]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any agencies, and is responsible for two non-departmental public bodies—the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which do not have any press officers. The number of such staff in DFID since 1997, when the department was established, is shown in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 6 |
| 1998 | 6 |
| 1999 | 4 |
| 2000 | 4 |
| 2001 | 5 |
| 2002 | 4 |
| 2003 | 6 |
| 2004 | 7 |
| 2005 | 7 |
| 2006 | 6 |
| 2007 | 6 |
| Now | 7 |

### Sierra Leone: Economic Situation

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's latest assessment is of the economic situation in Sierra Leone. [190612]

**Gillian Merron** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The economic outlook for Sierra Leone is favourable, although fragile and highly vulnerable to external shocks. The economy grew at sustained pace (8 to 9 per cent. per year) since the end of the hostilities in 2002, and is expected to continue to expand at 6.5 per cent. in 2008, in line with the sub-Saharan African average. Inflation, around 12 per cent. in 2007, is expected to decline to single digit by the end of 2008. Business confidence was boosted by the peaceful outcome of the September 2007 elections, with an increase of private investment, especially in the construction and hospitality industry, and new entrants in the banking sector.

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides to civil society in developing countries to hold their governments to account on their observance of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child obligations. [188914]

**Gillian Merron:** In several developing countries, the Department for International Development funds civil society specifically to hold governments to account for meeting commitments made under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This commonly takes the form of strengthening local groups representing children to demand that governments take all available measures to make sure children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

The UK Government also support child-focused international non-government organisations (NGOs) such as Save the Children and Plan International who work to strengthen international mechanisms and develop indicators to measure governments' compliance with the UNCRC and other international law.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the Ministerial letter of 31st January 2006 responding to the recommendations in the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, what her policy is on *(a)* exploring the scope for reporting the true origin of animals when this differs from their proximate source and *(b)* dividing the category of origin, where this differs from source, into the same categories as those for sources of Schedule 2 animals. [188743]

**Meg Hillier:** With regard to the origin of animals, the present format of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals is consistent with current European reporting requirements. We will give further consideration to this recommendation when the European Commission publishes revised statistical reporting requirements as part of the current review of Directive 86/609/EEC, which the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 transposes into UK law.

### Asylum: Iraq

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens have applied for the UK Gateway Programme since its inception. [189888]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* The Gateway Protection Programme has been in operation since 2004 and resettles a small number of nationalities each year. Applications are submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Border and Immigration Agency. As of 25 February 2008, UNHCR has applied on behalf of 131 Iraqi citizens (including dependants) for consideration within the Gateway Programme.

### Border and Immigration Agency: Manpower

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the UK Border and Immigration Agency are stationed outside the UK; and in which countries they are working. [189851]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| *Country* | *Number of BIA employees as at 27 February 2008* |
|---|---|
| United Arab Emirates | 1 |
| Afghanistan | 1 |
| Albania | 2 |
| Algeria | 2 |
| Arabia, Saudi | 2 |
| Bahrain | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 12 |
| Belarus | 3 |
| Belgium | 40 |
| Brazil | 1 |
| Cameroon | 2 |
| China | 29 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| Congo | 2 |
| Croatia | 1 |
| Cyprus | 1 |
| Dubai | 6 |
| Egypt | 6 |
| Ethiopia | 1 |
| France | 73 |
| Gambia | 1 |
| Germany | 3 |
| Ghana | 14 |
| Hong Kong | 6 |
| Hungary | 2 |
| India | 45 |

| Country | Number of BIA employees as at 27 February 2008 |
|---|---|
| Indonesia | 1 |
| Iran | 4 |
| Ireland (Republic of) | 1 |
| Italy | 3 |
| Jamaica | 5 |
| Jordan | 5 |
| Kenya | 8 |
| Kuwait | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 |
| Libya | 2 |
| Macedonia | 2 |
| Malaysia | 2 |
| Nepal | 2 |
| Netherlands | 4 |
| Nigeria | 54 |
| Oman | 1 |
| Pakistan | 45 |
| Philippines | 6 |
| Poland | 4 |
| Portugal | 1 |
| Qatar | 1 |
| Russia | 11 |
| Serbia | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 1 |
| Slovenia | 1 |
| South Africa | 9 |
| Spain | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | 6 |
| Thailand | 7 |
| Turkey | 9 |
| Uganda | 2 |
| Ukraine | 4 |
| USA | 4 |
| Vietnam (south) | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 |
| Floaters[1] | 20 |
| Total | 490 |

[1] Floaters are staff working in specific roles (e.g. entry clearance officer) who are posted to a variety of locations during their overseas tour of duty to provide temporary cover.

*Note:*
The large numbers of BIA staff working in Belgium and France reflect the operational staff from Border Control who staff the juxtaposed controls in both countries.

### Border and Immigration Agency: Middle East

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the UK Border and Immigration Agency were stationed in the Middle East in each month since October 2007. [189948]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number

| | 1 October 2007 | 1 November 2007 | 1 December 2007 | 1 January 2008 | 27 February 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bahrain | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dubai | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Israel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Iraq | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Iran | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Jordan | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Kuwait | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Oman | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Qatar | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Syria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United Arab Emirates | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Yemen | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 23 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 24 |

### British Crime Survey

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to extend the British Crime Survey to children under 16 years. [185286]

**Jacqui Smith:** Extending the British Crime Survey to cover crimes experienced by children under 16 years was a recommendation of the independent review of crime statistics led by Professor Adrian Smith. In response to the Smith review the Home Office commissioned methodological work to consider the feasibility of including children within the BCS and an announcement will be made in due course.

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people took citizenship tests in *(a)* St. Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last three years; what the average pass rate was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [189482]

**Mr. Byrne:** Test results are recorded against the test centre and Government office region where the test is taken, but it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the figures for St. Albans or Hertfordshire.

Candidates may take the test at any test centre and it is known that many candidates take the test at a location convenient to their place of employment rather than their place of residence.

There are two test centres in Hertfordshire, Watford and Stevenage, which fall within the Eastern Government region.

The figures for tests taken in centres in England and Wales are as follows:

*Life in the UK tests*

| | *2005 (October to December)* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | |
| Fail (Number) | 2,107 | 48,757 | 88,837 |
| Pass (Number) | 5,086 | 101,137 | 202,936 |
| Total tests (Number) | 7,193 | 149,894 | 291,773 |
| Pass rate (Percentage) | 70.7 | 67.5 | 69.6 |
| *Wales* | | | |
| Fail (Number) | 10 | 565 | 1,370 |
| Pass (Number) | 38 | 1,465 | 3,473 |
| Total tests (Number) | 48 | 2,030 | 4,843 |
| Pass rate (Percentage) | 79.2 | 72.2 | 71.7 |

### Deportation: Offenders

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours detainees awaiting deportation spent in police custody in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* England and Wales in 2007. [189326]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

### Foreigners: Sports

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce a levy on non-EU competitors participating at British sporting events; and if she will make a statement. [189613]

**Mr. Byrne:** The visa fee currently payable for a sportsperson from a visa national country coming to participate at a sporting event in the UK is £99. This fee is set at below cost recovery levels.

### Genetics: Databases

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to date of removing errors from the National DNA Database. [182352]

**Jacqui Smith:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1769W.

### Human Trafficking

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 810-11 on human trafficking, what type of intelligence is expected to be gathered under Operation Pentameter 2; and what progress has been made in this intelligence gathering to date. [186838]

**Jacqui Smith:** Under Operation Pentameter 2 forces have been requested to submit strategic and tactical intelligence on all forms of human trafficking. The information requested includes information on victims as well as on organised crime groups and their methods of operation.

There has been good progress to date on the collection of this intelligence and following on from the conclusion of this operation the United Kingdom human trafficking centre in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency will produce an updated strategic assessment of the nature and scale of human trafficking.

### Immigration: Deportation

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been removed from the UK under regulation 21 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. [190325]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance before them on 15 January that 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the UK in 2007. Over 500 of these were EEA nationals that were deported from the UK after consideration under regulation 21 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 and the associated case law.

### Immigration: Iraq

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens currently employed by the Ministry of Defence have applied for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules. [189894]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* Staff who are currently employed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are not eligible to apply for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules; they only become eligible under the scheme of assistance when they are made redundant or forced to resign under exceptional circumstances.

Of those who were employed on or after 8 August 2007, seven members of staff have applied to the MOD for indefinite leave to enter. They are being assisted through the process at the present time.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens currently employed by the Ministry of Defence have applied for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules. [189858]

**Mr. Byrne:** Staff who are currently employed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are not eligible to apply for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules; they only become eligible under the scheme of assistance when they are made redundant or forced to resign under exceptional circumstances.

Of those who were employed on or after 8 August 2007, seven members of staff have applied to the MOD for indefinite leave to enter. They are being assisted through the process at the present time.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the most recent letter from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on Mr. Eltifat Tahiri Moghanlo of Birkenhead (Home Office Reference M4714/7 T1047133); and if she will make a statement. [188266]

**Mr. Byrne:** The previous Home Secretary replied to my right hon. Friend's letter of 26 February 2007 on 12 March 2007 (correspondence reference: M4714/7). The Under-Secretary of State replied to my right hon. Friend's letter of 16 July 2007 on 13 August 2007 (correspondence reference: M15070/7). The Minister for Borders and Immigration will reply to my right hon. Friend's further letter of 20 February 2008 shortly.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply substantively to the letter of 20 July 2007 from the hon. Member for Sunderland South on refugee status for Muna Othman Khatab and her family, ref: K1266830. [188658]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to my hon. Friend in relation to this matter on 25 February 2008.

### Migration Advisory Committee

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Migration Advisory Committee has met; who attended the meetings; what advice it has provided on cohesion and integration issues; and if she will make a statement. [190118]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has met on three occasions, on 7 December 2007, 25 January and 15 February 2008. Minutes of MAC meetings, including details of those attending and all relevant papers, are publicly available at:

www.biahomeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

The MAC was established to provide independent and evidence-based advice to Government on specific sectors and occupations in the labour market where shortages exist which can sensibly be filled by migration.

The Government may, from time to time, ask the MAC to advise on other matters relating to migration.

### Migration Impact Forum

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Migration Impacts Forum has met; who attended the meetings; what information it has provided on the impacts of migration on communities and public services; what advice it has provided on cohesion and integration issues; and if she will make a statement. [190119]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) has met three times, twice in 2007 and once in 2008. Minutes of the MIF meetings, including details of those attending, and all relevant papers are publicly available at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk

and

www.communities.gov.uk

The purpose of the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) is to provide a forum for proper, regular and organised dialogue with interested parties outside central Government, focussed on the wider impacts associated with migration experienced by local areas. It:

- Considers information from forum members about the transitional impacts and/or adjustment requirements which derive from migration
- Identifies and shares good practice in managing transitional or adjustment requirements
- Brings together existing evidence about the impacts of migration
- Suggests areas for Government research on the impacts of migration

The Forum meets quarterly and is chaired jointly by a Home Office and a Communities and Local Government Minister.

### Passengers: Personal Records

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government's presentation to the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council on 25 and 26 January on the UK's experience of using passenger name record data. [188647]

**Mr. Byrne:** The presentation contained details that would be inappropriate for public disclosure therefore it cannot be placed in the Library.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made on the European Commission's Passenger Name Record proposal; what the Government's policy on the proposal is; and if she will make a statement; [188648]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 82WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council, 25 and 26 January 2008, what further work the Government has undertaken into the operation and scope of the use of passenger name record data under the European Commission's proposal; [188889]

(3) what the difficult technical and substantive issues related to use of passenger name record data for law enforcement purposes are. [188890]

**Mr. Byrne:** The European Commission's proposed legislation on the use of EU PNR for law enforcement purposes was published in November 2007. The Government welcome the EU PNR proposal and believe that it presents an important opportunity to share data in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

Negotiations are at an early stage. The content of the proposal has been remitted to the Multi-Disciplinary Working Group on Organised Crime for detailed discussions and has also been discussed at a "Friends of the Presidency" meeting. We believe that the proposed instrument must be compatible with UK domestic initiatives, specifically e-Borders, and are seeking to agree minimum standards of harmonisation in many areas of the text. There are a number of issues to be resolved, including the technical challenges presented by the introduction and harmonisation of EU member states' PNR data processing systems; the application of appropriate data protection safeguards; and achieving consensus over the appropriate scope of the proposed instrument.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has conducted into the effectiveness of the use of passenger name record data in preventing people trafficking through airline travel. [188651]

**Mr. Byrne:** The ability to analyse reservation data to identify persons previously unknown to the law enforcement agencies travel is of significant value to the border agencies. The data elements are provided by carriers and screened using rules based targeting, developed using objective criteria relating to individuals of interest. Where such a passenger is identified, manual analysis of the data is undertaken and, where appropriate, the relevant agency is alerted. The use of these data elements has enabled the identification of persons suspected of involvement in a range of criminal activity.

## Police: Pay

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force had registered earnings outside their police work in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [186921]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office does not collect data on police officers who have registered earnings outside their police work. It is for Chief Police Officers to record such earnings.

## Project Semaphore

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* been assessed, *(b)* warranted further investigation, *(c)* been deemed to be of interest, *(d)* been arrested, *(e)* been prosecuted and *(f)* been convicted under Project Semaphore in each of the last three years; and upon what charges each such prosecution was brought. [190356]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The information is as follows:

Project Semaphore has an annualised passenger rate of 30 million.

When a passenger's details suggest further investigation is required or the passenger is of interest, an alert is sent out to the relevant agency. To date, since its inception on 10 January 2005, a total of over 20,000 alerts have been sent by Semaphore. These alerts numbered 1,619 in 2005, 6,196 in 2006 and 11,166 in 2007.

As at 13 February 2008, there have been a total of over 1,600 arrests of passengers where alerts have been sent by Semaphore. Broken down by year: 125 in 2005, 629 in 2006 and 748 in 2007.

Feedback from police forces to Semaphore is returned only on the number of arrests made. No other detail is passed as a matter of course, e.g. prosecution, conviction, etc.

## Registered Traveller Programme

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the European Union's Registered Traveller Programme feasibility study; and if she will make a statement. [188649]

**Mr. Byrne:** A Communication from the Commission was issued on 19 February. It invited the European Parliament and the Council to reflect on the future of the EU's integrated border management strategy, including the feasibility of the Registered Traveller Programme. The Commission proposes to issue a further working document in due course. While the UK does not participate in this element of the Schengen Agreement, we will work with the Commission to explore to what extent we are able to develop synergies with the proposals.

## Security: Aviation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the European Union's S-Travel Initiative; what the Government's policy on the initiative is; and if she will make a statement. [188650]

**Mr. Byrne:** The United Kingdom is not a member of the S-Travel initiative. Our understanding is that the concept of the S-Travel initiative was introduced in June 2002 with a scheduled completion date of April 2004.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Confiscation Orders

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many confiscation orders have been *(a)* obtained and *(b)* enforced by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [187294]

**Jacqui Smith:** The SOCA annual report for 2006-07 reported that SOCA had obtained, and assisted with the enforcement of, the following confiscation orders:

*Operational year 2006-07*

| | £/number |
|---|---|
| Value of confiscation orders obtained (£) | 14,542,084 |
| Volume of confiscation order obtained (number) | 91 |
| Value of orders enforced (£) | 4,327,420 |
| Volume of orders enforced (number) | 220 |

As required under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will publish a report on the exercise of its functions during 2007-08 as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. Comparable figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be available when the report is published.

### UK Border and Immigration Agency

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border and Immigration Agency, or contractors on its behalf, are *(a)* directly involved and *(b)* exclusively involved with the screening of applicants to the UK Gateway programme. [189828]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Refugee Resettlement Programmes Unit administers the Gateway Protection Programme. Of the 15 staff working in the unit, nine staff are involved in the screening of applicants. No staff are exclusively involved with the screening of applicants.

### UK Gateway Scheme: Finance

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual budget was for the UK Gateway Scheme in 2007-08. [189861]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Gateway protection programme budget for 2007-08 is £9.48 million.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of patients attending accident and emergency departments who could be more appropriately managed in primary care. [189571]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No formal estimate has been made by the Department.

It is a matter for the local national health service, along with its strategic health authorities and other interested bodies to plan, develop and organise local services that are responsive to people's needs. What is key is that patients have timely access to appropriate care. The case mix of patients attending services is likely to vary locally.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of alcohol-related illness for the City of Newcastle upon Tyne was in each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07; and what the rate was per head of population in each year. [190918]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Data are available on the total finished admissions to hospital of residency of Newcastle primary care trust (PCT) in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of an alcohol-related illness[1] at the start of his/her stay and the rate per head of the PCT area.

This information has been set out in the following table.

| *Year (of end of first period of care in patient's hospital stay)* | *Alcohol-related illnesses finished admissions* | *Newcastle PCT estimated population* | *Percentage of finished admissions for alcohol-related illnesses for the Newcastle PCT population* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,022 | 270,462 | 0.75 |
| 2005-06 | 1,828 | 269,644 | 0.68 |
| 2004-05 | 1,629 | 267,104 | 0.61 |
| 2003-04 | 1,644 | 267,167 | 0.62 |
| 2002-03 | 1,468 | 267,415 | 0.55 |
| 2001-02 | 1,487 | 266,241 | 0.56 |
| 2000-01 | 1,606 | — | — |

*Notes:*

The figures do not cover all incidence of alcohol-related illness, only these in which an admission to hospital.

*Finished admission episodes:*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Assessing growth through time:*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected, the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

[1] *All Diagnoses count of Mentions:*

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

*ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes Used:*

F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol,
K70: Alcoholic liver disease and
T51: Toxic effect of Alcohol.

*PCT geographical data:*

Population data for PCTs are only available for 2001 onwards.

*Ungrossed data:*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Source:*

HES, the Information Centre for health and social care.

### Arthritis: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on people with ankylosing spondylitis of waiting for the appeal process to complete on Remicade before issuing guidance on the administering of anti-TNF medication; and if he will make a statement. [188740]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no assessment of the effect on people waiting for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appeal process to complete.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

### Asthma

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with asthma who have a care plan as stated in the Our Care, Our Health, Our Say, White Paper. [188350]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no estimate of the number of people living with asthma who have a care plan.

The new general medical services contract includes a specific 'quality indicator' for treatment and care of people with asthma. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that patients living with asthma are offered care plans and regular reviews.

### Babies: Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those previously addicted to prescribed tranquillisers have suffered long-term impairment as a consequence of their addiction. [190274]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not currently collect information that enables us to provide an estimate of the number of patients who are addicted to prescription drugs.

### Blood Transfusions: Infectious Diseases

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported infections of each type arising from blood transfusion have occurred in each of the last five years for which information is available. [190191]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table gives the number of reports of transfusion transmitted infections made to the National Blood Service/Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections Surveillance for the last five years.

| *Infection* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hepatitis A Virus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B Virus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| HIV | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis E Virus | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bacteria | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Malaria | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what groups his Department has identified as being at high risk of being exposed to infectious disease transmittable by blood transfusion; how this risk has been assessed and measured; what restrictions are placed on the donating of blood by members of these groups; and if he will make a statement. [190192]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The rules for blood donor selection have been developed in line with scientific and medical knowledge. The current donor selection rules are a precaution against known infections and also against other infectious agents, known or unknown, that could be transmitted by blood.

Every blood donation is tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and human T-lymphotropic virus. However, no testing process can be perfect. Infected donations may be missed because of the 'window period' between getting an infection and the test showing a positive result.

To minimise the risk, the United Kingdom blood transfusion service donor selection rules, in common with those of many other countries, permanently bar from blood donation any individual who has ever injected drugs, accepted payment for sex, or a man who has ever had anal or oral sex with another man. A temporary (one year) bar on donation is applied to individuals who report a potential exposure to infection that is stated to be no longer ongoing and unlikely to be resumed.

This policy is kept under review by the blood service and the Department.

### Blood: Donors

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of blood donations which would be made each year by gay men if they were not banned from giving blood. [190190]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible to give such an estimate. However, currently 4 per cent. of the total eligible population give blood.

### Breast Cancer: Screening

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of early stage breast cancer patients tested positive for HER2 in the latest period for which figures are available; [191105]

(2) what guidance has been issued to hospital trusts on compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines in relation to HER2 testing; and if he will place copies in the Library; [191106]

(3) which trusts do not automatically screen women with early stage breast cancer for HER2; and if he will make a statement. [191107]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not routinely collect figures on the number of breast cancer patients who are tested for HER2.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not published guidelines on HER2 testing, although it published guidance in 2006 on the use of Herceptin for early stage HER2 positive breast cancer.

The Department has issued no official guidance on HER2 testing. However in January 2006, National Cancer Research Institute guidelines on HER2 testing were circulated to cancer networks as useful information. This guidance can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Cancer/DH_4001771

In 2006, all cancer networks confirmed that they were testing all women diagnosed with early breast cancer for HER2.

## Cancer

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, how he plans to ensure that patients with rarer cancers receive the treatment and support that they require; and how he plans to measure progress towards this objective. [187558]

**Ann Keen:** The "Cancer Reform Strategy", published last year, reconfirmed the Government's commitment to improving services for all cancer patients including those diagnosed with less common and rare cancers.

The strategy aims to improve cancer prevention, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer and ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings.

Annual reports from the National Cancer Director will assess overall progress on tackling cancer. These reports will be published.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued "Improving Outcomes Guidance" covering the majority of less common cancers such as brain tumours, sarcoma, pancreatic cancers and haematological cancers.

Both the Department and the Healthcare Commission monitor implementation of "Improving Outcomes Guidance".

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, how he plans to address the health inequalities faced by socio-economically deprived groups in relation to cancer; and how he plans to measure progress. [187559]

**Ann Keen:** As announced in the "Cancer Reform Strategy", we are launching the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI) to tackle inequalities in cancer outcomes. The NCEI will bring together key stakeholders to develop research proposals on cancer inequalities, test interventions and to advise on the development of wider policy. This work is in the early stages of development and is being lead by the National Cancer Director.

Local action will also be necessary to tackle inequalities. As part of the measures we are introducing to ensure stronger commissioning, primary care trusts, in association with their cancer network, will wish to undertake a local equality impact assessment and take appropriate steps to address local issues. The Department will also continue to encourage innovation in tackling inequalities through the section 64 grant programme.

We are committed to tracking progress on cancer to ensure that all the aims of the "Cancer Reform Strategy", including reducing inequalities, are achieved and the National Cancer Director will deliver annual reports on progress to Ministers.

Additionally, the UK National Screening Committee is conducting an equality review within the national screening programmes, including those for cancer. As a result of this review, the National Screening Committee will consider what initiatives could be undertaken to improve access to screening in vulnerable populations.

## Cancer: Children

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was from diagnosis of children with cancer to treatment for each type of cancer in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [187732]

**Ann Keen:** Average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for specific cancer conditions are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment for children's cancers was introduced from 2001. Performance against this standard in each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

| | *Total number of patients* | *Performance (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 31 | 93.5 |
| 2005-06 | 36 | 91.7 |
| 2006-07 | 42 | 95.2 |

## Cancer: Clinical Trials

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, how he plans to ensure that there is an increase in the number of older people and young people included in clinical trials for cancer treatments; and how he plans to measure progress towards this objective. [187554]

**Ann Keen:** We are working with the National Cancer Research Institute Clinical Studies Groups to encourage trial designs that do not include upper age limits in their inclusion criteria. We will also encourage medicines' regulators and industry to work together to achieve the

same aim for industry-sponsored trials. We are also working with the National Institute for Health Research Cancer Research Network to help ensure that, for trials where there are already no upper age limits to entry, older people are offered entry whenever appropriate.

The United Kingdom Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (UKCCLG) is one of the most successful clinical trials organisations in the UK. Increasingly and particularly in relation to the development of specialist clinical units commonly funded from charitable sources, entry into many studies in the UKCCLG's portfolio has expanded to include teenagers and young adults.

We are committed to tracking progress on cancer to ensure that all the aims of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" are achieved and the National Cancer Director will deliver annual reports on progress to Ministers.

**Cancer: Screening**

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure provision of cancer screening and detection facilities at *(a)* small and *(b)* community hospitals. [188927]

**Ann Keen:** It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate screening services to meet the needs of their local populations and to consider the appropriate location of those services.

**Cannabis: Misuse**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to raise awareness among young people of the harmful effects of cannabis on health. [174571]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

My hon. Friend will know from the replies to his earlier questions on alcohol abuse that the Government are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people. This includes that relating to cannabis. Education about cannabis is delivered alongside that on other drugs, alcohol and volatile substances and is a vital element of our approach.

We are clear of the need to be sure that drug education in schools is robust, accurate and effective. As part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to examine the effectiveness of current delivery arrangements for all drugs education and act to strengthen them if necessary.

In addition to school-based education the Government's FRANK campaign has consistently informed young people about the risks associated with cannabis through the media and the dedicated FRANK website. There are around 1,100 visits to the cannabis web page each day alone and the message is clear—cannabis is harmful and illegal and should not be taken.

**Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients**

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients held under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 have absconded, including those who subsequently returned to care, since 1997, broken down by mental health trust. [189676]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Dental Services: Barnet**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists offering NHS services there are in Barnet; how many there were in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177929]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The latest available data are for 2007 by primary care trusts (PCTs). As at 31 March 2007 there were 232 dentists on open national health service contracts in Barnet PCT.

As at 31 March 1997 there were 186 dentists on open NHS contracts in Barnet PCT.

Numbers of dentists by PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report published 23 August 2006 is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists by PCT and SHA area as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table E1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report". This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report published 23 August 2007 is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

In both reports published by the Information Centre for health and social care, the work force numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology and frequency for reporting workforce information are currently being reviewed. The purpose of the review is to ensure that, following experience of the first year of the new dental contract, figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force, given the way that the workforce reporting system is being used by PCTs. An update on the review was provided in the "NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 2: 30 September 2007" report, published on 28 February 2008.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are awaiting registration with an NHS dentist in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177989]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

Under the old contractual arrangements, which were in place until 2006, patients had to register with an individual dentist. Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive national health service care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-month period ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007 and 30 June 2007 are available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2007-08" report. These are the latest data available by primary care trust and strategic health authority area. This report, published on 28 November 2007 by the Information Centre for health and social care is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentstatsq10708

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [188064]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's guidance to staff on hospitality states that hospitality

> "should be modest, and in keeping with the occasion, and justifiable as being necessary for the effective conduct of Departmental business ("wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of" your work)".

The guidance also states that the provision of alcoholic drinks should be exceptional.

The Department does not routinely collect data at this level of detail, as they are not required for our statutory reporting. A considerable manual exercise would need to be undertaken to separate expenditure on alcohol and entertaining from that relating to internal meetings and staff subsistence claims in order to provide this information. Such an exercise would incur disproportionate costs.

## Elderly: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 864W, on the elderly: nutrition, whether the membership of his Department's Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board has been decided; [185597]

(2) if he will include a National Patient Safety Agency representative on the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board. [190245]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Yes. The membership of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board, which met for the first time on 12 February, is shown in the following table. The Board consists of a Core Group, chaired by Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern. There will also be five sub-groups, each chaired by a member of the Core Group (one for each of the key priority actions listed in the Nutrition Action Plan).

| *Core group members* | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chair | Gordon Lishman | Chair—Age Concern |
| Key Members | Josie Spencer | Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust |
| | Debbie Dzik-Jurasz | Royal College of Nursing |
| | Liz Mandeville | Local Government Association |
| | Philip Hurst | Age Concern |
| | Jo Webber | NHS Confederation |
| | Stuart Haines | British Association of Medical Managers |
| | Sarah Smithers | Patient Representative |
| | Policy officials (x 6) | Department of Health |
| *Sub group chairs* | | |
| Awareness Raising | Rick Wilson (Chair) | Council of Europe UK |
| Guidance | Julie Jones (Chair) | Social Care Institute for Excellence |
| Screening | Prof. Marinos Elia (Chair) | Chair-British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition |
| Training | Ros Speight (Chair) | Interagency Round Table Group |
| Inspection and Regulation. | Virginia Storey (Co-Chair) | Commission for Social Care Inspection |
| | Rekha Elaswarapu (Co-Chair) | The Healthcare Commission |

Minutes of the meeting on February 12 will be placed on the Department's website in due course.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) is in contact with the Department on a regular basis to account for policy developments on nutrition and other patient safety issues. Anything we learn from the NPSA will be used to brief the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board.

## General Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department made of the cost of the new contract for general practitioners that came into effect in April 2004 before its introduction; and how much it cost in each subsequent year. [188311]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Negotiators at the outset of the original nGMS contract agreed to a guaranteed 36 per cent. increase in minimum levels of investment over the three year period ending 2005-06 through the Gross Investment Guarantee to support the introduction of a new general practitioner contract that delivered higher quality care and an increased range of services for patients.

In costing the entirety of new contract costs including spend against actual resources allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) over the same period, spend was actually 52 per cent. Measurement of spend against the Gross Investment Guarantee (the minimum level of investment agreed by negotiators) should not be confused with spend against actual resources allocated to PCTs.

Actual spend in each year and the guaranteed minimum investment are shown in the following table.

*Spend on primary medical care services compared with the Gross Investment Guarantee*

£ million

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Investment Guarantee | n/a | 5,611 | 6,211 | 6,918 | n/a |
| Spend on primary medical care services | 5,084 | 5,811 | 6,957 | 7,734 | 7,757 |

n/a = not applicable

*Note:*

Actual spend in 2002-03 was £4,893 million but to allow comparability with the £191 million expected spend on enhanced services under the new contract, £191 million was added to produce the 2002-03 baseline figure.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1222W, on general practitioners, what progress the NHS Next Stage Review has made in examining the different domains of the Quality and Outcomes Framework; what interim findings have emerged from the Review; whether he expects changes to be made to the process for reviewing the Quality and Outcomes Framework for the *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 financial years; and if he will make a statement; [189439]

(2) if he will make it his policy that reviews of the Quality and Outcomes Framework take place for each new financial year; [189466]

(3) when he expects the review of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for the 2009-10 financial year to begin; and if he will make a statement. [189468]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is kept under constant review. Changes to the QOF are made as part of wider general medical services contract negotiations between NHS Employers and the General Practitioners Committee, which provides an opportunity to make changes in each new financial year.

Lord Darzi's interim findings from the Next Stage Review were published on 4 October 2007. The interim report announced the development of a strategy for primary and community care services. A copy of the interim report is available in the Library. As part of the development of this strategy the Review will consider how to reshape incentives to provide a stronger focus on health outcomes and continuous quality improvement; whether there should be an independent process for setting and reviewing outcomes measures in the framework; and whether there should be greater flexibility for primary care trusts in setting outcomes that reflect local needs and priorities.

The NHS Next Stage Review is ongoing and the outcome will be published later this year.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* health centres have closed in each of the last 10 years. [180385]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect centrally the numbers of closures of general practitioner (GP) surgeries or health centres. These data are held locally by primary care trusts.

However, we do collect data on numbers of GP practices, and practitioners, at a given date for each year. These are set out in the following table:

*Number of GP practices in England, as at 1997-2006*

| | Total GP practices | Total number of GPs[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 9,102 | 28,046 |
| 1998 | 9,090 | 28,251 |
| 1999 | 9,034 | 28,467 |
| 2000 | 8,965 | 28,593 |
| 2001 | 8,910 | 28,802 |
| 2002 | 8,833 | 29,202 |
| 2003 | 8,833 | 30,358 |
| 2004 | 8,542 | 31,523 |
| 2005 | 8,451 | 32,738 |
| 2006 | 8,325 | 33,091 |

[1] Excluding GP registrars and GP retainers

*Note:*

Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06

*Source:*

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care—General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## General Practitioners: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by out of hours GP services in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North in each of the last 10 years. [190174]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the number of patients seen by out of hours general practitioner (GP) services is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) now have a legal responsibility to ensure that they provide or secure provision of out of hours services for their local population. The right hon. Member may therefore wish to approach the Chief Executive of Enfield PCT who might be able to provide data on the number of patients seen by local out of hours GP services.

The NHS London Strategic Health Authority reports that Enfield PCT is in the process of trying to agree extended opening hours with all its practices.

## Health Visitors

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in recruitment and retention of health visitors in the NHS over the last 10 years. [188822]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the number of health visitors in the national health service in England over the last 10 years.

The number of health visitors has remained static over the last 10 years but there has been significant growth in the overall number of nurses working in primary and community care settings in both 2005-06 of 1,039 (1 per cent.) and since 1997 of 29,543 (38.2 per cent.).

Work force planning in terms of the recruitment and retention of health visitors is a matter for local work force planners in local primary care trusts and strategic health authorities as they are best placed to asses the health visiting needs of their local population.

The following table shows the age profile of health visitors as at September 2006.

*Health visitors employed in the NHS (England) as at September each year (headcount) and (full time equivalent (FTE))*

| | Headcount | FTE |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 12,410 | 10,030 |
| 1998 | 12,570 | 10,070 |
| 1999 | 12,800 | 10,160 |
| 2000 | 12,827 | 10,046 |
| 2001 | 13,053 | 10,186 |
| 2002 | 12,774 | 9,912 |
| 2003 | 12,984 | 9,999 |
| 2004 | 13,303 | 10,137 |
| 2005 | 12,818 | 9,809 |
| 2006[1] | 12,034 | 9,376 |

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 232 headcount duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census.

*Source:*
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

*Age profile of health visitors as at September 2006*

| Health visitor | Headcount |
|---|---|
| Under 25 | 13 |
| 25 to 29 | 274 |
| 30 to 34 | 672 |
| 35 to 39 | 1,402 |
| 40 to 44 | 2,257 |
| 45 to 49 | 2,590 |
| 50 to 54 | 2,126 |
| 55 to 59 | 1,588 |
| 60 to 64 | 672 |
| 65 and over | 89 |
| Unknown | 351 |
| All staff | 12,034 |

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of health visitors suffered work-related stress in the latest year for which records are available; and what assessment he has made of how this compares with the incidence of work-related stress amongst other categories of health workers. [188823]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally and no assessment has been carried out. Local trusts are responsible for the welfare of their employees and supporting them in performing their role.

## HIV Infection

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on HIV infection, how many new cases of HIV there were in the City of Newcastle. [190916]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested, which is available at local authority level, is shown in the following table.

*Number of first United Kingdom HIV diagnoses, Newcastle city council, 1997-2006*

| Age group | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 to 24 | 0 | <5 | <5 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 8 |
| 25 to 34 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 18 | 33 | 34 | 29 | 23 |
| 35 to 44 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 33 | 15 |
| 45 to 54 | 6 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| 55+ | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 7 | <5 |
| Total | 27 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 33 | 56-59 | 78-81 | 75-78 | 90 | 56-59 |

*Notes:*
1. Ranges are provided where one or more cells have a count under five. This is done to remove the possibility of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity. For the same reason, data are provided by age group rather than specific age.
2. Cumulative data are as reported by the end of June 2007. Numbers will rise as further reports are received (particularly for more recent years).
3. Data will include many individuals who have been infected with HIV outside the UK, but who have been subsequently diagnosed in the UK.

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency.

## Humberside Breast Screening Unit

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Humberside Breast Screening Unit will have screened every woman in its area within the 36 month target time period. [189457]

**Ann Keen:** The national target is to achieve 90 per cent. of eligible women being recalled within a 36-month interval.

The Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority (SHA) reports that following an extensive review and the development of a service redesign and expansion plan, improvements to performance have already been seen in the Humberside service. It is expected that significant progress will continue to be made, with the achievement of the national target by April 2009. If it is possible to achieve this earlier, efforts will be made to do so.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously and early last year, Professor

Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 SHAs in England highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

The "Cancer Reform Strategy" also reinforces the need to maintain the 36-month standard, noting that primary care trusts will need to invest more in breast screening to ensure that women are screened within the 36-month standard.

### Infectious Diseases

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds of incidents of healthcare-associated infections outside hospitals and care homes; and how many such cases there were in each of the last five years. [187199]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not available.

However the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) enhanced surveillance scheme for methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections, introduced on 1 October 2005, collects information on where the patient was located when the specimen was taken but it is not possible from this to reliably attribute infection to specific settings. The HPA analysed the first six months of enhanced data in "Mandatory Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections Report 2006" available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/MandSurv HCAI2006.pdf

A copy of the report is available in the Library. Most patients were admitted from home and two thirds of blood stream infections were detected two or more days after admission which indicates that these were acquired in the trust.

Information on the patient location for *Clostridium difficile* infection has been collected since April 2007 and the HPA aim to publish an analysis of this later this year.

### Maternity Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which maternity units changed from consultant-led to midwife-led in each year since 1997. [188183]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the latest information we have is that there are 181 maternity units in hospitals and 101 midwifery units (33 of which are co-located, and 68 are stand alone in the community). A total of 282 maternity units.

### Medical Treatments: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England who have had privately funded proton radiation beam therapy *(a)* in England and *(b)* abroad. [188662]

**Ann Keen:** No estimate has been made of the number of people in England who have had privately funded proton radiation beam therapy in England and abroad.

### Mental Health Services: Young People

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of new cases were seen by specialist child and adolescent mental health services in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust area within (i) four weeks, (ii) 13 weeks and (iii) 26 weeks in the last 12 months. [187932]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is shown in the following table. This information comes from the 2006-07 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Mapping Exercise which collates data on the provision of CAMHS in England. This was published in "A profile of child health, child and adolescent mental health and maternity services in England in 2007" (December 2007).

| | *National health service provider* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Avon and Wiltshire mental health partnership NHS trust* | *England* |
| Total number of new cases in sample period[1] | 124 | 29,078 |
| <=4 weeks (percentage) | 56 | 51 |
| 5 weeks to <=13 weeks (percentage) | 26 | 36 |
| 14 weeks to <=26 weeks (percentage) | 12 | 9 |
| >26 weeks (percentage) | 6 | 5 |

[1] The sample for Tier 2/3 services was the month of November 2006 and for Tier 4 1 June to 30 November 2006.

*Note:*
Due to rounding figures may not total correctly.

### Mentally Ill: Medical Records

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration has been given to independent mental health advocates being given access to electronic patient records; and if he will make a statement. [189263]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Mental Health Act 1983, as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007, provides that independent mental health advocates may, where the patient consents, require the production and inspection of any records related to the patient's detention, treatment or aftercare. This includes electronic patient records.

### NHS: Compensation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in *(a)* employment and *(b)* compensation claims by the NHS to its employees in each of the last three years; and how many claims are awaiting payment. [188641]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

## NHS: Complaints

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the NHS complaints procedure when handling complaints from patients treated by GSUP-2 contractors; and if he will make a statement. [179648]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Health service patients regarding treatment through the general supplementary contracts would follow the standard national health service complaints procedure. It is a core function of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to manage their patient experience including local complaints handling procedures. To date, no formal assessment of the procedures has been undertaken.

## Parkinson's Disease

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people received treatment for Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997; [186959]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [186961]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of people diagnosed with, and treated for, Parkinson's disease is not collected.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment for Parkinson's disease in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each year since 1997. [187718]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not centrally collected.

## Radiotherapy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from England have had proton radiation beam therapy in *(a)* England and *(b)* abroad; how many were funded by the NHS; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the treatment. [188059]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of patients who have received proton beam therapy in England and abroad and who were funded by the national health service is not collected centrally.

However, the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) Proton Sub-Group Report estimated that 100 to 130 patients with particular eye tumours are treated each year at the current United Kingdom proton therapy facility at Clatterbridge.

The report also estimated that approximately 15 to 20 other patients are referred for proton therapy abroad.

The NRAG Proton Sub-Group Report considered the evidence base for proton therapy and informed the overarching NRAG Report published in May 2007.

The NRAG Proton Sub Group Report is available at:

www.cancer.nhs.uk/documents/nrag_files/Proton%20Subgroup%20Report%20-%20fin.pdf

## Scarborough Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Scarborough hospital has not received a deep clean; and if he will make a statement. [190439]

**Ann Keen:** All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

As set out in the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the NHS is available from SHAs.

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 19 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1438-42W, on sexually transmitted diseases, how many diagnoses there were of each disease per head of population in each year since 2000-01; and how many cases there were of each *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [190917][1]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The total number and rates of new diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in England are shown in the following tables.

*Total number and rate of new STIs diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England: 2001-06*

| | *Total number of new STI diagnoses*[1] | *Rate of new STI diagnoses*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 272,387 | 657.1 |
| 2002 | 291,910 | 588.0 |
| 2003 | 311,572 | 625.0 |
| 2004 | 325,783 | 650.4 |
| 2005 | 327,994 | 650.4 |
| 2006 | 335,123 | 664.51 |

[1] Includes those shown in the table that gives details on the rate of new diagnosis of selected STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England, per 100,000; 2001-06 and breakdown of confirmed positive chlamydia diagnosis among those aged 13-24 by year in England.

*Total number of new diagnoses of selected STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England: 2001-06*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack | 17,054 | 17,510 | 17,157 | 16,952 | 17,618 | 19,388 |
| Anogenital warts—first attack | 62,423 | 63,938 | 65,279 | 68,217 | 68,701 | 70,988 |
| Primary and secondary infectious syphilis | 717 | 1,196 | 1,538 | 2,033 | 2,574 | 2,515 |

1. *[Official Report, 11 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 1MC.]*

*Total number of new diagnoses of selected STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England: 2001-06*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uncomplicated chlamydial infection | 68,180 | 78,117 | 85,516 | 92,948 | 95,930 | 99,230 |
| Uncomplicated gonorrhoea | 22,398 | 24,357 | 23,492 | 20,779 | 17,702 | 17,445 |
| Total | 170,775 | 185,118 | 192,982 | 200,929 | 202,525 | 209,566 |

*Rate of new diagnoses of selected STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England, per 100,000 population; 2001-06*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack | 34.5 | 33.3 | 34.4 | 33.8 | 34.9 | 37.4 |
| Anogenital warts—first attack | 126.2 | 128.8 | 130.9 | 136.2 | 136.2 | 140.8 |
| Primary and secondary infectious syphilis | 1.4 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.0 |
| Uncomplicated chlamydial infection | 137.9 | 157.3 | 171.5 | 185.6 | 190.2 | 196.8 |
| Uncomplicated gonorrhoea | 45.3 | 49.1 | 47.1 | 41.5 | 35.1 | 34.6 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are collected by calendar year and not financial year.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with chlamydia several times in one year and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Data are unavailable for 2007.
6. The total population was used for the calculation of overall rates.

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency

In addition, data from the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) shows that between 1 April 2003 and 31 December 2007, among those aged 13-24, there were 565,424 tests for chlamydia, 496,594 confirmed negatives and 54,017 confirmed positive diagnoses.

*Breakdown of confirmed positive chlamydia diagnoses among those aged 13-24 by year in England*

| | Number of positive tests |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,756 |
| 2004-05 | 6,784 |
| 2005-06 | 11,003 |
| 2006-07 | 15,993 |
| 2007-08[1] | 18,481 |
| Total | 54,017 |

[1] Data are only available up until 31 December 2007.

*Number of confirmed positive chlamydia diagnoses and rates per 100,000 population aged 13-24 in England: April 2005-March 2007*

| | April 2005- March 2006 | April 2006- March 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of positive tests | 11,003 | 15,993 |
| Total population[1] aged 13-24 years | 7,887,127 | 7,887,127 |
| Confirmed positive diagnoses per 100,000 population | 139.5 | 202.8 |

[1] Population estimates refers to 2005 Office for National Statistics population estimates for those aged 13-24 years.

*Notes:*
1. The data are from NCSP registered screening venues and includes the Boots pathfinder project. Data as of 29 January 2008
2. The NCSP screens those aged under 25 years.
3. The NCSP began screening on 1 April 2003 and so data are only available from that date onwards.
4. The NCSP collects number of tests and not number of people tested. We assume that number of tests is a close proxy for number of people tested as re-testing is rare.
5. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.

*Source:*
NCSP

## Strokes

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of stroke was in each *(a)* strategic health authority area, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* Westminster constituency, *(d)* English region and *(e)* socio-demographic group in each year since 2002. [185822]

**Ann Keen:** Hospital episode statistics (HES) from 2005-06 suggest there were around 100,000 emergency admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of stroke. However, this figure under-represents the true incidence of stroke for two reasons. Firstly, HES data only includes those who were admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of stroke but not all stroke patients currently attend hospital. Secondly, the count of admissions does not represent the total number of patients as a person may be admitted more than once in the year. HES data cannot answer the question in the form requested. Academic estimates suggest there are around 110,000 strokes in England per annum.

Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

## Suicide

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the evidence on the effects of media reporting on the incidence of suicide. [189150]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There is already compelling evidence, from research conducted in the United Kingdom and abroad, that the reporting and portrayal of suicide in the media can lead to copycat suicides, especially amongst young people or those already at risk. For this reason,

the "National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England" made a commitment to improve the reporting of suicide in the media as one of its key aims.

As part of this commitment, on 18 February the Department published a handbook for journalists, "What's the Story? Reporting Mental Health and Suicide" to help the media improve public understanding of mental illness. This handbook highlights international evidence that careless reporting of suicide may trigger copycat suicides and it provides advice to journalists to encourage more sensitive and responsible coverage.

In addition, in June 2006 the Press Complaints Commission added a sub-clause in the "Editor's Code of Practice" to discourage the reporting in the media of excessive detail of suicide methods.

### Surgery

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions surgeons have operated on the incorrect person in the National Health Service in each of the last 10 years. [189309]

**Ann Keen:** National health service staff can report wrong site or wrong patient surgery incidents to the National Patient Safety Agency's (NPSA) reporting system (the national reporting and learning system). However, the NPSA has not, to date, received any reports of surgeons operating on the wrong patient.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Official Residences

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Prime Minister which official ministerial residence is unoccupied. [189522]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) and the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Assets

**David Howarth:** To ask the Solicitor-General what extra receipts are expected to accrue as a result of the increase in funding for activity in asset recovery contained in the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2007-08. [188191]

**The Solicitor-General** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Crown Prosecution Service, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and Serious Fraud Office all receive a share of funding to incentivise the confiscation element of asset recovery. It is not possible to identify a specific return on specific investment, as asked. Confiscation is a co-operative activity involving investigators and court enforcement as well as prosecutors and the results from individual cases can take some time to feed through. But the funding supports the significant and increasing role which prosecutors play in meeting the Government's target of doubling the amount of money it recovers from criminals from £125 million in 2006-07 to £250 million in 2009-10.

The increases will fund all aspects of confiscation activity, including protecting assets from dissipation during the lifetime of a case, securing confiscation orders once offenders have been convicted and in a number of instances enforcing orders.

### Capita

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much was paid by her Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by her Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if she will make a statement. [180698]

**The Solicitor-General:** The amounts paid by the Law Officers' Departments to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries are shown in the following table.

| | AGO | CPS | HMCPSI | RCPO | SFO | T Sol | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 6,193 | 148,000 | — | — | 340 | 92,970 | 247,503 |
| 2001-02 | 6,960 | 456,000 | — | — | 10,460 | 247,778 | 721,198 |
| 2002-03 | 0 | 542,000 | — | — | 3,954 | 556,171 | 1,102,125 |
| 2003-04 | -402 | 1,679,000 | 28,649 | — | 1,090 | 324,130 | 2,032,467 |
| 2004-05 | 1,570 | 627,000 | 70,693 | — | 16,500 | 274,118 | 989,881 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 527,000 | 22,768 | 45,180 | 175,116 | 151,829 | 921,893 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 594,000 | 41,170 | 109,831 | 740,987 | 57,912 | 1,543,900 |
| Total | 14,321 | 4,573,000 | 163,280 | 155,011 | 948,447 | 1,704,908 | 7,558,967 |

With regard to the remaining questions, the services of Capita Group plc are used for a variety of purposes, including: storage facilities, conference fees, temporary staff, recruitment activity, training, consultancy and occupational health services by the Law Officers' Departments, but there is no central record held that allows the relevant information to be obtained, save at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of her Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183002]

**The Solicitor-General:** Details of expenditure which can be given without incurring disproportionate costs are given in the following table:

| | CPS | RCPO | SFO | T Sol[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | — | — | — | 0.1 |
| 2001-02 | — | — | — | 0.3 |
| 2002-03 | — | — | — | 0.3 |
| 2003-04 | — | — | 0.025 | 0.2 |
| 2004-05 | 0.04 | — | 0.083 | 0.1 |
| 2005-06 | 0.10 | 0.0 | 0.105 | 0.2 |
| 2006-07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.127 | 0.2 |

[1] Includes Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and the Attorney General's Office.

*Note:*
Expenditure on advertising has been mainly in relation to recruitment.

The specialist Bona Vacantia division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department regularly places advertisements in the press seeking kin in cases where individuals have died intestate with no apparent claimants to the estate under administration. The costs for this activity are treated as an expense on the Crown Nominee's Account that is presented separately to Parliament.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182726]

**The Solicitor-General:** The available information is as follows:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) runs a special bonus scheme, which aims to reward exceptional individual or team performance. The following data were extracted from the CPS payroll system, which was introduced in October 2004. The CPS cannot provide information prior to 2004 without incurring disproportionate cost.

Between October 2004 and December 2007, a total of £2,650 was paid to press and communication officers, grades A to E:

In 2004—no bonuses were paid;

In 2005—one bonus of £500 was paid;

In 2006—three bonuses were paid of which the lowest was £200 and the highest was £250; and

In 2007—three bonuses were paid of which the lowest was £200 and the highest £1,000.

The Serious Fraud Office rewarded individual press and communication officers as follows:

| | Total | Lowest | £ Highest |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 500 | 100 | 400 |
| 2003 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| 2004 | 75 | 25 | 25 |
| 2005 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| 2006 | 0 | — | — |
| 2007 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

These awards are made for instant, merit and annual bonuses. Earlier information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

In the Treasury Solicitor's Department, (TSol) staffing records relating to job titles and job descriptions (rather than grade) have only become available since April 2007, since the introduction of a Human Resources Database. Therefore, no information before this date can be provided.

Currently, there are three posts in the Attorney-General's Office (AGO) press office team (which also performs press office functions on behalf of TSol), two of which are filled by temporary staff. As with other permanent staff, the permanent press office team are eligible to receive bonuses as part of annual performance pay arrangements, with the amounts varying depending on level of performance. For 2007, the bonus amounts in TSol were £200 or £500.

In her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office, no bonuses have been paid.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether any special advisers in the Law Officers' Departments have outside appointments. [185436]

**The Solicitor-General:** No special advisers are employed in the Law Officers' Departments.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the Departments' overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181540]

(2) how many overseas visits by officials in the Law Officers' Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181595]

**The Solicitor-General:** All foreign travel under taken by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code".

The information is as follows:

*Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)*

CPS spent the following amounts on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years and the table shows the percentage of the Department's overall expenditure spent on such travel in each of those years.

| Financial year | Within UK (£000) | Outside UK (£000) | Within UK (%) | Outside UK (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3,208 | 29 | 1.08 | 0.01 |
| 1998-99 | 3,305 | 25 | 1.01 | 0.01 |
| 1999-2000 | 3,867 | 39 | 1.15 | 0.01 |
| 2000-01 | 4,537 | 77 | 1.24 | 0.02 |
| 2001-02 | 5,305 | 144 | 1.21 | 0.03 |

| Financial year | Within UK (£000) | Outside UK (£000) | Within UK (%) | Outside UK (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 6,208 | 167 | 1.28 | 0.03 |
| 2003-04 | 6,428 | 196 | 1.17 | 0.04 |
| 2004-05 | 6,227 | 271 | 1.04 | 0.05 |
| 2005-06 | 6,377 | 318 | 1.00 | 0.05 |
| 2006-07 | 6,786 | 315 | 1.03 | 0.05 |

For the years 1997-98 to 2003-04 the outside UK figures reflect only overseas travel costs, thereafter the costs of overseas accommodation are also included.

The CPS spent the following amounts on overseas visits in each of the last 10 years.

| Financial year | Amount spent (£000) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 29 |
| 1998-99 | 25 |
| 1999-2000 | 39 |
| 2000-01 | 77 |
| 2001-02 | 144 |
| 2002-03 | 167 |
| 2003-04 | 196 |
| 2004-05 | 271 |
| 2005-06 | 318 |
| 2006-07 | 315 |

For the years 1997-98 to 2003-04 the figures reflect only overseas travel costs, thereafter the costs of overseas accommodation are also included.

The CPS does not have details of the number of visits made or the countries visited by officials in the last 10 years. From May 2007, the CPS commenced a new contract for the provision of overseas travel, and they do not have access to travel information from the previous supplier. This information could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

*Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO)*

RCPO was created on 18 April 2005.

During 2005-06, £212,255.39 was spent on domestic travel and subsistence, and £18,841.10 was spent on travel outside the UK. These expenditures represented 0.67 per cent. of RCPO's annual expenditure.

During 2006-07, £323,381.95 was spent on domestic travel and subsistence, and £24,588.78 was spent on travel outside the UK. These expenditures represented 0.92 per cent. of RCPO's annual expenditure.

During 2005-06, 30 overseas trips were made at a cost of £18,841.10.

During 2006-07, 41 overseas trips were made at a cost of £24,588.78.

Countries visited were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Hong Kong, Denmark, France, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Spain and USA.

*Serious Fraud Office (SFO)*

The SFO's officials have spent the following amounts and percentages of the Serious Fraud Office's overall expenditure on travel within and outside the UK in each of the last 10 years:

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | £000 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK | 188 | 209 | 276 | 367 | 383 | 323 | 432 | 325 | 369 |
| Overseas | 55 | 115 | 191 | 202 | 110 | 204 | 186 | 317 | 258 |
| Total cost | 243 | 324 | 467 | 569 | 493 | 527 | 618 | 642 | 628 |
| % UK and O/S travel | 1.51 | 2.05 | 2.33 | 2.57 | 1.87 | 1.86 | 1.92 | 1.61 | 1.55 |

The SFO does not keep a central register of how many overseas visits its officials undertook nor countries visited. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Treasury Solicitor (includes Attorney-General's Office and HMCPSI)*

Expenditure on travel by the Treasury Solicitor's Department met from public funds for each of the last 10 years has been as follows:

| | (a) travel within the UK | | (b) travel outside the UK | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Expenditure | % of overall spend | Expenditure | % of overall spend |
| 1997-98 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1998-99 | 55,318 | 0.39 | 28,898 | 0.18 |
| 1999-2000 | 66,158 | 0.40 | 15,012 | 0.14 |
| 2000-01 | 90,986 | 0.44 | 26,058 | 0.06 |
| 2001-02 | 245,046 | 0.48 | 33,458 | 0.18 |
| 2002-03 | 208,660 | 0.47 | 67,732 | 0.15 |
| 2003-04 | 245,361 | 0.64 | 90,163 | 0.09 |
| 2004-05 | 243,732 | 0.30 | 35,916 | 0.09 |
| 2005-06 | 221,333 | 0.24 | 77,334 | 0.06 |
| 2006-07 | 255,512 | 0.25 | 117,519 | 0.13 |

The information is not readily available for 1997-98 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The expenditure on overseas travel by the Treasury Solicitor's Department met from public funds for each of the last 10 years has been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | ? |
| 1998-99 | 28,898 |
| 1999-2000 | 15,012 |
| 2000-01 | 26,058 |
| 2001-02 | 33,458 |
| 2002-03 | 67,732 |
| 2003-04 | 90,163 |
| 2004-05 | 35,916 |
| 2005-06 | 77,334 |
| 2006-07 | 117,519 |

Expenditure information for 1997-98 and information on the number of overseas visits and countries visited by officials is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General when she expects to answer Question *(a)* 181540 and *(b)* 181595 on departmental travel, tabled on 21 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Taunton; and what the reason for the time taken to respond is. [191406]

**The Solicitor-General:** These questions have been answered today (3 March).

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by her Department in each of the last 10 years; [183303]

(2) how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183355]

**The Solicitor-General:** My Department has neither owned nor purchased vehicles in this period.

The Serious Fraud Office is aware of one parking ticket for £100 issued in April 2006.

The Law Officers' Departments do not routinely hold such records as it is not their policy to reimburse fines incurred by employees. There has therefore been no cost to the public purse in this period.

### HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor: Manpower

**David Howarth:** To ask the Solicitor-General what posts *(a)* have been and *(b)* are expected to be created as a result of increases in expenditure on HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor in the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2007-08. [188192]

**The Solicitor-General** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* In 2007-08 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury agreed an additional 10 posts for the Treasury Solicitors Department Agency. In the Attorney General's Office increased funding is for 4.5 posts in the Attorney General's Office itself and creation of a further 2.5 posts for establishing the National Fraud Strategic Authority. The increases in expenditure in the spring supplementary estimate only in part cover increases in posts.

### Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office: Finance

**David Howarth:** To ask the Solicitor-General from which projects funding has been withdrawn as the result of the increase of £1,000,000 in capital spending to cover establishment costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office IT project and the capitalisation of the majority of refurbishment costs, as announced in the Spring 2007-08 Supplementary Estimates. [188500]

**The Solicitor-General** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has not withdrawn funding from any projects as a result of its increase in capital spending. The additional capital budget has been drawn from unallocated reserves established under end year flexibility procedures.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Archaeology

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect that the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council's decision to fund the portable antiquities scheme (PAS) at the existing level in 2008-09 may have on the existing number of jobs at the PAS; and if he will make a statement. [187827]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The decision of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to maintain current levels of funding for the portable antiquities scheme in 2008-09, in the context of a tight spending review, recognises the importance of the scheme. Any assessment of the effect of future funding provision on the scheme is a matter for the MLA, which is working together with other stakeholders to ensure the scheme's continued success.

### Archaeology: Finance

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding has been made available for the portable antiquities scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [189829]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is committed to the continued success of the portable antiquities scheme (PAS) and is working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

In recognition of the importance of the scheme, the MLA has undertaken to maintain current funding levels for the PAS for 2008-09. This represents a good offer in the context of a tight spending review for the MLA. Any decision on future funding for the scheme is a matter for the MLA.

## Archaeology: Wales

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the chief executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on the future of the portable antiquities scheme in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [189830]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is committed to the continued success of the portable antiquities scheme and is working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met the chief executive of the MLA to discuss this matter. In my capacity as Minister for Culture I have regular meetings with MLA's chief executive. During the course of these meetings we have discussed funding issues for the MLA as a whole. The portable antiquities scheme (PAS) is funded by the MLA, so the impact of funding levels on the scheme is a matter for them.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many archaeological finds made in Wales have been recorded under the portable antiquities scheme. [189990]

**Margaret Hodge:** As of 26 February 2008, 17,702 Welsh archaeological finds found by the public have been recorded with the portable antiquities scheme.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many funds liaison officers (FLOs) cover Wales; what recent assessment he has made of FLOs' performance in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [190202]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is committed to the continued success of the portable antiquities scheme (PAS) and is working together with other stakeholders to ensure that this is achieved.

One finds liaison officer covers Wales. The PAS also makes small grants to four Welsh Archaeological Trusts (Cambria-Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) to record archaeological finds found by the public. The finds liaison officers for Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside and Herefordshire and Shropshire also visit metal-detecting clubs in Wales and record finds made by Welsh finders.

The PAS is funded by the MLA and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any assessment regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the British Museum.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost was of the portable antiquities scheme in Wales in each of the last three years; what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [190203]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The total costs for the portable antiquities scheme (PAS) in Wales in the last three years were £47,556.02 in 2004-05; £59,325.78 in 2005-06; and £47,863.87 in 2006-07.

The PAS is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any assessment regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the British Museum.

## Arts

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 313-4W, on the arts, how many people each percentage figure in the tables represents. [189972]

**Margaret Hodge** *[pursuant to the reply, 18 February 2008, Official Report, c. 313-4W]:* The tables previously supplied are repeated with additional information relating to population. The tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who did not attend or participate in the arts during the 12 months prior to interview. Population figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.

*Arts non-participation*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
| Black and minority ethnic | 54 | 2,110 | 54 | 2,110 |
| Limiting disability | 53 | 4,570 | 53 | 4,510 |
| Lower socio-economic | 58 | 9,150 | 59 | 9,380 |
| All adults | 47 | 18,500 | 48 | 19,020 |

*Arts non-attendance*

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Priority group* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
| Black and minority | 41 | 1,610 | 43 | 1,700 |
| Limiting disability | 46 | 3,920 | 46 | 3,870 |
| Lower socio-economic | 48 | 7,500 | 48 | 7,670 |
| All adults | 34 | 13,290 | 34 | 13,400 |

Using the latest data available, the following tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who currently did attend and participate in the arts in the 12 months prior to interview. Again, these are the tables previously supplied but with additional information relating to population.

*Arts participation*

| *Priority group* | *2006-07* *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 46 | 1,830 |
| Limiting disability | 47 | 3,980 |
| Lower socio-economic | 41 | 6,550 |
| All adults | 52 | 20,880 |

*Arts attendance*

| *Priority group* | *2006-07* *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 57 | 2,230 |
| Limiting disability | 54 | 4,610 |
| Lower socio-economic | 52 | 8,270 |
| All adults | 66 | 26,500 |

All data are taken from the DCMS 'Taking Part' survey, which provides national data on participation in arts activities and attendance at arts events by adults aged 16 and over.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 314-5W, on the arts, how many people each percentage figure in the tables represents. [189973]

**Margaret Hodge** *[pursuant to the reply, 18 February 2008, Official Report, c. 313-5W*: The tables previously supplied are repeated with additional information relating to population.

The tables show the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who attended and participated in the arts at least twice during the 12 months prior to interview. This relates to the frequency of engagement rather than the number of activities attended/participated in. Population figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.

*Arts participation*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06*[1] *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *2006-07* *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 42 | 1,560 | 39 | 1,320 |
| Limiting disability | 40 | 3,460 | 40 | 3,430 |
| Lower socio-economic | 36 | 5,630 | 35 | 5,570 |
| All adults | 46 | 18,360 | 45 | 17,790 |

*Arts attendance*

| *Priority group* | *2005-06*[1] *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *2006-07* *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 41 | 1,530 | 39 | 1,540 |
| Limiting disability | 39 | 3,320 | 38 | 3,240 |
| Lower socio-economic | 34 | 5,220 | 33 | 5,200 |
| All adults | 50 | 19,930 | 49 | 19,520 |

[1] Data are available for six months only in 2005-06 due to a change in question wording. Population figures (thousand) have been scaled up to represent the full year.

All data are taken from the DCMS 'Taking Part' survey, which provides national data on participation in arts activities and attendance at arts events by adults aged 16 and over.

### Arts: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what long-term strategy his Department has in place for the balance of funding for national institutions in the arts and heritage sector between grant-in-aid and other forms of funding. [190623]

**Margaret Hodge:** The future health of the arts and heritage sectors will be dependent on securing optimal levels of public and private investment. Sustained investment from central and local government, the National Lottery, business, private individuals and trusts and foundations will all play an important role in the long-term support of our cultural heritage.

Grant in aid for the next three years has now been allocated following the completion of the comprehensive spending review. My Department is working with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that our investment is complemented by funding from other sources.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of donations made to national institutions in the arts and heritage sector by private sponsors can be reclaimed as tax relief. [190624]

**Margaret Hodge:** Tax issues are of course the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my Department works closely with the Treasury on matters such as the current review of Gift Aid. A broad range of tax reliefs are available to private donors and sponsors of bodies in the arts and heritage sector. These will vary depending on the tax status of each donor. We are keen to ensure appropriate incentives for giving to culture and to secure greater take-up of measures such as Gift Aid across the sector.

### Casinos: Licensing

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many casino applications under the Gaming Act 1968 are pending determination by the Gambling Commission. [190554]

**Andy Burnham:** At 28 February 2008 there were nine applications for a casino Certificate of Consent pending determination or issue by the Gambling Commission under the Gaming Act 1968. Seven of the applications were in respect of new casinos and the other two were substitute premises for existing casinos.

### Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what progress has been made towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the number of people from priority groups visiting designated historic environment sites; and if he will make a statement; [187350]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people aged under 16 years and above *(a)* from black and minority ethnic groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups and *(d)* in total who visited designated historic environment sites in each year for which figures are available. [187351]

**Margaret Hodge:** The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey is being used to measure progress against this Public Service Agreement.

The most recent results published in December 2007 are in the table. They provide a comparison between the baseline figures and the second year results of the survey. The statistics show no significant change from year 1 to year 2.

The historic environment indicator is defined as at least one attendance at a designated site during the past 12 months.

| | *Year 1* | *Percentage Year 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 50.7 | 48.3 |
| Limiting disability | 59.5 | 60.2 |
| Lower socio-economic | 57.1 | 57.3 |
| All adults | 69.9 | 69.3 |

We are working closely with the cultural sector's strategic delivery bodies—Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council—to ensure that we maximise our impact on increasing participation rates.

These bodies deliver through a range of programmes and initiatives with cultural organisations at regional and local level. This includes: investment in programmes such as Renaissance in the Regions, which has seen visits to local museums and galleries by people from the PSA3 priority groups up by over 30 per cent. since 2002-03; free admission to formerly charging sponsored museums in England—where attendance has gone up by 98 per cent. since 2001; record investment in Arts Council England's regularly funded organisations of £326 million this year; and Heritage Open Days, the annual English Heritage-funded scheme run by the Civic Trust, in which over 35,000 volunteers share their knowledge and memories with up to 1 million visitors every year, making this England's largest voluntary cultural event.

### Culture Online

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique visitors were recorded by Culture Online in each year since it was established, broken down by project website. [187324]

**Margaret Hodge:** Hits and unique visitors recorded by Culture Online in each year since it was established, broken down by project website, are set out in the tables. Culture Online closed at the end of March 2007. Four projects did not record hits—MadforArts, Origination, Plant Cultures and Playground Fun. Unique visitors were not recorded for two projects—My Art Space and The Dark.

*(a) Hits*

| *Project* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Artisan Cam | — | 2,037,463 | 10,741,495 | 39,092 (January) |
| City Heritage Guides | 979,737 (September-December) | 3,732,097 (January-August) | — | — |
| Every Object Tells a Story | — | 3,877,074 | 5,136,846 | 867,184 (January-February) |
| Film Street | — | — | 3,282,973 (April-December) | 982,407 (January-February) |
| Headline History | — | 11,947,662 | 12,403,902 | 2,066,348 (January-February) |
| Icons | — | — | 97,035,864 | 20,949,368 (January-February) |
| MadforArts | — | — | — | — |
| MyArtSpace | — | — | 1,532,622 | 235,493 (January-February) |
| Origination | — | — | — | — |

*(a) Hits*

| *Project* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plant Cultures | — | — | — | — |
| Playground Fun | — | — | — | — |
| Rosetta Requiem | — | — | 235,158 | 21,026 (January-February) |
| Sound Junction | — | 1,368,491 (October-December) | 8,260,131 | 2,757,194 (January-February) |
| Stagework | 714,468 | 1,745,659 | 2,290,630 | 313,520 (January-February) |
| The Dark | — | 108,449 (February-December) | 8,800 (January) | — |

*(b) Unique Visitors*

| *Project* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Artisan Cam | — | 22,370 | 75,433 | 1,085 (January) |
| City Heritage Guides | 46,040 (September-December) | 200,811 (January-August) | — | — |
| Every Object Tells a Story | — | 69,321 | 297,940 | 65,115 |
| Film Street | — | — | 38,623 (April-December) | 14,084 (January-February) |
| Headlize History | — | 94,629 | 70,117 | 15,774 (January-February) |
| Icons | — | — | 827,534 | 267,012 (January-February) |
| MadforArts | 18,745 (September-December) | 196,493 | — | — |
| MyArtSpace | — | — | — | — |
| Origination | — | 21,523 | 20,385 (January-October) | — |
| Plant Cultures | — | 284,011 (March-December) | 671,576 (January-October) | — |
| Playground Fun | — | 15,028 (August-December) | 23,148 (January-February, October-December) | 14,916 (January-February) |
| Rosetta Requiem | — | — | 8,809 | 1,177 (January-February) |
| Sound Junction | — | 11,478 (October-December) | 89,264 | 30,642 January-February) |
| Stagework | 20,326 | 94,408 | 118,542 | 12,356 (January-February) |
| The Dark | — | — | — | — |

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on Culture Online in each year since its was established. [187325]

**Margaret Hodge:** Expenditure on Culture Online in each year since it was established is set out in the table. Culture Online closed at the end of March 2007.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 265,379 |
| 2003-04 | 1,439,034 |
| 2004-05 | 3,893,000 |
| 2005-06 | 2,657,000 |
| 2006-07 | 4,205,000 |
| 2007-08 spend to date | 72,312 |

### Culture: Sponsorship

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the long-term potential for corporate sponsorship as a source of funding in the cultural sector. [190711]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Corporate sponsorship is a vital element of the overall funding mix for the cultural sector. In 2006-07, business investment in the arts totalled over £170 million. We believe there is considerable scope to enhance that investment in the future, and my Department is working closely with the cultural and business communities to explore how best to do so to their mutual benefit.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in the next financial year. [191020]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has devised a plan which has identified potential savings of 562 tonnes of $CO_2$ by March 2009.

In particular, the Department plans to replace its gas boilers with ones which are more efficient. This will significantly reduce our carbon emissions.

We are seeking advice from the Carbon Trust on this.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what private finance initiative projects were approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each. [190864]

**Margaret Hodge:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

### Listed Buildings: Ibsley Control Tower

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason the recommendation by English Heritage on the listing of Ibsley Control Tower has not been pursued; and if he will make a statement. [191409]

**Margaret Hodge:** After careful consideration of all the relevant information, including advice from English Heritage, the Secretary of State has decided that the Watch Tower at RAF Ibsley does not have sufficient architectural or historic interest, in a national context, to merit listing.

### Government Departments: Flags

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to publish the summary of responses to its consultation process on flying the Union Flag from UK Government buildings. [189729]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport plans to publish the summary of responses to the consultation soon.

### Heathrow Airport: Standards

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of standards of operation at Heathrow Airport on the attractiveness of the UK as a tourist destination. [188760]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has not undertaken any specific work to measure the effect of Heathrow's standards of operation. However, my Department and its partners are well aware of the importance of good standards of operation at ports of entry, including Heathrow.

Improving the welcome to the UK is one of my Department's priorities for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and VisitBritain has set up the 'Welcome to Britain' group to take this work forward. For example, since January, the Civil Aviation Authority has included additional questions about the quality of welcome in its 'Departing Airport Survey', which is conducted at a number of airports, including Heathrow. Organisations which can influence the visitor's experience at Heathrow, including the British Airports Authority (BAA) and the Home Office, are members of this group. I have also raised welcome issues with representatives of BAA at a meeting in January.

### Internet: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage internet service providers to provide content suitable for children. [189341]

**Margaret Hodge:** There are a vast array of websites which provide suitable content for children. However we do want to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent the exposure of children to inappropriate material. This is why the Prime Minister has asked Dr. Tanya Byron to lead a review considering the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to harmful or inappropriate material on the internet. She is also considering video games in her review. She will be submitting her report and making recommendations for improvements or additional action in March.

### Listed Buildings

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government is considering proposals to review the existing listing criteria for buildings of special architectural or historic interest that are less than 75 years old. [189970]

**Margaret Hodge:** All buildings considered for listing are judged according to the national statutory criteria of special architectural and historic interest. We have no specific proposals to review these criteria, but anticipate a full debate on the subject when the draft Heritage Protection Bill is published for pre-legislative scrutiny in the spring.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues, *(b)* representatives of other Government departments, *(c)* the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 and *(d)* the Olympic Development Agency on (i) ethical and fair trade issues and (ii) the use of child labour in the manufacturing of merchandise for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and on which dates such discussions took place. [185660]

**Andy Burnham:** I have had no such discussions. This is the responsibility of the Minister for the Olympics. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister for the Olympics gave to him on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 115-16W.

### Overseas Visitors: China

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by Chinese tourists visiting England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [187818]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per visit by Chinese residents visiting England for the latest available five years.

*Average expenditure[1] per visit to England by overseas residents*

| *China* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 981 |
| 2003 | 1,261 |
| 2004 | 1,096 |
| 2005 | 1,178 |
| 2006 | 910 |

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (GNS).

### Overseas Visitors: North America

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by North American tourists visiting England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [187819]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per visit by North American residents visiting England for the latest available five years.

*Average expenditure[1] per visit to England by overseas residents*

£

| | North America | USA | Canada |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 615 | 639 | 472 |
| 2003 | 633 | 659 | 493 |
| 2004 | 620 | 622 | 606 |
| 2005 | 636 | 665 | 497 |
| 2006 | 667 | 700 | 509 |

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

### Overseas Visitors: Russia

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by Russian tourists visiting England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [187941]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows the average expenditure per visit by Russian residents visiting England for the latest available five years.

*Average expenditure[1] per visit to England by overseas residents*

| *Russia* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,049 |
| 2003 | 1,154 |
| 2004 | 1,039 |
| 2005 | 779 |
| 2006 | 968 |

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

### Public Libraries

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the public library service standards will be incorporated into the national indicator set for local authorities; and whether the standards will continue as benchmarks for library authorities. [184642]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Public Library Service Standards (PLSS) will not form part of the national indicator set for local authorities. A new measure, capturing use of public libraries by residents, is included under National Indicator 9, Stronger Communities.

The PLSS will be replaced by the new library benchmark, which has been developed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL). The benchmark contains 23 criteria which library practitioners might consider when planning and improving their service. It will enable libraries to compare their local performance against other authorities, against themselves over time, and against the national position. The benchmark will encourage the sector to identify and share best practice. Central Government will not use the library benchmark to monitor library authority performance but the information will be collected by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and published annually in their report Public Library Statistics.

### Listed Buildings: Totnes Railway Station

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will prevent the demolition of the Brunel pumping station at Totnes railway station; and if he will request English Heritage to list the building as a Grade II building. [190576]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Following careful consideration of all the relevant evidence, including advice from English Heritage, the Secretary of State decided on 16 November that the pumping station, Totnes, was not of sufficient special architectural or historic interest to merit listing. The Secretary of State upheld this decision on 22 February 2008 following a review of the case.

Listing a building does not necessarily prevent its demolition. The purpose of listing is to ensure that care will be taken over any decision affecting the building and that the case for its preservation is taken fully into account in considering the merits of any development proposals.

### Tourism: Advertising

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was allocated to advertising UK tourism on *(a)* US and *(b)* Australian television in 2006-07. [188262]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* VisitBritain has spent over £1.9 million on marketing and support marketing in the US. It has spent the same amount in Australia for the same purposes.

The marketing budget for each country in 2006-07 was split with the bulk being spent on online marketing and printed media.

There was no funding allocated for television advertising in either country.

### Tourism: Balance of Payments

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the balance of payments in tourism in 2007. [190429]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Information published on 15 February from the Office for National Statistics' International Passenger Survey showed that the tourism balance of payments deficit for tourism for the 12 months to December 2007 was £19.4 billion.

The deficit for the final quarter of 2007 was £4.8 billion, £120 million lower than that for the same period in 2006.

### Tourism: Northumberland

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the value of expenditure made by overseas tourists

visiting *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Northumberland in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [188833]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is contained in the table. Figures for County Durham and Northumberland for 2007 are not available.

*Spend by overseas residents*

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* |
| County Durham | 43 | 34 |
| Northumberland | 19 | 14 |

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

### Tourism: Standards

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what means his Department benchmarks the UK's performance in attracting overseas visitors against other European countries; and if he will publish the results of the latest such benchmarking exercise. [190432]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* DCMS does not benchmark the level of overseas visitors to the UK against other European countries. In a rapidly changing international travel environment, with new destinations and national markets emerging rapidly, the UK's share of the world market is a more meaningful measure of performance. The 32.2 million inbound visitors to the UK in 2006 made up 3.6 per cent. of the world total, and their spending at £15.4 billion was 4 per cent. of world turnover. These percentages were up 0.1 per cent. and 0.2 per cent. respectively on 2005.

For purposes of illustration, visits to the UK rose by 28.2 per cent. over 1997 to 2007, according to the Office for National Statistics' International Passenger Survey, compared to increases in number of arrivals over the same period in France (18.8 per cent.), Italy (20.5 per cent.), and Spain (34.6 per cent.).

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Bed and Breakfast Accommodation: Fires

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bed and breakfast establishments have had fires caused by guests in the last five years. [190773]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Information on the number of fires involving guests, solely in bed and breakfast establishments in England is unavailable. However, statistics on the number of fatal and non-fatal casualties in accidental fires in commercially run establishments (with sleeping accommodation) (2002-06) is in the following table. The statistics include fires in hotels and boarding houses as well as bed and breakfast establishments and are not limited solely to guests as a breakdown of the data held to this level is not possible.

*Table 1: Accidental fires and casualties in commercially run establishments (with sleeping accommodation), England 2002-06[1]*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| *2002* | |
| Fires | 692 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 44 |
| *2003* | |
| Fires | 583 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 52 |
| *2004* | |
| Fires | 670 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 35 |
| *2005* | |
| Fires | 514 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 29 |
| *2006* | |
| Fires | 572 |
| Fatal casualties | 1 |
| Non fatal casualties | 66 |

[1] Provisional

*Notes:*
1. Including hotels, boarding houses and Bed and Breakfast establishments.
2. Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
3 Figures for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires in bed and breakfast establishments have been caused by cigarette smoking in the last five years. [190772]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Information on the number of fires caused by cigarette smoking, solely in bed and breakfast establishments, in England, is unavailable. However, statistics on the number of fires in commercially run establishments (with sleeping accommodation) where smoking materials were cause of fire (2002-06) is in the following tables. The statistics include fires in hotels and boarding houses as well as bed and breakfast establishments.

*Table 1: Accidental fires and casualties in commercially run establishments (with sleeping accommodation) by source of ignition. England 2002-06*

| | *Total* | *Smokers' materials* | *Cigarette lighters* | *Matches* | *Cooking appliances* | *Space heating appliances* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2002* | | | | | | |
| Fires | 692 | 119 | 8 | 6 | 168 | 43 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 44 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 3 |

*Table 1: Accidental fires and casualties in commercially run establishments (with sleeping accommodation) by source of ignition. England 2002-06*

| | Total | Smokers' materials | Cigarette lighters | Matches | Cooking appliances | Space heating appliances |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2003* | | | | | | |
| Fires | 583 | 94 | 1 | 1 | 163 | 16 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 52 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| *2004* | | | | | | |
| Fires | 670 | 65 | 1 | 1 | 172 | 27 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 35 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| *2005* | | | | | | |
| Fires | 514 | 61 | 2 | 3 | 151 | 12 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 29 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 1 |
| *2006* | | | | | | |
| Fires | 572 | 71 | 0 | 2 | 144 | 20 |
| Fatal casualties | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 66 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 |

| | Central and blowlamps | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Water heating appliances | Welding and cutting equipment | Electrical distribution | Other electrical appliances | Candles | Other | Unspecified |
| *2002* | | | | | | | |
| Fires | 29 | 26 | 53 | 168 | 22 | 49 | 0 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | |
| Fires | 9 | 7 | 58 | 141 | 42 | 29 | 28 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| *2004* | | | | | | | |
| Fires | 29 | 15 | 65 | 208 | 30 | 42 | 15 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| *2005* | | | | | | | |
| Fires | 18 | 11 | 55 | 143 | 20 | 29 | 9 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | |
| Fires | 36 | 6 | 74 | 136 | 14 | 35 | 35 |
| Fatal casualties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non fatal casualties | 0 | 2 | 5 | 29 | 3 | 0 | 4 |

[1] Provisional.

*Notes:*

1. Including hotels, boarding houses and Bed and Breakfast establishments.
2. Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
3. Figures for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

### Community Relations

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where her Department plans to pilot specialist cohesion teams to support local authorities facing cohesion challenges; how many people the teams will comprise; what support they will provide; and if she will make a statement. [190121]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We have yet to develop detailed plans to take forward the commitment to support local authorities in promoting community cohesion by developing specialist cohesion teams to support those areas experiencing rapid change and other cohesion challenges. We will be consulting with local government on proposals over the next few months.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to work with the Academy for Sustainable Communities to build on existing cohesion programmes; and what plans the Academy has to improve the skills of planning and housing practitioners on integration and cohesion matters. [190156]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Academy for Sustainable Communities is potentially well-placed to improve awareness and practice among local authorities and practitioners to drive local action on community cohesion. Its existing cross-professional and cross-sector reach provides a mechanism for developing shared understanding and strategies to tackle common challenges. It has commissioned a community cohesion research project. The aim of the research is to demystify the language and key issues that surround cohesion and create a learning resource that can be used by all in the sector. The project will clarify the critical steps that proactively address cohesion as an embedded part of building sustainable communities. The project will then develop appropriate learning resources and guidance for these key professionals. Communities and Local Government is working with the Academy to ensure that the outcomes of the cohesion research project are aligned with the Department's forthcoming Cohesion Delivery Framework so that these two resources complement each other.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to publish the guidance for local authorities on tension monitoring referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190159]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We expect to publish guidance for local authorities on tension monitoring shortly.

### Community Relations: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to decide how the £8 million cohesion element of the Connecting Communities Plus grant programme referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion will be distributed; what type of projects these grants will support; and if she will make a statement. [190114]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Decisions about the future use of £8 million relating to the Connecting Communities Plus grant programme, which has community cohesion as one of its four themes and runs till the end of the financial year 2008-09, will be taken next year.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional improvement efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) will receive funding from the £3 million allocated for 2008 to 2011 to develop local capacity to tackle community cohesion challenges; what criteria will be used to allocate funding to them; what funding is planned for each local authority within each RIEP; on what criteria this funding will be allocated; on what type of projects these funds will be spent; how the effectiveness of the spending will be evaluated; and if she will make a statement. [190115]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Decisions about distribution of this funding between regional improvement efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) will be made in the light of how cohesion is prioritized in their strategies for 2008-09 to 2010-11, and the inclusion of cohesion improvement targets in local area agreements running for the same period. Once the basis on which funding is to be allocated is established, it will be for RIEPs to decide, in consultation with local areas, and taking into account performance against local area agreement targets, how the funding will be used. The implementation of the RIEPs' strategies for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be the subject of annual reports by the RIEPs. The detail of how these reports will cover the effectiveness of support for cohesion is subject to further discussion with the Local Government Association.

### Community Relations: Standards

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the effectiveness of the community empowerment action plan referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion will be assessed; and if she will make a statement. [190117]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The actions identified in the Community Empowerment Action Plan will play a key part in delivering public service agreement 21, building more cohesive, empowered and active communities. The effectiveness of the action plan will therefore be assessed within the PSA framework.

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in her Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189786]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department launched a revised flexible working policy in July 2007, under which all staff can apply for home working, whether or not they have a statutory right to request a flexible working pattern.

Since home working is agreed at a local level HR do not keep a central record of home working arrangements.

However, work taking place on our Personnel Information Management System will allow staff to record their flexible working patterns.

In additional to formal home working arrangements, staff can request occasional home working for short periods. This would be an informal arrangement with their line manager which is not centrally recorded.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by her Department. [189086]

**Mr. Dhanda:** As at 31 January 2008 there were no staff aged under 18 years employed by this Department.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average hourly rate her Department and its predecessors paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187906]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187527]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W, on departmental vehicles, how many of the vehicles in each category were made in the UK. [189915]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The vehicles listed in the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W, were made in the following countries;

| *Vehicles* | *Country of manufacture* |
|---|---|
| MPVs (Multi Purpose Vehicles) | USA |
| IRU Vehicles (Incident Response Units) | Germany |
| DIM (Detection, Identification and Monitoring) Vehicles | Italy |
| Prime Mover Vehicles | Germany |

Fabrication of the bodywork for the IRU and Prime Movers was done in the UK.

### Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information is collected from waste collection authorities on public satisfaction with the frequency of household rubbish collections. [189490]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

There are three Best Value User Satisfaction Indicators for waste: BVPI90a, covering satisfaction with household waste collection; BVPI90b, satisfaction with waste recycling with a focus on local facilities; and BVPI90c, satisfaction with waste disposal, concentrating on local tips etc.

The National Indicator Set is limited to measures that help to achieve the Government's priority outcomes. Local authorities' duties and responsibilities remain unchanged. There are many services and activities undertaken by local government, alone or in partnership, which are not directly reflected in the National Indicator Set, but which continue to be important to local areas and the people who live there. It is more appropriate that these are performance managed locally; with local authorities setting priorities, determining performance indicators and monitoring and reviewing performance. This is part of the process of devolution that local government has been seeking.

The latest national results for public satisfaction with local government and its services, with trends over time, by authority type and by region for each indicator, are available from the Department for Communities and Local Government's (CLG) website.

A Place Survey run by CLG will be used to collect twenty of the citizen perspective indicators included in the National Indicator Set. This will be collected through a single survey, to be administered by local authorities, and will replace the Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys. We anticipate that the first Place Survey will be carried out this autumn. Government have recently carried out a consultation on this issue, which closed on 8 February.

### English Language: Public Participation

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who sat on the two citizens' juries held jointly by her Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on English for Speakers of Other Languages held in December 2007; and how they were selected. [190148]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The identities of individual members of the public who sit on citizens' juries are not disclosed for reasons of confidentiality. The juries selected for the two juries on English for speakers of other languages were selected to be broadly representative of the local population in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, social grade, work status and life-stage. 18 members of the public were recruited to take part in each of the two locations (17 attended in Hull and 18 in London).

### EU Grants and Loans

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive advice from the EU on what the grant from the Solidarity Fund can be used for; and if she will make a statement. [190999]

**John Healey:** The scope of operations eligible under the EU Solidarity Fund are set out in Council Regulation (EC) No. 201/2002. This explains the aim of the Fund which is to complement the efforts of the states concerned and cover a share of their public expenditure in order to help them carry out the following essential emergency operations:

*(a)* immediate restoration to working order of infrastructure and plant in the fields of energy, water and waste water, telecommunications, transport, health and education;

*(b)* providing temporary accommodation and funding rescue services to meet the immediate needs of the population concerned;

*(c)* immediate securing of preventive infrastructures and measures of immediate protection of the cultural heritage;

*(d)* immediate cleaning up of disaster-stricken areas, including natural zones.

Payments from the Fund are limited to finance works alleviating non insurable damages incurred by public bodies.

### Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187752]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Fire Services: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been provided by her Department to fire authorities to conduct fire safety audits in the last year. [190684]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department has provided £25 million in capital funding over four years to fire and rescue authorities in England for home fire risk checks. For the final year of the grant programme, 2007-08, the grant totalled £10 million.

### Fires: Warrington

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many calls to reports of fires on domestic premises in Warrington were made by Cheshire Fire Service in each quarter of *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [187963]

**Mr. Dhanda:** For 2006, data on fire calls attended are only available for the whole of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Information relating to smaller geographical units (e.g. Warrington) is currently only available up to the end of 2005. As a guide, in 2005 just under a fifth of all the domestic fires attended in Cheshire occurred in the Warrington Unitary Authority area.

Information on the number of dwelling fires in Cheshire for each quarter in 2006 is shown in the table. No data are available for 2007.

*Dwelling fires attended in Cheshire, by quarter, 2006*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1 January to 31 March 2006 | 183 |
| 1 April to 30 June 2006 | 187 |
| 1 July to 30 September 2006 | 173 |
| 1 October to 31 December 2006 | 216 |
| Total | 759 |

*Note:*
Data for 2006 are provisional.

### Housing: Rural Areas

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider the merits of providing continued central government funding to rural housing enablers as recommended by the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. [189185]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The clear vision for the long-term funding of Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs), ever since the first 'demonstration project' was launched over 15 years ago, was that they should be supported at local level by the very local authorities and housing associations whose rural delivery they exist to support.

This reflects the Government's desire to enable decisions about priorities to be taken at the local level in response to local needs, and the important role of local leadership and buy-in in enabling successful delivery.

In many areas this is happening. A number of RHEs are now self-sustaining. Work is currently being undertaken by the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) to look at how that good practice can be replicated.

### Institute of Community Cohesion: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provided to the Institute of Community Cohesion in each of the last three years; what funding it plans to provide in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [190112]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government was created in May 2006. We provided the Institute of Community Cohesion with £64,000 in 2006-07, and £55,000 in 2007-08. We do not currently have any agreed plans for future funding of the Institute.

### Local Authorities: South West

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which major local authorities will exist in the South West region after the current restructuring is completed. [188319]

**John Healey:** Following the earlier parliamentary approval of the Structural Change Orders, which were laid before both Houses of Parliament on 8 January; the following principal local authorities will exist in the South West Region on 1 April 2009:

*Unitary authorities*

| *Authorities* | *Population (Est 2006 in thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1. Cornwall Council | 519 |
| 2. Wiltshire Council | 448 |
| 3. Bristol City Council | 410 |
| 4. South Gloucester Council | 254 |
| 5. Plymouth City Council | 248 |
| 6. North Somerset Council | 201 |
| 7. Swindon Borough Council | 186 |
| 8. Bath and NE Somerset Council | 175 |
| 9. Bournemouth Borough Council | 161 |
| 10. Borough of Poole Council | 137 |
| 11. Torbay Council | 133 |

*Principal Two-Tier County Councils, And Their Associated District Authorities*

| *Authorities* | *Population (Est. 2006 In Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *1. Devon County Council* | 740 |
| East Devon District Council | 131 |
| Exeter City Council | 120 |
| Mid-Devon District Council | 74 |
| North Devon District Council | 91 |
| South Hams District Council | 83 |
| Teignbridge District Council | 126 |
| Torridge District Council | 64 |
| West Devon District Council | 51 |
| *2. Gloucestershire County Council* | 578 |
| Cheltenham Borough Council | 111 |
| Cotswold District Council | 83 |
| Forest of Dean District Council | 82 |
| Gloucester City Council | 113 |
| Stroud District Council | 110 |
| Tewksbury Borough Council | 79 |
| *3. Somerset County Council* | 518 |
| Mendip District Council | 108 |
| Sedgemoor District Council | 111 |
| South Somerset District Council | 157 |
| Taunton Deane Borough Council | 107 |
| West Somerset District Council | 35 |
| *4. Dorset County Council* | 403 |
| Christchurch Borough Council | 45 |
| East Dorset District Council | 85 |
| North Dorset District Council | 67 |
| Purbeck District Council | 45 |
| West Dorset District Council | 96 |
| Weymouth and Portland Borough Council | 65 |

## Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much had been received by *(a)* Newcastle-under-Lyme and *(b)* Newcastle-upon-Tyne under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive by 31 December 2007; how much each was entitled to under the provisions of the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [190960]

**John Healey:** As at 31 December 2007, Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council had received £2,612,562.36 under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme; and Newcastle city council had received £5,092,209.00.

Under the provisions of the scheme, Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council was entitled to £592,362.36; and Newcastle city council was entitled to £7,879,635.00.

The Department is seeking recovery of the overpayment in line with "Managing Public Money"—the Treasury guidance (replacing "Government Accounting") which sets out principles and standards for government departments on managing public resources. We are making an additional payment of £2,787,426.00 to Newcastle city council today (3 March).

The Department has taken steps to ensure that this type of error does not happen again.

## Non-departmental Public Bodies

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of a non-departmental public body. [190542]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* This information is published at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/publicbodies/

## Recycling

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the volume of recyclable materials designated to be exported for reprocessing which have been diverted to *(a)* landfill and *(b)* other disposal facilities over the last five years. [189599]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

My Department does not hold any information on the amount of waste that is exported for recycling that may have been diverted to landfill or other disposal facilities.

## Regional Ministers: Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff work for each Regional Minister in *(a)* his or her departmental office and *(b)* the government office of his or her respective region. [188880]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The number of staff supporting Regional Ministers varies between regions and is listed in the following table. It should be noted, however, that only a minority of the staff listed as working in the departmental private offices support Ministers in their regional capacity.

| Regional Minister | Departmental private office staff | Additional information on departmental staff | FTE in GO |
|---|---|---|---|
| SE | 4 | The number of departmental staff will soon return to five | 2 |
| London | 5 | Includes one special adviser | 1.5 |
| South West | 7 | One of whom works specifically on regional business | 1 |
| East Midlands | 4 | — | 3.5 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 6 | One of whom works specifically on regional business | 1.5 |
| North West | 7 | One of whom works specifically on regional business | 1 |
| East | 4 | — | 2.5 |
| West Midlands | 7.5 | — | 1.7 |
| North East | 2 | As Deputy Chief Whip, he is assisted by the Chief Whip's Private Office | 1 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's latest assessment is of the political situation in Burma. [190654]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Government continue to be deeply concerned by the political situation in Burma. Fundamental civil and human rights continue to be abused. Ethnic minority groups are subject to particular abuse and marginalisation. The military Government impose tight controls on the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of the media. The civil opposition continues to be harassed and suppressed. 2,000 political prisoners continue to be detained.

On 9 February, the Burmese regime announced that it would hold a referendum on a new constitution in May 2008 and elections in 2010 as part of its "Roadmap" process. The civil opposition and representatives of many ethnic groups have been excluded from the constitution-drafting process. Unless the constitution and the process is truly inclusive and transparent, it will not lead to genuine national reconciliation. We are particularly concerned at the regime's attempts to exclude Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from the political process and fear that this will only exacerbate tension and instability in Burma. In our contacts with the military Government and those who have influence over them, we are stressing the need for all political actors, including Aung San Suu Kyi, to be allowed to play their full part in shaping the country's future.

On 12 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated our demand that the Burmese regime immediately release Aung San Suu Kyi and called for the early return of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, to the country, to help facilitate political transition.

### Business Ethics

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Minister and *(b)* departmental division is responsible for policy on corporate social responsibility in his Department. [191213]

**Meg Munn:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, is responsible for Corporate Social Responsibility at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO's Sustainable Development and Business Group is currently responsible for the FCO's work on Corporate Social Responsibility. However, this Department will be closed at the end of March as a result of the FCO's recent reprioritisation of policy work and the majority of the Department's work on Corporate Social Responsibility will be redistributed to other Departments.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for promoting corporate social responsibility *(a)* internally in his Department and *(b)* externally by his Department to British companies was in each of the last five years. [191214]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided an annual contribution of £80,000 to the Trust Fund for the UN Global Compact, the largest international initiative promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and the FCO annually contributes £3,000 towards the running costs of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Over the last five years the FCO has also made the following allocations of project funding for CSR related projects globally:

| | Amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 348,602 |
| 2004 | 484,636 |
| 2005 | 462,533 |
| 2006 | 309,577 |
| 2007 | 567,537 |
| 2008[1] | 192,813 |

[1] Projected for 2008.

This has included funding £125,000 over three years (March 2006 to September 2008) to pilot a civil society co-ordinator with the UN Global Compact. The FCO also funds an annual Chevening Fellowship course for 12 professionals from around the world to study CSR at the university of Nottingham.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff work on corporate social responsibility matters in his Department. [191215]

**Meg Munn:** At present, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has one full-time member of staff working on corporate social responsibility.

### China: Dalai Lama

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what report he has received on the negotiating stance adopted by the Chinese government in their talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama. [191104]

**Meg Munn:** We and EU partners have welcomed the visits to China by the Dalai Lama's representatives, including the last visit, between 29 June and 6 July 2007. We have pressed the Chinese repeatedly to continue these contacts and enter a substantive dialogue without pre-conditions. We have made clear our view that negotiations should work towards a long term solution acceptable to both sides.

### Colombia

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 149-50W, on Colombia, what reports the Minister of State has received which informed his Answer that the people who are murdering the most trade unionists in Colombia are not the Colombian government but FARC. [189620]

**Dr. Howells:** It is illegal armed groups including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that are committing the majority of human rights abuses in Colombia, including intimidation and murder of trade unionists. However, the Colombian armed forces are also guilty of committing abuses, which is why we are helping the Colombian Government develop the processes to root out these abuses.

The latest report of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the situation of human rights in Colombia (UN General Assembly document A/HRC/4/48); Annex II paragraphs 1-2 states that:

> "In 2006, the OHCHR Office recorded an increase in threats against human rights defenders, including trade union members...groups that also continue to be victims of murder, arbitrary or illegal arrest and violations of due process... The acts of violence against human rights defenders have limited their ability to organize and to report violations in some regions of the country. Such acts are attributed to members of new illegal armed groups, paramilitaries and guerrillas. In other cases, members of the security forces and judicial employees have been accused of responsibility for these actions".

We agree that the situation faced by trade unionists in Colombia is difficult. The number of trade unionists threatened and killed is too high. This is why, working with the Trade Unions Congress, we have invited a delegation of Colombian trade unionists to the UK in March, to hear from them first hand and to explore how the UK can offer its support.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188800]

**Dr. Howells:** For the financial year 2007-08 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) applies the following salary ranges to staff in each pay band.

| *FCO band* | *Civil service equivalent* | *Minimum salary (£)* | *Maximum salary (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | Administrative Assistant | 14,732 | 16,681 |
| A2 | Administrative Officer | 16,914 | 21,082 |
| B3 | Executive Officer | 19,568 | 26,778 |
| C4 | Higher Executive Officer | 21,759 | 31,290 |
| C5 | Senior Executive Officer | 27,992 | 37,999 |
| D6 | Grade 7 | 37,069 | 52,786 |
| D7 | Grade 6 | 45,735 | 63,000 |

For staff in the senior management structure (SMS), equivalent to the senior civil service (SCS), the FCO operates reward arrangements within a framework managed by the Cabinet Office. The Government set salary ranges for these pay bands centrally for all Whitehall Departments in response to recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Board. The ranges are currently:

| *FCO pay band* | *Civil service pay band* | *Minimum (£)* | *Ceiling (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| SMS 1 Assistant Director | SCS 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SMS 2 Director | SCS 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| Senior Head of Mission (SMS 3/4) Director General plus above | SCS 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

Staff working in London also receive a non-consolidated, non-pensionable location allowance of £3,000 per annum.

### Equatorial Guinea: Simon Mann

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Equatorial Guinea on consular access to Simon Mann. [191238]

**Meg Munn:** The Equatorial Guinea ambassador assured my noble Friend the Minster for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, on 7 February 2008 that consular access to Mr. Mann would be granted. Our consul from the deputy high commission in Lagos was subsequently able to visit Mr. Mann on 12 February 2008.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances he has received from the government of Equatorial Guinea that Simon Mann will be treated in accordance with international standards of human rights while imprisoned in that country. [191239]

**Meg Munn:** The Equatorial Guinea ambassador has assured my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, and

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials on a number of occasions that Mr. Mann would receive a fair trial and be treated well while in custody.

### Falkland Islands: Territorial Waters

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence on protecting the territorial waters in the Falklands. [190907]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has sole responsibility for protecting the fisheries around the Falkland Islands from unauthorised fishing. To achieve this task the FIG deploys a chartered fisheries protection vessel, two maritime surveillance aircraft and a satellite-based vessel monitoring system. Additionally, fisheries observers are deployed on the commercial fleet. Their primary role is the collection of scientific data, but they also monitor compliance with regulations.

### Gambia: Prisoners

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what access to consular services is available to Mr. Charlie Northfield, recently imprisoned in Gambia. [190594]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* We are aware of the case and have been providing full consular assistance since Mr. Northfield was detained.

Mr. Northfield is currently on bail.

### Gaza: International Assistance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the situation in Gaza; and what representations he has made to the Israeli government on the delivery of humanitarian aid and the supply of power in Gaza. [190756]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is concerned about the latest violence in the Gaza strip and the growing impact of Israeli restrictions which have resulted in power cuts and threaten to undermine vital infrastructure such as hospitals, water and sewage systems. The UN reports that the Gaza power plant is only able to produce 55 megawatts of the 240 megawatts required daily in the Gaza strip. For example, the water authority in the strip is unable to adequately pump and distribute water (cuts in the Gaza City are varying between four to eight hours daily).

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development have issued joint statements on the situation in Gaza and Sderot on 11 January, 21 January and more recently on 8 February. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on this issue on 24 January and I spoke to the Israeli ambassador in London on 29 January. Our embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises this matter with the Israeli government and most recently our ambassador in Tel Aviv raised the issue with Defence Minister Barak on 25 February.

The UK and its partners will continue to pursue with Israel the reopening of all crossings to facilitate movement for all Palestinians. We deplore the fact that innocent civilians on both sides are suffering. Both Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace and security.

### Hamas

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 471-2W, on Hamas, what fundamental conditions the Quartet has set Israel for a viable peace. [189912]

**Dr. Howells:** The Roadmap sets out the steps the Palestinian Authority and Israel need to implement to achieve a negotiated settlement. Both sides have accepted the Roadmap. At the Annapolis Conference of 22 November 2007, Prime Minister Olmert renewed his commitment to Israel's Roadmap obligations. Among others these obligations require that the Government of Israel freeze all settlement building, dismantle all settlement outposts and take measures to improve the humanitarian situation for Palestinians. The Quartet and the UK firmly believe that the Roadmap is the best route to achieving peace in the Middle East.

### Legal Costs

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* legal and *(b)* other costs in connection with the case of al-Rawi and others vs the Secretary of State; and if he will make a statement; [189753]

(2) what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* the defence and *(b)* the prosecution in the case of al-Rawi and others vs the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; and if he will make a statement. [189752]

**Dr. Howells:** The legal costs in connection with the case of "Al Rawi and others v. the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs" were borne jointly by the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Including fees for counsel and the Treasury Solicitor's Department, these costs came to just under £395,000 including value added tax. The FCO does not have any information about the claimants' legal costs, which were met by the Legal Services Commission.

### Sudan: Security

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed internal security in Darfur with representatives of the government of Sudan. [191102]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out our concerns on the situation in Darfur, and the need for an immediate end to the fighting in West Darfur, in a joint statement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 27 February. He has discussed the situation in Darfur with several governments, most recently this week in

Beijing at meetings with the Premier and Foreign Minister of China. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has been in regular contact with the Government of Sudan on this issue, including during his visit there and the African Union summit, 28 January-1 February. Our ambassador in Khartoum has been instructed to pursue the matter further with the Government of Sudan.

### UK Trade and Investment: Republic of Ireland

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the proposed arrangements are for the administration and promotion of UK trade and investment at the UK Embassy to the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [187968]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK Trade and Investment Section in Dublin will be restructured and will continue to deliver services to UK companies seeking to trade with the Republic of Ireland and to Irish companies wishing to invest in the UK.

### Zimbabwe: Human Rights

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's latest assessment is of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [190656]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The human rights situation in Zimbabwe continues to cause us grave concern. The Government of Zimbabwe shows no respect for basic human rights such as freedom of expression, assembly and association. Human rights violations perpetrated by state agents including assault, torture and arbitrary arrest continue. Our embassy officials in Harare continue to monitor the human rights situation closely, particularly with regard to infringements related to the forthcoming elections. They will continue to meet regularly with key partners, including local and international non-governmental organisations, to consider how best human rights can be defended.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's latest assessment is of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [190655]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Zimbabwe continues to suffer from an economic, humanitarian and political crisis, for which President Mugabe is directly responsible. Although an election has been declared for 29 March, it seems almost impossible for it to be held in anything like free and fair conditions. We are pressing for effective international monitoring and for states in the region to require the election to meet international standards, including those adopted by the Southern African Development Community itself.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### A-levels

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of trends in retaking *(a)* AS and *(b)* A2 modules in schools. [185784]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Assessments: Standards

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* members of the House of Lords, *(c)* members of the teaching professions and *(d)* members of the public expressing concern about the maintenance of standards of (i) advanced level examinations and (ii) GCSE examinations; and if he will make a statement. [167392]

**Jim Knight:** Since the beginning of August my Department has received 22 letters on issues related to exam standards—four from Members of Parliament, six from teachers and lecturers and 12 from other members of the public. These expressed a range of views, including support for the recognition of attainment as well as concern.

It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the qualifications regulator to oversee the awarding process to ensure that standards are comparable both between different qualifications and overtime. There is no evidence that overall standards have not been maintained. Nevertheless the debate about standards continues from year-to-year and we have acknowledged that the fact that the QCA reports to Ministers can make it harder to demonstrate that it is acting wholly independently in carrying out its regulatory role. That is why we have announced that we will legislate to create a new independent regulator of qualifications and tests, building on the QCA's achievements in this area.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have received a formal warning from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority about the way they conduct their national tests; and if he will make a statement. [188992]

**Jim Knight:** The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is statutorily obliged to investigate any matter brought to its attention relating to the accuracy or correctness of the results of any pupil in respect of the statutory Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 National Curriculum tests. Such matters are referred to as allegations of maladministration. This remit is carried out by the National Assessment Agency (NAA), part of the QCA, with the aim of safeguarding the integrity of the tests and the interests of pupils.

The NAA's remit in investigating cases of alleged maladministration is to determine whether there is doubt over the correctness or accuracy of pupil results. The

NAA does not issue formal warnings. The sanction applied where a case of maladministration is proven is the annulment or change of results for individual pupils or for the whole school. The 2007 maladministration report is available to view at: www.naa.org.uk/tests and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

### Children: Arts

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to develop children's artistic and creative skills since 1997. [189142]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* Arts education is firmly placed in the national curriculum, for example in music, art, dance and drama. Creativity and creative skills are a key part of the curriculum from foundation stage right through to secondary education and the new secondary curriculum will allow schools greater opportunities to support creativity.

Creativity has featured increasingly in the Government's schools policies since 1997, and we have supported a number of very successful initiatives aimed at giving young people the chance to engage with culture and the arts and develop creative skills. Examples include:

Artsmark, set up in 2001 to encourage schools to increase their range of arts provision;

Creative Partnerships set up in 2002 to give children the chance to develop their creativity by working with creative practitioners and cultural organisations. We are investing over £110 million to expand the programme over the next three years;

The Music Manifesto launched in 2004, a partnership with an agreed set of aims to improve music education for all children and young people, whose report led to a further investment in music of £332 million over three years announced in November 2007;

Initiatives such as the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and the setting up of extended schools, supporting schools to offer extra activities to pupils, including creative and arts activities in and out of school and outside school hours.

The Creative and Cultural Education Advisory Board that we set up in response to Paul Roberts' 2006 review of creativity, has helped us bring together the cultural and education sectors. This is key to the development of a longer term cultural offer that we announced in the Children's Plan. We are committed to working towards a position where all children and young people have the opportunities to develop their creative abilities, and to access high quality arts and cultural activities in and out of school. On 13 February 2008 we announced the "Find Your Talent" programme that will be piloted in ten areas around the country. There is already much cultural and creative activity taking place in and out of school and the pilots will build on this, to make sure all children and young people have the opportunity to take part in creative and cultural activities. It will give children and young people the chance to discover and develop their talents. The intention is, ultimately, to offer five hours of arts and culture a week. The pilots will give us the information we need to make decisions about rolling out the offer nationally.

### Children: Internet

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to increase internet access for children in low income *(a)* families and *(b)* communities in (i) West Lancashire constituency and (ii) England. [189806]

**Jim Knight:** A number of initiatives have been set up to widen access to the internet for low-income families. These recently include Computers for Pupils and Home Access. The Computers for Pupils programme and its current successor has provided £90 million worth of support for children in disadvantaged families.

The Home Access Task Force is considering the potential for a sustainable long-term solution to support all children in having appropriate access and is due to provide final advice to Ministers in April 2008.

The Department does not provide separate funding for West Lancashire, but Lancashire local authority has received over £1 million of the Computers for Pupils funding.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures the Government has put in place to meet its target of halving child poverty by 2010. [174396]

**Beverley Hughes:** We have published our strategy for halving child poverty by 2010 most recently in the Child Poverty PSA Delivery Agreement (published November 2007), the DWP Command Paper 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation', and the DCSF 'Children's Plan' (both published in December 2007).

Our commitment to halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating it by 2020 is one of the most ambitious economic and social policy objectives set by any government in the developed world.

To date our strategy has focused on fiscal and welfare reform measures to increase employment levels for parents, with most policy focus on lone parents and increasing financial support through the benefit and tax systems.

Significant progress has been made; there are now 600,000 fewer children living in poverty than in 1998/99. Since 1997 the proportion of children living in workless households has fallen from 18.7 per cent. to 16 per cent. in Quarter 2 of 2007—this is a reduction of 405,000.

### Children's Centres: Finance

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether funding provided by his Department to local authorities for children centres and Sure Start programmes is ring-fenced for existing programmes. [189767]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Sure Start, early years and child care grant, paid to local authorities, includes funding for Sure Start children's centres and is ring-fenced. Within that grant funding for Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs), and children's centres based on Sure Start

Local Programmes, is further ring-fenced and can be used only for services in SSLPs, and Sure Start children's centres based on SSLPs.

### Culture: Education

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in which areas the schemes to provide every child with five hours of culture a week are being piloted; and how many children will be involved in these pilot schemes; [188843]

(2) how his Department plans to ensure that every child is receiving five hours of culture a week. [188844]

**Jim Knight:** On 13 February 2008 we announced a Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of delivering a structured five hours a week cultural offer There is already much cultural activity taking place in and out of school and the pilots will build on this, to make sure all children and young people have the opportunity to take part in cultural activities.

We have published a prospectus seeking expressions of interest from partnerships in local areas around the country, setting out a core range of activities we believe young people should be able to engage with. However, this is very much a minimum and we expect additional cultural experiences to be offered. We are looking for innovative bids that will test different ways of delivering a variety of approaches to a comprehensive cultural offer over the next three years, including how the five hour offer can be delivered. The pilots will give us the information we need to make decisions about rolling out the offer nationally.

The deadline for bids is 7 April 2008. Successful applicants will be notified in May and work will begin in September 2008.

### English Language

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional teaching and financial resources are being made available to primary and secondary schools to help them meet the educational needs of children who do not have English as a first language in 2007-08. [169551]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 527W.

### Free School Meals

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of school children in *(a)* England and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency received free school meals in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [174296]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

### GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals sat A-Level examinations in 2007. [182582]

**Jim Knight:** The available information can be found in the following table, this has been taken from table 9 of the SFR 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07', which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

*Achievements of level 3 qualifications by free school meals and gender, 2007, England, students in maintained schools only*

| | *Number of 16 to 18-year-old candidates* | *Average point score per candidate* | *Average point score per entry* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Boys* | | | |
| FSM | 2,068 | 590.8 | 179.8 |
| Non-FSM | 62,418 | 729.5 | 198.5 |
| Unclassified[1] | 508 | 736.1 | 203.5 |
| All pupils | 64,994 | 725.2 | 198.0 |
| *Girls* | | | |
| FSM | 3,028 | 620.8 | 187.2 |
| Non-FSM | 73,702 | 767.2 | 207.5 |
| Unclassified[1] | 587 | 758.9 | 209.0 |
| All pupils | 77,317 | 761.4 | 206.8 |
| *Total* | | | |
| FSM | 5,096 | 608.6 | 184.2 |
| Non-FSM | 136,120 | 749.9 | 203.4 |
| Unclassified[1] | 1,095 | 748.3 | 206.5 |
| All pupils | 142,311 | 744.8 | 202.8 |

[1] Includes information refused or not obtained.

*Source:*
National Pupil Database.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils who obtained level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 in 2002 obtained five GCSEs at A* to C grade in 2007. [187876]

**Jim Knight:** For pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2007:

75 per cent. of pupils with Level 4 or above in KS2 English achieved five GCSEs or equivalent qualifications at grades A*-C;

75 per cent. of pupils with Level 4 or above in KS2 maths achieved five GCSEs or equivalent qualifications at grades A*-C;

79 per cent. of pupils with Level 4 or above in both KS2 English and KS2 maths achieved five GCSEs or equivalent qualifications at grades A*-C.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals gained five A* to C at GCSE, including English, science, mathematics and a foreign language in each of the last three years. [187165]

**Jim Knight:** The information is available in the following table, which also lists those studying the compulsory subjects only.

| | *Total number of pupils* | *Number achieving 5+A*-C inc. English, mathematics, Science and a foreign language* | *Percentage achieving 5+A*-C inc. English, mathematics, Science and a foreign language* | *Number achieving 5+A*-C inc. English, mathematics and Science* | *Percentage achieving 5+A*-C inc. English, mathematics and Science* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Pupils eligible for Free School Meals* | | | | | |
| 2004/05 | 80,554 | 6,541 | 8.1 | 12,089 | 15.0 |
| 2005/06 | 77,096 | 5,756 | 7.5 | 12,222 | 15.9 |
| 2006/07 | 77,502 | 5,755 | 7.4 | 13,156 | 17.0 |
| *Pupils not eligible for Free School Meals* | | | | | |
| 2004/05 | 504,132 | 141,901 | 28.1 | 212,207 | 42.1 |
| 2005/06 | 517,650 | 132,941 | 25.7 | 219,511 | 42.4 |
| 2006/07 | 523,797 | 127,453 | 24.3 | 227,182 | 43.4 |
| *All pupils* | | | | | |
| 2004/05 | 584,686 | 148,442 | 25.4 | 224,296 | 38.4 |
| 2005/06 | 594,746 | 138,697 | 23.3 | 231,733 | 39.0 |
| 2006/07 | 601,299 | 133,208 | 22.2 | 240,338 | 40.0 |

*Notes:*
1. Based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools.
2. Figures for 5+ A*-C include GCSE and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.
Figures for English, Mathematics, Science and a foreign language are based on GCSEs only.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE, excluding equivalents, applied GCSEs, media studies, law, psychology, statistics, physical education and humanities GCSE in the latest period for which figures are available. [182761]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Stockton on Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in Stockton left school with five A* to C grade GCSEs in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [188936]

**Jim Knight:** The percentage of 15-year-old pupils in Stockton that left school with five A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 1997 was 39.1 per cent., this rose to 60.0 per cent. in 2007. The England figure for 1997 was 45.1 per cent. rising to 60.8 per cent. in 2007. The latest information can be found in the SFR "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07" (Revised) at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

### Home Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support a child aged 14 years who is home educated and attends a local college on a part-time basis is entitled to receive towards the cost of course fees. [186174]

**Jim Knight:** We do not provide support towards the cost of course fees for home educated children. Although we encourage local authorities to provide support to home educating families where resources permit, authorities are under no duty to pay the course fees of a home educated child. Parents who elect to educate their child at home must be prepared to assume full financial responsibility.

### National Vocational Qualifications: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for a GNVQ qualification in 2007. [182756]

**Jim Knight:** This information is not held centrally by the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Primary Education: Catering

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of primary schools in each local authority area have no kitchen facilities for producing hot meals; and if he will make a statement. [187150]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. However, in its second annual survey of take-up of school meals in England, published in September 2007, the School Food Trust collected data by region and the data are available in the following table.

Providing a hot meal does not require every school to have a kitchen. There are several ways of reheating food on school premises, such as microwave ovens; or schools may use a centralised preparation and delivery service.

Over the next three years, we are providing a record £21.9 billion of capital support for investment in school buildings. Much of this funding is devolved to local authorities and schools for their local priorities, which can include installing or improving school kitchens and dining areas. As part of this funding, we are making available from April 2008 £150 million of targeted capital grant to those authorities with high need.

*Facilities for food preparation in primary and secondary schools in England (percentage of schools), by region*

*Percentage*

| *Region* | *Full production kitchen* | *Regen or mini kitchen* | *No facilities: Hot food transported from another school* | *Hot food transported from another source* | *Sandwich/cold food only* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary* | | | | | |
| North East | 75.9 | 15.4 | 8.1 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| North West | 84.9 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Yorkshire/Humber | 70.5 | 15.8 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Midlands | 63.1 | 3.7 | 20.4 | 12.5 | 0.4 |
| West Midlands | 64.0 | 21.0 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| East of England | 77.0 | 4.8 | 16.1 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Inner London | 71.8 | 10.4 | 13.1 | 4.3 | 0.4 |
| Outer London | 72.0 | 10.4 | 13.4 | 0.4 | 3.8 |
| South East | 59.6 | 5.2 | 22.2 | 0 | 13.0 |
| South West | 54.0 | 2.1 | 32.3 | 0.0 | 11.6 |
| All primary | 69.4 | 8.3 | 16.7 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| *Secondary* | | | | | |
| North East | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| North West | 99.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Yorkshire/Humber | 96.6 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Midlands | 99.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| West Midlands | 96.7 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East of England | 99.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Inner London | 96.2 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Outer London | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South East | 98.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| South West | 98.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| All secondary | 98.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 |

*Notes:*
1. Base (unweighted) primary: 93; secondary: 79
2. Analysis: weighted by number of schools catered for

### Private Education: Specialised Diplomas

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent schools he expects to offer the full range of diplomas from *(a)* September 2008 and *(b)* September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [189033]

**Jim Knight:** At present no independent schools are part of consortia planning to deliver Diplomas in September 2008. The outcome of applications for September 2009 will be announced in April.

The Government encourage independent schools to deliver Diplomas. We held a 14-19 Diploma conference for independent schools in December 2007 which was well attended and are planning a seminar in April this year for those independent schools which have expressed an interest in greater involvement.

### Pupils Exclusions: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have been permanently excluded from schools in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [169964]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 February, *Official Report*, column 1279W.

### Pupils: Diabetes

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of schools not allowing their staff to administer medicines such as insulin on the management of diabetes among pupils. [176982]

**Jim Knight:** This Department has not made such an assessment.

Our guidance to schools, 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings', issued jointly with the Department of Health in 2005, encourages schools and local authorities to develop local policies on the management of pupil's medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of children entitled to free schools meals that live in an area where more than 45 per cent. of children are living in families in receipt of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [187140]

**Jim Knight:** Free school meals provide additional help to children in non-working families (where the adults either do not work, or work for less than 16 hours per week). These families are reliant on 'welfare support payments' and are not able to claim the additional working tax credit' that is available to low income working families (adults working 16+ hours per week).

The requested information is set out in the following table:

*Number and proportion of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals living in deprived[2] areas*

| | *Number of pupils not eligible for FSM* | *Number of pupils eligible for FSM* | *Total pupils* | *Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Areas where less than 45 per cent. of children are income deprived | 4,850,109 | 659,516 | 5,509,625 | 12.0 |
| Areas where more than 45 per cent. of children are income deprived | 476,698 | 351,296 | 827,994 | 42.4 |
| All children | 5,326,807 | 1,010,812 | 6,337,619 | 15.9 |

[1] Pupils aged 5 to 15 years.
[2] Based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2004.
*Source:*
School Census 2007

### Pupils: Internet

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued on technical means of restricting pupils' access to inappropriate content via the internet at school. [188391]

**Jim Knight:** Advice on how to filter internet access in schools is provided by the British Educational and Communications Technology Agency, Becta. Advice is available on Becta's Schools site at http://schools.becta.org.uk under e-safety. Schools are also encouraged to ensure that their ICT facilities meet the requirements of Becta's functional and technical specifications for institutional infrastructure.

With regard to internet access, schools are encouraged to employ content and email filtering systems. The above specifications recommend these are managed by local authorities and/or regional broadband consortia (RBCs) as appropriate, in discussion with schools. Becta also maintains an accreditation process for providers of internet services to education. This is open to local authorities and RBCs as well as commercial providers. Becta strongly encourages all organisations providing internet services to education to put their service forward for accreditation.

Becta also publishes a range of e-safety guidance for schools. The following are freely available from Becta's publications website at http://publications.becta.org.uk:

Safeguarding children online - a guide for school leaders (published January 2008)

Safeguarding children in a digital world (published February 2006)

E-safety (revised): Developing whole-school policies to support effective practice (published February 2006)

In addition to Becta's own advice, the Department and Becta have provided support to Childnet to produce two CD ROMs in the 'Know IT All' series. The first provides advice and guidance to parents to promote safe use of the internet in the home by children. 'Know IT All For Schools' is aimed at secondary schools.

### Safety Value Fund

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Milton Keynes Unitary Authority made an application for the safety value fund before the closing date of 29 February. [188811]

**Jim Knight:** Milton Keynes Unitary Authority made an application for the Basic Need Safety Valve before the closing date of 29 February.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the application by Milton Keynes Unitary Authority for the safety valve fund was for. [189195]

**Jim Knight:** Milton Keynes' application for additional funding for new pupil places is the subject of ongoing discussion between the Department's officials and officers from the local authority. Accordingly, agreed application figures are not available at this stage.

## Schools

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children are being taught in schools with *(a)* between 500 and 999 and *(b)* less than 500 pupils; [188576]

(2) how many school children were in schools with over *(a)* 1,000 and *(b)* 2,000 pupils in the latest year for which figures are available. [188584]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information relating to maintained schools in England is shown in the following table.

*Maintained schools: number of schools by size[1]—January 2007*

*England*

*Primary schools[2]*

| *Size of school* | *Number of schools* | *Headcount of full time pupils* | *Headcount of part time pupils* | *Total headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 499 pupils | 16,878 | 3,577,150 | 237,350 | 3,814,500 |
| 500 pupils to 999 pupils | 483 | 271,090 | 22,090 | 293,180 |
| 1,000 pupils to 1,999 pupils | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2,000 pupils and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 17,361 | 3,848,240 | 259,440 | 4,107,680 |

*England*

*Secondary schools[2]*

| *Size of school* | *Number of schools* | *Headcount of full time pupils* | *Headcount of part time pupils* | *Total headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 499 pupils | 344 | 123,390 | 30 | 123,410 |
| 500 pupils to 999 pupils | 1,465 | 1,143,230 | 120 | 1,143,350 |
| 1,000 pupils to 1,999 pupils | 1,512 | 1,953,840 | 350 | 1,954,190 |
| 2,000 pupils and over | 22 | 47,530 | # | 47,540 |
| Total | 3,343 | 3,267,990 | 500 | 3,268,490 |

*England*

*Maintained special schools*

| *Size of school* | *Number of schools* | *Headcount of full time pupils* | *Headcount of part time pupils* | *Total headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 499 pupils | 1,006 | 83,050 | 1,630 | 84,690 |
| 500 pupils to 999 pupils | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1,000 pupils to 1,999 pupils | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2,000 pupils and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,006 | 83,050 | 1,630 | 84,690 |

*England*

*Pupil referral units*

| *Size of school* | *Number of schools* | *Headcount of full time pupils* | *Headcount of part time pupils* | *Total headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 499 pupils | 448 | 15,160 | 0 | 15,160 |
| 500 pupils to 999 pupils | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1,000 pupils to 1,999 pupils | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2,000 pupils and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 448 | 15,160 | 0 | 15,160 |

*England*

*Total*

| *Size of school* | *Number of schools* | *Headcount of full time pupils* | *Headcount of part time pupils* | *Total headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 499 pupils | 18,676 | 3,798,750 | 239,010 | 4,037,760 |
| 500 pupils to 999 pupils | 1,948 | 1,414,320 | 22,210 | 1,436,530 |
| 1,000 pupils to 1,999 pupils | 1,512 | 1,953,840 | 350 | 1,954,190 |
| 2,000 pupils and over | 22 | 47,530 | # | 47,540 |
| Total | 22,158 | 7,214,440 | 261,570 | 7,476,010 |

# = Less than 5.

[1] Based on a headcount of pupils in schools. Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers in pupil referral units.

[2] Includes middle deemed schools.

*Note:*

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

## Schools: Catering

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools in each English local authority area that do not have kitchen facilities capable of serving daily hot meals; and if he will make a statement. [181788]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. However, in its second annual survey of take-up of school meals in England, published in September 2007, the School Food Trust collected data by region. The data is in the following table.

Providing a hot meal does not require every school to have a kitchen. There are several ways of reheating food on school premises, such as microwave ovens; or schools may use a centralised preparation and delivery service.

Over the next three years, we are providing a record £21.9 billion of capital support for investment in school buildings. Much of this funding is devolved to local authorities and schools for their local priorities, which can include installing or improving school kitchens and dining areas. As part of this funding, we are making available from April 2008 £150 million of targeted capital grant to those authorities with high need.

*Table 8: Facilities for food preparation in primary and secondary schools in England (percentage of schools), by region*

| | *Full production kitchen* | *Regen or mini kitchen* | *No facilities—hot food transported from another school* | *No Facilities—hot food transported from another source* | *No facilities—sandwich/cold food only* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary* | | | | | |
| North East | 75.9 | 15.4 | 8.1 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| North West | 84.9 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Yorkshire/Humber | 70.5 | 15.8 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Midlands | 63.1 | 3.7 | 20.4 | 12.5 | 0.4 |
| West Midlands | 64.0 | 21.0 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| East of England | 77.0 | 4.8 | 16.1 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Inner London | 71.8 | 10.4 | 13.1 | 4.3 | 0.4 |
| Outer London | 72.0 | 10.4 | 13.4 | 0.4 | 3.8 |
| South East | 59.6 | 5.2 | 22.2 | 0 | 13.0 |
| South West | 54.0 | 2.1 | 32.3 | 0.0 | 11.6 |
| All primary | 69.4 | 8.3 | 16.7 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| *Secondary* | | | | | |
| North East | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| North West | 99.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Yorkshire/Humber | 96.6 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Midlands | 99.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| West Midlands | 96.7 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East of England | 99.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Inner London | 96.2 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Outer London | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South East | 98.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| South West | 98.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| All secondary | 98.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 |

*Note:*
base (unweighted): primary: 93; secondary: 79
analysis: weighted by number of schools

## Schools: Finance

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to schools in the West Chelmsford constituency for *(a)* books, *(b)* computers, *(c)* musical instruments and *(d)* sports equipment in (i) the latest period for which figures are available and (ii) 2001. [169764]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not collect this information. It is a matter for each local authority and its schools to determine locally the level of funding for each of these areas.

## Schools: Inspections

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Ofsted inspections cost in each of the last three years. [187328]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 February 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response. You asked for an estimate of the cost of Ofsted inspections over the last three years.

On 1 April 2007, and following the Education and Inspections Act 2006, a new, single inspectorate came into being, 'The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills'. It has taken on responsibilities from four existing inspectorates: the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI); the work relating to children and young peoples of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI); the work relating to the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Services of HM Inspectorate of Court Administration (HMICA); and the work of the former Ofsted.

The relevant costs of these inspectorates for the three years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 are set out in the table below. These costs include the cost of Ofsted for the three years and the costs of inspection activity undertaken by other bodies prior to the transfer of these responsibilities on 1 April 2007. The 2007/08 figure refers to the costs of the new, single inspectorate form 1 April 2007 onwards.

*Table A: Relevant Costs of Inspectorates*

| *Inspectorate* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *£ million 2007/08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ofsted | 223 | 211.6 | 236.6 |
| ALI | 30.3 | 25 | — |
| CSCI | 28.6 | 28.9 | — |
| HMICA-CAFCASS | 0.5 | 0.5 | — |
| Total | 282.4 | 266 | 236.6 |

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

## Secondary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the social class attainment gap at Key Stage 4 between the most deprived and least deprived quartile of children was in each year between 1997 and 2007 using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. [187144]

**Jim Knight:** This type of information has only been available since 2002. We are unable to supply the information requested in the time allowed. The available information is set out in the following table:

*GCSE[1] attainment by IDACF decile of pupil residence, 2002 and 2007[2]*

| *IDACI decile* | *5+ A*-C 2002* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| 0-10 most deprived | 26.6 | 42.3 |
| 10-20 | 32.0 | 45.2 |
| 20-30 | 37.6 | 49.1 |
| 30-40 | 43.3 | 53.9 |
| 40-50 | 49.4 | 58.8 |
| 50-60 | 54.4 | 63.0 |
| 60-70 | 59.1 | 67.1 |
| 70-80 | 63.4 | 70.3 |
| 80-90 | 67.1 | 73.7 |
| 90-100 least deprived | 73.5 | 78.6 |

[1] The 2002 figures include GCSEs and GNVQ equivalent results for pupils aged 15. The 2007 figures include GCSE, GNVQ and a range of other approved qualifications for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. As such the figures are not directly comparable.
[2] Based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2004.
[3] 2007 data are provisional.
*Source:*
National Pupil Database

## Secondary Schools: Construction

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new secondary schools are planned to be built in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Regional Strategy area in the next 10 years; and whether one is planned to be built in Wellingborough in that period. [183814]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not maintain records of how many new secondary schools will be built within each local authority or region. This is because it relies on local authorities, using detailed local knowledge of demand and the capacity of existing schools, to determine priorities between improvement, expansion of existing schools, reorganisation, and new build. Capital resources for schools are higher than ever before, and allocations are planned to amount to £21.9 billion over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

## Specialist Schools: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to encourage more schools in the West Midlands to achieve specialist status. [189143]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* All maintained secondary schools who meet the criteria for the specialist schools programme are encouraged to apply for specialist status. This includes special schools with secondary aged pupils. We grant the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the Youth Sport Trust funding to support and advise all aspiring specialist schools.

There are currently 336 designated specialist schools in the West Midlands, which is around 93 per cent. of all eligible secondary schools in that region. There are also 26 special schools designated of which 15 have curriculum specialisms and 11 have special educational needs/inclusion specialisms.

## Teachers: Foreigners

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers from overseas have been awarded qualified teacher status, broken down by country. [188374]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of teachers from the European economic area (EEA) who were awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) between 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007 based on mutual recognition within the European Union (EU).

*Number of teachers from the EEA awarded QTS in 2006/07*

| *European economic area* | *Number of teachers awarded QTS* |
|---|---|
| Austria | 14 |
| Belgium | 6 |
| Cyprus | 5 |
| Czech Republic | 31 |
| Denmark | 9 |
| Estonia | 8 |
| Finland | 6 |
| France | 27 |

*Number of teachers from the EEA awarded QTS in 2006/07*

| European economic area | Number of teachers awarded QTS |
|---|---|
| Germany | 38 |
| Greece | 15 |
| Hungary | 110 |
| Iceland | 1 |
| Italy | 15 |
| Latvia | 11 |
| Lithuania | 39 |
| Malta | 11 |
| Netherlands | 28 |
| Norway | 4 |
| Poland | 707 |
| Portugal | 49 |
| Republic of Ireland | 41 |
| Slovakia | 93 |
| Slovenia | 2 |
| Spain | 270 |
| Sweden | 13 |
| Switzerland | 9 |
| EEA total | 1,362 |

*Notes:*
1. These teachers have not undertaken any form of ITT in England.
2. All these teachers are exempt from the requirement to undertake an induction period in England and it is for employers to carry out background checks and assess their competency in English.

*Source:*
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)

Teachers from outside the EEA with prior qualifications in teaching can gain QTS through the Overseas Trained Teachers Programme (OTTP). In 2005/06 1,150 trainees gained QTS through the OTTP. The nationality of OTTP trainees is not collected centrally.

In addition trainees from overseas with no prior teaching qualifications can gain QTS through a mainstream ITT course or an Employment Based Route ITT (EBITT) course. The nationality of mainstream and EBITT trainees is not collected centrally.

## Teachers: Labour Turnover

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teachers entering the profession left the profession within (i) three years and (ii) five years in the latest period for which figures are available. [169136]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of teachers who left full and part-time service before March 2006 after entering service three and five years earlier. These teachers attained qualified teacher status in the calendar year before entering service.

*Number of teachers who had left full and part-time[1] service before March 2006 after first entering service three and five years earlier*

| | Number in service in March: | | | Number in service in March: | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2006 | Number who left the service by March 2006[2] | 2003 | 2006 | Number who left the service by March 2006[2] |
| *Left service after three years (year qualified 2002)* | | | | | | |
| Full-time[3] | 20,790 | 16,260 | 4,530 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Part-time[3] | 760 | 1,310 | -550 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 21,550 | 17,580 | 3,980 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *Left service after five years (year qualified 2002)* | | | | | | |
| Full-time[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 16,780 | 11,540 | 5,240 |
| Part-time[3] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 600 | 1,470 | -870 |
| Total | n/a | n/a | n/a | 17,380 | 13,000 | 4,380 |

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] The number of part-time teaches may have been underestimated by between 10 and 20 per cent. due to the under recording of these teachers.
[2] The figures for those leaving service includes teachers who have gone on to teaching service outside of the English maintained sector and those that have left teaching temporarily.
[3] Some teachers have moved from part-time to full-time within this period which results in a negative number for teachers who have left part-time service and vice versa.

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
Database of Teacher Records.

## Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established; [166535]

(2) when he expects to answer Question 166535, on telephone contact centres, tabled on 15 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne. [190896]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department does not operate a telephone contact centre as such; rather, there is a central Public Communications Unit (PCU) that deals with telephone inquiries, e-mails, written correspondence and public consultations.

In line with the Government's response to Sir David Varney's report on Service Transformation, the PCU is using information gathered against the performance

management indicators published by The Citizen and Business Contact Centre Council (CBCCC) to monitor its effectiveness.

The PCU operates a flexible resourcing model, moving people between the various contact channels according to business need. It is not therefore possible to provide a figure for the number of people employed specifically on telephone contact work.

In addition to the PCU, DCSF also contracts with suppliers to provide telephone helpline services to the public, usually in support of information campaigns. These contracts cover the provision of data by the suppliers to enable the Department to ensure that the supplier is meeting the Key Performance Indicators set out in the contract. Additionally, the Department may run mystery shopping or user survey research to further monitor the performance of the contact centres. To provide information on the number of people employed by these suppliers on DCSF work would incur disproportionate cost.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on employment opportunities for young people aged 16 to 18 years of the Government's plans to raise the education leaving age to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [163325]

**Jim Knight:** The estimated costs and benefits of raising the participation age are set out in the impact assessment published alongside the Education and Skills Bill on 29 November. The estimates of the costs to employers are based on a range of assumptions and scenarios of how employers will respond to the policy. The impact assessment can be accessed at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/educationandskills/docs/Impact_Assessment_Education and Skills_Bill.pdf

and I have placed a copy in the Library of the House. Those employing 16 and 17-year-olds for less than 20 hours a week and for less than a period of eight weeks will be unaffected. We will work with employers to ensure they fully understand their duties under this policy and will continue to support them in employing young people and in providing accredited training where appropriate.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Death

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* the North East, broken down by local authority area, and *(b)* the UK, broken down by (i) region and (ii) country in (A) 2004, (B) 2005, (C) 2006 and (D) 2007; and what the death rate per head of population from alcohol-related causes was in each case. [190819]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Leiter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* the North East, broken down by local authority area, and *(b)*, the UK, broken down by (i) region and (ii) country in (A) 2004, (B) 2005, (C) 2006 and (D) 2007; and what the death rate per head of population from alcohol-related causes was in each case. I am replying in her absence. (190819)

The following tables attached provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* local authorities in the North East government office region, *(b)* government office regions in England, and *(c)* the United Kingdom and its constituent countries, from 2004 to 2006 (the latest year available). Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population are also shown.

*Table 1: Number of deaths and age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1, 2] with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[3], local authorities in North East Government Office Region[4], 2004 to 2006*

| | Deaths (persons) | | | Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004-2006 |
| Local authority | | | | |
| Alnwick | 4 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 4 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| Blyth Valley | 16 | 11 | 14 | 15 |
| Castle Morpeth | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| Chester-le-Street | 8 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Darlington | 19 | 13 | 17 | 15 |
| Derwentside | 13 | 19 | 9 | 14 |
| Durham | 7 | 14 | 14 | 12 |
| Easington | 19 | 24 | 9 | 17 |
| Gateshead | 38 | 37 | 36 | 18 |
| Hartlepool | 18 | 15 | 19 | 17 |
| Middlesbrough | 25 | 20 | 23 | 17 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 70 | 55 | 58 | 24 |
| North Tyneside | 44 | 36 | 36 | 18 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 18 | 22 | 20 | 13 |
| Sedgefield | 9 | 6 | 14 | 10 |
| South Tyneside | 32 | 22 | 34 | 17 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 22 | 28 | 28 | 13 |
| Sunderland | 37 | 46 | 54 | 15 |
| Teesdale | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Tynedale | 4 | 3 | 11 | 9 |
| Wansbeck | 9 | 7 | 11 | 13 |
| Wear valley | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 |

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European standard population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] It is ONS practice not to calculate mortality rates where there are fewer than 10 deaths in an area, as rates based on such small numbers are susceptible to wide random fluctuations. Consequently, rates for local authorities were calculated based on deaths in the years 2004 to 2006 combined. For two local authorities, no rate could be calculated even for the aggregated three year period (shown as '—').

[3] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards, for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ICD-9 for the years 1997 to 1999 and ICD-10 for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

*Table 2. Number of deaths and age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1] with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[2], Government office regions in England, United Kingdom and constituent countries, 2004 to 2006[3]*

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *Deaths* | *Rate* | *Deaths* | *Rate* | *Deaths* | *Rate* |
| Government office region | | | | | | |
| North East | 426 | 16 | 402 | 15 | 435 | 16 |
| North West | 1,166 | 16 | 1,173 | 16 | 1,209 | 17 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 615 | 11 | 643 | 12 | 679 | 13 |
| East Midlands | 482 | 10 | 506 | 10 | 505 | 10 |
| West Midlands | 743 | 13 | 776 | 14 | 801 | 14 |
| East of England | 485 | 8 | 492 | 8 | 556 | 9 |
| London | 758 | 11 | 744 | 11 | 824 | 12 |
| South East | 832 | 9 | 874 | 9 | 921 | 10 |
| South West | 529 | 9 | 581 | 10 | 587 | 10 |
| United Kingdom | 8,221 | 13 | 8,386 | 13 | 8,758 | 13 |
| England | 6,036 | 11 | 6,191 | 11 | 6,517 | 12 |
| Wales | 416 | 13 | 407 | 12 | 430 | 13 |
| Scotland | 1,478 | 26 | 1,513 | 27 | 1,546 | 27 |
| Northern Ireland | 255 | 15 | 246 | 15 | 248 | 14 |

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 popsulation, standardised to the European standard population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards, for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ICD-9 for the years 1997 to 1999 and ICD-10 for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following boxes.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007. Figures presented for the United Kingdom include non-residents, which are excluded from the figures for constituent countries, government office regions and local authorities.

*Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| *Cause of death* | *ICD-10 code(s)* |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from an alcohol-related underlying cause aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50, *(e)* 51 to 60, *(f)* 61 years and above in each of the last 10 years, broken down by sex. [191395]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from an alcohol-related underlying cause aged (a) under 20, (b) 21 to 30, (c) 31 to 40, (d) 41 to 50, (e) 51 to 60, (f) 61 years and above in each of the last 10 years, broken down by sex. I am replying in her absence. (191395)

The table below contains the numbers of deaths in England and Wales with an underlying cause included in the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. Numbers are provided by sex and standard ONS age group from 1997 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

*Number of alcohol-related deaths[1] by age group and sex, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2]*

| | *Under 20* | *20-29* | *30-39* | *40-49* | *50-59* | *60 plus* | *All ages* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Male* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 8 | 36 | 280 | 720 | 843 | 1,146 | 3,033 |
| 1998 | 8 | 47 | 326 | 800 | 893 | 1,238 | 3,312 |
| 1999 | 3 | 42 | 304 | 792 | 1,004 | 1,253 | 3,398 |
| 2000 | 5 | 38 | 293 | 805 | 1,041 | 1,267 | 3,449 |
| 2001 | 9 | 54 | 338 | 911 | 1,181 | 1,350 | 3,843 |
| 2002 | 1 | 52 | 348 | 909 | 1,133 | 1,438 | 3,881 |
| 2003 | 5 | 47 | 373 | 992 | 1,312 | 1,526 | 4,255 |
| 2004 | 2 | 50 | 332 | 964 | 1,295 | 1,577 | 4,220 |
| 2005 | 9 | 45 | 321 | 981 | 1,373 | 1,645 | 4,374 |
| 2006 | 2 | 51 | 367 | 1,036 | 1,406 | 1,693 | 4,555 |
| *Female* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 5 | 18 | 133 | 352 | 392 | 830 | 1,730 |
| 1998 | 5 | 15 | 138 | 318 | 486 | 810 | 1,772 |
| 1999 | 3 | 20 | 170 | 428 | 478 | 801 | 1,900 |
| 2000 | 2 | 30 | 164 | 406 | 524 | 827 | 1,953 |
| 2001 | 1 | 16 | 161 | 441 | 564 | 869 | 2,052 |
| 2002 | 0 | 20 | 147 | 494 | 539 | 895 | 2,095 |
| 2003 | 3 | 26 | 185 | 444 | 585 | 927 | 2,170 |
| 2004 | 2 | 21 | 189 | 464 | 631 | 961 | 2,268 |
| 2005 | 1 | 22 | 176 | 498 | 637 | 919 | 2,253 |
| 2006 | 1 | 33 | 167 | 548 | 661 | 999 | 2,409 |

[1] Selected using the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. The International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9,) codes listed as follows were used for years from 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes from 2001 onwards.
*ICD-9:*
291: Alcoholic psychoses
303: Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0: Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5: Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571: Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (excluding 571.6: Biliary cirrhosis)
E860: Accidental poisoning by alcohol
*ICD- 10:*
F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
G31.2: Denegration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1: Alcoholic polyneuropathy
I42.6: Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2: Alcoholic gastritis
K70: Alcoholic liver disease
K73: Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74: Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5: Biliary cirrhosis)
K86.0: Alcohol induced pancreatitis
X45: Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
X65: Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Y15: Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Census: Sexuality

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation the Office for National Statistics has undertaken on the inclusion of a question relating to sexual orientation on the 2011 census; and if he will make a statement; [190327]

(2) what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of UK residents who consider themselves to be *(a)* gay male, *(b)* bisexual male, *(c)* bisexual female and *(d)* transgender; and what methodology the Office uses to make such estimates. [190328]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what consultation the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has undertaken on the inclusion of a question relating to sexuality on the 2011 Census and what estimate has been made of the number of UK residents who consider themselves to be (a) gay male, (b) male bisexual, (c) female bisexual and (d) transgender; and what methodology the Office uses to make any such estimates. I am replying in her absence. (190327, 190328)

ONS has undertaken extensive consultation with users of census data regarding the topics and questions to be asked in the 2011 Census. A formal public consultation was carried out from May to August 2005, the details of which are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census.asp

The ONS response to the consultation was published in March 2006 and details can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp

Consultation has continued through public road shows, the National Statistics website, and meetings with stakeholders and user groups.

The consultation identified an increasing requirement for information on sexual identity. ONS regards meeting this requirement as a priority but takes the view that there are better ways than the census to collect timely and reliable information on sexual identity. A paper setting out the rationale is in the response link shown above.

The Office for National Statistics does not at present produce estimates of the number of UK residents who consider themselves to be gay, bisexual or transgender.

In view of the clear need for information about sexual identity ONS has initiated a Sexual Identity Project with the aim of developing a question (or set of questions) on sexual identity which can be used on social surveys and for equality monitoring purposes. A number of focus group studies have been carried out as well as a series of trials on the National Statistics Omnibus Survey. Transgender relates to gender not sexual identity and is not covered by the project.

As acceptable question(s) are developed, after testing they will be added to the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) in 2009.

Information on the Sexual Identity Project detailing the work completed so far and outlining a future programme of work can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/measuring-equality/sexual-identity/default.asp

## Copyright: Enforcement

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding he has *(a)* given and *(b)* plans to give to local authorities to enforce section 107A of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; what (i) discussions he has had and (ii) representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [190782]

**Angela Eagle:** As part of the 2006 pre-Budget report, the then Chancellor announced £5 million in new funding for councils in the United Kingdom in 2007-08 to fund the new burden on local authorities as a result of the introduction of section 107A and 198A of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988. Funding was rolled into revenue support grant (RSG) at the first available opportunity as part of the first three year settlement for local Government covering 2008-09 to 2010-11. RSG is not hypothecated to a particular service and it is not therefore possible to identify amounts provided for particular initiatives.

The spending plans for local Government announced in the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) covering RSG, and the settlement for the devolved Administrations, take into account local authorities' responsibilities under s107A and 198A. These plans reflect the discussions which the Department had with each Government Department and with interested bodies such as local authorities, during CSR07. The Government worked closely with local authorities to identify the pressures councils faced, and the scope for managing them.

In relation to representations on this issue, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

## Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions disciplinary action has been taken against staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year for which figures are available. [180239]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is in the following table.

| | HMT | HMRC | OGCBS | OGC | NSandI | DMO | GAD | VOA | RM | ONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1991 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1992 | 5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1993 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1994 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | HMT | HMRC | OGCBS | OGC | NSandI | DM0 | GAD | VOA | RM | ONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 30 | n/a | n/a |
| 1996 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 30 | n/a | n/a |
| 1997 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 14 | n/a | n/a |
| 1998 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 37 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 12 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | 5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 28 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 19 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 37 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003 | <5 | n/a | <5 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 23 | n/a |
| 2004 | <5 | n/a | 0 | n/a | <5 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 42 | 8 |
| 2005 | 5 | n/a | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 32 | 28 |
| 2006 | 8 | n/a | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 29 | 30 |
| 2007 | 7 | 483 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 24 | 14 |

<.=Less than.
n/a = Not available.
*Notes:*
1. OGC was formed in 2000 by the merger of CCTA, PACE and HMT staff. OGC buying solutions was formed as an Executive Agency in 2001. HMRC was created in 2005 following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.
2. When the number is less than five, the exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.
3. The years for which figures are not available cannot be provided because this would involve disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191263]

**Angela Eagle:** As is the case with all Government Departments, HM Treasury publishes its impact assessments on its website. In the past 12 months, my Department has produced 22 impact assessments to accompany consultations and 11 final impact assessments.

## Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190809]

**Angela Eagle:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

## Drugs: Death

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths related to the misuse of zed tranquillisers were recorded in Wales where *(a)* such abuse was the only drug-related cause of death recorded and *(b)* misuse of other drugs was recorded as a contributory cause between 1999 and 2006. [190208]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths related to the misuse of zed tranquilisers were recorded in Wales where (a) such abuse was the only drug-related cause of death recorded and (b) misuse of other drugs were recorded as a contributory cause between 1999 and 2006. I am replying in her absence. (190208)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports annually on deaths related to drug poisoning and drug misuse in England and Wales. ONS defines drug misuse deaths as death: where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act was involved.

'Zed tranquilisers' are taken to be the three non-benzodiazepine hypnotics: zaleplon, zolpidem and zopiclone. These are not controlled substances and so are not included in ONS statistics on drug-misuse deaths.

In 1999-2006 there were no drug poisoning deaths for Wales where zaleplon, zolpidem or zopiclone were the only drugs mentioned on the death record. The number of drug poisoning deaths, where these substances were mentioned with other drugs on the death record, is provided in the table below for the years 1999-2006.

*Deaths from drug poisoning[1] where zaleplon, zolpidem or zopiclone were mentioned on the death record, Wales[2], 1999 to 2006[3]*

| | Number of deaths |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 1 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | — |
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | — |
| 2005 | 2 |
| 2006 | 2 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 303, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E980.0-E980.5 and E962,0 for the years 1999 and 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 andY10-Y14 from 2001 onwards.
[2] Deaths of usual residents of Wales.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Emigration

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many emigrants from the UK counted for the purpose of calculating emigration were *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK nationals of working age and *(c)* skilled workers who were UK nationals of working age in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total emigration figure in each year each of these figures represent; [177453]

(2) from which 20 countries the most immigrants to the UK came in each of the last 10 years; and how many of each nationality immigrated in each year; [177406]

(3) how many *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK nationals emigrated from the UK in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. [177411]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions relating to nationality of migrants:

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, from which 20 countries the most immigrants to the UK came in each of the last 10 years; and how many of each nationality immigrated in each year. (177406)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) UK nationals and (b) non-UK nationals emigrated from the UK in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. (177411)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many emigrants from the UK counted for the purpose of calculating emigration were (a) UK nationals, (b) UK nationals of working age and (c) skilled workers who were UK nationals of working age in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total emigration figure in each year each of these figures represent. (177453)

I am replying in her absence.

A long-term international migrant is defined as someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence. This is the United Nations recommended definition of a long-term international migrant and is the definition used for calculating population estimates and projections.

Total International Migration (TIM) estimates provide the most comprehensive figures on long-term international migration. The main source for producing these estimates is the International Passenger Survey (IPS).

While other migration flows, not captured by the IPS, are included in the TIM estimates, the nature of these other data sources and the methods used to produce TIM mean that some detailed queries can only be answered using the IPS. As a sample survey, data from the IPS are subject to a statistical margin of error.

For IPS purposes "citizenship" is taken to be the nationality of the passport being used by the passenger and in this context 'British' includes the whole of the UK and Gibraltar. These definitions have been used in providing the information you have requested.

Table 1 lists the top 20 citizenships of those migrating into the UK in each of the years 1997 to 2006. The top category in each year, British citizens, predominantly comprises British passport holders returning to the UK after a stay of a year or more abroad. As indicated in the table, estimates for some of the top 20 countries have a wide margin of statistical sampling error. For this reason, in Table 2, estimated numbers are presented for combined years for the top 10 countries only. The tables all refer to the citizenship of the immigrant, not their country of last residence. (177406)

Table 3 attached, shows how many British nationals and non British nationals emigrated from the UK in each of the years between 1997 and 2006 (the latest year available), broken down by age group and sex. (177411)

Table 4, attached, gives the International Passenger Survey estimates of emigration of British citizens by working age and previous occupation and as a percentage of total emigration, for the United Kingdom. IPS data do not specifically identify 'skilled workers'. The closest prosy is 'usual occupation prior to migration' which is based on very broad occupational groupings. Most of those in the 'professional and managerial' category could be considered skilled workers although some, such as professionals taking early retirement would not fall under this category. Also, the 'manual and clerical' grouping, which covers all other workers, may include some skilled workers such as tradesmen and so this is also shown for information. (177453)

*Table 1 International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, top 20 citizenships migrating into the UK, time series 1997 to 2006, part 1*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | British | British | British | British | British |
| 2 | France[1] | Australia | Australia | Australia | Australia |
| 3 | Australia | United States of America | United States of America | India | France[1] |
| 4 | United States of America | France[1] | France[1] | China (Peoples Republic) | India |
| 5 | Malaysia | New Zealand | New Zealand | France[1] | Germany |
| 6 | India | Greece | South Africa | United States of America | South Africa |
| 7 | Greece[1] | South Africa | China (Peoples Republic) | South Africa[1] | China (Peoples Republic) |
| 8 | Germany[1] | Italy[1] | India | New Zealand | United States of America |
| 9 | Japan | Germany[1] | Greece[1] | Germany[1] | Philippines |
| 10 | New Zealand | Spain[1] | Germany[1] | Pakistan | New Zealand |
| 11 | South Africa[1] | Japan | Pakistan[1] | Italy[1] | Pakistan[1] |
| 12 | Pakistan | India | Japan | Canada[1] | South Korea[1] |
| 13 | Bangladesh | Malaysia[1] | Philippines[1] | Japan | Malaysia |
| 14 | Canada[1] | Canada[1] | Slovakia[1] | Philippines | Japan |
| 15 | Netherlands[1] | China (Peoples Republic)[1] | Italy[1] | Malaysia | Bangladesh |
| 16 | Sweden[1] | Mauritius[1] | Malaysia | Nigeria[1] | Greece[1] |
| 17 | South Korea[1] | Pakistan | Denmark[1] | Greece[1] | Canada[1] |
| 18 | Spain[1] | Sweden[1] | Belgium[1] | South Korea[1] | Zimbabwe[1] |
| 19 | Cyprus[1] | Netherlands[1] | Austria[1] | Netherlands[1] | Thailand |

*Table 1 International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, top 20 citizenships migrating into the UK, time series 1997 to 2006, part 1*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Finland[1] | Denmark[1] | Kenya[1] | Sri Lanka | Hungary[1] |

[1] Countries where the estimate has a standard error >25 per cent., these estimates are considered less reliable than other estimates.

*Notes:*

1. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.

2. This table relates solely to the IPS. IPS data form the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

*Table 1 International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, top 20 citizenships migrating into the UK, time series 1997 to 2006, part 2*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | British | British | British | British | British |
| 2 | China (Peoples Republic) | China (Peoples Republic) | India | Poland | Poland |
| 3 | South Africa | India | China (Peoples Republic) | India | India |
| 4 | India | France[1] | South Africa | South Africa | Pakistan |
| 5 | Philippines | Australia | Australia | China (Peoples Republic) | Australia |
| 6 | Australia | South Africa | Pakistan | Australia | China (Peoples Republic) |
| 7 | United States of America | United States of America | Poland[1] | Pakistan | South Africa |
| 8 | Germany[1] | Philippines | United States of America | United States of America | United States of America |
| 9 | New Zealand | Pakistan | Philippines | Germany[1] | Germany |
| 10 | Spain[1] | Portugal[1] | Germany[1] | New Zealand | New Zealand |
| 11 | France[1] | New Zealand | Lithuania[1] | Japan[1] | Philippines[1] |
| 12 | Japan[1] | Germany[1] | France[1] | Philippines | Bangladesh |
| 13 | Pakistan | Ghana | Nigeria | Bangladesh | Nigeria |
| 14 | Italy[1] | Netherlands[1] | New Zealand | Spain[1] | Slovakia[1] |
| 15 | Canada | Canada | Zimbabwe[1] | Nigeria | Thailand[1] |
| 16 | Hong Kong[1] | Sri Lanka | Spain[1] | Czech state[1] | France[1] |
| 17 | Netherlands[1] | Japan | Czech state[1] | Slovakia[1] | Malaysia[1] |
| 18 | Kenya[1] | Malaysia[1] | Slovakia[1] | Sri Lanka[1] | Canada |
| 19 | Sri Lanka | Bangladesh | Sweden[1] | Malaysia[1] | Spain[1] |
| 20 | Greece[1] | Nigeria | Thailand[1] | Italy[1] | Sri Lanka |

[1] Countries where the estimate has a standard error >25 per cent., these estimates are considered less reliable than other estimates.

*Notes:*

1. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.

2. This table relates solely to the IPS. IPS data form the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

*Table 2 International migration, top 10 citizenships migrating to the UK, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 1997 to 2006 in 2 year groupings*

| | 1997-98 | Estimate | 1999-2000 | Estimate | 2001-02 | Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All citizenships | 591 | All citizenships | 713 | All citizenships | 758 |
| 1 | British | 195 | British | 214 | British | 207 |
| 2 | Australia | 39 | Australia | 50 | Australia | 51 |
| 3 | France | 36 | United States of America | 31 | China (Peoples Republic) | 43 |
| 4 | United States of America | 30 | China (Peoples Republic | 28 | India | 37 |
| 5 | Greece | 2 | France | 28 | South Africa | 35 |
| 6 | New Zealand | 21 | India | 27 | Philippines | 33 |
| 7 | Germany | 17 | South Africa | 26 | United States of America | 30 |
| 8 | South Africa | 16 | New Zealand | 25 | Germany | 28 |
| 9 | India | 16 | Germany | 20 | France | 25 |
| 10 | Malaysia | 15 | Pakistan | 17 | New Zealand | 21 |

| | 2003-04 | Estimate | 2005-06 | Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All citizenships | 945 | All citizenships | 1,025 |
| 1 | British | 183 | British | 169 |
| 2 | India | 81 | Poland | 109 |
| 3 | China (Peoples Republic | 63 | India | 103 |
| 4 | South Africa | 50 | Pakistan | 47 |
| 5 | Australia | 42 | Australia | 46 |
| 6 | Pakistan | 31 | China (Peoples Republic) | 45 |

| | 2003-04 | | 2005-06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Estimate | | Estimate |
| 7 | France | 31 | South Africa | 41 |
| 8 | United States of America | 30 | United States of America | 31 |
| 9 | Philippines | 23 | Germany | 26 |
| 10 | Poland[1] | 19 | New Zealand | 24 |

[1] Countries where the estimate has a standard error >25 per cent., these estimates are considered less reliable than other estimates.

*Notes:*
1. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.
2. This table relates solely to the IPS. IPS data form the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

*Table 3: International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 1997 to 2006, migration from the UK by citizenship, broad age group and sex: United Kingdom*

| | All ages | | | Under 15 | | | 16-24 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females |
| *British* | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 135 | 75 | 60 | 16 | [1]8 | 8 | 35 | 16 | 19 |
| 1998 | 114 | 60 | 54 | 13 | 9 | [1]4 | 20 | [1]9 | 11 |
| 1999 | 115 | 70 | 45 | 13 | [1]11 | [1]2 | 24 | 15 | 9 |
| 2000 | 141 | 81 | 60 | 15 | [1]6 | [1]9 | 26 | 16 | 10 |
| 2001 | 133 | 78 | 55 | 14 | [1]8 | [1]6 | 25 | 10 | 15 |
| 2002 | 164 | 90 | 74 | [1]15 | [1]10 | [1]5 | 33 | 17 | 17 |
| 2003 | 170 | 97 | 72 | 18 | [1]10 | [1]9 | 27 | 15 | 12 |
| 2004 | 184 | 90 | 95 | 16 | [1]7 | [1]10 | 29 | 15 | 15 |
| 2005 | 174 | 110 | 65 | 20 | [1]9 | [1]11 | 23 | 14 | 9 |
| 2006 | 196 | 114 | 83 | 18 | 10 | [1]9 | 26 | 15 | 10 |
| *Non-British* | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 97 | 50 | 47 | 9 | 5 | [1]4 | 33 | 19 | 14 |
| 1998 | 91 | 43 | 48 | 8 | [1]4 | [1]4 | 34 | 12 | 21 |
| 1999 | 130 | 62 | 68 | 10 | [1]7 | [1]4 | 42 | 16 | 26 |
| 2000 | 137 | 72 | 64 | 7 | [1]3 | [1]4 | 40 | 19 | 21 |
| 2001 | 117 | 57 | 60 | 7 | [1]4 | [1]3 | 34 | 15 | 19 |
| 2002 | 141 | 71 | 70 | [1]6 | [1]3 | [1]3 | 41 | 17 | 24 |
| 2003 | 144 | 68 | 77 | 11 | [1]7 | [1]4 | 42 | 13 | 28 |
| 2004 | 126 | 62 | 64 | [1]8 | [1]4 | [1]4 | 40 | 16 | 23 |
| 2005 | 154 | 78 | 77 | [1]4 | [1]3 | [1]1 | 50 | 27 | 23 |
| 2006 | 173 | 94 | 79 | [1]8 | [1]5 | [1]3 | 53 | 20 | 32 |

| | 25-44 | | | 45-59/64[2] | | | 60/65[2] and over | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females |
| *British* | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 68 | 41 | 27 | 10 | [1]8 | [1]2 | [1]5 | [1]2 | [1]3 |
| 1998 | 65 | 34 | 31 | [1]10 | [1]7 | [1]4 | [1]6 | [1]2 | [1]4 |
| 1999 | 57 | 34 | 24 | 16 | [1]9 | [1]7 | [1]4 | [1]1 | [1]3 |
| 2000 | 74 | 44 | 29 | 22 | [1]14 | [1]8 | [1]4 | [1]1 | [1]3 |
| 2001 | 60 | 37 | 23 | 27 | [1]20 | [1]7 | [1]6 | [1]3 | [1]3 |
| 2002 | 77 | 46 | 31 | 31 | 16 | [1]15 | [1]7 | [1]1 | [1]6 |
| 2003 | 81 | 49 | 33 | 35 | 19 | 16 | [1]7 | [1]5 | [1]2 |
| 2004 | 84 | 46 | 38 | 46 | 21 | 25 | [1]9 | [1]2 | [1]7 |
| 2005 | 90 | 64 | 27 | 25 | 18 | [1]8 | [1]16 | [1]6 | [1]10 |
| 2006 | 98 | 57 | 41 | 32 | 22 | [1]9 | [1]22 | [1]9 | [1]13 |
| *Non-British* | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 48 | 22 | 26 | [1]7 | [1]4 | [1]3 | [1]1 | — | — |
| 1998 | 43 | 23 | 20 | [1]6 | [1]4 | [1]2 | — | — | — |
| 1999 | 68 | 33 | 35 | [1]7 | [1]6 | [1]2 | [1]2 | — | [1]2 |

| | 25-44 | | | 45-59/64[2] | | | 60/65[2] and over | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females |
| 2000 | 83 | 46 | 37 | [1]6 | [1]3 | [1]3 | — | — | — |
| 2001 | 70 | 35 | 35 | [1]5 | [1]2 | [1]2 | [1]1 | [1]1 | [1]1 |
| 2002 | 83 | 44 | 40 | [1]10 | [1]6 | [1]4 | [1]1 | [1]1 | — |
| 2003 | 85 | 44 | 41 | [1]5 | [1]3 | [1]2 | [1]1 | — | [1]1 |
| 2004 | 74 | 39 | 35 | [1]3 | [1]2 | [1]1 | [1]2 | [1]1 | [1]1 |
| 2005 | 85 | 39 | 45 | [1]11 | [1]8 | [1]3 | [1]4 | — | [1]4 |
| 2006 | 102 | 63 | 38 | [1]9 | [1]6 | [1]3 | [1]2 | — | [1]2 |

[1] Figures are where the estimate has a standard error >25 per cent., these estimates are considered less reliable than other estimates.
[2] Age groups are split above and below retirement age. This is 60 for females and 65 for males.
*Notes:*
1. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.
2. This table relates solely to the IPS. IPS data forms the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.

*Table 4: International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 1997 to 2006 (calendar year), emigration of British citizens by working age[1] and previous occupation[2] and as a percentage of total emigration, United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | All ages | | Aged 16-59/64[1] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Professional and managerial | | Manual and clerical | | | |
| | Estimate | Percentage of total emigration | Estimate | Percentage of total emigration | Estimate | Percentage of total emigration | Estimate | Percentage of total emigration |
| 1997 | 135 | 58 | 113 | 49 | 58 | 25 | 27 | 11 |
| 1998 | 114 | 56 | 94 | 46 | 48 | 23 | 23 | 11 |
| 1999 | 115 | 47 | 97 | 40 | 52 | 21 | 31 | 13 |
| 2000 | 141 | 51 | 121 | 44 | 75 | 27 | 28 | 10 |
| 2001 | 133 | 53 | 111 | 45 | 59 | 23 | 31 | 12 |
| 2002 | 164 | 54 | 141 | 46 | 77 | 25 | 34 | 11 |
| 2003 | 170 | 54 | 144 | 46 | 64 | 20 | 54 | 17 |
| 2004 | 184 | 59 | 158 | 51 | 72 | 23 | 47 | 15 |
| 2005 | 174 | 53 | 138 | 42 | 81 | 25 | 38 | 12 |
| 2006 | 196 | 53 | 154 | 42 | 75 | 20 | 48 | 13 |

[1] The working age population is defined as men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Usual occupation before migration.
*Note:*
1. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. It covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.
2. This table relates solely to the IPS. IPS data form the major part of international migration. However, total international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the IPS, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Irish Republic and adjustments for 'switchers', i.e. those whose initial length of stay intentions are not realised.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Fraud

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been dismissed for fraudulent activity in each year for which figures are available. [180240]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is as follows.

| | HMT | HMRC | OGCBS | OGC | NS&I | DMO | GAD | VOA | RM | ONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1991 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1992 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1993 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1994 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1995 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 1996 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 1997 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 1998 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 1999 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2000 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2002 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |

| | HMT | HMRC | OGCBS | OGC | NS&I | DMO | GAD | VOA | RM | ONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | n/a | <5 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2004 | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 7 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | <5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| 2007 | 0 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

< = Less than
n/a = Not available
*Notes:*
1. OGC was formed in 2000 by the merger of CCTA, PACE and HMT staff. OGC buying.solutions was formed as an Executive agency in 2001. HMRC was created in 2005 following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.
2. When the number is less than five, the exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.
3. The years for which figures are not available cannot be provided because this would involve disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations into suspected fraudulent activity by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been undertaken in each year for which figures are available. [180241]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is as follows.

| | HMT | HMRC | OGCBS | OGC | NS&I | DMO | GAD | VOA | RM | ONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1991 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1992 | <5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1993 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1994 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| 1995 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 7 | 0 | n/a |
| 1996 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 6 | 0 | n/a |
| 1997 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 1998 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 1999 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 2000 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | 5 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 2002 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | <5 | <5 | n/a |
| 2003 | 0 | n/a | <5 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 | n/a |
| 2004 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | n/a |
| 2005 | 0 | 39 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 17 |
| 2006 | <5 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 17 |
| 2007 | 0 | 24 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 8 |

< = Less than
n/a = Not available
*Notes:*
1. OGC was formed in 2000 by the merger of CCTA, PACE and HMT staff. OGC buying.solutions was formed as an Executive agency in April 2001. HMRC was created in 2005 following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise. The HMRC figures provided are on a financial year basis.
2. When the number is less than five, the exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.
3. The years for which figures are not available cannot be provided because this would involve disproportionate cost.

## Government Departments: Property

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W, on Government Departments: property, what the address was of each empty property listed in the answer, according to records held in the e-PIMS database. [183217]

**Angela Eagle:** A list of the addresses of current vacant space recorded on e-PIMS has been placed in the Libraries.

The current total area of actual vacant space (excluding sensitive records) is 208,537 m2. This represents 1.44 per cent. of the total space recorded in e-PIMS.

As e-PIMS is a live service, vacant records may have been added or removed since the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W. This demonstrates that vacant space on the Government estate is being actively managed by Government organisations that have that space.

The answer covers both properties that are entirely or only partially vacant. To distinguish between those properties would incur disproportionate cost. In the case of partially vacant properties, only the area of vacant space is given.

The sensitive marker on e-PIMS is used to protect buildings held by the security services or for other sensitive purposes. Information on these buildings is excluded from data made publicly available.

### Insurance: Public Participation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W, on insurance: public participation, which small independent brokers were consulted by the Financial Services Authority in preparation of the report on the hard disclosure of commission earned by brokers of commercial insurance expected to be published shortly; and if he will make a statement. [172986]

**Angela Eagle:** This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority. The Financial Services Authority commissioned the analysis by CRA 'Commercial insurance commission disclosure: Market Failure Analysis and high level Cost Benefit Analysis' as a part of its ongoing review of appropriate commission disclosure on insurance sold to commercial customers. The full CRA report and the FSA program of work can be found at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2007/126.shtml

### International Finance Facility for Immunisation: Cost-effectiveness

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of the International Finance Facility for Immunisation. [168293]

**Jane Kennedy:** Vaccines are cheap and effective ways of saving lives. Diseases like smallpox, measles, and polio have already been successfully controlled or even eradicated with the help of vaccines. There are strong reasons for frontloading resources for vaccine distribution through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm). When a child is vaccinated, it not only reduces the risk to him/her, but also reduces the risk to others who come in contact with the child, preventing the spread of disease.

The World Health Organisation has estimated that spending $4 billion through IFFIm without frontloading would save an estimated 2.5 million lives before 2015. But by frontloading $4 billion, twice as many lives—an estimated five million—could be saved in the years to 2015, and a further five million afterwards.

Through IFFIm funding, by the end of 2007, an estimated 14.5 million children will have been reached with vaccine against hepatitis B, and 4.4 million children with vaccine against yellow fever—saving the lives of children in the world's poorest countries.

### Lung Cancer

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of lung cancer were diagnosed in each cancer network in each year since 1997. [190040]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of lung cancer were diagnosed in each cancer network in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (190040)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for patients diagnosed with lung cancer by Cancer Network in England for the years 1997 to 2005 are in the table.

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung[1] cancer by Cancer Network[2] in England, 1997–2005*

| *Cancer Network* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 32,048 | 31,613 | 31,787 | 31,529 | 31,231 | 30,451 | 30,550 | 30,408 | 30,997 |
| Lancashire and South Cumbria | 1,095 | 1,049 | 1,075 | 1,064 | 1,061 | 1,061 | 1,087 | 1,157 | 1,094 |
| Greater Manchester and Cheshire | 2,314 | 2,282 | 2,250 | 2,221 | 2,263 | 1,998 | 2,149 | 2,300 | 2,282 |
| Merseyside and Cheshire | 1,792 | 1,838 | 1,816 | 1,848 | 1,831 | 1,779 | 1,689 | 1,721 | 1,816 |
| Yorkshire | 1,826 | 1,852 | 1,745 | 1,848 | 1,814 | 1,816 | 1,837 | 1,804 | 1,747 |
| Humber and Yorkshire Coast | 715 | 790 | 804 | 787 | 775 | 788 | 803 | 745 | 707 |
| North Trent | 1,413 | 1,332 | 1,365 | 1,426 | 1,358 | 1,378 | 1,388 | 1,324 | 1,449 |
| Pan Birmingham | 1,287 | 1,198 | 1,297 | 1,242 | 1,145 | 1,171 | 1,124 | 1,188 | 1,240 |
| Arden | 569 | 576 | 563 | 512 | 508 | 578 | 554 | 536 | 536 |
| Mid Trent | 1,088 | 991 | 1,042 | 1,088 | 1,069 | 1,084 | 1,010 | 1,126 | 1,006 |
| Derby / Burton | 406 | 406 | 441 | 399 | 419 | 368 | 399 | 430 | 445 |
| Leicestershire Northants and Rutland | 803 | 857 | 838 | 895 | 829 | 773 | 873 | 868 | 918 |
| Mount Vernon | 698 | 663 | 634 | 600 | 638 | 612 | 561 | 578 | 645 |
| West London | 858 | 878 | 838 | 837 | 829 | 799 | 802 | 744 | 814 |
| North London | 767 | 802 | 783 | 745 | 725 | 724 | 676 | 697 | 679 |
| North East London | 914 | 918 | 884 | 920 | 857 | 761 | 826 | 725 | 744 |
| South East London | 984 | 968 | 870 | 919 | 862 | 806 | 845 | 827 | 848 |
| South West London | 789 | 833 | 782 | 842 | 757 | 740 | 726 | 717 | 707 |
| Peninsula | 993 | 944 | 958 | 951 | 1,011 | 1,008 | 1,001 | 915 | 1,020 |
| Dorset | 438 | 429 | 507 | 451 | 502 | 479 | 473 | 404 | 438 |
| Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire | 1,031 | 923 | 1,078 | 938 | 1,031 | 895 | 937 | 1,026 | 1,031 |
| 3 Counties | 528 | 531 | 566 | 529 | 531 | 491 | 504 | 479 | 524 |

*Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung[1] cancer by Cancer Network[2] in England, 1997-2005*

| *Cancer Network* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thames Valley | 1,051 | 1,079 | 1,106 | 1,015 | 1,010 | 973 | 1,031 | 1,025 | 1,006 |
| Central South Coast | 1,101 | 1,131 | 1,235 | 1,072 | 1,140 | 1,123 | 1,101 | 1,051 | 1,100 |
| Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire | 610 | 556 | 528 | 608 | 559 | 532 | 572 | 516 | 516 |
| Sussex | 736 | 759 | 734 | 744 | 733 | 720 | 674 | 680 | 725 |
| Kent and Medway | 1,075 | 985 | 937 | 1,017 | 943 | 913 | 897 | 976 | 960 |
| Greater Midlands | 1,166 | 1,199 | 1,168 | 1,188 | 1,210 | 1,166 | 1,211 | 1,155 | 1,149 |
| North of England | 2,807 | 2,721 | 2,733 | 2,688 | 2,697 | 2,683 | 2,631 | 2,497 | 2,579 |
| Anglia | 1,455 | 1,367 | 1,420 | 1,384 | 1,327 | 1,398 | 1,387 | 1,426 | 1,501 |
| Essex | 759 | 756 | 790 | 751 | 797 | 834 | 782 | 771 | 771 |

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the environmental consequences of levying vehicle excise duty based on a sliding scale of emissions. [190561]

**Angela Eagle:** In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process the Government assess a range of options, bringing all relevant environmental, social and economic factors into consideration.

The environmental signals provided by vehicle excise duty will help deliver reductions in $CO_2$ emissions. For example, the number of vehicles in the three lowest $CO_2$ emission graduated VED bands is forecast to grow significantly in the longer term in part due to VED reform.

### National Insurance Fund

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received advice from the Acting Government Actuary on the recommended minimum balance in the National Insurance Fund. [190048]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 361W.

### Northern Rock

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much is due to be paid to the Virgin consortium from the public purse in relation to Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [188251]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* As announced by Northern Rock on 26 November 2007, the company agreed to cover certain expenses in connection with the indicative proposal from the Virgin consortium. Paying such expenses is standard as part of bidding processes of this nature.

As a commercial bank, Northern Rock will pay these expenses out of its own income, not from the taxpayer.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the quality rating of Northern Rock mortgage security is *(a)* within Northern Rock and not otherwise committed, *(b)* within Northern Rock and committed to the Bank of England and *(c)* committed to the Granite Master Trust. [188958]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Financial Services Authority has confirmed Northern Rock continues to be solvent and has a good quality mortgage book.

Further information on the size and nature of the contractual relationship between Northern Rock and Granite is publicly available in the full Granite prospectus on the Northern Rock website.

### Northern Rock: Government Assistance

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of loans advanced to Northern Rock on the Government's *(a)* public sector borrowing requirement and *(b)* sustainable debt rule; and if he will make a statement. [179899]

**Yvette Cooper:** Northern Rock liabilities classified to the public sector are temporary, backed by significant assets, and do not represent any meaningful measure of fiscal sustainability. The code for fiscal stability, underpinned by legislation passed by this House, provides for such situations.

### Northern Rock: Granite

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the size is of the minimum seller share that Northern Rock is required to maintain in the Granite Master Trust. [188960]

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will clarify the legal, institutional and financial relationships between Northern Rock and Granite; and if he will make a statement. [188615]

**Angela Eagle:** This information is publicly available in the full Granite prospectus on the Northern Rock website.

The prospectus sets out the contractual agreement between Northern Rock and the Granite securitisation vehicle.

Banks and building societies often use securitisation vehicles as a means of financing.

A copy of a letter from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 20 February clarifying the relationship between Northern Rock and Granite has been placed in the House Library.

### "Now Let's Talk Money"

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on 'Now Let's Talk Money', what funding his Department plans to provide to the campaign in each year from 2008-09 onwards. [190205]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Government have announced that the continuing 'Now Let's Talk Money' campaign will be delivered through the new "Financial inclusion champions" initiative in 2008-11. The Government have allocated £12 million to the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver the "Financial inclusion champions" initiative in 2008-11. This funding will be profiled as £4 million in 2008-09, £4 million in 2009-10 and £4 million in 2010-11.

### Pensions

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider bringing the proposed link with earnings for pensions forward in preparing for his forthcoming Budget. [190667]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government have already set out their commitment to link the basic state pension to earnings in the next Parliament. A decision to bring forward that link would require additional spending on state pensions over and above the reform package set out in the May 2006 White Paper and agreed in the Pensions Act 2007.

### Personal Savings

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response his Department has made to the conclusion of the 2002 Sandler Review that the use of money from the inherited estate of with-profit funds to write new business distorts competition; and if he will make a statement. [190135]

**Angela Eagle:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the regulation of life insurance and the inherited estate. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 requires the FSA to have regard to seven principles of good regulation including the desirability of facilitating competition between those it regulates and the need to minimise the adverse effects on competition that may arise from anything done in the discharge of its functions. The FSA made major changes to the way it regulates after its With Profits Review but, following consultation, it found that Sandler's specific recommendations in this area were not practical because of possible incompatibility with EU law and the potential impact on the mutuals sector.

The issue is covered in the FSA's Discussion paper on issues for with-profits business arising from the Sandler Review.[1]

[1] Available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/discussion/dp20.pdf

The Treasury responded to the recommendations of the Sandler review by launching the stakeholder suite, a range of simple, accessible and charge-capped savings products.

### Population

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the population density of *(a)* Bridgend, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK was in each year since 1995; [191158]

(2) what forecasts he has made of population density in Bridgend in *(a)* 2031 and *(b)* 2056 based on statistics from the (i) Government Actuary Department and (ii) the Office of National Statistics. [191168]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 3 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions concerning population density:

To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the population density of (a) Bridgend, (b) Wales, (c) England and (d) the UK was in each year since 1995 (191158)

To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what forecasts he has made of population density in Bridgend in (a) 2031 and (b) 2056 based on statistics from the (i) Government Actuaries Department and (ii) the office for National Statistics.

I am replying in her absence.

The table below shows population density figures calculated for each mid-year estimate from 1995 to 2006 for the areas requested. Mid-2006 are the latest population density estimates available.

Subnational population projections within Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government. They advise that Population projections are not currently published at local authority level for Wales. Projections are available at regional level. The Welsh Assembly Government plan to publish population projections at local authority level in summer 2008.

*Population density for mid-year estimates 1995 to 2006*

*Persons per square kilometre*

| *Area* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 239 | 240 | 240 | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 250 |
| England | 371 | 372 | 374 | 375 | 376 | 378 | 380 | 381 | 383 | 385 | 387 | 390 |
| Wales | 139 | 139 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 141 | 141 | 142 | 142 | 143 |
| Bridgend UA | 516 | 513 | 510 | 513 | 513 | 511 | 513 | 516 | 519 | 523 | 525 | 529 |

*Sources:*
Office for National Statistics
General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

### Public Sector Net Cash Requirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate Government borrowing since 1997 when calculated in line with the latest international financial reporting standards on the recording of private public partnership liabilities. [190038]

**Angela Eagle:** Public sector net borrowing (PSNB) is assessed using National Accounts data compiled by the independent Office for National Statistics. The Government announced at Budget 2007 to move to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the annual resource accounts of public bodies from 2008-09. It is too early to say what implications the IFRS based accounting guidance for public private partnerships might have for PSNB.

### Revenue and Customs: Pay

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs employees were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173103]

**Jane Kennedy:** Following the merger of the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise in April 2005, three payroll systems were in operation during the 2006-07 financial year.

To obtain the requested information from both the archived and current payroll systems would be disproportionate and resource intensive.

HMRC's headcount was 92,238 at 1 November 2007. Information provided has been based on number of staff who, were paid at the annual rate of *(a)* £60,000 to £99,999 and *(b)* £100,000 and over on this date.

| | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| £60,000 to £99,999 | 1,220 |
| £100,000 and above | 50 |
| Total | 1,270 |

### Tax Credits Office: Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed in his Department's Tax Credits Office. [190019]

**Jane Kennedy:** At 1 February 2008 around 4,500 HM Revenue and Customs staff members were employed in Tax Credit Office (TCO). This figure includes part time staff and is equivalent to around 3,950 full time staff.

### Taxation: Bingo

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on revenue from amusement machine licence duty of bingo club closures in the last 12 months. [191237]

**Angela Eagle:** An updated forecast of total betting and gaming duties, which includes amusement machine licence duty receipts, will be published in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report".

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors were considered when setting the current rate of gross profit tax for licensed bingo; and if he will make a statement. [191350]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made each year at Budget alongside all other tax decisions.

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice his Department has received on the similarities between the taxation of bingo played in licensed clubs and the tax treatment of player-to-player poker in casinos. [190728]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the fairness of the tax regime applying to bingo as compared with that which applies to other forms of gambling. [190830]

**Angela Eagle:** The average effective rate of taxation applied to bingo is comparable to the average effective rate of taxation that applies to other forms of gambling such as casino gaming, gaming machines and the lottery.

### Taxation: Pensions

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people affected by his decision to levy tax on pension funds above £1.8 million rather than of £1.4 million and *(b)* the effect on revenue to the Exchequer of (i) his decision to levy tax on pension funds above £1.8 million instead of £1.4 million, (ii) his decision to levy tax on pension funds above £1.4 million at 55 per cent. rather than 60 per cent. and (iii) his decision to delay the introduction of the 55 per cent. tax on pension funds above £1.4 million until 2010; and if he will make a statement. [190849]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member the answer given to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1643W.

The exit charge on funds crystallized in excess of the life time allowance (LTA) is designed to place a maximum on tax relieved pension saving. We do not expect the exit charge to raise significant revenue and there is negligible Exchequer cost of reducing the rate to 55 per cent..

The exit charge on funds in excess was introduced on 6 April 2006. No decision was taken to delay its introduction until 2010.

### VAT: Bingo

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from bingo clubs in Hendon constituency on the impact of liability of bingo clubs to both value-added tax and gross profits tax. [190556]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many man hours officials in his Department spent on average on each tax credits claimant in each year for which figures are available. [190018]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not available in the format requested.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 3 March 2008*

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189778]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department offers flexible working arrangements to the majority of our employees. Under these arrangements the ability to work from home is one option that is available to most grades on both a formal and an ad hoc basis. As there is no requirement to maintain records of arrangements centrally, this information could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced under framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189147]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department meets the requirements for translation work through a combination of in-house provision and outsourcing through framework agreements with commercial providers.

For the majority of face-to-face interpreting work the Department engages individuals registered with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters on the basis of the fees set out in accordance with the Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations 1986.

Records that would allow for the proportion of translation and interpreting services to be calculated are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department and its predecessor received an *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190288]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is in the following table.

| | *Named day PQs that received a substantive answer on the day named* | | *Holding replies* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Session* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Total named day questions* |
| 2005-06 | 246 | 65 | 132 | 35 | 378 |
| 2006-07 | 355 | 79.25 | 93 | 20.75 | 448 |
| 5 November 2007 to 29 February 2008 | 262 | 74 | 92 | 26 | 354 |

Records have only been available electronically since May 2005. Therefore, information for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Lord Chancellor's Department prior to May 2005 is not held centrally and could be provided only by manually checking paper records at a disproportionate cost.

### Deportation: Appeals

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the 359 appeals against a notice of intent to deport between 1 August and 31 October 2006 were successful; and what the grounds were for those appeals which were successful. [190912]

**Mr. Straw:** Of the 359 oral appeal hearings against a notice of intent to deport held at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal between 1 August and 31 October 2006, 70 were successful.

The grounds on which those appeals were successful could not be determined without examination of the individual files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

### Electoral Register

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the report of his consultation on Fees for the Marked Register of Electors. [189989]

**Bridget Prentice:** We have been analysing the responses received on the consultation paper on 'Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at the UK Election.'. A response paper is currently being prepared and will be published imminently.

### Electoral Register: Forms

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of whether electoral registration form RP 12 reflects the legal residency qualifications required of Commonwealth citizens to register; [190067]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether section 5 of the electoral registration form RP 12 identifies those individuals entitled to register as electors in Great Britain. [190068]

**Bridget Prentice:** There is no prescribed electoral registration form known as an RP 12, and therefore I have made no assessment.

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 those entitled to vote at UK Parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections are those who have attained the age of 18 and who are British citizens, citizens of Commonwealth countries who are resident on a permanent basis or have leave to remain, and resident citizens of the Republic of Ireland.

The annual canvass form and the provisions for rolling registration effectively capture a person's nationality. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will use this information to determine a person's eligibility to register. When there is doubt about eligibility the ERO may investigate and request further information from the elector.

### Electoral Register: Publicity

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has given to electoral registration officers on the promotion of credit referencing as a reason to apply for inclusion on an electoral roll on council-maintained websites. [190066]

**Bridget Prentice:** Responsibility for issuing guidance to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) on electoral registration lies with the Electoral Commission. I understand that it has not issued any guidance on the promotion of credit referencing as a reason to apply for inclusion on an electoral register. Promotion of electoral registration within each local authority is a matter for the independent EROs.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189505]

**Maria Eagle:** To increase staff awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight, the event has been highlighted on the Ministry of Justice intranet, which provides a link to the Fairtrade Foundation website.

### Family Law

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firms of solicitors held contracts with the Legal Services Commission for the supply of legal advice in family law matters in the latest period for which figures are available. [191101]

**Maria Eagle:** A total of 2,732 solicitors' offices held contracts with the Legal Services Commission for the supply of legal advice in family law matters, as at 30 September 2007.

### Internet: Suicide

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in implementing the suicide prevention strategy; and what assessment he has made of whether the target for the reduction in the number of suicides will be met. [189061]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The target is to reduce the death rate from suicide and injury of undetermined intent by at least a fifth by 2010. This target is measured in three-year pooled rates. Between 1995 and 1997 there were 9.2 deaths per 100,000 population and between 2004 and 2006 the rate had fallen to 8.3 deaths per 100,000 population—a fall of 10 per cent. from the baseline.

The rate of decline had slowed, but there are now signs that the rate of decline may once again be increasing. An increased rate of decline must be sustained if the target is to be met. We are continuing to take action at local, regional and national levels to help reduce the number of suicides in our communities.

### Legal Profession

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many solicitors in Wales have ceased providing legal services to clients who require legal aid for *(a)* family law and *(b)* criminal law for each of the last three years, broken down by local authority. [189559]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is not available by local authority but can be broken down by bid zone (Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales). My noble Friend Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, will write to the hon. Member in the next few days, once this information has been extracted.

### Official Visits

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of his visit to the United States in February 2008 was. [189088]

**Mr. Straw:** The cost to the Department for the visit to Washington DC, Virginia and New York was £22,819.70 (£21,215.10 for travel and £1,358.75 for accommodation).

### Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many failures to return to open prisons there have been since 1997. [189819]

**Mr. Straw:** Prisoners fail to return to prison following release on temporary licence. Between 1 April 1997 and 31 January 2008 there were 2,880 breaches of a temporary release licence following release on temporary licence from an open prison. This equates to an average of 266 breaches per year. Not all breaches of a temporary release licence are for failing to return to the prison, but this specific information could be determined only at disproportionate cost by examining each of the 2,880 incidents. Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence was introduced in January 2006.

### Perjury

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for *(a)* perjury and *(b)* attempting to pervert the course of justice were brought in each of the last five years. [190057]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice in England and Wales in the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice, in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006*[1,2]

| | Proceeded against | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Perjury | 109 | 137 | 155 | 138 | 110 |
| Pervert the cause of justice | 2,646 | 2,396 | 2,088 | 1,972 | 1,804 |
| Total | 2,755 | 2,533 | 2,243 | 2,110 | 1,914 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

**Peterborough Prison: Prisoner Escapes**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have absconded from HMP Peterborough in each quarter since 1 April 2005; and if he will make a statement. [190020]

**Mr. Hanson:** HMP Peterborough is a closed establishment. An abscond is defined as an escape from a situation without physical security or restraint (e.g. most areas of an open prison) or from a situation in which there were no staff present specifically assigned to guard a prisoner.

No absconds have occurred since HMP Peterborough opened in March 2005. In quarter three of 2007-08, a prisoner escaped while being escorted by prison staff at a local hospital. The prisoner was recaptured the following day.

**Prisoner Release: Scotland**

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released from Scottish prisons have subsequently been deported in the last year for which figures are available. [189393]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The Border and Immigration Agency will seek to detain foreign national prisoners who are under consideration for deportation, or when deportation action is being pursued. Those who have committed crimes of a serious nature or may be a security threat to the Border and Immigration Agency estate remain in prisons. Others who continue to be detained pending removal are transferred to the Agency's estate.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance on 15 January that 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the United Kingdom in 2007. Information specific to those who were held at Scottish prisons can be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

**Prisoners Transfers: Jamaica**

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to lay before Parliament the agreement between the UK and Jamaica on the transfer of Jamaican prisoners; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of repatriating a Jamaican prisoner. [190324]

**Mr. Straw:** The United Kingdom and Jamaica signed a limited prisoner transfer agreement on 26 June 2007. This is the first prisoner transfer agreement to be entered into by the Jamaican Government, and changes must be made to Jamaican law before the agreement can enter into force. Once these changes have been made, the agreement will be laid before Parliament in the normal way.

No assessment of the average cost of repatriating a Jamaican prisoner to Jamaica has been made. However, any cost involved will be offset against savings in prison places and the cost to the prison service of the continued detention of a prisoner in the United Kingdom.

**Prisoners: Per Capita Costs**

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per night of housing a prisoner is in an *(a)* Category A prison and *(b)* Category B prison. [189749]

**Mr. Hanson:** Cost Information is published in the Annual Report and Accounts for Public-Sector prisons.

In 2006-07, the average cost per night of housing a prisoner was £143 in dispersal prisons, which hold Category A prisoners, and £77 in Category B prisons.

Prison categorisation is based on each prison's main role.

**Prisoners: Telephone Tapping**

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether authorities have been issued for surveillance of telephone communication between prisoners and lawyers since 2005. [189210]

**Maria Eagle:** Arrangements for the interception of prisoners' communications are set out in the prison rules. In the case of prisoners' communications with solicitors, interception and monitoring would only be authorised when the governor had reasonable cause to believe that the calls would endanger prison security or the safety of others or were otherwise of a criminal nature. HM Prison Service does not retain central records regarding the interception of such communications, and the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Prisons**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment has been made of the demographic composition of *(a)* the prisoner population and *(b)* prison officers. [187177]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table gives breakdowns of the prison population in England and Wales by (i) age and gender and (ii) ethnicity and gender.

*Prison population in England and Wales at 30 June 2006*

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 73,519 | 4,463 | 77,982 |
| 15-17 | 2,370 | 70 | 2,440 |
| 18-20 | 7,616 | 387 | 8,003 |
| 21-24 | 11,937 | 686 | 12,624 |
| 25-29 | 13,973 | 916 | 14,889 |
| 30-39 | 20,576 | 1,384 | 21,960 |
| 40-49 | 11,135 | 746 | 11,881 |
| 50-59 | 4,007 | 224 | 4,232 |
| 60 and over | 1,905 | 49 | 1,954 |
| *All ethnic groups* | 73,519 | 4,463 | 77,982 |
| White | 53,972 | 3,165 | 57,137 |
| Mixed | 2,108 | 191 | 2,299 |
| Asian or Asian British | 5,010 | 107 | 5,117 |
| Black or Black British | 10,922 | 883 | 11,805 |
| Chinese or Other ethnic group | 873 | 81 | 954 |
| Not Stated | 288 | 21 | 309 |
| Unrecorded | 61 | 0 | 61 |
| 1991 Census ethnic codes | 284 | 15 | 299 |

Similar age and gender and gender and ethnicity breakdowns for staff in the public-sector Prison Service are contained in the following tables:

*Public sector Prison Service staff by gender and age—as at 31 January 2008*

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15-17 | 15 | 6 | 21 |
| 18-20 | 350 | 295 | 645 |
| 21-24 | 1,546 | 1,241 | 2,787 |
| 25-29 | 2,383 | 2,059 | 4,442 |
| 30-39 | 4,636 | 6,755 | 11,391 |
| 40-49 | 5,745 | 11,619 | 17,364 |
| 50-59 | 3,169 | 8,448 | 11,617 |
| 60 and over | 450 | 2,267 | 2,717 |
| Total | 18,294 | 32,690 | 50,984 |

*Public sector Prison Service staff by ethnicity—as at 31 January 2008*

| Ethnic group | Number | Percentage of known |
|---|---|---|
| Asian | 768 | 1.6 |
| Black | 1,367 | 2.8 |
| Mixed, Asian/White | 91 | 0.2 |
| Mixed, Black/White | 187 | 0.4 |
| Mixed, Other | 203 | 0.4 |
| Other Ethnic Group | 354 | 0.7 |
| All BME | 2,970 | 6.2 |
| White | 45,074 | 93.8 |
| Ethnicity known | 48,044 | — |
| Ethnicity not known | 2,940 | — |
| Overall total | 50,984 | — |

The following table shows the age breakdown of prison custody officers at eight prison establishments managed by the Director of Offender Management.

| Age | Number |
|---|---|
| 18-20 | 11 |
| 21-29 | 934 |
| 30-39 | 712 |
| 40-49 | 537 |
| 50-59 | 157 |
| 60+ | 23 |

There are 1,528 serving male prison custody officers and 846 serving females at these prisons.

Complete information on the ethnicity of staff at these prisons is not currently available, but a staff audit exercise is currently under way to update their equality monitoring information.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Rape: Convictions

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those charged with rape in each of the last five years in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Stockton were convicted; and how many of those were given (i) an immediate custodial sentence, (ii) a community sentence and (iii) an (A) conditional and (B) absolute discharge. [189334]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and the number sentenced to immediate custody, received community sentences, or were given conditional and absolute discharge, for rape offences in Cleveland police force area can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at the detailed area level requested.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and the number of which are sentenced to immediate custody, community sentence, conditional and absolute discharge, for rape offences in Cleveland police force area*[1,2,3,4]

| | | | Result | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | Found guilty | Immediate custody | Community sentence | Conditional discharge | Absolute discharge |
| 2002 | 32 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 34 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 24 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and the number of which are sentenced to immediate custody, community sentence, conditional and absolute discharge, for rape offences in Cleveland police force area*[1,2,3,4]

| | | | Result | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Prosecuted* | *Found guilty* | *Immediate custody* | *Community sentence* | *Conditional discharge* | *Absolute discharge* |
| 2005 | 41 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 32 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

### Shoplifting: Cleveland

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of shoplifting in the Cleveland police force area in each of the last two years. [189385]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts for the offence of theft (from shop or stall), under the Theft Act 1968 S.1(1) in Cleveland Police Force area for the years 2005 and 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for the offence of theft (from shop or stall), under the Theft Act 1968 S.1(1) in Cleveland Police Force area for the years 2005 and 2006*[1,2]

| | *Found guilty* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Force* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Cleveland | 1,123 | 1,042 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

The number of people given a Penalty Notices for Disorder for the offence of theft (retail under £200) in 2005 is 479. It is 689 in 2006 in Cleveland Police Force area.

Court proceedings and PND data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

### USA

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* purpose was of the meetings that he had while in the United States in February 2008; and who attended each meeting. [188842]

**Mr. Straw:** I visited Washington, Virginia and New York in the United States on 12 to 16 February. My visit was primarily to examine the work of a sentencing commission following Lord Carter's review of penal policy in December 2007, which proposed the setting up of a UK sentencing commission.

In Richmond I met members of the Virginia sentencing commission to assess how it has worked in terms of better balancing supply of prison places within the demands for sentencing.

I visited the Coffeewood Correctional Centre to examine its work programme. This teaches prisoners skills such as carpentry, welding and optometry to help their chances of finding work when their sentences end.

In New York I met the Federal District Attorney for the Southern District of New York and his colleagues to discuss mutual legal administration and other shared interests. I visited the Red Hook Community Justice Centre in New York to build on the lessons learned from community justice projects in the US. The centre was the US's first multi-jurisdictional community court and focuses on neighbourhood problems like drugs, crime and domestic violence.

While in Washington, I met Chief Justice John Roberts of the Supreme Court and members of the Judiciary, and Harley Lappin, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I had meetings with Senator Leahy, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senator Specter, Ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I delivered a speech "Modernising the Magna Carta: lessons from America, towards a British Bill of Rights" at George Washington University Law School on the UK Government's plans to bring forward a green paper on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

I paid a call on His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. I had other private meetings.

### Wymott Prison: Finance

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for HM Prison Wymott was in the financial year 2007-08; and what its proposed budget is for 2008-09. [190078]

**Maria Eagle:** Prison budgets are allocated in March each year and are currently largely based on historic spend, subject to adjustment for any required efficiency savings and increases to cover inflationary factors. The indicative budget for 2008-09 includes the effect of the reduction in the prison core day and the impact of the transfer of hospital bedwatches and escorts funding to the Department of Health. The budget will be further increased to include the effects of the 2008-09 pay award and other inflationary factors.

The budget for 2007-08 is £21,887,000 excluding healthcare and education which are directly funded. The indicative budget for 2008-09 is £20,589,000.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### 10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* redecorating, *(c)* refurbishing and *(d)* otherwise improving 10 Downing Street in each (i) year and (ii) quarter since 1 April 1997. [189615]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) and the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 913-14W, by the then Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), and the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 24 July 2002, *Official Report*, columns 1368-69W, by the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

### Admiralty House

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Admiralty House and *(b)* 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 826W, on Departmental records: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, whether the services provided for the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East whilst the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was an occupying Department included the supply of (i) linen and laundry services, (ii) internal plants, (iii) catering, (iv) telephones, (v) cable or satellite TV and (vi) internet access; [184977]

(2) whether the Cabinet Office facilities management contract includes cleaning inside official ministerial residences. [184975]

**Mr. Watson:** No linen and laundry services, internal plants or cable or satellite services are provided for residents of Admiralty House. Telephone lines are provided which also support internet access. Catering services are available through the Cabinet Office's facilities management contract on a recharge basis. Internal cleaning of the ministerial residences is not included in the fixed-fee element of the facilities management contract.

### Departmental Health Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department makes available a medical or health care service to its staff. [190248]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office does not offer a medical or health care service as part of its employment package.

### Departmental Legal Opinion

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, on special adviser legal expenses, what criteria he applies to the disclosure of legal costs in relation to the police investigation into cash for honours for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers. [189231]

**Edward Miliband:** I have nothing further to add to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, which made clear that, to protect the privacy of the individuals involved, it would not be appropriate to provide any further breakdown of costs.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in *(a)* his Department and its agencies and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187551]

**Mr. Watson:** This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people attended each citizens' jury held in each month since September 2007; [188847]

(2) which Government Ministers attended each citizens' jury in each month since September 2007; [188848]

(3) how much the programme of citizens' juries has cost since its establishment; [188849]

(4) what changes to Government policy have been made as a result of the deliberations of citizens' juries. [189090]

**Edward Miliband:** The information on citizens' juries, including the impact, changes to Government Policy and full costs, is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of each Government Department which commissions citizens' juries.

In relation to the attendance to the citizens' jury held by the Cabinet Office on the Draft Legislative Programme on 20 October 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) and to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 620W.

The final costs of this citizens' jury were £56,033 and the outcomes will inform the consultation process for the Draft Legislative Programme in the future.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179872]

**Mr. Watson:** The civil service nationality rules, which are statutorily based, govern eligibility for employment in the civil service. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received an *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190290]

**Mr. Watson:** Details of how many and what proportion of named day parliamentary questions the Cabinet Office answered between 2003 and 2007 are set out in the following table.

| | *Number due for answer* | *Percentage answered on the day named* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 96 | 66 |
| 2006 | 71 | 77 |
| 2005 | 58 | 88 |
| 2004 | 112 | 60 |
| 2003 | 59 | 76 |

Information prior to 2003 is not held. It is standard Cabinet Office practice to issue a holding reply when a substantive answer is not possible on the named day.

### Junior Ministers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what official engagements the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East has undertaken in his capacity as Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office since his appointment; and what his official engagements are in the next calendar month. [191044]

**Mr. Watson:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

### Local Government Services: Voluntary Organisations

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide public services in Leyton and Wanstead that are three-year contracts; and what change there has been in this proportion over the last five years. [190631]

**Phil Hope:** This information is currently not held centrally.

The Minister responsible for the Third Sector will be reporting on Government progress in meeting the three-year funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in autumn 2008. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three-year funding from 2009 onwards.

### Ministers: Official Residences

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Chequers was included in official residences under *(a)* section 4.2 of the July 2005 Ministerial Code and *(b)* section 6.2 of the July 2007 Ministerial Code; which senior ministers were referred to in section 4.2 of the July 2005 Ministerial Code; and which official residences (i) senior ministers are required to live in for the purposes of the job, (ii) senior ministers are not required to live in for the purposes of the job and (iii) are not occupied by senior ministers. [189462]

**Mr. Watson:** Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. Rules on the use of official residences are set out in the Ministerial Code. Official residences available to Ministers are

The flats above Numbers 10 and 11 Downing street;

Flats in Admiralty House;

1 Carlton Gardens;

Hillsborough Castle and Stormont are available for Ministers in the Northern Ireland Office while on duty in Northern Ireland.

Chequers, Dorneywood and Chevening, none of which is owned by the Government, are also used by Ministers. The Government House in Pimlico is no longer required and is in the process of being sold.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the measure of inflation is by which the cost of official ministerial residences for which other departments are billed by the Cabinet Office is adjusted each year. [189534]

**Mr. Watson:** Occupying Departments are charged on the basis of actual costs. The elements of the charges which are subject to indexation are those relating to facilities management, which are increased on the basis of the average earnings index and the retail prices index.

### Warwick Task Force Group Compact

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) who are the members of the Warwick Task Force Group Compact; what its remit is; and how many times it has met; [179758]

(2) whether an official group within the Government has been established to take forward the implementation of the Warwick Agreement. [179638]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Public Services Forum Task Group was established to take forward the Government's 2005 manifesto commitment to develop a compact with contractors and trade unions to ensure that employees working on Government contracts have access to skills, trade unions and advice should they wish. The group is attended by representatives from relevant departments, trade unions, business and the third sector.

The group has met six times.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he will answer question 178800, tabled on 25 January 2008, on the Iraq draft dossier. [189406]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2025W.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Aimhigher Initiative: Standards

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of the Aimhigher Initiative in encouraging more pupils from deprived backgrounds to submit a UCAS application. [186615]

**Bill Rammell:** The Aimhigher programme is a major initiative designed to widen participation in higher education (HE), and increase opportunities for people from under-represented groups to attend higher education institutions and courses where competition for places is fiercest and which offer the highest financial rates of return.

There have been various evaluations of the programme which show that it has had a positive impact on participants' attainment and their attitudes towards HE. In the programme's early years (2001 to 2002) when it was known as Aimhigher: Excellence Challenge (AH: EC), before it became a national programme, research showed that being part of AH: EC

*(a)* led to an improvement in the proportion, by 4.6 per cent, of Year 9 pupils attaining levels 4, 5 or 6 in Maths at Key Stage 3;

*(b)* involved improvement in nearly all measures of Year 11's GCSE results, with an average improvement in total points scored of 2.5, which corresponds to an increase of between two and three grades in one GCSE; and

*(c)* AH: EC Year 11 participants were more likely to say that they intended to take part in HE (by 3.9 percentage points).

Research conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) showed that over 70 per cent. of universities responding to its survey said that Aimhigher added value to their widening participation policies and activities, that Aimhigher has provided a positive and welcome boost to their own efforts to widen participation in HE, and that this has translated into increased applications.

Given the long-term nature of widening participation in HE, and the complex interplay of factors that affect participation patterns, it is not possible to determine conclusively the effect that Aimhigher has had on applications made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). But we do know that Aimhigher makes a difference, because those who deliver and participate in it tell us so. And they can point at facts that support their case—for example, in the West Midlands over the last five years, the more disadvantaged communities have produced the largest increases in applications and acceptances. Those are the areas where Aimhigher operates most intensively. And we know that in England, since the introduction of Aimhigher, there has been a steady increase in the number and proportion of entrants to HE who come from lower social class backgrounds. This is reflected in the most recent UCAS application data for 2008 entry. In England, the proportion of applicants at age 18 coming from lower social class backgrounds is up from 28.2 per cent. in 2007 to 28.9 per cent. this year.

Widening participation requires long-term address and we have announced the continuation of Aimhigher until 2011. We will continue to work with HEFCE to commission a national study to report before the end of 2011 on outcomes across the whole programme since 2004, when the unified, national Aimhigher was introduced. And at local level, Aimhigher Partnerships will determine the extent to which the Aimhigher programme has raised HE awareness, aspirations and attainment among participants and in participating institutions.

### Apprentices: Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices are working on London 2012 projects. [190264]

**Mr. Lammy:** "World-class Apprenticeships" announced the formation of a London Task Force, which I will chair, to overcome barriers to the growth of apprenticeships in London. The review also said that the Government would be strongly encouraging the companies with which they contract, including those involved in large strategic projects such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, to employ apprentices on these projects.

There are, at present, 62 apprentices on-site at the Olympic Park. The Olympic Development Authority (ODA) is committed to get at least 2,000 people in apprenticeships and work placements (up to 2012) at the Olympic Park and other venues that the ODA is working on or building.

There are a number of projects funded by the London Region Learning and Skills Council that are supporting apprenticeships in areas that will contribute to the success of the Olympics:

188 new Sport and Leisure Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3) in coaching, teaching and instruction, activity leadership and fitness for able bodied and disabled learners.

50 Advanced Apprenticeships in Sporting Excellence, in sports including athletics, swimming and tennis, to prepare elite Olympic and Paralympic athletes for competition in the 2012 Games.

A construction Apprenticeship preparation programme at Kings Cross enabling 100 16 to 18-year-olds to progress into employment with Carillion.

200 new customer service/hospitality Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3)—this is informed by Skills for Business research (2007), which predicts 12,000 new customer service jobs by 2012, including hotel, conference, restaurant and catering managers.

The new National Apprenticeship Service, particularly the new matching service, will have a key focus on the 2012 Olympics. We expect that apprenticeship opportunities linked to the Olympics will increase as time progresses.

### Apprentices: Standards

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of those providing apprenticeship training courses have had their contracts terminated as a result of poor performance since 2001. [190176]

**Mr. Lammy:** The practice of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is to contract for apprenticeship places on an annual basis. In the case of a poorly performing contractor, the LSC works in-year to seek to raise performance, which includes agreeing specific improvement actions, rather than moving immediately to terminate a whole contract or the part of the contract that is considered substandard. To do otherwise could put at risk the opportunities of the apprentices concerned. Past performance is a key criterion in the allocation of annual contracts, and the trend over successive years has been for fewer companies to receive LSC contracts for apprenticeship places. Some of this pattern can be accounted for by mergers or acquisitions in the supplier market, but these can be linked to performance issues.

Data setting out the number of companies with which the LSC contracted in each of the years 2001/02 onwards is in the table. It should be noted that one company may hold more than one contract because the LSC contracts by apprenticeship framework.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 1,761 |
| 2002/03 | 1,084 |
| 2003/04 | 1,005 |
| 2004/05 | 973 |
| 2005/06 | 917 |

### Astronomy Centre

**Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to ensure the future of the Institute for Astronomy on the Blackford Hill site in Edinburgh; [177874]

(2) what the proposed change in Science and Technology Facilities Council for funding the Astronomy Technology Centre (ATC), Edinburgh is in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash terms; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of that change on the ATC's work; [177873]

(3) what staff changes are being considered by the Science and Technology Facilities Council for *(a)* Daresbury, *(b)* the Astronomy Technology Centre, Edinburgh and *(c)* the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. [177872]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC), which is owned by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), is a world leader in the design and construction of instruments for many of the world's major telescopes. However, the STFC's demand for its services has declined since the UK joined the European Southern Observatory in 2002.

The STFC is looking at the future of the Astronomy Technology Centre in relation to the potential demand for its services and the council's science budget allocation. The STFC is exploring the possibility of a partnership that makes use of the unique skills in the ATC and applies them to a wider portfolio, and it will seek to work with the local universities and local funding agencies in taking that forward. It is too early to say what the outcome of these discussions will be.

STFC issued a notice on 2 January calling for voluntary redundancies across all its activities. In line with previous announcements, the SRS (Synchrotron Radiation Source) at Daresbury will close on 31 December 2008, but the STFC has not taken a decision on whether any compulsory redundancies (other than those relating to SRS) will be needed.

### Catering

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on refreshments for meetings since its establishment; and at what cost per meeting. [171871]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on refreshments is not held centrally and therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council of Ministers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what A List items were agreed to by his Department in the EU Council of Ministers in 2007. [180168]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and from the former Department for Education and Skills, together with Ministers from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, agreed the following A items at EU Council meetings.

*Education, Youth and Culture Council 15-16 November 2007:*

1. Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency—Replacement of one member 14265/07 COMPET 297 ENV 549 CHIMIE 33 13731/07 COMPET 278 ENV 509 CHIMIE 27 + COR 1

2. Adoption of a Council Regulation adapting Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania 13366/07 COMPET 268 ENV 484 CHIMIE 25 MI 226 ENT 116+ COR 1 (fi) 14036/07 COMPET 287 ENV 524 CHIMIE 29 MI 242 ENT 128

3. Amended proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Madagascar on fishing off the coast of Madagascar for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2012—Adoption 14387/07 PECHE 309 13153/1/07 PECHE 271 REV 1 + REV 1 COR 1 (bg) + REV 2 (lv)

4. Amended proposal for a Council Regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Madagascar—Adoption 14388/07 PECHE 310 13154/07 PECHE 272

5. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC with regard to improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts—Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 3634/07 MAP 20 CODEC 713 + COR 1 (sv)+ REV 1 (hu)+ REV 2 (fr)+ REV 4 (el)14241/07 CODEC 1117 MAP 22 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1 (fr)

*Education, Youth and Culture Council 24 May 2007:*

1. Governing Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) *(a)* Appointment of Ms Valentina DEIKOVA (BG), Mr. Enrico Eugenio CECCOTTI (IT), Ms Madlen SERBAN (RO) and Mr. Piotr BARTOSIAK (PL), members in the category of Government representatives *(b)* Appointment of Ms Galia BOZHANOVA (BG), Ms Ilona KIUKUCANE (LV) and Mr. Ion HOHAN (RO), members in the category of representatives of Employers' organisations *(c)* Appointment of Mr. Jef MAES (BE), Ms Svetla TONEVA (BG), Ms Ilze TRAPENCIERE (LV), Mr. Gheorghe SIMION (RO) and Mr. Zygmunt CYBULSKI (PL), members in the category of representatives of Employees' organisations 9336/07 EDUC 89 SOC 188

2. Adoption of a Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Community with regards to certain proposals submitted to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (The Hague, Netherlands, 3-15 June 2007) 9198/07 ENV 230 WTO 107 + COR 1 (et) + ADD 1

3. European Economic and Social Committee—Appointment of two Dutch members (Mr. Meijer and Ms Van Wezel) 8629/07 JUR 160 CES 13 9309/1/07 REV 1 CES 16

4. Committee of the Regions—Appointment of an alternate member (BE) 8794/07 CDR 43 JUR 165 8795/07 CDR 44 + COR 1

5. Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of Agreements in the form of agreed minutes on the modification of concessions with respect to poultry meat between the European Community and the Federal Republic of Brazil, and between the European Community and the Kingdom of Thailand pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994)

Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the implementation of Agreements concluded by the EC following negotiations in the framework of Article XXVIII of GATT 1994, amending and supplementing Annex I to Regulation (ECC) n° 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff 8486/1/07 REV 1 WTO 74 AGRI 115 8488/07 WTO 75 AGRI 116 + COR 1 + REV 1 (ro) 9280/07 WTO 110 AGRI 140 + REV 1 (ro)

6. Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Community and its member states, of the one part, and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union Request by the Council for the assent of the European Parliament 9703/07 AL 13 8937/07 AL 9 7812//07 AL 5 + REV 1 (en) + REV 2 (sl)

7. Relations with Lebanon

(a) Draft Council Decision on a Community position in the Association Council on the implementation of Article 75 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Community and its member states, of the one part, and the Republic of Lebanon, of the other part 8911/07 RL 9 8906/07 RL 8 UE-RL 3004/07

(b) Draft Council Decision on a Community position within the Association Council on the implementation of Article 80 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Community and its member states, of the one part, and the Republic of Lebanon, of the other part 8280/07 RL 6 + REV 1 (fi) 8277/07 RL 5 UE-RL 3001/07

8. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information—Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 3602/07 ENT 9 ENV 43 CODEC 65 + COR 1 + REV 1 (ga)+ REV 1 COR 1 (ga) + REV 2 9156/07 CODEC 447 ENT 50 ENV 227 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1

9. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates (LA) (First reading) - Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 3603/07 STATIS 12 COMPET 43 CODEC 101 + COR 1 + COR 2 + REV 1 (lt) 9186/07 CODEC 451 STATIS 59 COMPET 130

10. Third railway package (Third reading)

(a) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/440/EEC on the development of the Community's railways

(b) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the certification of train crews operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network

(c) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on International Rail Passengers1 Rights and Obligations—Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendments 9417/07 CODEC 491 TRANS 150 9418/07 CODEC 492 TRANS 151 9419/07 CODEC 493 TRANS 152

*Education, Youth and Culture Council 16 February 2007:*

1. Governing Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (a) Appointment of Mr Ole BONDO CHRISTENSEN, to replace Mr. Jonas BERING LIISBERG, Danish full Member, who has resigned; (b) Appointment of Mr. Valerio SPEZIALE, to replace Mr Paolo REBOANI, Italian full Member, who has resigned; (c) Appointment of Mr.. Lorenzo FANTINI, to replace Ms Francesca PELAIA, Italian alternate Member, who has resigned; (d) Appointment of Mr. Orestis MESSIOS, to replace Mme Lenia SAMUEL, Cypriot full Member; who has resigned:(e) Appointment of Ms Yiota KAMBOURIDOU, to replace Mr. Charalambos KOLOKOTRONIS, Cypriot alternate Member; who has resigned. 6126/07 SOC 53

2. Adoption of a Council decision appointing members of the European Social Fund Committee 5662/07 SOC 29 + ADD 1 16601/06 SOC 605

3. Adoption of a Council Regulation amending Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (LA) 5257/07 ENV 19 ENT 4 + COR 1 (en) + COR 2 (cs) + REV 1 (fi) + REV 2 (hu) 6026/07 ENV 75 ENT 16

## Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170169]

**Mr. Lammy:** Mail services for the Department are provided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform uses the following companies and organisations for mail services:

Royal Mail
Parcel Force
Lewis Day
Government Mail
Pitney Bowes
FCO
DHL

The Department for Children Schools and Families uses the following companies and organisations for mail services:

Royal Mail
Parcel Force
Copley Couriers
Central Dispatch Couriers and
'Same Day'

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the electricity bill for his Department was in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [190263]

**Mr. Lammy:** The buildings occupied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, since its creation in June 2007, are administered on our behalf by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. This also goes for the related facilities management arrangements and utilities contracts. The exact split of utilities bills has not yet been carried out.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what changes have been made to his Department's budget for training and skills since the publication of the comprehensive spending review conclusions on 9 October. [173162]

**Mr. Lammy:** Overall investment in further education (FE) and skills will rise to £5.3 billion by 2010-11, an increase of 7 per cent. in real terms compared with 2007-08. This will enable real progress to be made against the Leitch ambitions for world-class skills, equipping adults with the skills they need for sustainable employment and progression. No changes have been made to the budget for FE and skills since the publication of the comprehensive spending review conclusions.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training courses are available to departmental staff via his Department's learning and development unit. [178207]

**Mr. Lammy:** We refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1656W (PQ 180354).

### Education: Bullingdon Prison

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the budget is for HM Prison Bullingdon in the 2007-08 financial year for English language teaching; and what the budget was in 2006-07. [190687]

**Mr. Lammy:** There was no specific budget allocated for English language teaching at HM Prison Bullingdon in either the 2006-07 or 2007-08 financial year. The resources for learning and skills provision in individual prisons are not allocated on the basis of particular courses or learning interventions. An overall budget is set, from which provision will be delivered on the basis of the assessed needs of individual learners.

### Educational Institutions: Nutrition

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on healthy eating in establishments within the responsibilities of his Department, with particular reference to undergraduate students; and if he will make a statement. [178248]

**Bill Rammell:** Promoting healthy lifestyles for people in England and Wales is an important governmental responsibility. The Department of Health is responsible for helping the public to make healthier and more informed lifestyle choices generally, and for promoting healthy eating for all young people and adults as outlined in the recent joint strategy paper "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives". The Food Standards Agency also produces guidance on healthy eating specifically aimed at students. Higher and further education institutions are self-governing independent bodies and take account of national guidance and local circumstances in developing their own policies.

### Learning Outside the Classroom

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress his Department has made on the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto published in November 2006. [190909]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

There are nearly 900 signatories to the Manifesto vision and aims. They are represented by a National Advisory Group comprising eight sector partnerships (natural environment, farming and countryside, outdoor adventure, places of worship, creativity and arts, heritage, built environment, school grounds and early years), school work forces, local authorities, parents, governors and young people.

The National Advisory Group has agreed an Action Plan to tackle the barriers to learning outside the classroom identified during consultation. With our partners, we

are promoting the benefits to a wide audience; producing 'How to' guidance, teacher resources and training modules; creating an umbrella quality badge for providers; and setting up an independent council to take forward the Manifesto objectives.

### Older Workers: Industrial Training

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department for people (i) over 55 years old and (ii) in retirement to learn new job skills. [190010]

**Mr. Lammy:** All adults aged 19 plus, who are not in receipt of out of work benefits, can access the Adult Learning Grant (ALG), which pays up to £30 per week in term time to help with learning costs to study for a first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification.

Our World Class Skills reforms will support individuals, including older people into sustainable employment and progression in work and in skills. We will give greater ownership and choice to individuals over their training through skills accounts backed up by a new universal adult careers service promoting personal advancement.

Similarly we are working with employers through Train to Gain and the Skills Pledge to meet skill needs and to ensure that all employees including older people have the basic skills, including literacy and numeracy and Level 2 skills (equivalent to five good GCSEs) needed to sustain and progress in employment. We are increasing funding for Train to Gain from £440 million in 2007-08 to over £900 million in 2010-11.

We are also investing some £1.5 billion in each of the next three years in learning below level 2 and progression learning, to help the low-skilled and those not in employment to improve their skills and secure sustainable employment.

### Quality Improvement Agency: Standards

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills by what mechanism improvements are monitored and measured in the work of the Quality Improvement Agency. [181703]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are three principal elements against which QIA progress is measured and monitored:

the success of QIA's own programmes and services

the implementation of the National Improvement Strategy

the overall effectiveness of QIA.

These three elements are inter-related and are measured and reported on separately as:

programme level indicators

the Improvement Strategy Balanced Scorecard

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for QIA.

Table 1 following shows the relationships between the three elements and how they are monitored.

*Table 1: the three evaluation strands and their content*

| *Strand of evaluation* | *Content* |
|---|---|
| Programme level indicators | Information on reach, impact and satisfaction from individual support programmes and services and their evaluations |
| Improvement strategy balanced scorecard | A summation of programme level indicators |
| | Indicators for the work of QIA's partners in the improvement strategy |
| | Assessments of contributions to global success measures |
| | Indicators of effective partnership working |
| KPIs for QIA | Reach into the sector |
| | Contribution to success rates and reducing unsatisfactory provision |
| | Overall effectiveness of QIA programmes |
| | Satisfaction with QIA services |
| | Co-ordination and monitoring of the IS |
| | Organisational effectiveness |

QIA has agreed with DIUS an evaluation framework based on four main headings which is otherwise known as the RISE framework:

1. Extent of 'reach' or engagement with the sector ('Reach')
2. Impact of the programme/activity ('Impact')
3. Satisfaction/Awareness with QIA's programmes and services ('Satisfaction/Awareness')
4. Organisational effectiveness ('Effectiveness')

The programme level indicators, the Improvement Strategy balanced scorecard and the KPIs for QIA are all mapped to the RISE framework.

QIA commenced using the RISE framework for its programmes from 1 April 2007, and commissioned a 'Summative Evaluation' to bring together the evidence gathered at that time from the evaluations of individual programmes and activities, data generated by the external contractors delivering these programmes and activities, and various other sources.

Further information on QIA progress and achievements is available on the QIA website via this link:

http://www.qia.org.uk/annualreview/assets/QIA_Summative_Evaluation.pdf

### Students: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how his Department encourages students entitled to bursaries to apply for them; and if he will make a statement. [184038]

**Bill Rammell:** The great majority of those entitled to bursaries in 2006/07 either applied to their university for funding, or were the subject of an automatic notification of eligibility from the Student Loans Company to their university because they had given consent to the sharing of financial data.

Many universities have worked hard to maximise take-up of bursaries. In some cases not enough has been done, and the Director of Fair Access, Martin

Harris, has written to universities where this is so. We support this initiative. In addition, at our request the Student Loans Company is providing clearer information to applicants for student loans about the benefits of giving consent to share financial data with universities, although consent to share rightly remains a matter of individual choice.

DIUS raises awareness of all elements of the higher education student finance package including bursaries via literature, web and campaign material.

Additionally, the Department established a bursary map

www.direct.gov.uk/bursarymap

to help individuals link to higher education institutions in England to find out what financial help those institutions are offering and how they should apply.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of using the *(a)* retail prices index, *(b)* consumer prices index and *(c)* retail prices index excluding mortgage interest payments to calculate interest on student loans. [183933]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department keeps the interest rate of student loans under review but has no plans to deviate from the retail prices index (RPI) which reflects price movements across the whole economy. The RPI has been used since the introduction of student loans and ensures that borrowers repay the same, in real terms, as the amount borrowed.

Interest rates on loans are already generously subsidised in a way which is fair both to borrowers and to the taxpayer.

### Taxis

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on taxis since establishment. [171870]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on this type of travel expenditure is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Unemployment: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds in the Cleethorpes constituency were registered as unemployed in the last five years for which figures are available. [172520]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of 16-19 year olds in Cleethorpes constituency were registered as unemployed in the last five years for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (172520)

ONS compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 1, attached, shows the number of people, aged 16-19 resident in the Cleethorpes constituency, claiming JSA in January from 2004 to 2008. Population estimates used to calculate claimant count proportions are not available for parliamentary constituencies for this particular age group.

*Table 1: 16-19 registered unemployed, resident in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency for the last five years*

| *12 months ending* | *Level*[1] |
|---|---|
| January 2004 | 200 |
| January 2005 | 210 |
| January 2006 | 230 |
| January 2007 | 235 |
| January 2008 | 190 |

[1] Data rounded to nearest 5.

### Vocational Training: Payments

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which learning and skills councils owed money to training providers beyond 30 days of due payment under the Train to Gain initiative in the latest period for which figures are available. [180731]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Train to Gain programme had a total grant letter budget in excess of £460 million in 2007-08.

At 31 December 2007 the Learning and Skills Council owed 11 Train to Gain providers a total of £114,699 for more than 30 days.

The seven Learning and Skills Councils and the amounts owed are shown as follows.

| *LSC* | *£* |
|---|---|
| East of England | 38,133 |
| East Midlands | 4,613 |
| Greater London | 6,720 |
| North East | 53,400 |
| North West | 7,566 |
| South West | 3,300 |
| West Midlands | 967 |
| Total | 114,699 |

*Source:*
LSC

### Wolverhampton University: Grants

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will hold discussions with the management of Wolverhampton University on the impact of proposed changes to equivalent learning qualification funding. [179621]

**Bill Rammell:** No students currently studying equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs) will be affected by these changes. In future, our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that more of the millions of people of working age, of whom there are many in the West Midlands, who do

not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in Higher education. Wolverhampton University is well-placed to attract and retain more first-time entrants to Higher Education, which is our top priority. However, all we have asked HEFCE to do is redistribute about £100 million by 2010. Wolverhampton's share of this sum will be less than £1 million, which is less than 1 per cent. of its overall annual income.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Bankruptcy: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many personal bankruptcies have been declared in each London court since 2000. [188972]

**Mr. McFadden:** Table 1 records the number of individual bankruptcy orders that have been declared in each London court from 2000 to 2006. The High Court is the only court located in London with Insolvency Jurisdiction.

*Table 1: Number of individual bankruptcy orders made in the High Court, 2000-06*

| | *High Court* | *London OR* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,403 | 1,285 |
| 2001 | 1,525 | 1,427 |
| 2002 | 1,638 | 1,457 |
| 2003 | 2,046 | 1,933 |
| 2004 | 3,137 | 3,038 |
| 2005 | 4,127 | 3,888 |
| 2006 | 4,896 | 4,410 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for 2007 are not yet available on the same basis as those for earlier years.
2. Cases heard by the High Court are not restricted to those individuals resident or trading in the London area; they may include cases from across the country, most notably, where the petitioner is HMRC.
3. New case figures for the London official receivers region are also given for comparative purposes. These include cases assigned to the public interest unit (PIU). They do not, however, include cases dealt with by Croydon official receiver, although the London region officially has included Croydon OR from 2004-05.
4. After a bankruptcy order has been made, it is possible that the case may subsequently be assigned to a different court, for various reasons. The High Court figures for the entire period 2000 to 2006 reflect the court details recorded on the database mid-2007 and will, therefore, be subject to movements in both directions since the order date as far as High Court figures are concerned.
5. Individuals may also be assigned to a different official receivers office as the case progresses, perhaps because the bankrupt has moved or cases are re-allocated. The London official receivers' figures shown under table 1 record the office assigned at the time the order was made.

### Broadband: Easington

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which villages in the Easington constituency do not have 100 per cent. broadband coverage; and if he will make a statement. [188831]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Business: Ethics

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Minister and departmental division in his Department are responsible for corporate social responsibility. [190898]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I am responsible for corporate responsibility at DBERR. The Sustainable Development and Regulation Directorate, within the Enterprise and Business Group, leads on this area for BERR.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget was for promoting corporate social responsibility *(a)* internally at his Department and *(b)* externally by his Department to British companies in each of the last five calendar years. [190899]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* DBERR leads on corporate responsibility but is supported in that work by many other Departments.

Within DBERR much of our, and formerly the DTI's, work encompasses aspects of the corporate responsibility agenda, for example the national contact point and training for business on UK law on bribery and corruption provided by UK Trade and Investment (a joint DBERR/FCO organisation).

Only the work carried out by the sustainable development and regulation branch of DBERR is formally attributed a corporate responsibility budget. Budgets are not segregated according to whether expenditure is internal or external and information is only available for financial years, not calendar years.

For each of the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 the corporate responsibility expenditure was around £300,000. This expenditure included set-up costs for the CSR Academy, now transferred to Business in the Community (BITC), and a cross-Government corporate responsibility web site. To date in 2007-08 expenditure on corporate responsibility is £130,000.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent staff work on corporate social responsibility in his Department. [190900]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* BERR leads on corporate responsibility within Government but is supported in that work by many other Departments.

Within DBERR, much of our, and formerly the DTI's, work encompasses aspects of the corporate responsibility agenda, for example the national contact

point and training for business on UK law on bribery and corruption provided by UKTI (a joint DBERR/FCO organisation).

It is not possible to give figures for staff working on the corporate responsibility agenda across BERR, but 8.5 staff work within its dedicated sustainable development and corporate responsibility section.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the Government's proposals for corporate social responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [191103]

**Malcolm Wicks:** DBERR leads on corporate responsibility (CR) but is supported in that work by many other Departments. Our policy is, via voluntary means, to raise performance above minimum legal standards and encourage companies to look at a wider range of stakeholder interests.

We have created a policy framework which encourages and enables responsible behaviour by business and helps to ensure that we have decent minimum levels of performance in areas such as health and safety, the environment and equal opportunities.

Progress includes improvements in the running of the UK national contact point; the creation of the new DFID-DBERR Trade Policy Unit which brings together trade and development experts to ensure UK competitiveness and market access, work for better trade deals for poorer countries and better support for those wishing to trade themselves out of poverty; the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill, which will give added protection to the consumer; the new provisions of the Companies Act 2006, which are designed to bring greater shareholder engagement and transparency; and the current development of an International Standard on Corporate Social Responsibility (ISO 26000).

Among various international activities the Government champion the extractives industry transparency initiative to encourage greater transparency of oil, gas and mining revenues in developing countries and supports the work of John Ruggie, appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on human rights and transnational corporations.

Departmental progress on CR-related matters is available through press notices and websites. Links to these can be found at the dedicated CR Government website:

www.csr.gov.uk

### Coal-Fired Power Stations

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of the number of coal-fired power plants required to meet the UK's electricity needs. [189923]

**Malcolm Wicks:** This is a matter for electricity-generating companies, as the Government do not determine the fuel mix of the UK's generating fleet. Generators have every incentive to ensure that the UK's need for secure supplies of low carbon electricity are met in the most cost-effective and efficient way, taking into account factors such as the carbon intensity, energy conversion efficiency, fuel availability and cost, generating flexibility, supply chain constraints and lead times of the various possible energy generating technologies. The Government do, however, monitor the supply-demand balance in the UK's energy markets through its annual energy markets outlook.

### Coal-Fired Power Stations: Carbon Sequestration

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what definition of the term "capture ready" he uses; and what criteria are used to determine whether a proposed power plant is "capture ready" with regard to carbon capture and storage. [189925]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There is as yet no agreed definition of capture ready either in the UK or internationally.

Ministers committed themselves in the Energy White Paper last year (s.5.4.27) to consulting on both the principle of carbon capture readiness and its definition. We expect to issue the consultation document shortly. We will also seek views on the draft EU directive on carbon storage (including its proposed definition of what constitutes carbon capture readiness) published a few weeks ago.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold a consultation on a suitable definition for the phrase carbon capture and storage ready as it applies to coal-fired power stations. [190220]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In our Energy White Paper last May, the Government committed themselves to doing exactly this in respect of all fossil-fuelled power stations, not solely coal-fired ones. We expect to issue our consultation, which will also take into account the draft EU directive on carbon storage, later in the spring.

### Coal-Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether his Department has sought advice from the Department for Communities and Local Government on the application of criteria for calling in planning applications and referring such applications to a planning inspector to the application for consent for a coal fired power station at Kingsnorth, Kent; [189221]

(2) what criteria he plans to use in deciding whether to call a public inquiry before determining the application for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, Kent; [189222]

(3) what response he has made to representations by Medway Council in connection with the proposed Kingsnorth power station on *(a)* a public inquiry, *(b)* combined heat and power capacity at the plant and *(c)* available land for future carbon capture and storage facility. [189316]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My Department is aware of the criteria used for calling in planning applications. However, the Kingsnorth application falls to be

determined not under the normal planning regime, but under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and as such it is for the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to decide whether to use his discretion to call for a public inquiry in view of the representations he has received.

There are no criteria laid down for calling a discretionary inquiry.

We will address all the decision on Medway council's representations in any decision that is taken, including whether or not to hold a public inquiry.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask E.ON UK to provide a technical assessment of the feasibility and likely costs of retrofitting its proposed Kingsnorth coal-fired power station with carbon capture technology and of the availability of suitable storage sites and suitable transport sites. [189223]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In deciding whether to approve E.ON's planning application for Kingsnorth power station under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 Ministers will be considering a range of possible conditions, including whether—and if so in what terms—there should be readiness for future carbon capture.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the effect of likely changes in sea-levels over the next 30 years on the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth, if built; [189313]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of measures to manage the effect on the proposed Kingsnorth power station, if built, of likely changes in sea-levels over the next *(a)* 30 and *(b)* 40 years; [189314]

(3) what estimate he has made of the carbon cost of the expected volume of emissions from the proposed Kingsnorth power station, if built, between *(a)* 2012 and 2020 and *(b)* 2021 and 2050 based on the Government's shadow cost of carbon. [189315]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has made no such assessment or estimates.

## Companies House WebCHeck Website

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the opening times of the Companies House WebCHeck website. [189302]

**Mr. Thomas:** Companies House's WebCHeck service is available from Monday to Saturday 7 am to 12 midnight UK Time. It is planning to increase availability to include Sundays by December 2008.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many times Companies House's WebCHeck website has experienced technical difficulties in each month of the last three years. [189303]

**Mr. Thomas:** A table detailing the number of technical difficulties each month in the last three years experienced by Companies House's WebCHeck follows.

| | *Number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| February 2005 | 4 |
| March 2005 | 3 |
| April 2005 | 3 |
| May 2005 | 4 |
| June 2005 | 2 |
| July 2005 | 0 |
| August 2005 | 7 |
| September 2005 | 3 |
| October 2005 | 3 |
| November 2005 | 7 |
| December 2005 | 3 |
| January 2006 | 4 |
| February 2006 | 1 |
| March 2006 | 8 |
| April 2006 | 2 |
| May 2006 | 7 |
| June 2006 | 6 |
| July 2006 | 3 |
| August 2006 | 2 |
| September 2006 | 1 |
| October 2006 | 6 |
| November 2006 | 5 |
| December 2006 | 0 |
| January 2007 | 1 |
| February 2007 | 10 |
| March 2007 | 2 |
| April 2007 | 2 |
| May 2007 | 0 |
| June 2007 | 1 |
| July 2007 | 1 |
| August 2007 | 4 |
| September 2007 | 2 |
| October 2007 | 4 |
| November 2007 | 2 |
| December 2007 | 7 |
| January 2008 | 5 |
| February 2008 | 2 |

## Defence Export Services Organisation

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former Defence Export Services Organisation personnel are *(a)* seconded and *(b)* due to be seconded to his Department. [187762]

**Mr. Thomas:** There are currently around 83 staff on loan to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from other Departments (loan being the term used to refer to secondment within the civil service). Information is not available on how many have previously worked in DESO.

Details of the number of staff to be transferred from the Ministry of Defence on 1 April as a consequence of the transfer of responsibility for defence export support will be finalised in the coming weeks.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187501]

**Mr. Thomas:** No staff have retired from the Department on the grounds of stress-related illness within the last three years.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187875]

**Mr. Thomas:** The percentage of working days lost by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly the Department of Trade and Industry), including UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and the Office of Manpower Economics (OME), attributed to stress-related conditions for the period January 2007 to December 2007 is 15 per cent. (2,367 days lost due to stress-related conditions out of a total of 15,676 sick days over the same period).

Stress-related conditions include the following: anxiety, stress, depression and other psychiatric illnesses.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are used by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [186181]

**Mr. Thomas:** From the central records available, the "08" telephone services administered by the Department for public use are as follows:

| | *Department/Agency* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 0800 number | |
| 0800 373 317 | Construction Market Intelligence |
| *(b)* 0845 numbers | |
| 0845 015 0010 | BERR Publications Order line |
| 0845 015 0020 | BERR Publications Order line (Fax) |
| 0845 015 0030 | BERR Publications Order line (Minicom) |
| 0845 019 0001 | Personnel Training Services Consortium |
| 0845 600 0678 | National Minimum Wage |
| 0845 600 9006 | Business Link Helpline |
| 0845 9555105 | Employment Agency Standards |
| *(c)* 0870 numbers | |
| 0870 513 4486 | Queens Award Office |

The agencies which report to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have been asked to provide separate written responses.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187982]

**Mr. Thomas:** In accordance with the Department's "Race Equality Scheme 2007-08", available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategyobjectives/howwework/equalityschemes/page35704.html

BERR documents may be made available in languages for people in the UK who do not speak English to support appropriate access to information, at the Department's discretion and subject to demand. Examples of documents published or planned in other languages include employee rights information and leaflets on the digital television switchover.

A listing of BERR's currently available publications can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/publications

Information on translation of documents by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. It is not held centrally. I am asking agency chief executives to write direct to the hon. Member, and am arranging for a copy of the list of non-departmental public bodies to be placed in the Library of the House for the use of the hon. Member.

### Devolution: Carbon Emissions

**Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to co-ordinate action on carbon emissions reduction. [187458]

**Malcolm Wicks:** DBERR worked with the devolved Administrations over the development of the 2007 Energy White Paper, which sets out the UK Government's energy strategy. The role of the devolved Administrations in energy policy is set out in chapter 9 of that document. DBERR actively engages with the devolved Administrations on issues on which they have specific responsibilities or interests. In the last year, these have included discussions on the EU's integrated climate change and energy policy, renewables, including the renewables obligation offshore wind policy and the offshore energy strategic environmental assessment, electricity grid issues, carbon capture and storage, the feasibility study for power generation in the Severn estuary (with the Welsh Assembly Government), the Heat Call for Evidence, the establishment of the Environmental Transformation Fund, and of course on the Energy Bill. Moreover, DBERR contributes to the work of bodies such as the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust which are charged with reducing emissions across the UK.

### EC Action: Origin Marking

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the European Union has plans for a directive on origin marking. [189582]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission has put forward a proposal for a council regulation for the compulsory indication of the country of origin of certain products imported into the EU from third countries. This proposal has been subject to detailed technical level analysis and has yet to be formally adopted for negotiation.

### Electronic Government: Public Participation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether a national database of e-consultations across Government has been established. [189900]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Business Link website provides details of, and links to, consultations of particular interest to small businesses; Directgov provides information about, and links to, consultations of broad interest to citizens; and www.info4local.gov.uk provides information about, and links to, consultations of particular interest to local authorities; although registered users represent all sectors. Departmental websites also routinely list all ongoing consultations.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the operation of e-consultation across Government to date; and if he will make a statement. [189901]

**Mr. Thomas:** Online consultation is one channel through which the Government consult during policy development. The Government have recently carried out a review of Government consultation policy, asking those who regularly participate in Government consultation exercises how consultation could be improved. One message from this review is that the Government should design consultation exercises to be accessible, which means making better use of the full range of channels, including electronic channels.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department provides for e-consultations across Government. [189927]

**Mr. Thomas:** Consultation exercises, electronic or otherwise, are usually financed from the budget line for the policy area rather than from any central resource within Departments or across Government.

### Energy

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what consideration he has given to the future use of alternative, non-renewable energy sources; and if he will make a statement; [187666]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* industry representatives on the future use of alternative, non-renewable energy sources; [187667]

(3) whether any grants from the public purse in support of work on alternative energy sources are also available to non-renewable energy sources. [187668]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The UK needs a diverse mix of low-carbon energy sources to contribute to our energy and climate change goals. The Energy White Paper set out the Government's policy to tackling our key challenges and the guiding principle of market access to all the options available so we can have a diverse and increasingly low carbon energy mix, enabling us to respond to the rapidly changing challenges we will face in the future.

The challenge of moving towards a lower carbon economy requires us to develop a portfolio of low carbon energy technologies such as carbon abatement technologies, including carbon capture and storage, hydrogen and fuel cells, nuclear power and renewables. On 19 November 2007, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the Government competition for a full-scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage technologies on a coal-fired power plant and on 10 January my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State invited companies to present proposals to build new nuclear power stations.

Public-sector funding for low carbon technology innovation is being delivered through the Research Councils, the Technology Strategy Board, the Energy Technologies Institute and from April the Environmental Transformation Fund. These bodies work closely together to ensure that funding activities are complementary and together effectively support a portfolio of technologies, including alternatives such as hydrogen and nuclear power.

BERR engages with external stakeholders such as the Energy Research Partnership (ERP), the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (ACCAT), the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB), and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (UKBCSE) which include scientific and industry representatives, on the delivery of these activities. The Secretary of State, in the course of his official engagements, regularly meets representatives from energy companies as well as other stakeholders.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to *(a)* encourage the development of wind farms and other renewable energy plants and *(b)* assist energy companies to reduce electricity losses arising from transmission to population centres. [188763]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's main mechanism for supporting renewable generation. We believe that it is for the market to bring forward projects which, with support from the RO, are financially viable.

Since the RO was introduced in 2002 we have seen renewable generation more than double from 1.8 per cent. in 2002 to 4.4 per cent. in 2006. Year on year we are seeing increasing amounts of capacity coming through. The first gigawatt of wind took around 14 years to become operational; the second only 20 months.

The May 2007 Energy White Paper contains proposals to band the RO to better match the level of support provided to the costs of various technologies. This will bring on a more diverse range of renewable technologies. A Government response to consultation

on reform of the RO was published alongside the Energy Bill on 10 January and this is currently before the House. We are aiming to implement these changes through secondary legislation in April 2009.

On 10 December 2007 the Secretary of State announced the launch of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on a draft plan for up to 25 gigawatts of new offshore wind development rights in UK waters.

We also published a Scoping Report on 10 December for our draft plan for offshore energy. This is the first formal step in the consultation process. Following our consultation on this scoping stage, we will undertake a full assessment this year of our Plan for Offshore development. Following the results of the SEA, the Secretary of State expects to make decisions on whether to proceed with our plan in early 2009.

We are aware that there are barriers to the deployment of renewables in the UK—such as planning, grid and aviation/radar issues—and we are taking steps to address these. This includes taking the Planning Bill through Parliament in order to reform the planning system for renewables. We are also working with Ofgem, national grid, the Ministry of Defence and others to reduce other barriers to renewables deployment.

Later this year the Government will launch a consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use in the UK to meet our share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. This will consider a range of issues, including how to remove the barriers to development of renewable energy generation. Once the EU Renewables Directive is agreed and the UK's contribution to the EU 2020 target is finalised, we will publish our full UK Renewable Energy Strategy in 2009.

*(b)* Transmission and distribution companies both have a financial incentive to reduce energy losses. In terms of the distribution companies, Ofgem is intending to review this as part of the Distribution Price Control Review which is now getting under way.

In addition, Ofgem is currently considering mechanisms for charging for transmission energy losses, in order to ensure that locational signals are taken into account in the siting and operation of generating stations.

### Export Credit Guarantees: Indonesia

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much cover the Export Credits Guarantee Department has extended for military exports to Indonesia in each year since 2000. [189353]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since 2000, the ECGD has supported two defence transactions, worth £5.84 million, to Indonesia. The following table gives details by year.

| *Financial year* | *Number of applications* | *Maximum liability (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 1 | 4.18 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 1 | 1.66 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2 | 5.84 |

### Food: Packaging

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* initiatives and *(b)* incentives his Department has in place to encourage reductions in the amount of packaging used for food; and if he will make a statement. [188535]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 oblige companies above a threshold to pay for a certain proportion of the UK obligation to recycle packaging. Different companies in the supply chain from manufacturers to retailers pick up a different sized proportion of the obligation and must pay according to the amount of packaging used. The less packaging they use, the less they will pay in fees. This has, over time, resulted in lightweighting across a range of products. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) continues to work with businesses to help them minimise their packaging. The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) require packaging volume and weight to be the minimum amount.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidelines his Department issues to (a) supermarkets and *(b)* food manufacturers on the amount of packaging used for (i) foodstuffs and (ii) confectionery; and if he will make a statement. [188536]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* Supermarkets and food manufacturers are required under the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) to ensure that packaging volume and weight constitute the minimum amount that is adequate to maintain necessary levels of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer. Government Guidance Notes explaining these requirements are available to download from the BERR website. Practical help for business to understand its obligations is provided by the Government-funded Envirowise service.

### Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 651W, on the fossil fuel levy: Scotland, whether a transfer of funds from the fossil fuel levy to the Scottish Consolidated Fund would be ring-fenced for renewable energy purposes. [190914]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Yes. Any funds from the fossil fuel levy which are transferred to the Scottish Consolidated Fund following a direction made by Scottish Ministers made under section 187 of the Energy Act 2004 would have to be used for the purpose of promoting the use of energy from renewable sources.

### Fossil Fuels: Nature Conservation

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the designation of Pen Llyn and Pembrokeshire marine areas as special areas of conservation is compatible with oil and gas development; and if he will make a statement. [189424]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* Proposed licensing and any subsequent offshore activities in or near to these areas will be subject to the provisions of the habitats and wild birds directives. Wherever oil and gas development is likely to have a significant effect upon special areas of conservation such as Pen Llyn and Pembrokeshire, an environmental assessment under the habitats and wild birds directives will be carried out before any licences are awarded under the 25th licensing round; where relevant, an environmental assessment will also be carried out before oil and gas activities are consented to. I will have regard to the results of any such environmental assessment.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has recently *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 on fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [189012]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In accordance with the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, in February 2001 the Government launched a consultation draft of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy and later that year, the finalised strategy (http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file16495.pdf).

Fuel poverty is measured annually, using the results of the English House Conditions Survey (EHCS). The following table shows the approximate number of households living in fuel poverty since 1996.

*Estimated number of fuel poor households*

| | *UK* | *Million England* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| 1998 | 4.75 | 3.4 |
| 2001 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| 2002 | 2.25 | 1.4 |
| 2003 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| 2004 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| 2005 | 2.5 | 1.5 |

Figures for 2006 will be available later this year.

### Heating: Energy

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plan to take to ensure that UK manufacturers of heating controls are not economically disadvantaged as a result of the implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive. [189854]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The European Commission is bringing forward measures under this directive, including one for heating and hot water systems that includes consideration of how control systems can be used to improve the energy efficiency of those appliances. A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted throughout the process, and also have a formal opportunity to comment on the Commission's initial proposal at the EU Consultation Forum Meeting scheduled for 29 February or in writing up to three weeks after that meeting. My officials are also currently consulting the UK industry on the Commission's proposal. As this is a single market directive, any measures made under the EuP framework would apply to all member states, ensuring free movement of compliant goods across the Community.

### Heating: Trade Competitiveness

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to preserve the competitiveness of the UK heating controls manufacturing industry following implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive. [190079]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I have given to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) to his question 189463 today.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much had been paid out as compensation to miners for *(a)* chest and *(b)* vibration white finger disorders as at December 2007. [189624]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table shows how much has been paid out as compensation to miners and their families for *(a)* chest claims and *(b)* vibration white finger claims as at 31 December 2007. Damages reflect total compensation paid on settled claims and any interim payments made on outstanding claims.

| *Policy* | *Total damages (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| COPD | 2.2 |
| VWF | 1.6 |

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much had been paid in legal fees to *(a)* claimants' solicitors and *(b)* other representatives of miners seeking compensation as at December 2007. [189629]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Please see the following table showing how much has been paid in legal fees to *(a)* claimants' solicitors and *(b)* other representatives of miners and their families seeking compensation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) as at 31 December 2007.

| *Payee* | *COPD* | *VWF* | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Solicitors | 937.7 | 153.4 | 1,091.1 |
| Other representatives | 24.8 | 10.1 | 34.9 |
| Total | 962.5 | 163.5 | 1,126.0 |

### Marine Management Organisation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what licensing powers currently within his Department's responsibilities he expects to be transferred to the Marine Management Organisation, as proposed in the Marine Bill White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [188707]

**Mr. Thomas:** It is proposed that powers to determine consent of applications under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for offshore generating stations with an installed capacity of 100 MW and below will be transferred from DBERR to the Marine Management Organisation. Under proposals set out in the Planning Bill, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will deal with applications for offshore generating stations with an installed capacity exceeding 100 MW.

### Mineral Waters

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187674]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department provides bottled water within our restaurant, cafe areas and hospitality services via our contracted service provider.

Water purchased by our contracted service provider for consumption on the DBERR estate cannot be broken down between official and personal spend.

### Nuclear Consultations and Liabilities Unit

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of hospitality provided for senior civil servants in the Nuclear Consultations and Liabilities Unit was in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [190266]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Nuclear Consultations and Liabilities Unit began operation in September 2006. The figures given as follows therefore start from this date.

The estimated value of hospitality provided for the five senior civil servants in the unit was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* From September until December 2006 | 686 |
| *(b)* From January until December 2007 | 1,530 |

The hospitality that is accepted by civil servants is subject to the conditions laid out in the Civil Service Code.

### Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board: Public Appointments

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to appoint to the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board nuclear specialists from *(a)* environmental non-governmental organisations and *(b)* outside the nuclear industry. [190132]

**Malcolm Wicks:** As stated in the Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance Consultation, the NLFAB is expected to consist of experts from relevant fields such as current or former fund managers, pension trustees, actuaries and nuclear specialists.

The Funded Decommissioning Programmes will contain technical detail in a highly specialised area, requiring a high level of expertise to scrutinise effectively.

Appointments will be governed by the overriding principle of appointment on merit, and will be made in line with the Nolan Principles for public appointments.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost is of decommissioning each nuclear site within the responsibility of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [187066]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Estimating the costs of decommissioning and cleaning up the historic civil public nuclear sites, including the Magnox nuclear power stations, is the responsibility of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The latest estimate is set out on page 105 of the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, which is available on the NDA website at www.nda.gov.uk. This shows the discounted nuclear provision of each site for which the NDQA is responsible but does not separate decommissioning and clean-up costs. The NDA is currently in the process of updating the estimated lifetime financials per site, which will list separate decommissioning and clean up costs for each site. This will be published on the NDA website later in the year.

### Oil: Exploration

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which blocks have been excluded from the 25th licensing round for oil and gas *(a)* on environmental grounds and *(b)* owing to lack of data. [189423]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* Forty-two blocks have been excluded from the 25th licensing round on environmental grounds, including 21 blocks which have been excluded pending appropriate assessment consultations.

Following recommendations in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 7, a further 44 blocks to the west of Scotland have been excluded due to lack of data.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions have taken place between his Department and Post Office Ltd and *(a)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission and *(b)* disability rights organisations on the impact of local post office closures on people with disabilities. [188930]

**Mr. McFadden:** In developing and consulting on their proposed strategy to put the post office network on a more sustainable footing, including closure of up to 2,500 offices, the Government sought views and comments from the public and a range of organisations representing customer groups including the disabled. The Government's response in May 2007 to the national public consultation confirmed that in rationalising the network no particular part of the network and no particular group of people should be significantly more adversely affected by closures than any other. It also confirmed that access criteria would be introduced to maintain a national network and, in particular, to protect vulnerable customers and that, in applying these criteria, Post Office Ltd would take account of geographical factors and consider local socio-economic factors and the availability of public transport to access alternative service provision.

Assessment of the impact of the closure of specific individual post offices is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd in developing and consulting locally on its area plan proposals. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Post Offices: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from the Mayor of London on post offices in London in each year since 2001. [189392]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information is not available in the form requested. However, our records show that, within the period specified, the Mayor of London made numerous representations about post office closures in general and about the closure of specific, individual post offices. The Mayor also responded to the Government's national consultation on the Post Office, and discussed post office issues most recently with me at a meeting on 19 September 2007.

### Radioactive Materials: Theft

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions radioactive material has been *(a)* stolen and *(b)* lost (i) from nuclear premises and (ii) in transit since 2003. [189069]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Across the UK, the largest amounts of nuclear materials are stored or processed on civil licensed nuclear sites, whose security is regulated by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), which is a part of the Health and Safety Executive. The UK's civil nuclear sites and nuclear material transporters apply robust security measures and are regulated by the OCNS to ensure compliance.

Since 2003, the OCNS has not recorded any thefts or losses of nuclear or radioactive material in the UK, either from a civil licensed nuclear site or when in transit.

Outside the sites and material in transit regulated by OCNS, small numbers of thefts and losses have occurred whilst radioactive materials have been transported in the UK. The Department for Transport (DFT) investigates such events and takes regulatory action as appropriate. Information is available in reports published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on behalf of the DFT. All HPA reports have been placed in the House of Commons Library and copies of these reports since 2001 are available on the DFT website.

### Regional Development Agencies: Government Offices for the Regions

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidelines are in place to *(a)* co-ordinate and *(b)* prevent duplication in the work of the regional development agencies and the Government Offices for the Regions; and if he will make a statement. [188921]

**Mr. McFadden:** RDAs and GOs have different and complementary roles supporting sustainable economic development in the regions. The nine regional development agencies were established by the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998 and the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to undertake the purposes set out in the Acts. The Government office network is central Government in the regions. It works on behalf of 11 sponsor Departments.

The objectives of the RDAs and the Government offices are set out in their corporate plans and officials here and in the DCLG regularly meet them to discuss their respective work programmes.

Government offices and RDAs have strong working relationships involving regular high-level interactions, and share a common understanding of where each add value within the region.

### Utilities: Prices

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average annual household bill for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in (i) Bexley borough and (ii) Greater London in each of the last 10 years. [189383]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The lowest level of aggregation for average annual domestic gas and electricity bills that is available is at gas/electricity region level. It is published quarterly in "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest version of which is accessible online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43302.pdf The town/cities specified in tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 within this publication indicate which region the bills apply too. London is used to represent Greater London, and therefore incorporates Bexley borough. Constituency level averages are not available.

Average bills vary significantly with the type of payment method used; therefore all statistics are broken down between the direct debit, standard credit and prepayment methods. The following table shows the average annual bill for each payment type in London in cash terms since 1998 (the earliest available year).

*London*

| | *Gas* | | | *Electricity* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Standard credit* | *Direct debit* | *Prepayment* | *Standard credit* | *Direct debit* | *Prepayment* |
| 1998 | 314 | 277 | 331 | 263 | 255 | 275 |
| 1999 | 305 | 268 | 318 | 258 | 253 | 268 |
| 2000 | 295 | 267 | 311 | 252 | 241 | 263 |
| 2001 | 293 | 268 | 308 | 246 | 235 | 256 |
| 2002 | 309 | 283 | 326 | 244 | 233 | 253 |
| 2003 | 320 | 294 | 335 | 249 | 241 | 253 |
| 2004 | 334 | 311 | 351 | 252 | 244 | 250 |
| 2005 | 388 | 358 | 401 | 288 | 276 | 292 |
| 2006 | 480 | 431 | 499 | 339 | 322 | 348 |
| 2007 | 556 | 499 | 590 | 371 | 348 | 381 |

**Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what amendments have been made to, and what recent representations he has received on, the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [189013]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Section 2(4)(c) of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 is amended by paragraph 21 of schedule 7 to the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007. This amendment replaces the reference to the Gas and Electricity Consumer Council with a reference to the National Consumer Council.

Section 2(9) of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 is repealed by schedule 8 to the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007. Section 2(9) is concerned with the period before the commencement of section 3(1) of the Utilities Act 2000. As section 3(1) of the Utilities Act came into force on 20 December 2000, section 2(9) is repealed as it is no longer necessary.

These amendments are due to come into force later this year.

We have received a letter from Friends of the Earth which broadly relates to the duties placed upon the Secretary of State in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. Friends of the Earth has indicated that it will decide whether it will apply for judicial review on receipt of the Government's response.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what action is required in respect of each; and if he will make a statement. [189014]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has issued no statutory instruments under the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 and has no plans to issue any over the next 12 months.

The Government have issued annual progress reports on the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy since 2002. The next report will be published witnin the next 12 months.

The Department issues a fuel poverty newsletter, usually at six-monthly intervals. The newsletter is available on the Department's website and covers the action taken by a range of stakeholders on fuel poverty.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 4 March 2008*

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Churches: Theft

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the impact that the level of thefts from churches has had on the average cost of insurance premiums for churches over the last three years. [190054]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commissioners do not hold figures for church insurance premiums. We understand that the rates charged by Ecclesiastical, the leading insurer of Anglican churches, have until now been unaffected. The situation has recently become so serious, with the very substantial increase in metal thefts, that it is inevitable that premiums will be affected in the future.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Correspondence

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Leader of the House when she will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 27 November 2007, on her Labour Party deputy leadership campaign and declarations under the ministerial code. [191625]

**Ms Harman:** I have nothing to add to what I said in the House in response to a question from the right hon. Member for Maidenhead during business questions on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 435.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Commission: Grants

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, with reference to an Electoral Commission press release dated 12 February on grants allocated to community-based organisations, what steps the Commission is taking to ensure that such funding is awarded to politically impartial organisations. [191091]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that all grant-funded organisations must comply with the terms and conditions of the scheme, which state that projects must be run and delivered in an impartial and unbiased manner and that no part of the grant shall be used to promote party or other political purposes.

All grants are monitored through quarterly reports and annual visits by Commission officials.

### Liberal Democrats: Finance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what progress has been made on the Electoral Commission's investigation into the permissibility of the donations by Mr. Michael Brown to the Liberal Democrat Party. [191127]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the position remains as stated in the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W.

### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many plasma television screens have been purchased by the Commission, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191071]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that nine plasma television screens were purchased in the last 24 months at a total cost of £11,215.52. Six screens were purchased when the Commission's London office was refurbished and three when the Commission opened new offices in Exeter, York and Coventry.

## WALES

### Brofiscin Quarry: Hazardous Substances

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans on what timetable have been agreed by his Department and the Environment Agency Wales for the removal of toxic waste from Brofiscin quarry; what estimate he has made of the associated costs; and who is liable to meet such costs. [190073]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Environment Agency is currently conducting an appraisal of remedial treatment solutions and the associated costs for Brofiscin Quarry. It is also investigating who should be responsible for the cost of remediation. In doing so, the Environment Agency must act in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The contaminated land regime does not prescribe a timetable for these processes.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of (i) Agent Orange derivatives, (ii) polychlorinated biphenyls and (iii) dioxins on (A) current and (B) future residents in areas around Brofiscin quarry; and if he will make a statement. [190074]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** It is the responsibility of Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough council to investigate and respond to public health-related

matters such as exposure of local residents to any airborne vapours, gases or dusts.

All investigations to date have indicated that there is no identifiable harm or immediate danger to human health from the quarry. The local authority has obtained funding from the Welsh Assembly Government for a study to investigate the presence or absence of vapours from the quarry site which will evaluate any potential risk to human health. The investigation is scheduled to start in March and to last 12 months.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to act against those responsible for the illegal dumping of toxic waste at Brofiscin quarry. [190075]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Environment Agency is currently investigating who should be responsible for the cost of remediating Brofiscin quarry. Once its investigation is complete and a determination made, the Environment Agency will consult with these 'appropriate persons' on remediation options and costs. The 'appropriate persons' may remediate the land voluntarily, or, alternatively, the Environment Agency may serve a Remediation Notice detailing what work needs to be done. In certain circumstances, the Environment Agency may carry out the work itself and seek to recover costs from the 'appropriate persons'.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received an *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190281]

**David Cairns:** The vast majority of parliamentary questions tabled to the Scotland Office are for 'ordinary' written reply. However, of those tabled as named day, approximately 85 per cent. have received a substantive answer on the named day since 2001.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crime: Drugs

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on combating illicit drugs in each of the last two years. [186982]

**Paul Goggins:** Information in the form requested is not readily available and to attempt to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. Police enforcement regarding drug-related crime spans all business areas of the organisation. It is not only the drugs squad within crime operations that combat 'illicit drugs'. Tactical Support Groups, organised crime operations, districts, special operations and roads policing all have their part to play and a breakdown of the costing within each of these areas for this particular aspect of the roles they provide is not readily available.

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189776]

**Mr. Woodward:** Some members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office work from home as and when circumstances allow and with agreement from their local management, but we do not hold the numbers centrally.

The Department is currently examining whether it would be possible to expand these arrangements bearing in mind the additional costs, security, and health and safety issues.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190798]

**Mr. Woodward:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project is recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats_cfm

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many journeys his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants made between London and Northern Ireland on official business in each month since May 2007. [187060]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| Month | Secretary of State/Minister of State | Civil servants | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2007 | 21 | 359 | 380 |
| June 2007 | 16 | 311 | 327 |
| July 2007 | 12 | 297 | 309 |
| August 2007 | 1 | 131 | 132 |
| September 2007 | 11 | 285 | 296 |
| October 2007 | 21 | 373 | 394 |
| November 2007 | 16 | 338 | 354 |
| December 2007 | 12 | 301 | 313 |
| January 2008 | 10 | 318 | 328 |
| February 2008[1] | 11 | 255 | 266 |

[1] The month of February consists of bookings up to 18 February only.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on first-class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187662]

**Mr. Woodward:** In the last 12 months there were a total of 15 first class journeys by air. The breakdown by grade is as follows:

| *Grade* | *Number of flights* |
|---|---|
| SCS | 3 |
| A | 3 |
| Minister | 9 |

The cost of each of these trips includes the cost of domestic and internal flights (in the country of either origin or arrival) which was at a class other than first class. It is not possible to disaggregate the cost to give a figure for the element of the journey which was first class travel.

In the same period there were 233 first class rail journeys, at a cost of £8,866.00, as follows:

| *Grade* | *Number of rail journeys* |
|---|---|
| SCS | 31 |
| A | 41 |
| Minister | 87 |
| B1 | 21 |
| B2 | 101 |
| C | 13 |
| D1 | 1 |
| D2 | 2 |
| Grade not specified | 36 |

The information on rail travel is based on our centralised travel booking records only and excludes journeys booked directly by officials and recouped as part of their expenses claim. These journeys are few in number and could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

All flight and rail journeys are shown as single journeys.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189801]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the financial year 2006-07, the Northern Ireland Office (excluding its Agencies) spent £33,665 on the purchase of bottled water. This figure includes the supply of bottles of water used in water cooler machines.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 among staff in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189497]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Government are committed to improving market access for producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Each Government Department is responsible for making its own decisions on such products, against the background of the Government's value for money policy, the EC procurement rules and the Department's objectives.

I have ensured that staff with responsibility for purchasing have been made aware of Fairtrade Fortnight and information has been put on our departmental intranet to advise all staff. My Department does use a range of Fairtrade produce.

### Telephone Tapping

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to permit the use of wiretap evidence in Northern Ireland courts. [189732]

**Mr. Woodward:** My objective is to include Northern Ireland in the implementation of the Chilcot recommendations wherever possible. To that end, my Department will be playing a full role in the further work that the Prime Minister has asked to be done.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Overseas Aid

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK bilateral aid programmes are under way in *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* Kenya, *(c)* Botswana, *(d)* Senegal, *(e)* Angola, and *(f)* Niger; and what the duration and cost is of each. [190888]

**Gillian Merron:** The following tables show all the UK bilateral aid programmes with a value of £500,000 or more currently under way in Nigeria, Kenya, Angola and Niger. The UK has no bilateral aid programmes with Botswana and Senegal.

*Nigeria*

| | *Programme* | *Commitments* £ | *Date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HIV/AIDS | Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health for HIV/AIDS Reduction (PSRHHR) | 52.8 million | January 2002-December 2008 |
| | BBC World Service Trust (BBC WST) | 5.6 million | February 2005-March 2008 |
| | Strengthening Nigeria's Response to HIV/AIDS (SNR) | 25 million | August 2004-July 2009 |
| | Institutional Support to the National Response to HIV and AIDS | 600,000 | November 2006-October 2008 |
| Health | Partnership for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS) | 56 million | June 2002-June 2008 |
| | Health Commodities and Equipment Procurement (HCP) | 30 million | March 2005-February 2009 |
| | Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) | 3.5 million | February 2005-January 2009 |

*Nigeria*

| | *Programme* | *Commitments* £ | *Date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Save the Children Fund (UK) Nigeria | 3.6 million | June 2006-May 2010 |
| | Revival of Routine Immunisation in Northern Nigeria (RI) | 20 million | October 2006-September 2011 |
| Education | Girls Education Project (GEP) | 26 million | January 2005-December 2007—extension pending |
| | Capacity for Universal Basic Education (CUBE) | 18 million | August 2003-August 2006 |
| Water and Sanitation | UNICEF Water and Sanitation Programme | 15 million | November 2002-November 2008 |
| Support for Macroeconomic Reform | Debt Management (DMO) | 4.3 million | April 2003-August 2008 |
| | Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)—Phase | 1.1 million | September 2007-August 2008 |
| | Privatisation Programme (BPE) | 7.4 million | August 2004-March 2009 |
| | Policy and Knowledge (PAK) Facility | 7.4 million | September 2003-April 2009 |
| Support for Macroeconomic Reform and Agriculture | Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (EFINA) | 8.2 million | October 2006-December 2011 |
| | Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) | 13.5 million | November 2007-December 2011 |
| | Investment Climate Programme (ICP) | 6.4 million | November 2006-Dec 2010 |
| | Promoting Opportunities in product and service markets (PrOpCom) | 17.5 million | April 2006-December 2010 |
| Support to improve service delivery | State and Local Government Programme | 32.2 million | March 2000-June 2008 |
| | Public Service Reform (PSR) | 19.2 million | April 2005-September 2007 |
| | Service Delivery Initiative (SERVICOM) | 7.5 million | October 2004-December 2008 |
| Support to improved political governance and justice reform | Strengthening the National Assembly (SNAP) | 2.65 million | November 2004-November 2008 |
| | Security, Justice and Growth Programme (SJG) | 30 million | March 2002-August 2009 |
| | Coalitions for Change Programme (C4C) | 7.5 million | September 2006-September 2008 |
| | Supporting Transparency and Accountability in the Niger Delta (STAND) | 2.65 million | May 2008 |
| Support for Donor Harmonisation | Country Partnership Facility | 2.6 million | April 2006-December 2010 |

*Kenya*

| | *Programme* | *Commitments* £ million | *Date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Health | Malaria control in Kenya | 16.96 | 1999-2008 |
| | Social marketing of ITNs | 58.94 | 2001-09 |
| | Essential Health Services | 7.5 | 2005-09 |
| | HIV/AIDS (HAPAC) | 40 | 1999-2008 |
| | Social Marketing of Condoms | 11.36 | 2003-09 |
| | HIV/AIDS (new) | 40 | 2008-13 |
| | Health Sector Reform (new) | 100 | 2008-13 |
| Education | Support to Kenya Education (Financial Aid) | 50 | 2005-10 |
| | Support to Kenya Education (Technical Assistance) | 5 | 2005-10 |
| Social Protection | Social Protection | 122.6 | 2007-17 |
| Governance | Public Finance Management | 0.7 | Up to 2009 |
| | Public Sector Reform | 3.6 | 2006-09 |
| | Public Sector Reform National School of Government (Financial Aid) | 0.3 | — |

*Kenya*

| | Programme | Commitments £ million | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | National Statistical Systems (Financial Aid) | 4 | Up to 2010 |
| | National Statistical Systems (Technical Assistance) | 2.5 | Up to 2010 |
| | Political Empowerment Programme | 7.635 | 1997-2008 |
| | Parliamentary Strengthening | 0.9 | 2007-09 |
| Growth | Support to Kenya Land Reform | 4.08 | Ends 2009 |
| | Financial and Legal Sector (Financial Assistance) | 5.762 | Ends 2009 |
| | Financial and Legal Sector (Technical Assistance) | 0.238 | Ends 2009 |
| | Financial Sector Deepening | 11.37 | Ends 2010 |
| | Business Services and Marketing | 4.211 | Ends 2008 |
| | Trade and Poverty Programme | 0.277 | — |
| | Kenya Growth Framework | 0.610 | — |
| | Avian Flu | 1.050 | — |
| Humanitarian | Various (food crisis, flood, medical) | 40.637 | From 2004 |

*Angola*

| | Programme | Commitments £ | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Governance | National Democratic Institute: Enhancing the Capacity of Civil Society and the Media to Engage in the Electoral Process | 995,000 | 1 January 2008-31 December 2009 |
| | World Bank: Strengthening Public Sector Management Capacity | 500,000 | 1 September 2007-1 December 2009 |
| | Luanda Urban Poverty Programme: Building Influence, Strengthening Governance—(basic services to slum dwellers) | 1,776,785 | 1 October 2007-3 September 2010 |
| Health and Education | UNICEF: Support to the Country Programme Action Plan for Angola—Focus on support to improve health and education systems | 4,625,000 | 1 April 2006-31 December 2008 |

*Niger*

| | Programme | Commitments £ | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Education | Support to Girls Basic Education Through A Delegated Cooperation Arrangement with France | 7,105,000 | 1 November 2006-1 April 2010 |
| Health | Save the children Niger nutrition and health response 2007-08 | 750,000 | 1 May 2007-1 October 2008 |
| | Niger Action Centre Le Faim Malnutrition Prevention in Maradi | 880,779 | 1 May 2007-1 October 2008 |
| Humanitarian | Niger Disaster Risk Reduction | 2,908,550 | 1 July 2007-1 March 2010 |

## Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3 111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190683]

**Gillian Merron:** DFID published its disability equality scheme on 4 December 2006. This can be viewed on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/search/proxy/query.html?col=dfid&qt=disability+equality+scheme&charset=iso-8859-1

DFID holds the Jobcentre Plus 'Two Ticks' disability symbol which promotes the recruitment and retention of people with disabilities and has a disability champion, a disability liaison officer and a strengthened disability forum network.

A central diversity team will continue to monitor progress against the action plan and report on progress in DFID's 2007-08 Annual Diversity report, to be published in March 2008.

## Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190796]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID has not entered into any private finance initiative projects within the last three years.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on translation services by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 to date. [187991]

**Mr. Malik:** A full record of payments for translation services is not held centrally, and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

No payments for translation services were made by non-departmental public bodies. DFID has no agencies.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies has translated for people in the UK who do not speak English. [188005]

**Mr. Malik:** None of DFID's documents that have been translated are primarily aimed at people in the UK who do not speak English. Documents are translated primarily for audiences in the countries in which DFID works such as Government officials, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders in civil society.

No payments for translation services were made by non-departmental public bodies. DFID has no agencies.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received an *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190287]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details of named-day parliamentary questions for the 2006-07 parliamentary session and the 2007-08 to date are as follows:

| *Session* | *Total named day parliamentary questions* | *Holding answer issued* | *Substantive answer by named day* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 207 | 20 | 187 |
| 2007-08[1] | 105 | 16 | 89 |

[1] As at 29 February.

DFID endeavours to reply to all parliamentary questions within parliamentary deadlines where possible. Details of sessions prior to those aforementioned are not held centrally and obtaining them would involve disproportionate costs.

### Developing Countries: Health

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will take steps to encourage governments of developing countries to increase the transparency and public accountability of their policies on child health and nutrition. [189248]

**Gillian Merron:** The 2006 International Development White Paper "Making Governance Work for the Poor" sets out how the Department for International Development is encouraging developing country governments to increase transparency and accountability of all their policies and programmes, including those for child health and nutrition. For example, we help partner countries to improve the capacity of state institutions and strengthen accountability to the poor, through, for instance, stronger parliamentary and regulatory oversight.

"Making Governance Work for the Poor" is available online at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/default.asp

### Kosovo: Education

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* girls enrolled in (i) primary and (ii) secondary education in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [189999]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The information requested is as follows.

*Figures for 2003 (Source—UNDP Human Development Report 2006)*

| | *Percentage* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Primary* | *Secondary* |
| Overall enrolment | 95 | 75 |
| Ratio of girls to boys | [1]92 | 79 |

[1] i.e. for every 100 boys there are around 92 girls.

The Government of Kosovo, in collaboration with the World Bank, is in the process of developing a new Education Strategy Plan which will be used to co-ordinate all Government and donor funding.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Darfur [190593]

**Gillian Merron** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The impact of the recent increase in violence in West Darfur is of grave concern, with over 57,000 newly displaced people and 160,000 cut off from humanitarian aid. Across Darfur as a whole 75,000 people have been displaced since the start of 2008. Malnutrition rates are climbing over the emergency threshold for the first time since 2004. The poor harvest in late 2007 and continuing displacement and insecurity threaten to exacerbate this problem.

On 27 February, my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development issued a joint statement calling again on all parties to stop the violence; to allow immediate humanitarian access; to ensure respect for international humanitarian law including the protection of civilians; and to facilitate deployment of the AU-UN peacekeeping force (UNAMID). The UK continues to work closely with the UN and others to achieve these aims and to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

### Vietnam: Chemical Weapons

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 753-4W, on Vietnam, what international guidelines apply to concentrations of dioxin; and what the concentrations of dioxins are in those hotspots of serious contamination in Vietnam. [190168]

**Mr. Malik:** The calculation of acceptable dioxin levels in soil/sediment or in humans is complex. For soil or sediment, the Atlanta Centre for Disease Control in the US uses 1,000 parts per trillion Toxic Equivalence Quote (ppt TEQ) as being the maximum allowable level of dioxin contamination permitted before some form of corrective action must be taken to mitigate TEQ exposure. For the human body, the UK Food Standards Agency has set the Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) of dioxin at 2 picogram (pc)/kilogramme (kg) of body weight. This is based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

The concept of a dioxin "hotspot" was developed by Hatfield Consultants Ltd (Canada) while working with the Ministry of Health in Vietnam. It found that the current level of dioxin contamination in and around the former US air bases where dioxin was stored, mixed and loaded onto planes—the hot spots—was much higher than current levels in the areas sprayed during the war. The three major hotspots are in Southern Vietnam at the former US air bases at Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Phu Cat. Studies conducted between 2000 and 2004 by the Vietnamese Ministry of National Defence found an average dioxin level of about 35,000 ppt TEQ at Da Nang and Bien Hoa airports. This is 35 times higher than acceptable levels recommended by the Atlanta Centre for Disease Control.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 753-4W, on Vietnam: chemical weapons, how many Vietnamese have been identified as victims of Agent Orange *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside areas which were sprayed; and what estimate has been made of the numbers of as yet unborn people who will be affected. [190169]

**Mr. Malik:** There is no agreed accurate information available on how many Vietnamese were victims of Agent Orange and other herbicides, during and since the war, or on how many will be affected in the future.

The Government of Vietnam state that up to 5 million people may have been affected by Agent Orange. The US suggests that the number is probably much lower and is funding research to provide clearer evidence of the link between dioxins and health and of the number of people affected.

## TRANSPORT

### Transport Infrastructure: North-East

11. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the north-east's transport infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [190982]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Investment in transport in the north-east is at record levels. The north-east also benefits from improvements to key corridors and services outside the region. Expenditure across English regions is not directly comparable; a wide range of factors are taken into account in determining how funding should be distributed.

### Maritime Transport

12. **Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage people to take up careers in maritime transport. [190983]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department continues to support the excellent work of the Merchant Navy Training Board and Sea Vision in promoting maritime careers around the country.

In addition, the Government provide support for seafarer training through the Tonnage Tax core training commitment and the Support for Maritime Training scheme.

### Foreign Lorries

13. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals for a scheme to charge foreign registered lorries for their use of the UK's road network. [190984]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have studied options for compiling a database of foreign haulage operations and vehicles to assist in the targeting of enforcement, including a "vignette" scheme whereby lorries would pay a charge for use of UK roads for a given time. The Department published a progress report alongside the 2007 pre-Budget report. The study has raised a number of legal and other issues and we are considering the way forward.

### Congestion: London

14. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward legislative proposals to provide her with powers to reduce traffic congestion in London. [190985]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The responsibility for setting and delivering a transport strategy for London was delegated to the Mayor of London under the Greater London Authority Act 1999. That Act also gave the Mayor the powers required to introduce road charging schemes to reduce traffic congestion in London. The Department continues to work closely with the Mayor, and Transport for London, to monitor the impact of his transport strategy.

### Rail Ticketing

15. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with train operating companies on ticketing. [190986]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Secretary of State met the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) on 10 December to discuss a range of fares and ticketing issues, principally fares simplification as outlined in the White Paper.

Fares simplification will apply common terms and conditions to four generic, nationally available and easily understood fares categories.

### $CO_2$ Emissions: Airlines

16. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage airlines to take responsibility to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. [190989]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have a comprehensive strategy: supporting the development and application of new aircraft technology, making gains in air traffic control systems, encouraging more efficient practices, and promoting market-based measures such as emissions trading. Airlines have a strong incentive to minimise fuel use, which would be strengthened by proposals in the Government's consultation on Aviation Duty.

### A46

17. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the funding of highway improvements on the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool. [190990]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The A46 Newark to Widmerpool improvement schemes is one of the schemes that are planned to be funded from the East Midlands' Regional Funding Allocation for major transport schemes. I understand that the region plans to review its recommended programme of schemes in the light of emerging cost pressures. We will carefully consider the region's advice both for the programme as a whole and in relation to the A46 scheme.

### Longton Railway Bridge

18. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail on repainting Longton railway bridge. [190991]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** None. This is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail informs me that it is currently discussing with Stoke-on-Trent city council whether the development and implementation of an aesthetic painting scheme for Longton viaduct can be included in its structures maintenance programme for 2008-09. A decision will be made later this year.

### Rural Transport

19. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding was provided for rural transport in 2007 and 2006. [190992]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our main support for rural transport has been through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant and Rural Bus Challenge schemes. Funding provided under those schemes was £61.3 million in 2007 and £61.4 million in 2006. Local authorities also support rural transport through Revenue Support Grant and other resources.

### Public Transport: Coastal Towns

20. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to increase use of public transport in coastal towns. [190993]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are committed to increasing public transport usage in all areas of the country.

It is for local transport authorities, working with their partners, including regional bodies, to determine the transport priorities for its area.

### Low-Carbon Energy

21. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department is funding on low-carbon sources of energy for transport uses. [190994]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department, and indeed the Government as a whole, are funding a wide range of research relevant to the development of lower carbon sources of energy for transport.

Let one give just three examples of that. The Government have committed up to £30 million for UK research and development work on the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform. Government are also supporting the development of the Energy Technologies Institute, and they fund a wide range of greener aviation R and D through the National Aerospace Technology Strategy (NATS).

In particular, I refer my hon. Friend to the Department's "Low Carbon Transport Innovation Strategy", which was published last year at the time of the Energy White Paper, and provides a comprehensive guide to the Government's policies and activities in this area.

### Rail Capacity

22. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the capacity of the rail network. [190995]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the preparation of the Rail White Paper, the Government carried out assessments of the adequacy of the capacity of the rail network. This drew on work carried out by the rail industry. The outcome of this work is published in the 2007 Rail White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway".

### Rail Accessibility: Ipswich

23. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to improve access for disabled people at Ipswich railway station, under the Access for All programme. [190996]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Ipswich station has been prioritised for Access for All-funded improvements between 2009 and 2011. Step-free access to its platforms will be provided through the installation of a new footbridge and two new lifts. Local stakeholders are currently being consulted on the plans, which are now reaching the detailed design stage.

### A1

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she received the Inspectors' Report on the A1 upgrade to motorway status between Dishforth and Barton; and when she expects to take a decision on the report. [190210]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2040-41W. The Inspector's report was received on 9 February 2007.

### A12: Injuries

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many persons were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on the A12 in Essex in each of the last five years. [191319]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table shows the number of people killed and seriously injured on the A12 in Essex over the past five years. The Highways Agency does not currently hold any full accident figures for 2008.

*Accidents A12 Essex*

| | *Fatal* | *Seriously injured* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 4 | 39 |
| 2004 | 4 | 65 |
| 2005 | 6 | 58 |
| 2006 | 5 | 41 |
| 2007 | 4 | 24 |
| Total | 23 | 227 |

### Aviation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had or plans to have on the past and potential future impact of *(a)* changes in noise levels permitted from individual aircraft and *(b)* changes in the size of aircraft upon (i) past increases and future total passenger and freight numbers and (ii) past and future (A) economic, (B) environmental and (C) social impacts; and what representations have been received on these matters. [181618]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper set out our key aim to limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

In the White Paper, we highlighted the importance of promoting research and development work on quieter aircraft and airframe technology. We are pursuing this aim through both international and national forums.

Although technological change is a long-term issue, the aviation industry has made encouraging progress in addressing the noise of the airline fleet. For example, the newest generation of wide-bodied aircraft is expected to make significantly less noise on arrival than the largest aircraft currently operating. We have also seen the introduction of new engines which include innovations to reduce noise and improve fuel efficiency.

Possible future technological change and related impacts are taken into account in our forecasting. For example, the current consultation on the future expansion of Heathrow (Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport) has been prepared against this background. Paragraph 3.82 of the consultation document notes that although there were 73 per cent. more aircraft movements in 2005 compared with 1975, the number of people significantly affected by noise has fallen by 87 per cent. and the area affected reduced by 86 per cent. In addition, the night flights regime introduced in October 2006 at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted recognises technological change by providing incentives for introducing quieter aircraft. The regime was only introduced after an extensive two-stage public consultation exercise.

All major UK airports (i.e. 50,000 annual movements or above) have been required to map aircraft noise in compliance with the European environmental noise directive. Later this year, the airports will have to prepare strategic noise action plans setting out noise mitigation measures. These plans will have to be prepared in consultation with the local community and as such provide an opportunity for relevant local issues to be considered. In addition, we regularly receive representations on aircraft noise issues which help inform the Department's policy making.

### Aviation: Buckinghamshire

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many aircraft routes cross High Wycombe and Marlow at 7,000 feet or less; what the height of each route is; how many planes per hour on average flew along each of those routes during *(a)* night time, *(b)* daytime and *(c)* at peak times in the last 12 months; how many planes per hour on average are expected to fly along each of those routes during (i) night time, (ii) daytime and (iii) at peak times in 2014; and whether she has made an estimate of the likely impact of air traffic noise on levels in High Wycombe and Marlow in 2014. [191598]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This is an operational matter for National Air Traffic Services, the air navigation services provider, and I suggest the hon. Member direct his inquiry to the chief executive of NATS.

On the airspace change process, I refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer to his question today (UIN 191596).

### Aviation: Compensation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislation governs the payment of compensation by airlines for injury or damage occurring accidentally while in flight; what representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [190858]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Passengers must always take their own legal advice in relation to claims. Article 17 of the 1999 Montreal Convention provides that the carrier is liable for damage sustained in the event of death or bodily injury of a passenger upon condition only that the accident which caused the death or injury took place on board the aircraft or in the course of embarking or disembarking. The amount of compensation is governed by article 21. The Montreal Convention is given effect in the United Kingdom by the Carriage by Air Acts (Implementation of the Montreal Convention 1999) Order 2002, which came into force on 28 June 2004. The Department is not aware of any recent representations on this issue.

### Aviation: Noise

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely impact proposals by the National Air Traffic Service to redraw the aircraft route map across Southern and Eastern England will have on aircraft noise in High Wycombe and Marlow in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2014. [191596]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not for the Secretary of State to assess the impact of NATS' airspace change proposals on noise in High Wycombe and Marlow.

The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the independent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)'s airspace change process as set out in the Airspace Charter (CAP724) and Guidance on the Airspace Change Process (CAP725).

NATS, the sponsor of the proposed change, is responsible for developing and consulting upon proposals. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, how they should be measured and who should be consulted. Informed by the consultation, the sponsor will submit the proposal to the CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy for assessment. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process will reflect the Secretary of State's Directions and Guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives.

### Biofuels

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much biofuel was produced in the UK in the last 12 months; and what estimate she has made of the effect on the UK's carbon dioxide emissions of use of biofuels in substitution for fossil fuels in that period. [191207]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A total of around 500 million litres of road transport biofuel was sold in the UK during 2007. Further details are available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

These figures do not, however, distinguish between imported fuels and domestically produced fuels, and the Government are unable to provide a detailed breakdown of this. Nor is it possible to provide a precise estimate of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions associated with these biofuels. This is because information on the feedstocks from which the fuels were produced, and on their country of origin, is not currently collected.

This is one of the reasons why the Government are introducing the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) in April. Under the RTFO, transport fuel suppliers who wish to earn renewable transport fuel certificates in respect of their biofuels will have to report to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) on matters such as the country of origin, the wider sustainability and the carbon intensity of those fuels. The Renewable Fuels Agency will be required to report regularly on these matters, and this will allow the Government to monitor very closely the carbon dioxide savings associated with the policy, as well as its wider environmental impacts.

Further detail on the reporting requirements is available via the RFA's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa

### Carriage by Air Acts (Implementation of the Montreal Convention 1999) Order 2002

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the operation of the Carriage by Air Acts (Implementation of the Montreal Convention 1999) Order 2002; what amendments have been made to this Order; and what recent representations she has received on this Order. [190857]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The 1999 Montreal Convention is an international convention prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It seeks to modernise and consolidate the 1929 Warsaw Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to International Carriage by Air and related conventions.

The Carriage by Air Acts (Implementation of the Montreal Convention 1999) Order 2002 gave effect to the Montreal Convention in the UK from 28 June 2004 (see Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of International Carriage by Air—Cm 6369) by amending the Carriage by Air Act 1961. No amendments have subsequently been made to either the Order or the Convention. The Department is not aware of any recent representations on this issue.

### Deep Vein Thrombosis: Compensation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will seek amendments to the Warsaw Convention to permit claims for compensation by air travellers who suffer deep vein thrombosis; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [190856]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We currently do not have plans to seek amendments to the Warsaw Convention on this issue.

Research by the World Health Organisation published in 2007 showed that the risk of deep vein thrombosis, which applies to all forms of travel, appears to be predominantly the result of prolonged immobility. Certain categories of people appear to be at higher risk, such as older people, those with hereditary blood conditions, women using oral contraception, people undertaking journeys of more than 12 hours and very tall people.

The Department is not aware of any recent representations on this issue.

### Departmental Equal Pay

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will conduct an equal pay audit across her Department; and if she will make a statement. [190927]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not the Department's intention to conduct an equal pay audit across the Department as a whole. It remains our opinion that pay audits should be individually undertaken by the DfT (Centre) and each Agency.

### Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when *(a)* the pay increases for the 2007 pay round were paid, *(b)* the race impact assessments of the 2007 pay deal were completed and *(c)* the race impact assessments were made available to the recognised trade unions in relation to each of her Department's bargaining units. [190270]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The following table gives details of when the 2007 pay increases for each of the bargaining units within the Department were made and indicates the current position with regard to the race impact assessments applicable to these.

| | *2007 Pay increase paid* | *2007 Race impact assessment completed* | *Race impact assessments made available to the TUS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department for Transport (Centre) | The increase was paid in November 2007 backdated to 1 August 2007 | A draft impact assessment was produced in November 2007. This will form part of an overall Equality Impact Assessment to be completed by March 2008 | The assessment will be shared with the TUS on completion. |
| HA | The increase was paid in January 2008 and was backdated to 1 August 2007 | An assessment has just commenced | An assessment has just commenced |
| DVLA | The increase was paid in November 2007 backdated to 1 August 2007 | An assessment has not yet been completed | An assessment has not yet been completed |
| VOSA | The increase was paid in January 2008 and was backdated to 1 August 2007 | An assessment has not yet been completed. This will be incorporated into an Equal Pay Audit in April 2008 | An assessment has not yet been completed. This will be incorporated into an Equal Pay Audit in April 2008 |
| VGA | The increase was paid in August 2007 | Equality impact are an ongoing part of the pay round process | Assessments are shared with the TUS as part of the pay round process |
| MCA | The increase was paid in February 2008 and was backdated to 1 August 2007 | An assessment has not yet been completed | An assessment has not yet been completed |
| GCDA | The increase was paid in April 2007. | An impact assessment was completed in May 2007. | The assessment was shared with the TUS in July 2007. |
| DSA | The increase was paid in December 2007 | An impact assessment is being prepared. | An impact assessment is being prepared. |

### East Midlands Trains: Finance

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what premium East Midlands Trains is forecast to pay to the Government over the period of its franchise. [191146]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Full details of the East Midlands Franchise were announced by the Department in a written ministerial statement to the House and a Stock Market Statement on 22 June 2007. This states that Stagecoach Midland Rail Limited will pay a premium of £133 million (net present value) over the life of the franchise.

### Forced Marriage

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that information on *(a)* helplines and *(b)* access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is made available at airports, ports and other public places within the responsibility of her Department. [185583]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The display of information on helplines at airports and ports is a matter for the individual companies and organisations. However, the work of the Forced Marriage Unit in promoting the issues of forced marriage to staff at points of entry and exit into the country has ensured that a number of airports and ports display literature on forced marriage which gives details on how to access support.

### Freight: Industrial Health and Safety

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations govern the safe loading of scrap metal on to heavy goods vehicles for transit; what steps are taken to enforce these regulations; and if she will make a statement. [187845]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have been asked to reply.

There are no regulations that deal specifically with loading goods, including scrap metal, on to road vehicles. However, this activity is covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and where the loading of scrap metal is done using lifting equipment, the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 will also apply. All these are enforced by health

and safety inspectors. Regulation 100 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 covers the safety of loads being transported on vehicles, and this is enforced by the police.

### Great Western Trains

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received from rail users on the performance of First Great Western; and if she will make a statement. [190987]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In recent months Ministers and officials at the Department for Transport have received many representations from rail users regarding First Great Western's performance.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS.

### Liverpool John Lennon Airport: Transport

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent improvements have been made to transport links to and from Liverpool John Lennon airport; and if she will make a statement. [191284]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government's "Future of Air Transport" White Paper of 2003 supported the development of Liverpool John Lennon airport as a key driver to generating growth and investment in Merseyside and the north-west region, provided proposed developments took into account the local and wider environmental impacts of air travel. The airport already enjoys good surface transport links including an express bus service from the city centre, and the Liverpool South Parkway rail-bus interchange opened in 2006. The airport's draft master plan, published in 2006, explored a range of possible further options for transport links, and the airport's operator continues to work with local statutory agencies and other partners to evaluate them.

### Oil: Prices

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's assumptions are of the future price of oil in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020, *(d)* 2025, *(e)* 2030, *(f)* 2040 and *(g)* 2050. [184191]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Department uses oil price projections produced by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) in its modelling. The latest estimates were published last year in the Energy White Paper. These have been used for the latest road traffic, aviation and rail forecasts and are currently being integrated in the advice and software the Department provides for transport promoters preparing business cases for schemes. These long-term price projections are to 2020. For the latest transport modelling projections extend further, usually assuming no changes beyond 2020.

The current oil price projection (in 2006 prices) can be seen in the following table. DBERR produces a low, central and high price projection. These are real prices; nominal prices—which include the impacts of forecast inflation—would be higher. For example, the real price of $53 in 2025 is approximately $88 in nominal prices.

| | | | 2006 prices |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Low* | *Central* | *High* |
| 2010 | 25 | 57 | 70 |
| 2015 | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| 2020 | 25 | 53 | 80 |

### Railways

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to obtain a modal shift from road and air to rail travel; and if she will make a statement. [190547]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Government's aim is to offer the public an informed choice of which mode of transport to use, rather than prescribing one mode over others. Our priority is to ensure that rail provides a viable alternative to road and air travel where possible. To this end, the White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", published in July 2007, commits £15 billion in public support for the railway between 2009 and 2014, with £10 billion to be spent specifically on enhancing capacity during that period.

### Railways: Cotswold Hills

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to receive from Network Rail the business case for redoubling the single line sections of the Cotswold line between Oxford and Worcester; and if she will make a statement. [190424]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London NW1 2EE

### Railways: Deaths

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities at footpath rail crossings caused by *(a)* accidents, *(b)* trespassers, *(c)* suicides and *(d)* other circumstances there were in each of the last three years. [190490]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation has provided the following data for fatalities at footpath rail crossings in each of the last three years:

| | *(a) Accident* | *(b) Trespass* | *(c) Confirmed suicide* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| 2006 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 2007 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |

The data cover people who were fatally injured while on the crossing. Fatalities involving people who used footpath crossings to gain access to and trespass on the railway line are not included. The figures for 2007 are still provisional and are dependent on the outcome of coroners' inquests.

### Railways: Franchises

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the franchise operator c2c on *(a)* the timing of franchise renewal and *(b)* the criteria for bidding for the franchise. [190493]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The c2c franchise is due to expire in May 2011. The franchise agreement includes the provision to extend the franchise for a period of two years to May 2013, by agreement between the Department and c2c.

The criteria for bidding for a replacement franchise will be set out in the documentation seeking bids for the new franchise.

### Railways: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she received from South West Trains notification of network modifications relating to travel offices in Hampshire; and if she will make a statement. [191178]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** South West Trains forwarded minor modification proposals covering a number of travel centres at their stations to the Department for Transport on 20 November 2007 and 24 December 2007. Three stations in Hampshire are currently under consideration: Southampton, Winchester and Basingstoke.

### Railways: Internet

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage train operators to make on-board internet available on long-distance services; and if she will make a statement. [190527]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** While we encourage all operators to improve the provision of on-board services, the availability of on-board internet access is a commercial matter for train operators.

### Roads: Accidents

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* drivers, *(b)* passengers and *(c)* pedestrians aged (i) 16 or under, (ii) 17 to 20, (iii) 21 to 25, (iv) 26 to 30, (v) 31 to 35, (vi) 36 to 40, (vii) 41 to 45, (viii) 46 to 50, (ix) 51 to 60, (x) 61 to 70 and (xi) 71 years or over were (A) killed and (B) injured in a road accident in each of the last five years; and how many drivers in each age group were convicted of an offence of driving while intoxicated owing to (1) alcohol and (2) drugs or other substances in each such year. [191394]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of *(a)* drivers, *(b)* passengers and *(c)* pedestrians aged (i) 16 and under, (ii) 17 to 20, (iii) 21 to 25, (iv) 26 to 30, (v) 31 to 35, (vi) 36 to 40, (vii) 41 to 45, (viii) 46 to 50, (ix) 51 to 60, (x) 61 to 70 or (xi) 71 years or over that have been (A) killed or (B) injured in a reported road accident in 2002 to 2006 are shown in the table.

*Number of casualties*

| | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Casualty class/Casualty age* | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] | *Killed* | *Injured*[1] |
| *Driver or Rider* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 or under | 42 | 7,679 | 39 | 7,855 | 46 | 7,880 | 44 | 7,396 | 59 | 6,650 |
| 17-20 | 244 | 20,889 | 268 | 20,459 | 235 | 20,891 | 259 | 21,610 | 259 | 21,207 |
| 21-25 | 251 | 23,796 | 258 | 23,228 | 269 | 22,863 | 250 | 22,344 | 288 | 21,253 |
| 26-30 | 249 | 23,110 | 234 | 21,054 | 190 | 19,670 | 209 | 18,631 | 179 | 18,255 |
| 31-35 | 221 | 23,763 | 237 | 21,955 | 223 | 20,465 | 192 | 19,153 | 187 | 17,376 |
| 36-40 | 210 | 21,155 | 227 | 20,550 | 229 | 19,611 | 201 | 18,531 | 184 | 17,801 |
| 41-45 | 160 | 15,768 | 170 | 15,826 | 161 | 15,602 | 156 | 15,795 | 150 | 15,183 |
| 46-50 | 110 | 11,817 | 131 | 11,717 | 96 | 11,492 | 113 | 11,558 | 135 | 11,555 |
| 51-60 | 191 | 17,118 | 210 | 16,828 | 175 | 16,602 | 206 | 16,339 | 180 | 15,724 |
| 61-70 | 110 | 7,305 | 118 | 7,393 | 99 | 7,216 | 98 | 7,097 | 117 | 7,171 |
| 71 or over | 172 | 5,565 | 167 | 5,523 | 180 | 5,406 | 187 | 5,303 | 150 | 5,175 |
| Total[2] | 1,975 | 180,557 | 2,067 | 174,898 | 1,913 | 170,159 | 1,918 | 166,291 | 1,892 | 159,631 |
| *Passenger* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 or under | 111 | 17,733 | 99 | 16,649 | 81 | 16,068 | 84 | 14,418 | 94 | 13,522 |
| 17-20 | 144 | 12,697 | 160 | 12,209 | 187 | 11,939 | 148 | 11,770 | 141 | 11,862 |
| 21-25 | 103 | 9,482 | 109 | 8,673 | 86 | 8,718 | 101 | 8,212 | 87 | 7,812 |
| 26-30 | 47 | 6,348 | 45 | 5,876 | 51 | 5,261 | 46 | 5,127 | 40 | 4,885 |
| 31-35 | 34 | 5,047 | 36 | 4,817 | 29 | 4,357 | 25 | 3,939 | 25 | 3,538 |
| 36-40 | 28 | 4,437 | 16 | 4,210 | 27 | 3,864 | 18 | 3,649 | 21 | 3,405 |
| 41-45 | 20 | 3,495 | 24 | 3,345 | 15 | 3,188 | 19 | 2,989 | 18 | 2,835 |
| 46-50 | 14 | 3,107 | 17 | 2,980 | 15 | 2,893 | 17 | 2,725 | 12 | 2,604 |
| 51-60 | 37 | 5,423 | 27 | 5,219 | 33 | 4,818 | 27 | 4,669 | 33 | 4,499 |

Number of casualties

| Casualty class/Casualty age | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Killed | Injured[1] | Killed | Injured[1] | Killed | Injured[1] | Killed | Injured[1] | Killed | Injured[1] |
| 61-70 | 34 | 4,240 | 46 | 4,111 | 20 | 3,924 | 34 | 3,671 | 30 | 3,471 |
| 71 or over | 101 | 4,829 | 84 | 4,606 | 90 | 4,463 | 91 | 4,121 | 101 | 3,838 |
| Total[2] | 681 | 80,608 | 667 | 76,570 | 637 | 73,250 | 612 | 68,915 | 605 | 65,294 |
| *Pedestrian* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 or under | 88 | 15,052 | 86 | 13,420 | 92 | 13,080 | 73 | 12,053 | 85 | 10,904 |
| 17-20 | 44 | 3,114 | 62 | 3,000 | 34 | 2,991 | 58 | 2,828 | 36 | 2,748 |
| 21-25 | 60 | 2,839 | 51 | 2,790 | 45 | 2,676 | 40 | 2,622 | 49 | 2,462 |
| 26-30 | 36 | 2,314 | 40 | 2,161 | 34 | 2,022 | 34 | 1,852 | 29 | 1,843 |
| 31-35 | 33 | 1,935 | 33 | 1,981 | 34 | 1,840 | 35 | 1,761 | 39 | 1,612 |
| 36-40 | 48 | 1,895 | 40 | 1,745 | 40 | 1,720 | 27 | 1,654 | 47 | 1,504 |
| 41-45 | 40 | 1,490 | 36 | 1,412 | 35 | 1,376 | 38 | 1,422 | 32 | 1,325 |
| 46-50 | 41 | 1,287 | 41 | 1,240 | 32 | 1,141 | 31 | 1,193 | 37 | 1,158 |
| 51-60 | 79 | 2,123 | 82 | 2,049 | 63 | 2,007 | 71 | 1,972 | 54 | 1,887 |
| 61-70 | 63 | 1,706 | 61 | 1,688 | 61 | 1,493 | 64 | 1,464 | 53 | 1,426 |
| 71 or over | 235 | 2,967 | 237 | 2,820 | 196 | 2,626 | 196 | 2,487 | 212 | 2,363 |
| Total[2] | 775 | 38,009 | 774 | 35,631 | 671 | 34,210 | 671 | 32,610 | 675 | 30,307 |

[1] Seriously or slightly injured
[2] Includes cases where age is not reported

Information on convictions for driving while intoxicated owing to alcohol or drugs for the drivers in the aforementioned table is not available. Information on convictions is provided by the Ministry of Justice. The data are not linked to personal injury road accident data.

The latest available information held on convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs by age groups from 2001-05 is provided in the table. 2006 data will be available later this year. The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs separately cannot be accurately established.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by age group. England and Wales, 2001-05*

Number of offences

| Age groups | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 or under | 612 | 616 | 679 | 624 | 577 |
| 17[2] to 20 | 10,294 | 10,611 | 11,109 | 11,011 | 10,779 |
| 21 to 25[3] | 16,123 | 17,395 | 18,414 | 18,942 | 18,681 |
| 26 to 30 | 13,881 | 14,547 | 14,508 | 14,785 | 14,348 |
| 31 to 35 | 12,137 | 13,014 | 13,447 | 13,541 | 12,601 |
| 36 to 40 | 10,442 | 11,131 | 11,623 | 11,786 | 11,232 |
| 41 to 45 | 7,608 | 8,262 | 8,711 | 9,526 | 9,285 |
| 46 to 50 | 5,462 | 5,894 | 5,957 | 6,290 | 6,338 |
| 51 to 60 | 6,182 | 6,791 | 7,014 | 7,289 | 7,303 |
| 61 to 70 | 1,616 | 1,862 | 1,834 | 2,037 | 2,138 |
| 71 and over | 385 | 362 | 405 | 407 | 436 |
| Total | 84,742 | 90,485 | 93,701 | 96,238 | 93,718 |

[1] Data covers summary offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).
[2] Age 17 used as default age when date of birth is not known for a juvenile.
[3] Age 25 used as default age when date of birth is not known for an adult.

*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular summary motoring offences, is less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Ministry of Justice

## Transport: Carbon Emissions

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the carbon dioxide emissions per passenger mile from travel by *(a)* road, *(b)* air and *(c)* rail. [190548]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA's Company Reporting Guidelines published in 2007, available at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/pdf/conversion-factors.pdf

enable existing data sources, such as car mileage and fuel consumption, to be converted into illustrative carbon dioxide equivalent data. Using the guidelines to determine average carbon dioxide emissions per passenger km and converting to passenger mile produces the following results:

| | | Carbon dioxide emissions per passenger mile: (kg) |
|---|---|---|
| *From:* | | |
| Road | Average petrol car | 0.21 |
| | Average diesel car | 0.20 |
| Air | Long haul flights | 0.19 |
| | Short haul flights | 0.23 |
| | Domestic flights | 0.28 |
| Rail | National rail | 0.10 |

For road, the factors used in the guidelines are estimated average values for the UK car fleet, travelling on average trips in the UK, per vehicle mile. This has been divided by an average car occupancy rate of 1.6 passengers to derive the average emissions per passenger mile figure given in the table.

The rail estimate is for national rail and refers to an average emission factor for diesel and electric trains.

For aviation, the emission factor is an aggregate representation of the typical emissions from illustrative types of aircraft for the three types of air services. Actual emissions will vary significantly according to the type of aircraft in use, the load, cabin class, etc. An uplift of 9 per cent. has been applied to account for non-direct routes, circling and congestion. This is in line with the evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1999).

DEFRA are currently updating the conversion factors and revised figures are due to be published soon.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Pigs

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the state of pig farming in the United Kingdom. [190660]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on UK pig production is collected regularly in various forms by DEFRA. For example, the United Kingdom Pig Notice which is published quarterly, includes statistics on breeding herds, slaughter and trade.

Projections of the aggregate measure of Total Income from Farming are published on the DEFRA website. The first full set of farm income statistics, including a breakdown by farm type, were published on 31 January.

DEFRA is also well aware of the current issues facing the pig industry in the UK, including the impact of rising feed costs. Officials are in frequent contact with representatives of the pig sector.

### Agriculture: Romania

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* assistance and *(b)* joint projects with Romania his Department (i) has undertaken and (ii) plans to undertake in the fields of (A) agriculture, (B) fisheries and (C) forestry. [190076]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the area of agriculture, assistance has been given to Romania since 2004 in the form of a high-level Agriculture Working Group which meets twice-yearly. This forum allows for the discussion of areas of mutual interest and concern between Romania and the UK.

DEFRA, in partnership with ArMA (Polish Paying Agency), recently completed a successful, two year, EU twinning project to set up the Romanian Paying Agency.

The Department is in the process of bidding for a further project in the area of statistics, and will consider other suitable opportunities for engagement and support as and when they arise.

I am not aware of any work being done by the Department with Romania in the areas of fisheries or forestry.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have received *(a)* full, *(b)* partial and *(c)* no payment of the single farm payment as a percentage of the total number of claimants for each year of the scheme, broken down by region. [187967]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) year as at 18 February 2008 90,125 customers from an estimated total claimant population of 106,700 have received a full SPS payment. RPA has made 22 manual payments to customers facing extreme difficulties based on a proportion of their estimated claim value. Seven of these customers have since had their claim validated and have received the remaining proportion of their payment.

Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which farms in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Suffolk are eligible for the single farm payment; and how much was paid in respect of those farms in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [190173]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Detailed analysis of payments under the Single Payment Scheme to farms in Essex and Suffolk is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed a decision will be taken on the level of detail published.

### Air Pollution: East of England

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what air quality management areas there are in the east of England, broken down by *(a)* location, *(b)* year of designation and *(c)* local authority. [189485]

**Jonathan Shaw:** To date, 229 local authorities have designated air quality management areas in the UK. 24 of these authorities are in the east of England—as set out in the table.

Further information is available on the UK National Air Quality Archive

www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php

| | *Authority* | *Date of effect* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bedford Borough Council | 17 May 2005 and 13 June 2005 |
| 2 | Breckland District Council | 9 May 2005 |
| 3 | Brentwood BC | 10 January 2005 |
| 4 | Broxbourne BC | 1 November 2001 and 1 March 2004 |
| 5 | Cambridge City Council | 1 September 2004 |
| 6 | Colchester BC | 1 May 2001 and 1 January 2006 |
| 7 | Chelmsford BC | 1 December 2005 |
| 8 | Epping Forest DC | 1 January 2007 |
| 9 | Fenland District Council | 1 May 2001, 1 April 2006 and 1 September 2006 |
| 10 | Hertsmere BC | 8 April 2003 & 1 January 2005 |
| 11 | Huntingdonshire DC | 1 December 2005 & 1 September 2006 |
| 12 | Ipswich Borough Council | 11 April 2006 |
| 13 | Kings Lynn and West Norfolk | 1 November 2003 |
| 14 | Luton Borough Council | 3 November 2003 and 31 March 2005 |
| 15 | Mid Bedfordshire DC | 7 March 2005 |
| 16 | Norwich City Council | 1 June 2003 |
| 17 | Peterborough CC | 1 May 2007 |
| 18 | South Bedfordshire DC | 17 January 2005 |
| 19 | St. Albans City and District | 2 September 2002 and 2 November 2004 |
| 20 | Suffolk Coastal DC | 3 April 2006 |
| 21 | Three Rivers District Council | 1 April 2001 |
| 22 | Thurrock Council | 1 April 2001 and 1 February 2005 |
| 23 | Uttlesford District Council | 1 August 2007 |
| 24 | Watford BC | 17 February 2006 |

## Air Pollution: Hertfordshire

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* resources and *(b)* advice are issued to councils to help improve air quality management areas; and what change there has been in the air quality in *(a)* St. Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire over the last 10 years. [189483]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Local authorities have statutory duties for local air quality management under the Environment Act 1995. To help local authorities carry out their duties, the Department runs an air quality grant programme, which allows local authorities to bid for a share of the approximately £2.3 million available. The Department also provides statutory guidance on local air quality management, which is in the process of being revised for publication later in 2008. In addition, DEFRA funds the UK Air Quality Archive website and air quality help desks, providing specialist advice to local authorities.

St. Albans and Hertfordshire are not on the Automatic Urban and Rural Network through which DEFRA monitors air quality. However, St. Albans district council undertakes continuous ambient air quality monitoring as part of the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Monitoring Network (www.hertsbedsair.org.uk).

Local authorities are responsible for local air quality management under part IV of the Environment Act 1995, which includes the responsibility to report on levels of air pollution in their area assessed against the objectives contained in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

## Animal Welfare

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of his Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies are concerned with animal health and welfare; whether an animal welfare specialist is on the board of each; and if he will make a statement. [199967]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| *Non-departmental public body* | *Animal welfare specialist?* |
|---|---|
| Farm Animal Welfare Council | Yes |
| Animal Health and Welfare Strategy England Implementation Group (EIG) | Yes |
| Independent Scientific Group on TB in Cattle | No animal welfare specialist but members have related experience in differing fields including wildlife diseases/badger ecology |
| Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) | No animal welfare specialist but deputy chair is a practicing vet and a member is Head of the Department of Pathology and Infectious Diseases at the Royal Veterinary College |
| Veterinary Products Committee | No animal welfare specialist but members are experienced in various fields including veterinary surgeons and toxicologists |
| Veterinary Residues Committee | The Committee's terms of reference do not cover animal welfare |

## Animal Welfare: Horses

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been initiated under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 *(a)* in total and *(b)* in relation to alleged offences of excessive whipping of a racehorse; and if he will make a statement. [190047]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force in England on 6 April 2007 (and in Wales on 27 March 2007).

Court proceedings data for prosecutions under the Act for 2007 will be available this autumn. No separate record is maintained for alleged offences relating to racehorses.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on compensation to farmers whose cattle were slaughtered as inconclusive reactors to tuberculosis in each of the last three years. [190578]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The following table shows the total amount of compensation paid to farmers in England, in each of the last three years, for cattle compulsorily slaughtered for bovine tuberculosis control reasons.

*Compensation paid to farmers for all cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures*[1]

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 27.2 |
| 2006 | 16.1 |
| 2007 | 15 |

[1] The compensation payments are for England only.

The Government require the compulsory slaughter of inconclusive reactor cattle that fail to resolve after three tests. Repeat inconclusive reactors must be deemed to be reactors under EU legislation.

The way that these cattle are recorded and slaughtered means that we are unable to provide a breakdown showing the amount of compensation paid for this sub-group of cattle.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cattle slaughtered in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England which had (i) tuberculosis and (ii) lesions in lymph glands and lungs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [190577]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis (TB) control measures in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England in each of the last five years, with the number of cattle with demonstrable post-mortem evidence of infection (for instance, visible lesions of TB and/or isolation of the bovine TB bacterium on culture).

| | *Devon* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of cattle slaughtered*[2] | *Number of "confirmed" cases* | *Number of cattle slaughtered*[2] | *Number of "confirmed" cases* |
| 2003 | 3,767 | 1,118 | 17,551 | 5,293 |
| 2004 | 4,758 | 1,699 | 17,323 | 5,385 |
| 2005[2] | 6,660 | 2,012 | 23,135 | 7,622 |
| 2006[2] | 4,468 | 1,684 | 16,006 | 6,242 |
| 2007[2] | 5,383 | 1,906 | 19,777 | 7,211 |

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as skin and gamma-interferon test reactors, skin test inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.
[2] 2005-07 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Data on the number of cattle displaying TB lesions in particular organs or parts of the carcase is not centrally collated in an electronic format.

Following a TB breakdown, we aim to carry out post-mortem inspections of all the slaughtered cattle and to take tissue samples from the reactor (or if several animals must be removed, from a representative subset of those), to attempt isolation and molecular typing of the causative organism in the laboratory. This is done to support epidemiological investigations and management of the incident, rather than to validate the ante-mortem test results.

Failure to detect lesions of TB by post-mortem examination, or to culture *M. bovis* in the laboratory, does not imply that a test reactor was not infected with bovine TB. In the early stages of this disease, it is not always possible to observe lesions during abattoir post-mortem examination and, due to the fastidious nature of this organism, it is very difficult to isolate it from tissue samples without visible lesions.

Meaningful "confirmation" proportions for TB test reactors cannot be provided, as substantial numbers of skin and gIFN positive animals are not subject to laboratory culture, for example, once infection has already been identified in other cattle from the same herd.

### Business Resource Efficiency and Waste: Finance

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the business resource efficiency and waste (BREW) budget is for 2008-09; and what funding has been allocated to each of the organisations within BREW. [190831]

**Joan Ruddock:** The business resource efficiency and waste (BREW) programme was set up to return £284 million raised from landfill tax back to businesses between 2005 and 2008 through resource efficiency and waste projects.

From 2008-09, budgets previously under the BREW programme will be amalgamated into a single, more focused approach of allocating DEFRA funding to increase resource efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Funding for business resource efficiency will be focused on providing the necessary evidence to encourage businesses to change behaviour, rather than funding profit-making business beyond that point. This move forms part of a purposeful strategy by DEFRA towards behaviour change for a low-carbon Britain.

Funding allocations for 2008-09 were announced by the Secretary of State on 21 February. The following table sets out DEFRA's allocations for 2008-09 for delivery bodies working on business resource efficiency. Except where indicated, the allocations in the areas listed were previously provided through the BREW programme.

*Resource and capital funding for 2008-09*

| *Activity (1)* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Action Sustainability - promoting sustainable procurement amongst businesses | 0.300 |
| BREW Centre for Local Authorities (2), (3) - support for local authorities working with their local business community to become more resource efficient | 0.800 |

*Resource and capital funding for 2008-09*

| *Activity (1)* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Carbon Trust (4) - accelerating the move to a low carbon economy by working with organisations to reduce carbon emissions and develop commercial low carbon technologies | 89.063 |
| Centre for Remanufacture and Reuse (Oakdene Hollins) (2) - promoting remanufacture and reuse | 0.500 |
| Construction Resources and Waste Platform (AEA Technologies and the Building Research Establishment) (2) - liaison with the construction industry and filling evidence gaps on construction resource efficiency | 0.500 |
| Environment Agency - programmes on waste protocols (shared with WRAP), NetRegs and former BREW waste crime programme | 2.750 |
| Envirowise - embedding resource efficiency into business decision-making | 9.390 |
| Implementing Energy White Paper Commitments (Market Transformation Programme) - raising the efficiency of energy-using products | 2.750 |
| National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) - industrial symbiosis - value from unused resources | 5.025 |
| Business Reuse Fund (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts -RSWT) (5) - obtaining value from unused resources | 0 |
| Technology Programme (6) - supporting technology and innovation | 0 |
| Waste Data Strategy - research and development of waste data, particularly on business waste | 1.325 |
| Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) (4) - encouraging and enabling businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often | 43.223 |

*Notes:*

1. Also relevant is funding to the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), which have received ringfenced BREW programme throughout the programme period, to co-ordinate business resource efficiency activities at the regional level and to conduct various regionally-specific projects. This was in addition to the DEFRA contribution to the RDA single programme ("single pot"), which gives RDAs the ability to address national priorities, on which they are tasked by Government (including activities to promote business resource efficiency), as well as regional objectives. With Government tasking and funding now fully aligned through the single pot, RDAs will no longer receive separate funding for resource efficiency activities. Total funding for RDAs from DEFRA in 2008-09 is £53 million.
2. In 2006-07, DEFRA funded nine pilot projects to conduct innovative work in the area of business resource efficiency. Seven of these activities were scaled up in 2007-08. Following a review of the activities, the three identified activities will continue to be funded by DEFRA in 2008-09, with the remaining four no longer receiving specific DEFRA funding. DEFRA is working with the latter four projects, listed , to ensure that learning is embedded in wider activity on business resource efficiency:
(i) Business Link Kent: Business Link Diagnostic Tool;
(ii) Community Recycling Network: Compost Doctors;
(iii) Environment Practice: Mentoring for Success in Construction; and
(iv) White Young Green: Sector specific environmental best practice programmes using a BS8555-phased approach.
3. The title of the BREW Centre for Local Authorities is under reconsideration, given that the BREW programme has been amalgamated into a single, more focused approach of allocating DEFRA funding to increase resource efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
4. Activities undertaken by the waste and resource action programme (WRAP) and the Carbon Trust cover a range of areas, including but not restricted to business resource efficiency. For example, in the case of the Carbon Trust, £47.4 million is being provided from the domestic environmental transformation fund to support the development and deployment of low carbon technologies. DEFRA is in discussions with WRAP and the Carbon Trust about the appropriate spread of work between these various areas.
5. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) has managed the business reuse fund, which provides grant funding for activities involving the third sector to promote materials re-use among businesses. Following discussions with DEFRA, RSWT chose not to bid for future funding for the continuation of the fund.
6. The technology programme, overseen by the Technology Strategy Board, has received funding throughout the period of the BREW programme. The funds have been used to promote research and development into environmental technologies. BREW funding is additional to funds provided by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), the sponsoring department of the Board. From 2008-09, DEFRA will no longer provide funding to the programme, but will work with DIUS to seek opportunities for integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the work of the programme.

### Cuckmere Estuary

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency has spent on its plans to alter the Cuckmere Estuary; and what further expenditure is expected. [190563]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency has spent £527,000 on the Cuckmere Estuary Strategy, to date, and expects further expenditure of £20,000.

### Departmental Co-ordination: Computers

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Ministers from other Departments on the merits of virtualisation of server hardware. [187903]

**Jonathan Shaw:** New DEFRA transactional systems of any magnitude are now developed and deployed by IBM on server infrastructure that is based on the principles of virtualisation. DEFRA currently has over 120 separate server images mapped across approximately 12 physical servers. We adopt this approach to reduce IT costs by using resources efficiently and to reduce our carbon footprint.

Discussions on the merits and best practice in deployment of the virtualisation of server hardware are held at official level with other Government Departments through the Cabinet Office chaired Chief Technology Officers Council and with our supplier IBM.

### Dredging: Gravel

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what price per tonne HM Treasury receives for the gravel excavated by marine dredging; and if he will make a statement. [190813]

**Jonathan Shaw:** HM Treasury currently receives 1.60 per tonne of dredged marine aggregates. This will be rising to 1.95 per tonne from 1 April 2008.

### Drinking Water

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the House authorities on ceasing the use of bottled water on the Parliamentary Estate and providing tap water instead; and if he will make a statement. [187969]

**Mr. Woolas:** This is a matter for the House.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of *(a)* tap water and *(b)* bottled water; and if he will make a statement. [187970]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA's policy on tap and bottled water was set out in a notice to staff published on 9 February 2007:

> The Department is to stop supplying bottled mineral water for meetings in order to be more environmentally-friendly. Instead, as of 19 February 2007, covered jugs will be left in meeting rooms, for meeting organisers to fill up with tap water from the nearest kitchen point.
>
> This measure is a commitment by DEFRA to sustainable development. The bottling process is resource intensive and uses energy that generates greenhouse gas emissions, through both manufacture and transportation. It also generates waste plastic and glass which will, at best, have to be recycled if it is to be kept out of landfill. Even the recycling process uses energy and has an impact on the environment.

DEFRA's caterers will also remove bottled water from the hospitality menu.

### Energy Conservation: Heating

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the energy-using products directive maximises carbon savings from heating controls. [189853]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to raising product efficiency and we are working with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry and the European Commission to develop proposals which will maximise the standards and efficiency of products covered under the energy-using products directive.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating.

### Environment Protection: EU Law

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the operation of the comitology procedure for the delegation of powers from European legislation on the *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation of (i) proposed and (ii) effective directives on environmental issues; whether the Government is seeking changes to the procedure; and if he will make a statement. [189733]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government supported the changes to the revised comitology procedure for the delegation of powers and which culminated in Council Decision 2006/512/EC. While it is recognised that the revised procedure is likely to extend the process for adopting individual implementing measures, the Government consider that any adverse consequences will be outweighed by the greater accountability introduced into the scrutiny process as a result of this change and are not, currently, seeking changes to the system.

The European Commission has committed itself to examine all existing Acts in force adopted under co-decision with a view to adapting them to the new procedure and making appropriate proposals. The Council has not however made any commitment to adopt these proposals and all such proposals are being considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2123-24W, on fisheries, (1) whether he intends to re-apply to the European Commission; whether he has had further discussions with *(a)* the Commission and *(b)* other EU member states about pelagic pair trawling; and if he will make a statement; [190466]

(2) what his estimate is of the *(a)* damage to marine life and *(b)* the numbers of cetaceans killed as a result of the European Commission turning down the request made under Article 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002; and if he will make a statement. [190467]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004 requires member states to set up by-catch observer programmes in certain fisheries and present an annual report to the European Commission. The latest report submitted to the European Commission for 2006 by France reported that no by-catch was observed in the 26 tows monitored in the bass fishery in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) areas VII and VIII.

ICES has been asked by the European Commission to look at all member states' annual reports and they are currently in the process of doing so. When ICES advice becomes available we will consider whether further representation needs to be made to the Commission in respect of pelagic pair-trawling.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Special Report No. 7/2007 of the European Court of Auditors on the control, inspection and sanction systems relating to the rules on conservation of Community fisheries resources; and if he will make a statement. [190470]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The European Court of Auditors report has highlighted a number of weaknesses in the control regime applicable within the European Community. Those weakness undermine the overall effectiveness of the common fisheries policy and the achievement of its objective of sustainable fisheries. We therefore welcome its publication. We also welcome the positive stance taken by the Commission in response to the report and the measures that it has already announced to simplify and harmonise the control regime. Those measures include, in the short term, improving the vessel monitoring system, introducing electronic logbooks and sales notes, improving member states' and the Commission's databases, enhanced cross-checking of data and the application of more

effective and consistent sanctions throughout the Community. In the medium term, the Commission is working towards the publication, in October 2008, of a proposal to replace the existing Control Regulation with one designed to rationalise and standardise rules, strengthen cooperation and collaboration between member states and help to develop a culture of compliance among the industry. We intend to play an active part in the discussions to ensure that these objectives are met.

**Fisheries: Enforcement**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence his Department has had with the Marine and Fisheries Agency on the number of annual *(a)* patrol days and *(b)* hours of aerial surveillance coverage required for the purposes of fisheries enforcement and protection; and if he will make a statement. [190471]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has had no such correspondence with the Marine and Fisheries Agency. Arrangements for the provision of aerial and surface surveillance coverage are an operational matter for the Marine and Fisheries Agency to decide upon, in order to ensure the effective tasking and deployment of patrol vessels and surveillance aircraft.

**Flood Control: Finance**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on flood defences in each constituency over the last five years for which figures are available. [189735]

**Mr. Woolas:** Figures for spend on flood defences by constituency are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England and is responsible for the vast majority of spend. The Agency's annual report and accounts are laid before Parliament each year and contain detailed information about their spend.

**Food: Procurement**

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1340W, on food: procurement, what advice he has provided to other Government Departments and public bodies to encourage purchasing of food from local sources. [190911]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Government continue to take steps through their Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) to encourage and help public bodies to increase opportunities for small and local food producers.

Further guidance, tools, case studies and other information is available on the DEFRA website. An updated procurement toolkit on the website explains how public sector bodies can break their catering contracts into lots and sets out how to specify seasonal and fresh food. This approach can create opportunities for small and local producers to do business with the public sector.

**Industrial Wastes: Recycling**

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of business waste was recycled by each local authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [190529]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA does not hold data on the proportion of business waste recycled by individual local authorities.

The most recent survey on industrial and commercial waste was carried out in 2002-03 by the Environment Agency. Information was collected from approximately 4,500 businesses and included the type, quantity and form of the waste, as well as the disposal or recovery method used. Data collection was limited to controlled waste and related to England only. The information is available, broken down by region, from the Environment Agency's website.

**Marine and Fisheries Agency: Finance**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons he decided to reduce the budget for the Marine and Fisheries Agency from 2007-08 to 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [190461]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The operational budget has not been reduced. The Marine and Fisheries Agency initial budget for 2008-09 is based on 2007-08 operational responsibilities. Additional resources for any other activities that the MFA may be asked to undertake in 2008-09 will be provided accordingly.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of correspondence between his Department and the Marine and Fisheries Agency on the setting of the agency's budget for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [190462]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information about the Marine and Fisheries Agency's resources, budget, priorities and activities is set out in their business plan for 2008-09, copies of which I will arrange to be placed in the Library of the House.

However, I do not plan to place in the Library, copies of correspondence between DEFRA and the Marine and Fisheries Agency on the setting of the Agency's budget for 2008-09. It would not be conducive to setting a responsible and balanced budget for the Department and its delivery bodies, and would be to the detriment of public service provision.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grant in aid he plans to provide to the Marine and Fisheries Agency in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [190463]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As an Executive Agency, the Marine and Fisheries Agency receives an allocation from DEFRA not grant in aid.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he informed the Marine and Fisheries Agency of its budget for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [190464]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The MFA received formal confirmation of its initial allocation shortly before the public announcement in DEFRA's press release of 21 February 2008.

### Mauve Stingers

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect fisheries and the UK aquaculture sector from mauve stingers; and if he will make a statement. [188415]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Last year, the mauve stinger jellyfish Pelagia nocticula engulfed the cages of a private company's sites in Glenarm Bay and Red Bay, Northern Ireland. Some 260,000 salmon were destroyed.

Jellyfish blooms are not rare, although there is little science on Pelagia nocticula, an oceanic species widely distributed in warm and temperate waters. Losses through jellyfish on this scale are not unknown in the industry and there are current reports of similar incidents in both the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

Aquaculturists on marine sites have to recognise that they are operating in a highly mobile environment and that it is impossible to protect their operations against every conceivable risk of invasion by unwanted species. I see no case for Government assuming this risk.

### Nature Conservation: EU Action

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to propose conservation measures under Article 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002; and if he will make a statement. [190468]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have no plans to do so at present.

### Noise

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish a combined national noise strategy for England covering ambient and neighbourhood noise. [191599]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government plan to publish for consultation, a combined National Noise Strategy for England, covering ambient and neighbourhood noise, later this year.

### Rural Areas: Housing

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a decision is expected to be announced by the Housing Corporation on the proposed Rural Housing Challenge Fund. [189834]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As part of our preparations for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) during the summer of 2007, DEFRA asked the Housing Corporation to provide advice on the feasibility of a potential revenue funding programme to support activity to improve the delivery of affordable rural housing at local level. We always made it clear that this would be considered in the light of the CSR settlement.

That advice has now been carefully considered. However, given the Government's undertaking on increases in housing supply generally—which will benefit rural as well as urban areas—we have concluded that the value of a small challenge fund would not be enough to merit a switching of resources away from other priority areas of DEFRA's business.

The Government have already set out proposals to increase the supply of housing and will be allocating £8.4 billion across the regions over the next three years. The Housing Corporation will be tasked with spending this money most effectively. The Government's long-term housing supply and affordability public service agreement (PSA) target specifically covers rural as well as urban affordability.

In addition, the Housing Green Paper sets out the Government's intention to establish a national target for rural affordable housing. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) is in the process of developing this target, based on advice from the Regional Assemblies and the Housing Corporation. It is much more important to ensure that these measures work for rural areas, rather than to focus attention on small packets of funding from DEFRA.

Together with CLG, we remain committed to addressing the affordable rural housing problem. At a national level, the policies and funding to deliver are largely in place, but we want to ensure that they feed through into delivery. That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to carry out a review to find out how land use and planning can better support business and deliver affordable housing in rural areas. The hon. member will report to both DEFRA and CLG in the summer.

### Sea Fishing

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to introduce inshore netting restrictions for the UK's recreational sea fisheries. [189946]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Last year I announced a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions, for the benefit of both inshore recreational and commercial fishing. The next step will be to engage with stakeholders to agree how and when to take forward this work collaboratively this year. I am also currently consulting on a draft recreational sea angling strategy which considers a package of measures for the development of recreational sea fishing. The consultation closes on 31 March.

## Seals

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the size of the UK seal population is; and what assessment he has made of risks to that population. [191283]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Seal conservation is a devolved issue. The most recent estimates of seal populations in Great Britain are between 50,000 and 60,000 for common seals and between 107,000 and 171,000 for grey seals. Of these, 85 per cent. of common seals and 90 per cent. of grey seals occur in Scotland.

The most significant threat to the common seal population was posed by the outbreaks of Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) in 1988 and 2002. This greatly reduced the common seal population on the east coast of England.

Under the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, the Natural Environment Research Council has a duty to provide the Government with scientific advice on matters related to the management of seal populations. Such advice is provided annually and the latest report, for 2007, can be found on the Sea Mammals Research Unit website.

## Seas and Oceans: EU Action

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he and his predecessors had with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the likely impact of the *(a)* proposed European Constitution and *(b)* Lisbon Treaty on (i) fisheries, (ii) the marine environment and (iii) marine biological resources; and if he will make a statement. [190469]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Since the new provisions are designed only to confirm existing Community powers as they relate to the common fisheries policy, I have not seen the need to undertake any substantive discussions with colleagues in other Government Departments. Experience in areas already subject to co-decision has shown that proposals can be improved. The additional scrutiny and debate in the European Parliament will offer new opportunities for the UK and other member states to secure better regulation. We have a lot of experience of dealing with the European Parliament and we will certainly draw on this—and our good reputation—when it comes to engaging with them on fisheries. But this will not apply to all aspects of the CFP, in particular the setting of annual catch limits, which will continue to remain the exclusive preserve of the Commission and member states acting in concert.

## Sewers

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work is being undertaken to map the underground water drainage network. [190415]

**Mr. Woolas:** The 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales have a statutory duty to keep records of the location of every public sewer, lateral drain or disposal main which is vested in them. They must also keep a record of the location of those that are subject to a declaration of vesting and those where an agreement to make such a declaration has been made.

There is no requirement to keep, and no comprehensive record exists of, the location of private sewers or drains. In March 2007, the Government published a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to accompany the announcement of its decision to proceed with the transfer of private sewers and drains in England and Wales into the ownership of the water and sewerage companies. The RIA recorded that the unpublished 2002 UK Water Industry Research report, 'The Real Cost of Taking Over Private Sewers and Drains', estimated that a mapping exercise for private sewers would cost £118 million.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many responses he received to his consultation on the adoption of private sewers; if he will publish summaries of those responses; and what steps he now plans to take. [191408]

**Mr. Woolas:** A total of 119 individual responses to the consultation were received. In addition, 68 letters were received from franchisees in support of a national drainage contractor's response and 26 identical letters in support of one from a residents' spokesperson.

I will ask officials to inform the hon. Member when the full breakdown of responses has been made available on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA officials are currently working with a stakeholder steering group on the practical aspects of implementation. This is necessary before preparing any draft regulations which would put transfer in place. The Government will consult on these regulations before presenting them to Parliament for approval.

## Sustainable Development: Products

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the energy- using products framework directive does not distor the market for such products. [190106]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of implementation of the energy-using products directive, based on the Commission's current proposals.

DEFRA officials have invited key stakeholders, including members of the boiler and water heater industry, to discuss implementation of the energy-using products directive and raise any concerns on implications for the UK. The Commission is currently analysing responses from the industry and the alternative proposals it has put forward.

DEFRA officials have also attended meetings with the European Trade Associations in order to learn more about the issues the boiler and heating industry face across Europe.

### Waste Disposal: Small Businesses

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the proportion of the total waste stream attributable to small and medium-sized enterprises in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191241]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* DEFRA does not hold data on the proportion of the waste stream attributable to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The most recent survey on industrial and commercial waste was carried out in 2002-03 by the Environment Agency. Information was collected from approximately 4,500 businesses and included the type, quantity and form of the waste, as well as the disposal or recovery method used. Data collection was limited to controlled waste and related to England only. Results for commercial waste from this survey show an estimated total tonnage of nearly 68 million tonnes. An unpublished analysis of the size of enterprise shows that, where employee size was known, around 15 per cent. of commercial waste was produced by those with fewer than 10 employees and around 37 per cent. was produced by enterprises with 10 or more, but fewer than 100 employees.

Further information is available, broken down by region, from the Environment Agency's website.

### White Fish: Conservation

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce measures to protect spawning bass. [189947]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004, and subsequent advice to DEFRA from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, suggests that the bass stock is fished sustainably. I currently have no plans to introduce measures to protect spawning congregations of bass. However, with a view to providing additional protection for stocks of bass, I announced last year a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour: Shopping Centres

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to tackle antisocial behaviour in shopping precincts since 1997. [190535]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* While we have not taken any specific steps to tackle antisocial behaviour in shopping precincts, we have provided practitioners with a toolkit to tackle antisocial behaviour, which they operate according to local priorities, and a practitioner website and advice line. The case studies and advice provided help tackle antisocial behaviour in a number of settings, including shopping precincts.

### Asylum

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were removed from the UK *(a)* in total and *(b)* at port in each of the last five years. [178728]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* Published figures are available in "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom".

Copies of this publication and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

### CCTV

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of closed circuit television cameras in each region of England and Wales. [189675]

**Mr. Coaker:** No data on the number of CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level is centrally held by the Home Office.

### Crime

**Mr. Milburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what change there has been in *(a)* crime and *(b)* detection rates in (i) each category of offence and (ii) overall in each basic command unit in the last (A) year and (B) five years for which figures are available. [186312]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information is given in the tables placed in the House Library. Data from 2002-03 has been used in the calculations rather than using data from five years ago (i.e. 2001-02). This is because data for 2001-02 is not directly comparable with that for later years.

Some forces have re-structured their basic command units which has resulted in many comparisons not being possible.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detections rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

### Crime Prevention: Schools

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to tackle criminal activities at or near school entrances in Coventry. [180718]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are committed to improving the life chances of children and young people, by having fewer young people affected by crime and reduce youth victimisation.

There is already a great deal of work going on across Government to tackle offenders and help vulnerable young people achieve the Every Child Matters outcome to 'Stay Safe'. Initiatives include Safer School Partnerships, Youth Inclusion Support Panels and the Youth Inclusion Programme and since 2004, we have invested over £45 million in youth offending teams which have pioneered antisocial behaviour prevention activities for young people at most risk.

Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs) were launched in 2002 in England and Wales and they help tackle criminal activity at or near school entrances. SSPs are a successful mechanism for ensuring joint working between schools and police, to identify and support children and young people regarded as being at high risk of victimisation, offending and social exclusion. There are now about 500 SSPs of one form or another. Evaluations have shown that they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, developing strong and positive relationships between the police and young people, and to help young people develop a sense of being part of the local community.

Reports from front-line staff suggest that the introduction of school-based officers under SSP have gone some way to improve the overall safety of the schools in Coventry and the wider community. One school has suggested that crime fell between 70-80 per cent. since the introduction of these measures.

There is also a local scheme (Operation Rhyme) encouraging schools to stagger the end of school days in an effort to minimise potential problems between pupils. The school entrances are patrolled by uniformed police officers with the assistance of police community support officers.

The use of metal search archways and the use of a police dog have also been used as a deterrent in some Coventry schools. This has been at the consent of the schools involved as well as the pupils and parents. Local police officers involved in the scheme say it has lead to a greater well-being and safer school environment.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to work with schools to reduce crime on school premises since 1997. [180719]

**Mr. Coaker:** The main initiative to tackle crime on school premises in the last 10 years has been the Safer School Partnerships (SSPs).

SSPs are a successful mechanism for ensuring structured joint working between schools and police. Evaluations have shown they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, with truancy falling significantly and pupils and staff feeling much safer. Originally launched in areas targeted by the Street Crime Initiative in 2002, there are now over 500 SSPs in one form or another across the country.

Because of the proven success of SSPs, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has been working closely with the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to encourage more schools and police to engage in this type of early intervention and preventative work which is so vital to achieving the outcomes we are all committed to.

DCSF also announced, in October 2006, that schools had a power randomly to screen pupils using metal detectors in arches or hand-held wands. The use of screening arches in schools and other places was introduced in May 2007 by the Government and brought in force a new power for schools to search without consent, pupils suspected of carrying a weapon.

The great majority of schools don't have a problem with knife crime. Nevertheless, in a very small number of schools it may be necessary, at the discretion of the school and working with the police, to search pupils. The Government introduced in May last year new measures to enable the searching of weapons by teaching staff to ensure schools continue to be safe and secure places to learn. The use of search arches—in schools and other places—is currently being considered by the Government as part of a range of measures to tackle knife crime, which will be featured in the Violent Crime Action Plan to be published in February.

The Government have also launched various wider initiatives which contribute to reducing crime in schools.

Since 2004, it has invested over £45 million in youth crime prevention funding to youth offending teams which have pioneered crime prevention activities for young people at most risk. Their work includes:

Youth Inclusion Support Panels; and

Youth Inclusion Programmes.

The Home Office has invested in other prevention programmes such as Positive Futures. Around 22,000 young people are currently involved in Positive Futures projects nationwide.

### Crimes of Violence: Crime Prevention

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to reduce the incidence of *(a)* knife crime, *(b)* gun crime and *(c)* violent crime. [187447]

**Mr. Coaker:** On 18 February 2008, the Home Office published 'Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public. An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11'. This sets out cross-Government work to reduce the most serious violent and sexual offences, and to ensure an effective and efficient response by the Criminal Justice System in bringing offenders to justice where they do occur. It includes actions to reduce knife crime, in particular involving young people, gun crime and gang-related violence.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce violent crime since 1997. [188410]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Government have undertaken a wide-ranging programme to tackle violent crime which has resulted in a reduction of 31 per cent. since 1997.

For example, through the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, the Home Office has been working intensively with practitioners in a small number of local areas with high levels of more serious violent crime, to support their efforts to reduce alcohol-related crime and domestic violence, to improve police and other agencies' performance and partnership working, and to improve local strategies. The Tackling Gangs Action Programme is also working in four cities (London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham) to tackle gangs and associated issues, in particular firearms.

As a further example, in the context of domestic violence, we have developed the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, whereby a range of agencies work together to share information about known domestic violence victims and develop co-ordinated multi-agency action plans to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation. In Cardiff, an independent evaluation has shown that MARACs there have cut repeat victimisation from over 30 per cent. to below 10 per cent.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources have been committed to the delivery of the Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11. [188824]

**Mr. Coaker:** Tackling violence is core business for the police and other agencies. In 2007-08, the Home Office has made over £7.5 billion available for spending on policing, crime reduction, antisocial behaviour and drug misuse in England and Wales.

In addition to this core funding, some extra resources will be committed to the delivery of the Tackling Violence Action Plan. Funding details have not been finalised, but will include a new £1 million campaign to challenge the 'glamour', fear and peer pressure that can drive youngsters to knife crime. More than £20 million will be made available over the next three years to support the rollout of multi-agency interventions and information sharing, involving local police, council and health workers across the country to manage and identify people at risk of committing serious violence as well as providing support for victims. We will also be providing resources for other actions in the plan.

### Crimes of Violence: Football

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government have taken to reduce football-related violence; [180973]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to prevent football spectators bringing weapons to matches. [180974]

**Mr. Coaker:** Significant violence at football matches is now extremely rare. The multi-agency football disorder strategy introduced after Euro 2000 has been highly successful in reducing levels of English and Welsh football violence both at home and abroad. Arrests for offences of football violence, both inside and away from grounds, have decreased by 46 per cent. over the past three seasons and are now the lowest on record. Last season around 39 million spectators attended football matches involving English and Welsh club and international teams and on average there was just one arrest in connection with each match. The arrests were for a wide variety of football-related offences committed inside and away from grounds and included a total of 41 arrests for possession of an offensive weapon. In view of the reduced risk of violence or disorder, and on the basis of a police risk assessment in respect of each match, 43 per cent. of all League and Cup matches in the 2006-07 season were played with no police in attendance.

The success of the Home Office co-ordinated strategy is a result of a number of factors, including tough but proportionate football banning order legislation, intelligence-led policing operations, integrated in-stadia safety and security arrangements and the dedication and commitment of all parties, including the fans. There is no complacency. Preventing and tackling the lingering, if much reduced, threat of football violence will continue to be treated as a high priority.

### Debt Collection: Regulation

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to bring the regulation of private bailiffs within the purview of the Security Industry Authority; and if she will make a statement. [187007]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Ministry of Justice will publish on its website in March the analysis of responses to their consultation paper, "Regulation of Enforcement Agents". This recommends regulation of enforcement agents by the SIA. The Home Office has started work, with the Ministry of Justice, to draft an affirmative order which will amend Schedule 2 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 to extend the remit of the SIA to licence enforcement agents. We aim for this to be laid before Parliament later this year, with a common commencement date in 2009. Further details about the timescale will be in the Final Impact Assessment, which the Ministry of Justice will publish later in the year.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by her Department. [172738]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of staff (FTE) employed by Home Office broken down by grade and gender as at 30 September 2007 is as follows.

| *Grade* | *Women* | *Men* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Home Office HQ* | | | |
| SCS | 32.5 | 92.7 | 125.3 |
| Grade 6 | 75.6 | 116.2 | 191.8 |
| Grade 7 | 190.6 | 276.1 | 466.7 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 243.8 | 326 | 569.7 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 292.8 | 332.3 | 625.1 |

| Grade | Women | Men | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Executive Officer | 343.6 | 261.3 | 604.9 |
| Administrative Officer | 354.7 | 215.4 | 570.1 |
| Administrative Assistant | 54.6 | 83.8 | 138.3 |
| Other | 144.6 | 266 | 410.6 |
| Total | 1,732.8 | 1,969.7 | 3,702.5 |
| *Border and Immigration Agency* | | | |
| Administrative Assistant | 1,057 | 820 | 1,877 |
| Assistant Immigration Officer | 434 | 492 | 926 |
| Administrative Officer | 2,555 | 1,511 | 4,066 |
| Chief Immigration Officer | 374 | 518 | 892 |
| Executive Officer | 2,119 | 1,298 | 3,417 |
| Grade 6 | 41 | 87 | 128 |
| Grade 7 | 179 | 188 | 367 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 1,183 | 897 | 2,080 |
| Immigration Inspector | 98 | 136 | 234 |
| Immigration Officer | 1,759 | 1,944 | 3,703 |
| Senior Civil Servant | 15 | 30 | 45 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 466 | 385 | 851 |
| Total | 10,280 | 8,306 | 18,586 |
| *Identity and Passport Service* | | | |
| PO1 | 329 | 211 | 540 |
| PO2 | 256 | 136 | 392 |
| PO3 | 1,209 | 522 | 1,731 |
| Executive Officer | 525 | 347 | 872 |
| Grade 6 | 12 | 17 | 29 |
| Grade 7 | 29 | 40 | 69 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 187 | 118 | 305 |
| Senior Civil Servant | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 74 | 93 | 167 |
| Total | 2,627 | 1,498 | 4,125 |
| *Criminal Record Bureau* | | | |
| Administrative Assistant | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Administrative Officer | 98 | 169 | 267 |
| Executive Officer | 49 | 69 | 118 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 23 | 22 | 45 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 9 | 13 | 22 |
| Grade 7 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Senior Civil Servant | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 191 | 277 | 468 |

## Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported domestic violence incidents resulted in *(a)* caution, *(b)* arrest and *(c)* charge in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [184760]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office collects data on the proportion of domestic violence incidents that result in an arrest. However, we do not require police forces routinely to flag cautions or charges as domestic violence related. This is due to arrests as a proportion of domestic violence incidences being included in the 2007-08 Police Performance Assessment Framework. This is also being proposed for the 2008-09 Assessment of Policing and Community Safety Performance Framework.

Domestic violence related arrests by police authority area are published on the Home Office website and can be found at the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance

The published data are for 2005-06 and 2006-07, the two years the Home Office has been collecting this data.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* convicted and *(b)* arrested domestic violence perpetrators had previous convictions for violence in the last five years. [188268]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally. However, the new cross-Government Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February 2008, includes action to strengthen the arrangements for managing those individuals, including domestic violence perpetrators, who are identified as being at risk of committing serious violence. We are currently in the process of establishing what data are needed to monitor this action effectively.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to implement section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [188271]

**Mr. Coaker:** Section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 will enable courts to impose restraining orders on those convicted of any offence, and also on those who are acquitted for any offence. This will mean that restraining orders will be available in a much wider range of cases.

We are currently working with the Ministry of Justice on the resource implications of this provision. When we have resolved this issue, we will be in a position to agree timetable for the implementation of this section of the Act.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many non-molestation order cases perpetrators have been *(a)* held on remand, *(b)* bailed and *(c)* bailed without notice. [188272]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not routinely collect these data from the police.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been allocated to dedicated domestic violence courts for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [188302]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2007-08, funding was allocated to independent domestic violence adviser (IDVAs) services and to implement multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) within specialist domestic violence court (SDVC) areas. Further IDVA funding was accessed in 2007-08 by areas wishing to develop an SDVC. This funding totalled £3 million for IDVAs and £1.85 million for MARAC administration.

Funding decisions for future years will be dependent on the number of SDVCs selected in this current selection round and in future selection rounds.

### Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring she has undertaken of the implementation of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [184754]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Ministry of Justice/Her Majesty's Courts Service have commissioned an evaluation of the impact of the most recently implemented provision in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004—section 1, which made breach of a non-molestation order a criminal offence. An evaluation report is due shortly.

Earlier provisions commenced in 2005—for example, extending to members of same sex couples the right to apply for a protective civil injunction against domestic violence from a partner—now form part of standard business. Her Majesty's Court Service monitors trends in applications and orders through the family court IT system.

### Domestic Violence: Homicide

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to use the power in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to direct the establishment of domestic homicide reviews. [188813]

**Mr. Coaker:** Following a public consultation exercise in 2006 on the draft guidance for establishing and conducting domestic homicide reviews under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, issues around the potential impact of this provision on local authorities were raised.

We are currently working with colleagues in Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the resource implications of implementing this provision, and hope to be in a position to commence this section shortly.

### Drugs: Research

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the purpose is of the research into illegal drug markets by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate of her Department; and if she will make a statement. [188498]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The 2002 update to the UK's Drug Strategy highlighted knowledge gaps in relation to the dynamics of the illegal drug markets. In particular, there was a dearth of evidence on the supply chain from importation to street-level sale; the routes and methods used to supply the market; and, the way in which interventions affected the key players in the supply chain.

By interviewing a sample of convicted drug traffickers and dealers, the study commissioned by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS) aimed to fill this gap in the knowledge base and provide us with a crucial insight into the dynamics of the drug market.

The findings from the research, which have been published, includes information on how dealers and traffickers enter the market, how they run their enterprises and how they respond to the risks they perceive. The findings are very useful for the further development of policy and practice to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs.

### Forced Marriage

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance *(a)* her Department, *(b)* other departments and *(c)* other agencies issue on forced marriage; and how her Department monitors compliance with that guidance. [186896]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Forced Marriage Unit has produced guidelines on tackling forced marriage for police, social services, health and education practitioners. The Unit is currently reissuing guidelines for social workers in two versions, one for those working with vulnerable adults and another for those working with young people.

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act, which received Royal Assent in July 2007, makes provision for these guidelines to be reissued on a statutory basis.

Forced marriage is addressed as an issue in the cross-Government Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February 2008. The Ministerial Action Group responsible for implementing the Plan will ensure that the guidelines are adhered to.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle forced marriages in England; and if she will make a statement. [187218]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Forced Marriage Unit was set up by the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2005. The unit contributes to Government policy on forced marriage, and its actions, which include the co-ordination of an outreach programme to raise awareness of the problem of forced marriage, and a dedicated support and advice helpline for victims, form part of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan.

In 2007 the unit assisted approximately 400 victims of forced marriage and also contributed to the passage of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 through Parliament.

The unit has issued guidelines for professionals (police, education professionals, health and social workers) on dealing with cases of forced marriage. When implemented, the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 will place these guidelines on a statutory footing.

Over the coming months we will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers to develop an action plan for honour based violence.

We will also be running a series of regional seminars on honour based violence and forced marriage starting in the spring. The aim of these seminars will be to raise awareness in local communities and to stimulate decisive action to protect victims and potential victims. It is envisaged that this will also be the start of a continuing dialogue with communities.

This work will be embedded in the next three years through the Tackling Violence Action Plan which will seek to reduce all homicides and serious violence including honour-related killings.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements exist for agencies to carry out multi-agency risk assessments in cases of suspected forced marriages. [188919]

**Mr. Coaker:** Guidance issued by the Forced Marriage Unit to the police, social services, health and education professionals covers risk factors which may indicate that a person is being forced into marriage. The guidance recommends the use of the Government's 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' to establish the level of risk.

Other risk assessment tools have been developed in relation to domestic violence, the definition of which includes forced marriage, and local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences are starting to receive referrals which involve forced marriage, as local agencies become more aware of forced marriage as an issue.

### Forced Marriage: Victim Support Schemes

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what accredited training is available to agencies working with victims of *(a)* forced marriage and *(b)* attempted honour killings. [188920]

**Mr. Coaker:** A wide range of people deal with the issue of forced marriage, including teachers, social workers, youth workers and health professionals. It is recognised that specialist training is required to provide these professionals with the skills needed to identify and manage cases of forced marriage. Staff from these professions receive training in accordance with their professional training bodies. In-house training is provided to Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) staff and overseas staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to prepare them for working with victims of forced marriage. The FMU also provides briefing sessions to other agencies that deal with forced marriage.

The Home Office provides funds for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers to receive accredited training from the Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse, which covers the issues of forced marriage and honour-based violence.

### Homicide: Females

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with Muslim community leaders on advice to women who are in fear of honour killings. [188686]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: As part of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan we will be running a series of regional seminars on honour based violence and forced marriage starting in the spring.

The aim of these seminars will be to raise awareness in local communities and stimulate decisive action to protect victims and potential victims. It is envisaged that this will also be the start of a continuing dialogue with communities.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle honour killings; and if she will make a statement. [187217]

**Mr. Coaker:** In March 2005 we developed our National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. This focuses on five key outcomes:

to reduce the number of domestic violence homicides;

to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence;

to increase the rate that domestic violence is reported;

to increase the proportion of domestic violence offences that are brought to justice; and

to ensure that victims of domestic violence are adequately protected and supported.

As part of this Delivery Plan, specific action has been taken to address honour based violence and forced marriage. Over the coming months we will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers to develop an action plan for honour based violence.

We will also be running a series of regional seminars on honour based violence and forced marriage starting in the spring. The aim of these seminars will be to raise awareness in local communities and to stimulate decisive action to protect victims and potential victims. It is envisaged that this will also be the start of a continuing dialogue with communities.

This work will be embedded in the next three years through the Tackling Violence Action Plan which will seek to reduce all homicides and serious violence including honour-related killings.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for human trafficking offences in (i) Cambridgeshire, (ii) Peterborough and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years. [187137]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004. 232 arrests have been made for human trafficking offences with 134 being charged with trafficking and trafficking related offences. Conviction figures under dedicated trafficking legislation for the United Kingdom are as follows:

| | *Number of convictions* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 21 |
| 2006 | 30 |
| 2007 | 17 |

There have been six arrests in Cambridgeshire all of which took place in 2007-08 all of which are being processed through the criminal justice system.

There are no figures available in relation to the number of arrests in Peterborough specifically.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of illegal immigrants removed from the United Kingdom were removed having not passed immigration control. [178663]

**Mr. Byrne:** No Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, particularly since the phase out of exit controls in 1994.

### Internet: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to encourage internet service providers to reduce children's access to harmful internet content. [190226]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Secretary's Taskforce on Online Child Protection brings together Government, law enforcement, children's agencies and the internet industry to work together to ensure that children can use the internet in safety. It has the aims of making the UK the best and safest place in the world for children to use the internet.

There are excellent working relationships with the internet industry, and they have developed strong working practices and guidelines relating to services they offer and content they host. Where a UK ISP is advised—usually by law enforcement—that they are hosting material, which is illegal, they have an excellent record in removing it.

In September 2007, the Prime Minister announced a review into the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content in video games and online. The review will also assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate content.

Dr. Tanya Byron is conducting this review and will report to Ministers in March 2008. The Home Office looks forward to hearing the recommendations.



### Internet: Crime

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of e-crime *(a)* in the last year and *(b)* over the last five years. [188866]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government prosecute all crimes based on illegal actions and not the medium used. As such, all legislation criminalises offences regardless of whether they were committed on or off line and so there are no estimated levels of e-crime as a whole.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist for the reporting of e-crime to law enforcement authorities. [188916]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government take the view that the UK should prosecute criminal acts based on the offence committed and not the medium used. Therefore crimes committed using the internet should be reported in the same way as crimes committed offline; to the police.

Where credit or debit card fraud is involved, the cardholder should report the matter directly to their bank or card company. It is then for the bank or card company to verify the crime and report it to the police. This applies to card fraud committed online as well as offline.

The Government have allocated £28 million over three years to implement the recommendations of the fraud review. This includes the creation of a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC) which will cover online fraud.

Both the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have reporting mechanisms aimed at members of the public to report instances of child abuse or websites containing child abuse images.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with internet search providers on tackling the use of search engines to provide *(a)* illegal and *(b)* harmful internet content. [190225]

**Mr. Coaker:** In December 2005, the Home Office Task Force on the Protection of Children on the Internet published the "Good Practice guide for search providers and advice to the public on how to search safely". This document was produced in conjunction with representatives from the search provider industry and other UK experts, and is aimed at the public and at companies who provide search across all platforms. It provides a model of good practice to search providers and gives advice to help the public, especially parents and carers, make good use of search engines and reduce the risk of being exposed to unwanted and unsuitable results.

Furthermore, the major search provider companies work closely and effectively with UK self-regulatory body, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), to promote online safety. The IWF provides a dynamic list of child sexual abuse websites to search providers which enables them to better manage the quality of

search returns, blocking those that feature on the child sexual abuse list, to help protect internet users.

The IWF is also in a position to provide intelligence around the number and nature of search returns regarding potentially illegal and potentially inappropriate online content. It has provided this intelligence recently, for example, to the Government's consultation on Extreme Pornography legislation, the Byron Review and the DCMS Select Committee Review regarding online content such as adult pornography, child sexual abuse 'cartoons', and mutilation, bestiality and necrophilia websites.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ratify the Cybercrime Convention; and when she expects ratification to take place. [190341]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government fully supports the Cybercrime Convention and detailed work will begin on its ratification in April 2008.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken was between discovery and removal by internet service providers of *(a)* illegal and *(b)* fraudulent content on the internet in each of the last three years. [189340]

**Mr. Coaker:** On the rare occasion child sexual abuse content reported to the Internet Watch Foundation is found to be hosted in the UK, the organisation's successful self-regulatory partnership with the online industry means it is removed expeditiously; typically within a matter of hours. It is worth noting that in 1997 18 per cent. of child sexual abuse content was found to be hosted in the UK and that this figure has been less than 1 per cent. since 2003 because of the work of the IWF with the online sector and the success of their universal notice and take-down initiative ensuring any such abuse of UK online services is dealt with swiftly and effectively.

As regards incitement to racial hatred and criminally obscene content, there have been no instances of UK hosted incitement to racial hatred content between 2005 and 2007 and just two instances of UK hosted criminally obscene content in the same period which were removed.

In relation to fraudulent websites, ISPs are required to shut down these sites within a reasonable amount of time once they have been informed about its existence by law enforcement under the e commerce directive. The directive offers ISPs protection from liability for hosting, transmitting or caching illegal material of which they have no knowledge (this would include fraudulent content). Once the material is brought to the attention of the ISP (by law enforcement), they lose their protection unless they take the material off their site as quickly as possible. There are excellent working relationships between the internet industry and law enforcement, and they have developed strong working practices and guidelines relating to services they offer and content they host. The internet industry has an excellent record in removing websites operating illegally.

The Government do not hold information on the time taken to remove these sites.

**Internet: Regulation**

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Acts passed in the last 10 years for which her Department is responsible contained provisions regulating the internet. [188829]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office manages the Computer Misuse Act 1990 which covers crimes committed against computer systems. We do not regulate the internet or computer systems as such.

**Internet: Standards**

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department first asked the British Standards Institution to produce a kite mark for internet filters. [188835]

**Mr. Coaker:** The BSI kitemark project arose from the Home Secretary's taskforce on Online Child Protection and is a joint Home Office and Ofcom initiative. The British Standards Institution (BSI) was first approached in October 2004 to produce publicly available specification for rating filtering and monitoring software.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the good practice guidance for social networking and user interactive services to be published; and what discussions she has had with the multi-stakeholder project group working on this. [190224]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is actively considering dates, this will be confirmed in the near future.

The project group has had active support from Home Office Ministers throughout its development.

**Internet: Young People**

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department has provided to Safer Internet Day in each of the last five years. [188878]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office fully supports the work of Safer Internet Day, part of the EU's Safer Internet Plus programme. Since the creation of the child exploitation online protection centre (CEOP), they have co-ordinated awareness raising among children and parents on staying safe online. CEOP is UK awareness node for the EU's Safer Internet Plus programme.

**Members: Correspondence**

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 7 January 2008 (acknowledgement reference: HO: M453/8) concerning his constituent Mr. S. Stratton. [187495]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The issues that were raised in the letter related to operational matters that are solely the responsibility of the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The original

correspondence (ref M453/8) was passed to the SIA and I understand that they wrote to the hon. Member about Mr. Stratton's application on 20 February.

### Offensive Weapons

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people under the age of 18 years were arrested for carrying a *(a)* knife and *(b)* firearm in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the north east, (iii) the Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years; [185285]

(2) how many school pupils were arrested for taking a weapon into school in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the north east, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [185508]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Offensive Weapons: Injuries

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of all reported injuries as a result of assault were inflicted by knives in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181760]

**Mr. Coaker:** From the information collected centrally on police recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences where an assault with a knife resulted in injury. The details of the circumstances of specific offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

However, with effect from April 2007, police forces have been providing data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences. The first full year's data for this will be available from July.

### Offensive Weapons: Prosecutions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislative proposals she intends to bring forward to ensure that everyone found in possession of a knife in public in a crime hot spot is prosecuted. [182757]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February, outlines the Government's efforts to tackle knife crime over the next three years.

We are currently working with the Crown Prosecution Service and the police to see how the arrangements agreed in London for the prosecution of knife possession offences might be extended more widely.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to the police to ensure that everyone found in possession of a knife in public in a crime hot spot is prosecuted. [182923]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are currently working with the Crown Prosecution Service and the police on how the arrangements agreed in London for the prosecution of knife possession offences might be extended more widely.

### Organised Crime: Crime Prevention

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to combat organised crime since 1997. [181577]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 1997, the Government's aim has been to make the UK a more hostile environment for organised crime.

In 2002 we introduced the Proceeds of Crime Act. Since the Act came into force in 2003 we have recovered over £360 million of criminally derived assets and there has been a five-fold increase of moneys recovered annually. We have targets to recover more; doubling the annual amount to £250 million by 2010.

In 2004, we issued a White Paper "One Step Ahead - A 21st Century Strategy to Defeat Organised Crime" from which flowed the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. This Act introduced new measures to help disrupt criminal activity and convict those responsible.

The Act also established the Serious Organised Crime Agency which became operative on 1 April 2006. It brought together the main national agencies for tackling organised crime into a single unit with the aim of reducing the harm caused to the UK by organised crime. It is already demonstrating its success as described in its annual report for 2006-07.

In October 2007 the Serious Crime Act 2007 gained Royal Assent. The Act introduced new measures to prevent and detect serious crime, including Serious Crime Prevention Orders which allow courts to impose restrictive conditions on those proved to be involved in serious crime. The Act will also merge the Asset Recovery Agency with the Serious Organised Crime Agency from 1 April 2008.

### Perjury: Expenditure

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in how many cases the cost of investigating alleged offences of *(a)* perjury and *(b)* attempting to pervert the course of justice has exceeded £1 million in the last five years; [190055]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of investigation of the most expensive case of *(a)* perjury and *(b)* attempting to pervert the course of justice in each of the last five years; and how many police officers were engaged in the investigation of each such case in each year. [190058]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Pornography: Internet

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of child abuse internet websites hosted in the United States; and what discussions she has had with the US Administration on reducing the number of such sites. [188872]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Internet Watch Foundation's (IWF) last published figures (Annual Report 2006) show that 54.3 per cent. of all child sexual abuse domains known to the IWF appeared to be hosted in the US, and 62 per cent. of commercial child sexual abuse domains. The IWF passes intelligence relating to US hosted child sexual abuse websites to its Hotline partner in the US (Cybertipline, part of National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)) and via Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and Interpol, to US law enforcement. The IWF recently hosted a visit from associates at NCMEC who were keen to learn from IWF experience. The IWF has also recently visited the US Hotline for a similar sharing exercise.

A US Congress delegation visited the UK in 2007 on a fact finding tour. This led to the publication of the Congress Report by the US House of Representatives 109th Congress following their inquiry into child sexual abuse content on the internet last year. The main references to recommended best practice and the IWF are on pages 6-8. Key issues mentioned are NCMEC and IWF sharing lists of child sexual abuse websites; the US emulating the UK/IWF blocking initiative; and pressure being put on ICANN to combat false and illegal domain names which have been selling illegal images for many years on the same website address:

http://republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/108/News/01032007_Report.pdf

CEOP also have close working relationships with US partners through the Virtual Global Taskforce.

The Home Office has had no recent discussions with the US Administration on reducing the number of websites hosting child abuse images hosted in America.

### Risk Assessment: Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to enable multi-agency risk assessments to be on a statutory basis. [188950]

**Mr. Coaker:** Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are a recent development in services offered to victims of domestic violence.

MARACs are being rolled out incrementally to ensure that standards are maintained and monitored through the Home office funded MARAC Implementation programme provided by the charitable training agency Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). We currently have no plans to place MARACs on a statutory footing, but are keeping the situation under review.

### Romford Police: Stop and Search

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be carrying *(a)* illegal weapons and *(b)* illegal drugs during stop and search procedures by the police in Romford in each of the last four years. [186898]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally. Information about stop-and-search procedures for the Essex police force area as a whole is given in the following table.

*Searches by Essex police of persons or vehicles under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and other legislation[1] and resultant arrests, by reason for search/arrest*

*Number*

| | *Searches made by reason for search* | | | *Arrests made by reason for arrest* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Drugs* | *Firearms* | *Offensive weapons* | *Drugs* | *Firearms* | *Offensive weapons* |
| 2002-03 | 2,435 | 53 | 763 | 339 | 9 | 97 |
| 2003-04 | 1,945 | 100 | 819 | 300 | 7 | 91 |
| 2004-05 | 2,751 | 95 | 1,077 | 309 | 10 | 127 |
| 2005-06 | 3,445 | 188 | 932 | 286 | 19 | 118 |

[1] Includes searches for drugs and firearms under the Misuse of Dugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968 respectively.

*Searches by Essex police of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests*

*Number*

| | *Stops and searches in anticipation of violence* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Searches* | *Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments* | *Arrests for offensive weapons* |
| 2002-03 | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 311 | 5 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 248 | 2 | 3 |
| 2005-06 | 753 | 3 | 1 |

*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

### Sexual Offences: Multiple Occupation

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to counter violence and sexual assault in mixed houses when in the context of multi-occupancy housing in areas with large migrant worker populations. [188173]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government have introduced the mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) of three or more storeys, housing five or more persons who form two or more households. Landlords of licensable HMOs must be identified as being "fit and proper" persons.

Local housing authorities must have regard to any previous convictions relating to violence, sexual offences, drugs, fraud, housing and landlord and tenant offences, before licences can be issued. Landlords may also seek possession of a property if a tenant is in beach of their tenancy agreement, or has been guilty of unlawful conduct.

### Sexual Offences: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire were on the national sex offenders register at the most recent date for which figures are available. [187857]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on registered sexual offenders are collated geographically by police force area and broken down to basic command unit (BCU) area. The data are published in local Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, which are available in the House Libraries and online at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The Tamworth constituency is not coterminous with any BCU area, but is covered by the data relating to the Trent Valley BCU in Staffordshire.

As of 31 March 2007, there were 145 registered sex offenders in Trent Valley and 676 in Staffordshire.

### Shoplifting

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce shoplifting. [189324]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are working in partnership with retail organisations to tackle retail crime including shoplifting. As part of this work we have set up a National Retail Crime Steering Group to provide an opportunity for discussion of retailers' crime concerns and to devise strategies to deal with these.

We have made a commitment to raise the profile of crimes against businesses, make provision for better information about them and produce guidance to support local partnerships in their efforts to tackle the crimes which affect them.

The Home Office has also provided funding to the Perpetuity Group to develop a crime reduction tool for small and medium sized retailers to design out crime in their stores and significantly reduce the opportunities for shop thieves to operate.

### Shoplifting: Cleveland

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the incidence of shoplifting in *(a)* the Cleveland Police Area and *(b)* Stockton in the latest period for which figures are available. [189323]

**Mr. Coaker:** It is not possible to accurately assess the incidence of shoplifting. For a variety of reasons many offences are not reported to the police and many offences do not come to the attention of the victim. The available information is contained in the Home Office recorded crime statistics.

Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, shoplifting offences recorded in Cleveland decreased by 6 per cent. from 4,924 to 4,652 offences. In 2006-07, shoplifting accounted for 7 per cent. of all crime recorded by the police in the Cleveland police force area.

Overall in 2006-07 there was a fall of 5 per cent. in total recorded crime in Cleveland. There were also significant decreases in some of the high volume crimes with theft of a motor vehicle both down 22 per cent. and domestic burglary down 15 per cent.

Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, shoplifting offences recorded in the Stockton Basic Command Unit decreased by 9 per cent. from 1,151 to 1,053 offences. In 2006-07, shoplifting accounted for 6 per cent. of all crime recorded by the police in the Stockton BCU.

Overall in 2006-07 there was a fall of 5 per cent. in total recorded crime in Stockton. There were also significant decreases in some of the high volume crimes with violence against the person and theft of a motor vehicle both down 12 per cent., theft from a vehicle down 14 per cent. and domestic burglary down 9 per cent.

### Support Orders

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2029W, on support orders, when she will publish the results of the three month survey of 50 respect areas to assess the use of individual support orders. [188762]

**Mr. Coaker:** The results of last year's survey of 50 areas will be placed in the Library when the next set of antisocial behaviour order data, which will include national data on the use of individual support orders, is published. We expect to do so shortly.

### Task Force on Child Protection

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operating budget was of the Child Exploitation Online Protection centre in each month since its inception in 2006; and how many dedicated staff were employed by it in each year. [190815]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) receives an annual budget from the Home Office, which is paid through the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to which it is

affiliated. In addition to the Home Office grant, CEOP receives significant levels of support from industry and the third sector.

In 2007-08, CEOP received an annual budget (from the Home Office) of £5.657 million and an annual budget of £5.110 million in 2006-07.

At the end of CEOP's first operational year 2006-07, it had nearly 80 staff, of whom, 10 were seconded from partner agencies. The figure is now 115, of which, 24 posts are either provided free by partners or are funded externally for discrete projects.

### Terrorism: Internet

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the potential of the internet to be a tool for extremist groups. [181576]

**Mr. McNulty:** We are working with law enforcement and industry partners to target extremist use of the internet and where there is illegal material we are working to remove it. Under the Terrorism Act 2000/2006 this includes material that either incites or encourages terrorism. In the coming weeks we will be talking to industry, and those in the community, about what more we can do to protect communities from extremist exploitation of the internet.

### Thefts: Metals

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of metal thefts from ecclesiastical properties in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire; and if she will make a statement. [190915]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* We are working closely with a range of stakeholders, other Government Departments and the police to develop a response to tackle these crimes.

I am aware that theft of metals is a growing concern which affects business, transport, communication and ecclesiastical properties.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has set up a working group, chaired by the British Transport Police and with Home Office representation. The group is developing an action plan to address the problem from national co-ordination to local responses to tackle metal thieves, including an examination of the effectiveness of current legislation relating to scrap metal recycling.

A national day of action was held at the end of January. In Cambridgeshire this resulted in several arrests in addition to checks being made on scrap metal dealers.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Advertising

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of her budget has been spent on advertising since its inception. [187184]

**Tessa Jowell:** The public sector funding package for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games does not include any specific provision for expenditure on the promotional advertising of the Games and none of this funding has been spent on such a purpose. This is because promotional advertising of the Games is planned and co-ordinated by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), as the body responsible for hosting and staging the Games in 2012. LOCOG's budget of £2 billion will be met almost entirely from private sources (the exception is a small contribution towards the staging of the Paralympic Games). LOCOG is, therefore, not funded from the public sector funding package.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics which public authorities will have liabilities for operating and maintaining the facilities built for the London Olympics after 2012. [184422]

**Tessa Jowell:** Options are currently being developed for the long-term arrangements for ownership and management of the Olympic Park, including for the operation and maintenance of the facilities built for the London Games in 2012. Decisions are expected to be taken during 2008, in parallel with the development of the Legacy Masterplan Framework.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made of the annual revenue costs of (i) running buildings and facilities constructed for the 2012 Olympics and (ii) associated debt repayments once the Games are over; and to which public bodies liability for these costs will fall. [184426]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority and London Development Agency are currently considering the long-term viability of each of the venues to be constructed for the London Games. Work is also being carried out to develop a fully integrated business plan for the Olympic Park as a whole, which will take into account the likely annual revenue costs for the individual venues and other facilities. This work will also help the development of the Legacy Masterplan Framework, and development of the options for the long-term arrangements for the ownership and management of the Olympic Park, decisions on which are expected to be taken during 2008.

### Olympic Games 2012: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps her Office *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to ensure that local authorities in Essex share in the (i) economic, (ii) social and (iii) sporting benefits arising from the 2012 Olympic Games; what discussions her Office has had with local authorities in Essex; and if she will make a statement. [188995]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working hard to ensure the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work chaired by Charles Allen. Additionally, the Local Government Association (which is represented on the Group) is supporting local authorities across the UK in the lead up to the Games.

Cllr Stephen Castle, who is the regional representative on NRG, chairs the Nations and Regions East (NRE) Board. This Board has representation from each of the six county areas in the East of England and each county has a 2012 working group. In Essex a Strategic Board has been set up and is supported and led by Essex County Council. The Board is chaired by Gary Sullivan, also Chair of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership. The Board has the full involvement and representation from both Thurrock and Southend unitary authorities and provides relevant and appropriate activity to maximise the benefits from 2012.

On 16 January, the London 2012 Business Network was launched, helping businesses across the country access and compete for 2012-related contracts. 1018 businesses from the East of England have already registered on CompeteFor—a ground breaking 'business dating agency' which goes further than previous Games in opening up the supply chain. 52 of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers are Cabinet Office registered in the region.

Local authorities can also apply to be a Beacon authority on Olympic and Paralympic legacy. The Beacon scheme will help us use the 2012 Games to encourage communities to be more active. Successful applicants to the scheme will be at the forefront of delivering programmes to increase participation at a local level and championing best practise. Applications are due in June and successful authorities for 2009 will be announced early next year.

### Olympics 2012 Business Opportunities Network

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the regional publicity schedule for the Olympics 2012 Business Opportunities Network in South Wales is; what liaison has taken place with *(a)* the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government on the promotion of the Olympics 2012 Business Opportunities Network amongst small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales; and what interest has been shown by Welsh small and medium-sized enterprises in bidding for prospective Olympics 2012 contracts. [183860]

**Tessa Jowell:** On 16 January the Olympic Family nationally launched the London 2012 Business Network—a new mechanism for engaging SMEs in 2012 supply chains. The onus is now on businesses to sign up and get support to bid for and win contracts.

We are now in the process of agreeing with the Welsh Assembly Government a date for a Welsh launch when London 2012 will talk face to face with Welsh businesses in partnership with BERR and the Welsh Assembly Government

London 2012 will be further engaging with businesses across the country throughout the next four years to discuss both delivery and Games time contracts.

To date 692 Welsh businesses have registered for e-alerts notifying them of forthcoming contract opportunities, which demonstrates a great enthusiasm for getting involved in 2012.

### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many plasma television screens have been purchased by her office, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191072]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since my appointment as Minister for the Olympics and London in June 2007, no plasma television screens have been purchased by my office.

## TREASURY

### Bingo

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will visit a bingo club in Castle Point constituency to discuss the effects of bingo club closures on *(a)* employment and *(b)* Exchequer revenues; and if he will make a statement. [190422]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers have no plans at present to make such a visit.

### Customs Officers: Training

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs officers are trained in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species-related issues; how many were trained in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [190783]

**Jane Kennedy:** Approximately 4,500 staff are engaged in anti smuggling duties and undertake training in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species-related issues, as part of their mandatory training.

The following table below highlights how many staff were trained in each year, since centrally kept records were kept:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 72 |
| 2000 | 389 |
| 2001 | 438 |
| 2002 | 178 |
| 2003 | 195 |
| 2004 | 574 |
| 2005 | 172 |
| 2006 | 211 |
| 2007 | 224 |

## Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190672]

**Angela Eagle:** In fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty the Treasury will publish a report in spring 2008 when it publishes its Single Equality scheme. The Single Equality scheme will amalgamate the Treasury's three current equality schemes on (race, disability and gender).

## Departmental Manpower

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what change there was in the number of employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and public bodies in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; and what percentage of the total change was accounted for by changes in each region and county. [190818]

**Angela Eagle:** The following table shows the change in the number of employees in the Chancellor's Departments over 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

*Changes in Chancellor's Departments*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HM Treasury | (30) | 93 | 84 |
| Debt Management Office | 0 | (9) | 4 |
| Office of Government Commerce | (40) | 71 | (116) |
| Government Actuary's Department | (10) | (2) | 2 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 700 | (5,002) | (3,952) |
| Valuation Office Agency | (130) | 1 | (572) |
| National Savings and Investments | (10) | 26 | 4 |
| Office for National Statistics | (260) | 165 | (291) |
| Royal Mint | 40 | 145 | (153) |
| Total | 260 | (4,512) | (4,991) |

The following table shows the percentage of the total change by country/region.

*Change by region and country*

| | *Change 1 April 2004 to 1 April 2007* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Region/country* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| East Midlands | (591) | (6) |
| East of England | (881) | (10) |
| London | (2,422) | (26) |
| North East | (683) | (7) |
| North West | (527) | (6) |
| Northern Ireland | (174) | (2) |
| Scotland | 517 | 6 |
| South East | (2,268) | (25) |
| South West | (612) | (7) |
| Wales | (213) | (2) |
| West Midlands | (739) | (8) |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | (962) | (10) |
| Unreported and elsewhere | 313 | 3 |
| All regions | (9,342) | (100) |

*Note:*
A fall in staff numbers shows as a negative (bracketed) figure in the percentage table.

## Disabled

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* lone parents of working age there were in each quarter since 1992; and how many and what proportion of these were (i) employed, (ii) unemployed and (iii) economically active in each such quarter. [191325]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* lone parents of working age there were in each quarter since 1992; and how many and what proportion of these were (i) employed, (ii) unemployed and (iii) economically active in each such quarter. (191325)

The attached table gives the estimates of disabled people and lone parents of working age who were employed, unemployed and economically active for the three month period ending June each year 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for disabled people prior to 1999 and for lone parents prior to 1997. Estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000 for either category.

A historical series of lone parent employment rates is published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release, which is available on the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk==8552.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas those in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Disabled people and lone parents of working age in employment, unemployed[1] and economically active, three months ending June each year, 1997-2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousands, except where indicated*

| | | *Disabled people*[2,3] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *In Employment* | | *Unemployed* | | *Economically Active* |
| *1997* | *Total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* |
| 1997 | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| 1999 | 6,542 | 3,022 | 46 | 351 | 5 | 3,373 | 52 |
| 2001 | 6,735 | 3,139 | 47 | 281 | 4 | 3,420 | 51 |

*Disabled people and lone parents of working age in employment, unemployed[1] and economically active, three months ending June each year, 1997-2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousands, except where indicated*

| | *Disabled people[2,3]* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *In Employment* | | *Unemployed* | | *Economically Active* |
| *1997* | *Total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* |
| 2002 | 6,876 | 3,294 | 48 | 286 | 4 | 3,580 | 52 |
| 2003 | 6,892 | 3,362 | 49 | 284 | 4 | 3,647 | 53 |
| 2004 | 7,017 | 3,485 | 50 | 263 | 4 | 3,748 | 53 |
| 2005 | 6,998 | 3,477 | 50 | 287 | 4 | 3,764 | 54 |
| 2006 | 7,069 | 3,537 | 50 | 341 | 5 | 3,877 | 55 |
| 2007 | 6,957 | 3,456 | 50 | 334 | 5 | 3,790 | 55 |

| | *Lone Parents[2,4]* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *In Employment* | | *Unemployed* | | *Economically Active* | |
| | *Total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* | *Number* | *As % of total* |
| 1997 | 1,584 | 706 | 45 | 131 | 8 | 837 | 53 |
| 1999 | 1,726 | 828 | 48 | 149 | 9 | 976 | 57 |
| 2001 | 1,739 | 893 | 51 | 124 | 7 | 1,018 | 59 |
| 2002 | 1,798 | 958 | 53 | 111 | 6 | 1,069 | 59 |
| 2003 | 1,791 | 947 | 53 | 104 | 6 | 1,051 | 58 |
| 2004 | 1,848 | 1,001 | 54 | 112 | 6 | 1,113 | 60 |
| 2005 | 1,856 | 1,039 | 56 | 103 | 6 | 1,142 | 62 |
| 2006 | 1,829 | 1,030 | 56 | 117 | 6 | 1,147 | 63 |
| 2007 | 1,838 | 1,049 | 57 | 113 | 6 | 1,162 | 63 |

[1] according to the 110 (International Labour Organisation) definition of unemployed, i.e. those who are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who want a job and have been seeking a job in the last 4 weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59
[3] Includes those who have a tong term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a tong term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
[4] Working age people with dependent children under 16 and those children aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[5] Comparable estimates are not available for disabled people prior to 1999 and for lone parents prior to 1997. Estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000 for either category.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Duty Free Allowances

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reassess personal allowances for importation of *(a)* tobacco products and *(b)* alcoholic drinks. [191279]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since the completion of the single market in 1993, persons travelling between EU member states have been able to bring with them unlimited quantities of alcohol and tobacco, provided that the product is bought duty paid in the member state of purchase, is for their own use (including gifts), and is transported by them.

For travellers entering the UK from a non-EU country, there are limits, which are laid down in EU legislation, on the amount of alcohol and tobacco that can be brought back without paying UK tax or duty. Any changes to these allowances must be agreed unanimously by all 27 EU member states.

Following a proposal from the European Commission concerning the tax and duty-free allowances for travellers from non-EU countries, EU Finance Ministers agreed unanimously at the Council meeting on 20 December 2007 on the adoption of a directive which, among other things, will increase the still wine allowance from 2 litres to 4 litres and introduce a new allowance for beer of 16 litres. These changes will come into effect from 1 December 2008. No changes have been made to the allowances for other alcohol or tobacco products. It was also agreed that all the allowances would be reviewed every four years.

## Foreign Loans: World War Two

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments were made to the US in respect of war debt incurred by Britain during and following the second world war, including the *(a)* line of credit and *(b)* land lease loan in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [191162]

**Angela Eagle:** World war two repayments were completed on the 29 December 2006. Information on the total interest and capital payments for world war two loans in the last 10 years is as follows:

*US$ million*

| | *USD Lend lease* | | *Line of credit* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Capital repayment and interest* | *Interest on interest repayments* | *Capital repayment and interest* | *Interest on interest repayments* |
| 1997 | 18,662,099.35 | 2,070,876.03 | 119,336,250.00 | 13,341,333.95 |
| 1998 | 18,662,099.35 | 2,070,876.03 | 119,336,250.00 | 13,341,333.95 |

US$ million

| | USD Lend lease | | Line of credit | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Capital repayment and interest | Interest on interest repayments | Capital repayment and interest | Interest on interest repayments |
| 1999 | 18,662,099.35 | 2,070,876.03 | 119,336,250.00 | 13,341,333.95 |
| 2000 | 18,662,099.35 | 2,070,876.03 | 119,402,762.30 | 13,341,333.95 |
| Total | 74,648,397.45 | 8,283,504.12 | 477,411,512.30 | 53,365,335.80 |
| *Repayment of deferred capital and annual interest* | | | | |
| 2001 | — | 19,487,914.32 | — | 132,677,583.95 |
| 2002 | — | 20,512,512.37 | — | 130,290,858.95 |
| 2003 | — | 20,112,836.44 | — | 127,904,133.95 |
| 2004 | — | 19,649,191.17 | — | 125,517,408.95 |
| 2005 | — | 19,259,957.51 | — | 123,130,683.95 |
| 2006 | — | 11,455,424.80 | — | 71,793,156.44 |
| Total | — | 110,477,836.62 | — | 711,313,826.19 |

## Foreign Workers

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-UK born persons in employment in each county of the UK in each of the last five years. [190816]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of non-UK born persons in employment in each county of the UK in each of the last five years. (190816)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women) and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in each UK county, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan County, during the twelve month periods ending in March for 2005, 2006, 2007 from the APS and, for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2003 and 2004 from the Annual LFS.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS/LFS are not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Number of non-UK born persons in employment in each UK county, unitary authority and metropolitan county 2003-07*[1]

*Employment level (thousand)*

| | 12 months ending: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *February 2003* | *February 2004* | *March 2005* | *March 2006* | *March 2007* |
| Bedfordshire | 15 | 16 | 15 | 20 | 21 |
| Buckinghamshire | 22 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 30 |
| Cambridgeshire | 22 | 24 | 30 | 33 | 39 |
| Cheshire | 13 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 12 |
| Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly | 8 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 17 |
| Cumbria | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Derbyshire | 8 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 10 |
| Devon | 17 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 18 |
| Dorset | 7 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| Durham | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| East Sussex | 11 | 11 | 18 | 15 | 17 |
| Essex | 34 | 30 | 36 | 39 | 47 |
| Gloucestershire | 18 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 18 |
| Hampshire | 41 | 47 | 45 | 40 | 53 |
| Hertfordshire | 47 | 47 | 52 | 53 | 71 |
| Kent | 39 | 37 | 44 | 43 | 51 |
| Lancashire | 20 | 20 | 23 | 31 | 32 |
| Leicestershire | 14 | 13 | 16 | 18 | 18 |
| Lincolnshire | 9 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 22 |
| Norfolk | 16 | 16 | 21 | 22 | 25 |
| Northamptonshire | 16 | 17 | 23 | 33 | 28 |
| Northumberland | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| North Yorkshire | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 16 |
| Oxfordshire | 28 | 29 | 35 | 39 | 38 |
| Shropshire | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Somerset | 12 | 14 | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| Staffordshire | 9 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| Suffolk | 23 | 20 | 19 | 28 | 22 |
| Surrey | 49 | 55 | 58 | 68 | 74 |
| Warwickshire | 19 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 18 |
| West Sussex | 30 | 31 | 30 | 34 | 41 |
| Wiltshire | 13 | 11 | 15 | 14 | 22 |
| Worcestershire | 9 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Eilean Siar Orkney and Shetland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tyne and Wear Met County | 15 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 26 |
| Greater Manchester Met County | 64 | 71 | 79 | 87 | 93 |

*Number of non-UK born persons in employment in each UK county, unitary authority and metropolitan county 2003-07*[1]

*Employment level (thousand)*

| | 12 months ending: February 2003 | February 2004 | March 2005 | March 2006 | March 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Merseyside Met County | 15 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 32 |
| South Yorkshire Met County | 17 | 22 | 22 | 27 | 35 |
| West Yorkshire Met County | 64 | 72 | 77 | 85 | 89 |
| West Midlands Met County | 105 | 111 | 119 | 129 | 146 |
| Inner London | 462 | 481 | 480 | 507 | 534 |
| Outer London | 539 | 563 | 613 | 608 | 665 |
| Hartlepool UA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Darlington UA | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Halton UA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Warrington UA | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Blackpool UA | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Kingston upon Hull City of UA | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| York UA | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Derby UA | 8 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
| Leicester UA | 28 | 28 | 32 | 35 | 36 |
| Rutland UA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Nottingham UA | 10 | 8 | 13 | 15 | 17 |
| Herefordshire County of UA | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| Bristol City of UA | 17 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 21 |
| North Somerset UA | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| Plymouth UA | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Torbay UA | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Bournemouth UA | 7 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Poole UA | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Swindon UA | 8 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| Peterborough UA | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 14 |
| Luton UA | 18 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Thurrock UA | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| Medway UA | 7 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 12 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| West Berkshire UA | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Reading UA | 10 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 19 |
| Slough UA | 18 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 22 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Wokingham UA | 8 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 11 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 17 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 17 | 17 | 14 | 18 | 19 |
| Portsmouth UA | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Southampton UA | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Anglesey Isle of | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Gwynedd | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Conwy | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Denbighshire | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Flintshire | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Wrexham | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Powys | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ceredigion | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Pembrokeshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Carmarthenshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Swansea | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Bridgend | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Vale of Glamorgan The | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1 | [2] | [2] | 1 | 1 |
| Caerphilly | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Blaenau Gwent | [2] | 1 | [2] | [2] | [2] |
| Torfaen | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Monmouthshire | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Newport | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Cardiff | 14 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 11 |
| Aberdeen City | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| Aberdeenshire | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Angus | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Argyll and Bute | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Scottish Borders The | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1 | [2] | [2] | [2] | 1 |
| West Dunbartonshire | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Dundee City | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| East Ayrshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| East Lothian | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| East Renfrewshire | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Edinburgh City of | 17 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 30 |
| Falkirk | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Fife | 6 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| City of Glasgow | 11 | 16 | 14 | 18 | 21 |
| Highland | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

*Number of non-UK born persons in employment in each UK county, unitary authority and metropolitan county 2003-07*[1]

| | Employment level (thousand) 12 months ending: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | February 2003 | February 2004 | March 2005 | March 2006 | March 2007 |
| Inverclyde | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Midlothian | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Moray | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| North Ayrshire | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| North Lanarkshire | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Orkney Islands | 1 | [2]— | — | — | — |
| Perth and Kinross | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Renfrewshire | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Shetland Islands | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| South Ayrshire | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| South Lanarkshire | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Stirling | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| West Lothian | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Northern Ireland[3] | 26 | 27 | 33 | 32 | 46 |

'—' Data not available
[1] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
[2] Less than 500
[3] Breakdowns for Northern Ireland are not available at county level.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:
it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

## Gold

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much gold bullion the Government sold in each of the last 15 years; and what the average sum received per kilogram was in each year. [190828]

**Angela Eagle:** 395 tonnes of gold were sold from the reserves between July 1999 and March 2002. The Government have not conducted an official gold sales programme since 2002. However the physical stock of gold may change for a number of reasons, including sales of small amounts of gold sovereigns by the Royal Mint; and transaction costs incurred in gold lending and swaps. Data on the physical stock of gold and its current value is available on the Bank of England website:

http //213_225.136_206/statistics/reserves/Tempoutput.xls

Table 1 details average amounts received annually from the official gold sales programme.

*Table 1*

| | Tonnes sold | Weighted average $/ounce |
|---|---|---|
| July to December 1999 | 75 | 270 |
| January to December 2000 | 150 | 277 |
| January to December 2001 | 130 | 270 |
| January to March 2002 | 40 | 290 |
| Total | 395 | 275 |

*Note:*
That gold is priced per troy ounce, rather than per kilogram. One metric tonne is equivalent to 32,150 troy ounces.

## Government Departments: Property

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on Government departments: property, what his definition is of *(a)* actual, *(b)* future and *(c)* potential vacant space. [191288]

**Angela Eagle:** The definitions are as follows:

*(a)* Actual vacant space that is available now

*(b)* Future vacant space that is planned to be available at a specific date in the future

*(c)* Potential vacant space that might become available in the future, but for which no specific date has been identified.

## Hacking

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the use of a hacking tool or other malicious software enabling information to be *(a)* retrieved and *(b)* manipulated by a third party has been detected on a (i) network and (ii) computer in (A) his Department and (B) HM Revenue and Customs. [190336]

**Angela Eagle:** It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

## Import Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vehicles were seized on entry to the UK for exceeding importation allowances in the last five years; what proportion of such vehicles was *(a)* not owned by one of those occupying the vehicle at the point of seizure and *(b)* returned to the owner after seizure; and if he will make a statement. [190425]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

## Income Tax: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of residents of Wirral West constituency paid the higher rate of income tax in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [191281]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of individual income taxpayers by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs' website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2005-06 is the latest available.

Information on the number of higher rate taxpayers at constituency level is not readily available. Sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, therefore any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

### Life Expectancy

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate *(a)* the Government Actuary and *(b)* his Department has made of the impact on longevity of percentage changes, in the winter or summer mean temperature. [190820]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 March 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate has been made of the impact on longevity of a percentage change, up or down, in the winter or summer mean temperature. (190820)

There have been a number of studies of the short-term effects on mortality of summer heatwaves and the intensity and duration of cold spells in winter. However there is no consensus on what impact such seasonal variation has on average longevity, or how a change in mean temperature would impact on mortality.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 29 January, transferred from the Ministry of Justice (PO reference: 7/15515/2008), on the Financial Ombudsman Service. [191220]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* I have replied to the hon. Member.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 3 January, about the abolition of the 10 per cent. tax band for pensioners (PO reference: 1/53530/2008). [191223]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 28 February.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many replies to hon. Members' correspondence on constituency cases from the Preston tax credit office were signed by the Director of that office in the last 12 months. [191232]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs does not keep the statistical information requested by my hon. Friend.

### National Insurance Contributions: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many national insurance numbers issued under the Foreign Worker Registration Scheme have no contributions credited to them. [190901]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The information is not available. There is no requirement for a person to register with the Worker Registration scheme before applying for a national insurance number (NINO), and the national insurance recording system does not record whether an individual has registered with the Worker Registration scheme.

### National Insurance: Personal Records

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have had their national insurance records lost during the last 12 months; what his policy is on paying benefits and pensions to those people; and if he will make a statement. [190998]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* National insurance records are held under an individual's national insurance number on the National Insurance Recording System. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has no record of lost national insurance records during the last 12 months.

### Natural Gas: Prices

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what market price of gas was assumed in his Department's modelling of corporation tax revenues from the UK's oil and gas fields for the Budget Statement 2007 and Pre-Budget Statement 2007 projections. [189977]

**Jane Kennedy:** The projections for gas prices, used in the North sea revenues forecast take into account the spot price for gas, long-term contract prices, futures prices and the expected movement in sterling oil prices.

Gas prices will thus vary on a field by field basis.

### Northern Rock

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the obligations of Northern Rock to repurchase mortgages under certain circumstances in accordance with the documentation for the Granite securitisation programme are covered by a Treasury guarantee. [188945]

**Angela Eagle:** As set out in HM Treasury's announcement of 18 December 2007, the guarantee arrangements for Northern Rock cover all obligations of Northern Rock plc to make payments on the repurchase of mortgages under the documentation for the "Granite" securitisation programme.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of Northern Rock's total mortgage assets are contained in the Granite Master Trust. [188959]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Information on the value of mortgage assets contained in the Granite Master Trust is set out in investor reports on Granite, which are available on the Northern Rock website. Northern Rock's financial

statements are also available on its website. Northern Rock's annual report for 2007 will be published by the end of March 2008.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. [191553]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government Office region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. (191553)

The tables attached provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for *(a)* Government Office regions and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available) (Table 1) and *(b)* parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2005 combined (the only period available) (Table 2). A copy of Table 2 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1626, on HM Revenue and Customs, for what categories of individuals security is a higher priority; and how many people there are in each category. [191039]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC applies high standards of confidentiality and security to all customer data. It would not be in the public interest, and could put individuals at personal risk, to disclose information about the categories of individuals in relation to whose records HMRC provides additional safeguards.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1626, on HM Revenue and Customs, which Minister authorised the practice of according a higher priority to the security of some categories of individual. [191040]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC applies high standards of confidentiality and security to all customer data. The provision of additional safeguards, within HMRC, in respect of data relating to certain categories of individuals is an operational matter for HM Revenue and Customs.

### Self-Employed Contributions

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-employed people were late in registering their national insurance contributions with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years; how many of those *(a)* received and *(b)* were given an exemption from paying a fine; and what the reason for granting an exemption was in each case. [190586]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of individuals registering late as self employed for national insurance for the last five complete tax years are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 83,259 |
| 2003-04 | 94,155 |
| 2004-05 | 100,357 |
| 2005-06 | 86,967 |
| 2006-07 | 71,828 |

Data on the number of £100 penalties issued for full tax years prior to 2005-06 is not held but HMRC can confirm the numbers for

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 25,324 |
| 2006-07 | 23,580 |

The information regarding the reasons for exemption from fines is not available. Common reasons for the penalty not being applied or subsequently being removed include where the earnings in the period of non-registration are within the Small Earnings Exception level, where the individual has advised some part of HMRC of their trading activities or where the individual can demonstrate a reasonable excuse for the delay in notifying.

### Smuggling

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mode, *(b)* median and *(c)* mean proportion by which goods confiscated from vehicles seized on entry to the UK exceeded permitted allowances was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [191278]

**Jane Kennedy:** Centrally held records do not provide the breakdown required.

### Suicide: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were in Peterborough constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnic origin. [190008]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were in Peterborough constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) age, (b) sex, and (c) ethnic origin. (190008)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by (a) age and (b) sex in Peterborough constituency, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures on suicides by ethnic group are not available, as ethnicity is not recorded at death registration.

*Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Peterborough constituency[1], by age-group[2],1997-2006[3]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | Age group | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *15-44* | *45-74* | *75+* |
| 1997 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| 1998 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 1999 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 2000 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 2001 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| 2002 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 2003 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| 2004 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 2005 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 2006 | 6 | 2 | 2 |

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision,(ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Peterborough constituency[1], [2] by sex, 1997-2006[3]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 8 | 3 |
| 1998 | 4 | 9 |
| 1999 | 3 | 2 |
| 2000 | 8 | 2 |
| 2001 | 9 | 5 |
| 2002 | 11 | 5 |
| 2003 | 7 | 2 |
| 2004 | 10 | 5 |
| 2005 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 | 6 | 4 |

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Taxation and Income

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each parliamentary constituency in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* inner London declared an income of (i) between £5,645 and £16,505 and (ii) over £39,400 for tax purposes in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [191535]

**Angela Eagle:** The number of individual income taxpayers by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs' website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2005-06 is the latest available.

A breakdown by level of income at constituency level is not readily available. Sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, therefore any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

## Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make taxation of alcoholic products proportionate to the amount of alcohol in the product. [191291]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on the appropriate levels of excise duty are made on a Budget-by-Budget basis, taking into account all relevant factors. These include the particular circumstances of the industry concerned and the Government's spending priorities.

## Taxation: Domicile

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of *(a)* the House of Commons and *(b)* the House of Lords are registered as non-domiciled for tax purposes. [191498]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC are under a statutory duty not to disclose the tax affairs of individuals.

## Taxation: Pay

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the maximum weekly amount of cash is that an employee may receive from his or her employer for expenses undertaken in the course of their duties, but without provision of receipts proving that the payments were so undertaken, before HM Revenue and Customs treats the payment as taxable; and whether there are any exceptions to this rule. [191047]

**Jane Kennedy:** There are no set financial limits governing the provision of receipts to show that expenditure qualifies for tax relief. However, HMRC would expect employees to be able to provide appropriate evidence that they have incurred allowable expenditure.

## Taxation: Personal Records

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of his Department is in relation to people suspected of the theft of information about taxpayers from the Government. [191423]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC takes the security and confidentiality of all information it holds in connection with its functions extremely seriously.

If HMRC were to become aware of an alleged theft of information about taxpayers the Commissioners would investigate the matter in conjunction with the relevant authorities.

### Taxation: Second Homes

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on Exchequer revenue in 2007-08 of cancellation of the benefit in kind rule on company-owned second homes abroad; and whether any repayments have been made of tax previously collected under this rule. [191630]

**Jane Kennedy:** The estimated effect on Exchequer revenue in 2007-08 of cancellation of the benefit in kind charge on company-owned second homes abroad is negligible. No repayments have been made of tax previously collected under this rule.

### Taxation: Trade Unions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether trades union subscriptions paid through payroll-giving are deducted from *(a)* pre-tax or *(b)* post-tax income under HM Revenue and Customs rules. [191090]

**Jane Kennedy:** Trade union subscriptions paid from salary are deducted from post-tax income unless they relate to one of the organisations for which tax relief on fees paid to them can be claimed under section 344 Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. Where tax relief is due it is normally given through the employee's tax code.

### VAT: Bingo

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid by the licensed bingo industry in value-added tax in 2007. [190550]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the amount of VAT paid on individual goods and services.

### VAT: Sunscreens

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reclassify suncare products as essential healthcare items for value-added tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [190507]

**Jane Kennedy:** The VAT treatment of suncare products is no different from the VAT treatment of other healthcare products. VAT is not charged on certain healthcare and suncare products when dispensed by a pharmacist on the prescription of a registered doctor. When otherwise supplied by retail sale they are chargeable with VAT at the standard rate.

### Wealth

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research to determine the extent to which wealth created over the last 10 years is sustainable. [190951]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government carries out and commissions research on a range of wealth and related issues. Examples include HM Revenue and Customs National Statistics on Personal Wealth and the Department for Work and Pensions Family Resources Survey. The Wealth and Assets Survey, to be published by the Office for National Statistics in 2009, will also enhance understanding of the accumulation and distribution of wealth across Great Britain. Interim findings from this survey were published in January 2008.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Internet

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to re-establish the tax credits website. [190338]

**Jane Kennedy:** The tax credits e-portal will be reopened only when the necessary security checks are in place. HMRC is developing an identity authentication service to provide the capability to securely transact with customers.

### Wines

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on wine in each of the last three years. [190109]

**Angela Eagle:** Spending on wine is not separately identified within our accounting system so cannot be disaggregated from official. Entertainment spending without incurring disproportionate costs. For details of official entertainment spending I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Healey) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 689W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give consideration to increasing the winter fuel allowance for pensioners in preparing for the forthcoming Budget. [190693]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government keeps all tax rates and benefit payments under review as part of the Budget process.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to tackle binge drinking while protecting consumer rights. [190539]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The Licensing Act 2003, which came into effect in November 2005, aimed to provide a balanced package of freedoms and safeguards. It has an important role in the prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance perpetrated by a minority while giving the responsible majority more freedom and choice about how they spend their leisure time.

### Bingo: Closures

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will visit a bingo club in Castle Point constituency to discuss the effects of bingo club closures on *(a)* social cohesion and *(b)* quality of life for local residents; and if he will make a statement. [190423]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My right hon. Friend is grateful for the invitation, which has been passed to me as the responsible Minister. I have visited a bingo club in my own constituency and fully recognise that bingo clubs provide a unique social network in many communities. My officials are in close dialogue with the Bingo Association to see whether there are any measures we may take to help bingo through the difficulties which the sector appears to be experiencing. I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

### Capita

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1168W, on Capita, what travel services Capita provides for flights. [189991]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Capita Business Travel provides a flight ticket booking service for the Department, which was procured through the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework agreement.

### Casinos: Licensing

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many casinos in England are licensed to operate 24 hours a day. [191317]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: Under the Gambling Act 2005 (Mandatory and Default Conditions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, default conditions attaching to casino premises licences state that no facilities for gambling shall be provided on the premises between the hours of 6 am and noon on any day.

Casino operators can apply to their licensing authority for an extension to these hours. This is a matter for individual licensing authorities to determine. Information on the number of casinos which operate for 24 hours a day is not collated centrally.

### Climbing

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he next plans to meet the British Mountaineering Council to discuss Government support for mountaineering. [191601]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Secretary of State has no immediate plans to meet the British Mountaineering Council.

### Cultural Services Improvement Unit: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* English Heritage, *(d)* the Arts Council and *(e)* Sport England provided for the Cultural Services Improvement Unit at the Improvement and Development Agency in each of the last three years; and what plans there are for continuation of funding from each body in the next three financial years. [191372]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department and its NDPBs are currently reviewing their work programmes and have yet to agree the level of funding they will provide to the Improvement and Development Agency in future.

The total funding provided by the Department and its NDPBs to the Cultural Services Improvement Unit at the Improvement and Development Agency over the last three years is £830,000. A full breakdown of this follows:

£

| *Funder* | *2005-06 year 1* | *2006-07 year 2* | *2007-08 year 3* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DCMS | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Sport England | 85,000 | 85,000 | 85,000 |
| Arts Council England | 50,000 | 50,000 | 90,000 |
| Museums Libraries and Archives Council | 80,000 | 80,000 | 120,000 |
| English Heritage | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Total | 250,000 | 250,000 | 330,000 |

### Departmental Transportation Programme

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department's transformation programme has cost to date; how much the two all-staff conferences to discuss the transformation programme cost; how many consultants have been employed to work on the transformation programme; which consultancy companies have been involved in the programme; and how much has been paid to each such consultancy to date. [190622]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Costs associated with the DCMS transformation programme from April 2007 to date are as follows:

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Staff costs of the change team (civil servants) | 125,000 |
| October 2007 and February 2008 staff conferences held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall | 42,906 |
| *Consultants engaged to provide expert facilitation and advice:* | |
| McKinsey and Company | 18,500 |
| Stanton Marris | 12,400 |
| Deloitte | 25,206 |

### Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190760]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS officials have completed their review of the action taken by the Department to meet the disability equality duty and drafted an annual report for publication. The report will be published as soon as it is approved by Ministers.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department and its agencies employed in each of the last five years. [187580]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of press officers employed by the Department in each of the last five years is:

| | *Press officers* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10 |
| 2004-05 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | [1]13 |
| 2006-07 | [1]13 |
| 2007-08 | [1]10 |

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

The Department does not have a "communication officer" grade. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and Agencies contains listings for the Department and the book is updated twice yearly.

The Department has only one Agency, the Royal Parks Agency. The number of officers employed in the Royal Parks Agency is:

| | *Press officers* | *Communications officers* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 1 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 1 | 1 |
| 2007-08 | 1 | 1 |

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many written parliamentary questions have been tabled for answer by his Department in Session 2007-08; and what the average number of days taken to answer them has been. [190241]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of written parliamentary questions tabled for answer by my Department this Session is 903. This figure includes those written parliamentary questions tabled to the Minister for the Olympics.

Information on the average number of days taken to answer them is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190284]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS aims to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to meet this timescale. The information requested is provided in the following table.

*Named day parliamentary questions*

| | *(a) Received holding answer* | | *(b) Received substantive answer on named day* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2002 | 288 | 52.9 | 256 | 47.1 |
| 2003 | 63 | 42.6 | 85 | 57.4 |
| 2004 | 57 | 29.2 | 138 | 70.8 |
| 2005 | 126 | 44.5 | 157 | 55.5 |
| 2006 | 126 | 28.6 | 315 | 71.4 |
| 2007[1] | 227 | 47.2 | 254 | 52.8 |

[1] Includes named day questions answered by the Minister for the Olympics since June 2007

*Source:*
Information derived from the DCMS parliamentary questions database.

### Gambling: Internet

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements there are to prevent children under the age of 18 years using internet gambling sites; and if he will bring forward proposals for users to prove their age before accessing those sites. [190515]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Operators of internet gambling sites which are licensed by the Gambling Commission must comply with tough social responsibility measures to prevent underage gambling. These measures include procedures requiring customers to affirm they are of legal age, warning customers that underage gambling is an offence and requiring gambling websites to permit filtering software so that parents can restrict access to those sites.

All remote operators are required to complete age verification checks for customers that register to gamble using a debit card or other means of electronic payment other than a credit card, which are not generally available to under 18s. In addition, customers are not permitted to withdraw winnings until satisfactory age verification checks have been completed.

For credit card users, there are separate provisions which require operators to carry out a programme of random checks to ensure compliance with age restrictions.

If operators fail to comply with these requirements they are subject to regulatory action from the Gambling Commission.

For websites in other jurisdictions that are not licensed by the Gambling Commission, operators will be subject to the age verification measures required by the relevant jurisdiction.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many internet gambling companies are registered in the UK. [190516]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has issued (as of 1 February) a total of 144 remote operating licences allowing companies to operate on-line gambling sites from Great Britain.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what European legislation governs provision of internet gambling services based in one member state to people in another member state. [190517]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The EC Treaty applies to the provision of internet gambling services between member states. There is no secondary EU legislation in this area as the directive on electronic commerce (2000/31/EC) and the directive on services in the internal market (2006/123/EC) both exclude gambling activities.

### Gaming Machines

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research into the impact on small seaside town businesses of restricting the number of fruit machines to four per venue and halving the minimum stake for the £500 jackpot. [190658]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The Gambling Act, which came into force on 1 September 2007, introduced a range of measures designed to assist the gaming machine industry. For the first time adult gaming centres can offer up to four category B3 machines with a £1 stake and a £500 prize.

The Government have asked the Gambling Commission to prioritise its research into the impact of high stake, high prize gaming machines.

Research into arcades based in small seaside towns would have little value since adult gaming centres are based in a wide range of locations across the country.

### Members: Correspondence

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letter of 21 January from the hon. Member for Warrington North on the Orford Park project. [190997]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A reply to the letter of 21 January from my hon. Friend will be sent as soon as possible.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191245]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department purchased 19,558 litres of bottled water during April 2006 to March 2007.

### National Lottery: Grants

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the National Lottery Commission received from *(a)* the National Lottery Distribution Fund and *(b)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each of the last five years. [191364]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The sums deducted from each fund in respect of the National Lottery Commission's expenses are given in the following table.

£

| | *National lottery distribution fund* | *Olympic lottery distribution fund* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 8,047,000 | 700,000 |
| 2005-06 | 7,291,000 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 4,401,000 | — |
| 2003-04 | 3,765,000 | — |
| 2002-03 | 2,342,000 | — |

These figures are taken from the National Lottery Distribution Fund and Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund accounts. The significant increase in the last two financial years is attributable mainly to the Commission's work on the preparation and running of the competition for the third licence to run the national lottery.

### Sport England: Grants

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding Sport England provided for each sport in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [190138]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The funding provided for each sport by Sport England is as follows:

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sport* | *Lottery* | *Exchequer* | *Lottery* | *Exchequer* | *Lottery* | *Exchequer[1]* |
| American Football | 30,363 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Angling | — | 185,000 | 184,999 | 68,379 | 821,499 | — |
| Archery | — | 15,000 | — | 15,000 | 632,044 | — |
| Arm Wrestling | 90,000 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Athletics | 5,768,742 | 1,127,000 | 6,567,809 | 367,000 | 10,086,870 | — |
| Australian Rules | 269,353 | — | — | — | 490,910 | — |
| Badminton | 5,480,117 | 951,069 | 7,775,365 | 352,610 | 3,102,171 | — |
| Baseball | 2,169,000 | — | 740,000 | — | 801,500 | — |
| Basketball | 1,464,953 | 230,309 | 1,376,555 | 925,709 | 3,334,231 | — |
| Bobsleigh | 9,400 | — | 28,200 | — | — | — |
| Boccia | — | — | — | — | 15,000 | — |
| Bowls | 250,000 | — | 5,600 | — | 461,819 | — |
| Boxing | 963,528 | — | 1,630,200 | 18,429 | 315,000 | — |

| Sport | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Lottery | Exchequer | Lottery | Exchequer | Lottery | Exchequer[1] |
| Canoeing | 1,574,500 | 325,971 | 1,883,500 | 950,262 | 4,268,556 | — |
| Caving | — | 5,000 | — | 2,500 | — | — |
| Cricket | 6,012,050 | 4,915,210 | 11,794,853 | 5,429,539 | 3,458,203 | — |
| Cycling | 3,643,116 | 185,276 | 4,294,333 | 1,225,101 | 815,987 | — |
| Disability Sports | 343,254 | 1,050,000 | 87,279 | 1,477,366 | 621,903 | — |
| Equestrian | 1,000,000 | 35,000 | 906,000 | 35,000 | 1,405,200 | — |
| Exercise and Fitness | 3,578,154 | — | 520,008 | — | 210,366 | — |
| Fencing | 82,347 | 50,000 | — | 30,000 | — | — |
| Football | 21,835,741 | 5,442,019 | 6,504,881 | 24,049,699 | 1,437,926 | — |
| Golf | 2,000,000 | 149,000 | 6,049,792 | 424,000 | 1,718,940 | — |
| Gymnastics | 2,467,591 | 814,566 | 1,962,583 | 377,000 | 2,882,351 | — |
| Handball | — | 7,000 | — | 3,500 | — | — |
| Hang Gliding | 22,858 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hockey | 2,505,223 | 619,246 | 3,130,000 | 618,066 | 432,548 | — |
| Ice Hockey | — | — | — | — | 62,000 | — |
| Ice Skating | 86,875 | 25,000 | — | 25,000 | 51,281 | — |
| Judo | 3,932,706 | 826,496 | 680,000 | 1,826,725 | 1,362,190 | — |
| Karate | 450,000 | — | 250,000 | — | — | — |
| Korfball | — | — | — | — | 125,000 | — |
| Lacrosse | 840,000 | 289,333 | — | 17,000 | 487,000 | — |
| Lifesaving | — | 7,000 | — | 3,500 | 600,000 | — |
| Modern Pentathlon | 585,000 | — | 444,000 | — | — | — |
| Mountaineering | 200,000 | 170,000 | 600,000 | 5,000 | 180,000 | — |
| Movement and Dance | 833,280 | 25,500 | 168,000 | 22,000 | 410,000 | — |
| Multi Sports[2] | 38,555,126 | 29,264,271 | 25,254,071 | 34,365,117 | 23,509,803 | — |
| Netball | 6,172,555 | 408,327 | 8,277,702 | 1,156,445 | 1,917,592 | — |
| Orienteering | 285,630 | 135,000 | 375,000 | 45,000 | 725,980 | — |
| Petanque | — | 5,000 | — | — | — | — |
| Rackets | — | — | — | — | 75,000 | — |
| Rambling | 1,168,788 | — | 73,662 | — | 10,532 | — |
| Real Tennis | — | 6,000 | — | 3,000 | — | — |
| Roller Skating | 16,362 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rounders | — | 100,000 | 300,000 | — | 110,000 | — |
| Rowing | 3,229,292 | 464,077 | 2,660,626 | 972,050 | 2,010,875 | — |
| Rugby League | 3,274,067 | 158,096 | 7,050,000 | 2,837,963 | 2,041,501 | — |
| Rugby Union | 4,184,155 | 3,029,564 | 4,577,969 | 4,128,932 | 2,883,152 | — |
| Sailing | 2,698,588 | 75,000 | 3,141,500 | 158,462 | 1,772,937 | — |
| Shooting | 96,000 | 6,500 | — | — | 343,000 | — |
| Skateboarding | 716,945 | — | 148,024 | — | 100,327 | — |
| Skiing | 41,900 | 160,333 | — | 89,964 | — | — |
| Skipping | — | — | — | — | 150,000 | — |
| Sport Participation and Capacity | 1,808,467 | — | 949,189 | — | 239,487 | — |
| Squash | 1,525,000 | 146,000 | 4,500,000 | 423,153 | 1,297,000 | — |
| Surfing | — | — | — | — | 126,743 | — |
| Swimming | 11,801,663 | 701,000 | 6,640,736 | 947,891 | 6,138,632 | — |
| Table Tennis | 3,671,150 | 222,426 | 466,673 | 1,448,778 | 1,688,600 | — |
| Taekwondon | 30,000 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tennis | 9,376,313 | 4,786,032 | 37,000 | 5,239,915 | 234,400 | — |
| Trampolining | — | 17,648 | 80,000 | 495,160 | — | — |
| Tug of War | — | 3,250 | — | 1,500 | — | — |
| Triathlon | 801,250 | 75,000 | 1,709,400 | 15,000 | 1,134,764 | — |
| Volleyball | — | 417,917 | 1,370,418 | 108,000 | 1,268,865 | — |
| Water Skiing | 140,000 | 35,000 | 525,000 | — | — | — |
| Wrestling | 54,628 | 10,000 | — | 5,000 | 125,040 | — |
| Yoga | 456,110 | — | 500,000 | — | 980,000 | — |

[1] Details of Exchequer funding for 2007-08 will not be available until the end of the financial year.
[2] Multi sport funding is given to an organisation representing a number of sporting activities rather than one individual sport.
*Note:*
Awards made for a number of years are only shown in the year the award was first made.

## Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W, on sports, how many people each percentage figure in the tables represents. [189976]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W, the table shows how many people each percentage figure represents, rounded to the nearest 10,000. The data are taken from the DCMS Taking Part Survey.

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Active sport (12 times a year)* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* |
| North East | 51.9 | 1,030 | 53.9 | 1,090 |
| North West | 49.5 | 2,640 | 48.5 | 2,610 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 50.3 | 2,000 | 52.7 | 2,130 |
| East Midlands | 55.2 | 1,880 | 55.7 | 1,920 |
| West Midlands | 50.8 | 2,130 | 50.2 | 2,100 |
| East of England | 56.9 | 2,500 | 55.4 | 2,430 |
| London | 54.9 | 3,220 | 51.9 | 3,060 |
| South East | 57.6 | 3,760 | 58.1 | 3,760 |
| South West | 53.8 | 2,180 | 54.2 | 2,210 |
| England | 53.7 | 21,330 | 58.4 | 21,310 |

## Sports: Expenditure

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital expenditure was allocated to evening sports clubs for young people in Bexley in each year since 1997. [191003]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Funding is allocated by DCMS for capital projects throughout England, but no records are kept by DCMS or funding distributors (NDPBs) on what purpose building projects that benefit from this funding are used for. It is therefore not possible to provide an answer to this question.

## Wembley Stadium: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on Wembley Stadium in each of the last 10 years; and what outstanding financial commitments it has relating to the stadium in each of the next three years. [191371]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The overall public sector contribution to the Wembley Stadium project is £161 million, broken down as: £120 million from Sport England Lottery Funding; £21 million from the London Development Agency; and £20 million from DCMS towards the cost of non-stadium infrastructure works.

DCMS spend in each financial year against the £20 million contribution is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Pre 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 10,044,999 |
| 2005-06 | 3,610,088 |
| 2006-07 | 5,588,085 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |
| 2008-09[1] | 756,828 |
| Total | 20,000,000 |

[1] Anticipated.

# DEFENCE

## Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 963-64W, on advertising, if he will break down the figures by advertising campaign. [187806]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A detailed breakdown of armed forces recruitment advertising costs relating to specific campaigns is as follows:

*£ million*

| | Financial year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| *Naval service* | | | | |
| Press advertising | 0.333 | 0.213 | 0.157 | 0.172 |
| TV | 0.399 | 3.136 | 2.952 | 1.529 |
| Cinema | 1.600 | 0.641 | — | 0.481 |
| Radio | 1.330 | 1.475 | 0.689 | — |
| Posters/ leaflets | 0.464 | 0.055 | 0.057 | — |
| Internet | 0.257 | 0.445 | 0.257 | 1.741 |
| Regional/ local | — | — | 1.076 | 0.496 |
| Total | 4.383 | 5.965 | 5.188 | 4.419 |
| *Army* | | | | |
| Press advertising | 0.379 | 0.620 | 1.443 | 0.723 |
| TV | 4.138 | 10.407 | 10.896 | 6.877 |
| Cinema | — | 0.060 | — | — |
| Radio | — | — | 1.501 | 0.695 |
| Internet | — | — | 0.143 | 0.143 |
| Outdoor | — | — | 0.735 | 0.735 |
| Other | 0.029 | — | 1.017 | 0.956 |
| Total | 4.546 | 11.087 | 15.735 | 10.129 |
| *Royal Air Force* | | | | |
| Press advertising | 0.350 | 0.308 | 0.221 | 0.725 |
| TV | 1.780 | 1.718 | 1.362 | 1.468 |
| Cinema | — | — | — | — |
| Radio | 0.560 | 0.195 | 0.206 | 0.465 |
| Internet | 0.202 | 0.229 | 0.251 | 0.635 |
| Other | 0.238 | 0.518 | [1]-0.084 | 1.051 |
| Total | 3.130 | 2.968 | 1.956 | 4.344 |

[1] Rebate from Central Office of Information

A breakdown of Veterans Awareness advertising costs is as follows:

| | Financial year (£) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| BT telephone directory space for war pension welfare offices | 15,472 | 34,619 | 31,676 | 28,773 |
| Newcastle regional campaign | — | — | 11,583.84 | — |

| | Financial year (£) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Birmingham regional campaign | — | — | — | 16,999.90 |
| Portsmouth regional campaign | — | — | — | 13,939.04 |
| Other advertising costs | — | — | 3,400.87 | 3,258.13 |
| Total | 15,472 | 36,619 | 46,660.71 | 62,970.07 |

**Afghanistan: Armed Forces**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* size and *(b)* capability is of the (i) Afghan National Army and (ii) Afghan National Police. [190893]

**Des Browne:** The Afghan National Army (ANA) has approximately 50,000 soldiers trained, equipped and deployed. It is capable of both joint combat operations alongside the international forces deployed in Afghanistan, and company level independent operations—as demonstrated in the recapture of Musa Qaleh.

The Afghan National Police (ANP) is currently over 74,000 strong, but its level of capability is lower than in the ANA. Both the ANA and ANP require further training and mentoring to enable them to operate more effectively.

**Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security situation in Kabul. [190666]

**Des Browne:** Although the number of violent incidents occurring in Kabul increased from 2006 to 2007, it remains low relative to the provinces in the south and east where the insurgency is stronger. However, the proportion of incidents in Kabul involving suicide attacks has increased markedly over the past 12 months.

**Aircraft Carriers: Contracts**

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* long lead items and *(b)* other contracts have been let by (i) his Department and (ii) the Aircraft Carrier Alliance and its constituent companies in relation to the aircraft carrier/CVF programme. [191563]

**Des Browne:** Since my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865, our intention to place orders for two aircraft carriers the Department has authorised the companies forming the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) to let contracts in support of manufacture as follows:

| | Item |
|---|---|
| Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system | Blown Fibre Optical Cable Plant (BFOCP) |
| Integrated Navigation and Bridge System (INBS) | Long Range Radar (LRR) antennae |
| Davits for ships' boats | Portable lifting equipment |
| Replenishment at Sea (RAS) Liquid | Windlass and capstans |
| Main diesel generators | Emergency diesel generators |
| Steel | Propulsion motors |
| Propulsion converters | Propulsion motor bearings |
| Gas Turbine Alternator (GTA) rotors | GTA Enclosures (Cabinets) |
| Castings for ships' rudders | Steering gear machinery and controls |
| Forgings for ships' stabilisers | Forgings for ships' shaftlines |
| Low-voltage switchboards, electrical distribution cabinets and transformers | Flying Control (FLYCO) rooms |
| Visual Landing Aids (VLAs) | Aviation Fuel systems equipment |
| Civil works at Rosyth dockyard | Reverse Osmosis equipment |

The companies have also let numerous minor works and service contracts.

**Armed Forces: Deployment**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel were deployed on operations on the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by location. [190695]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table shows the number of UK Service personnel deployed on operations by location at 18 February 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

*Number of personnel deployed by location*[1]

| Location | Number |
|---|---|
| Total | 13,300 |
| *of which:* | |
| Afghanistan | 7,100 |
| Iraq | 4,100 |
| At Sea | 600 |
| Qatar | 410 |
| Cyprus | 280 |
| Kuwait | 380 |
| Oman | 190 |
| Kosovo | 120 |
| Bahrain | 60 |
| Bosnia | 10 |
| Other | 30 |

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

**Armed Forces: Health Services**

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the Government will contribute to the Help for Heroes appeal to build a new gymnasium and fitness pool for injured military personnel at the Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre. [189181]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W. We are continuing to work closely with the charity on this project.

### Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force are involved in recruitment; and whether these figures meet the manning requirement. [183150]

**Derek Twigg:** All armed forces personnel, either directly or indirectly, have a recruiting role. Nevertheless, the numbers of Naval Service and Royal Air Force personnel primarily involved in managing or delivering the regular service recruiting process are as follows:

Naval Service: 339, against an establishment of 356;

Royal Air Force: 324, against an establishment of 348.

Details of the numbers of Army personnel primarily involved in recruitment activities are not readily available and I will write to the hon. Member with the details in due course.

The numbers primarily engaged in recruiting activities is regularly reviewed against requirement with adjustments being made to reflect priorities.

*Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Nick Harvey:*

Derek Twigg undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 7 February 2008 (Official Report, column 1487W) about the number of Army Personnel involved in Recruiting.

There are 1,105 Army Personnel directly involved in recruiting, against an establishment of 1,165. These personnel are Army Careers Advisors or members of Army or Corps Recruiting Teams.

The number of personnel primarily engaged in recruiting activities is regularly reviewed against requirement and, where necessary, adjustments are made to reflect priorities.

### Armed Forces: Terrorism

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the review of the role of the armed forces in counter-terrorism announced in July 2007; when a report will be published; and if he will make a statement. [190637]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** My right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) was asked to review the role of the Ministry of Defence in counter-terrorism and resilience by the Prime Minister in July 2007. He is making good progress and expects to report to the Prime Minister in the summer.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual training requirement is for infantry *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks; and what percentage has been fulfilled in the last 12 months. [190634]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** All regular officers and other ranks are mandated to complete military annual training tests (MATT) covering the following:

Personal Weapons Training

Fitness

Battlefield Casualty Drill

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)

Navigation

Values and Standards

The requirements are identical for officers and other ranks although they may vary slightly depending on the individual posting—for example officers and soldiers employed within a non-deployed headquarters are not required to complete the combat fitness test unless they are preparing for an operational tour.

Information on MATT completion rates is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, given that this training is mandatory and that the requirement is enforced, the expectation is that the completion rate in the last 12 months has been 100 per cent. and there is no reason to suspect otherwise.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the recent order for 174 Mastiff vehicles to be delivered to the UK; whether the delivery will be staggered; and how long it will take for those vehicles to be in theatre. [190408]

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to complete the order for the additional tranche of Mastiff vehicles announced by the Prime Minister on 7 October 2007. [191346]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 698-99W.

We are in the final stages of the approval period and until this process is complete, the precise delivery schedule cannot be agreed.

### Army Air Corps: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of each regiment of the Army Air Corps was at the most recent date for which information is available. [190646]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 27 February 2008 the regular strengths of the Army Air Corps Regiments were as follows:

| *Regiment* | *Regular numbers* |
|---|---|
| 1 Regt AAC | 186 |
| 2 (Trg) Regt AAC | 65 |
| 3 Regt AAC | 338 |
| 4 Regt AAC | 346 |
| 5 Regt AAC | 115 |
| 6 Regt AAC (V) | 8 |
| 7 Regt AAC (V) | 17 |
| 9 Regt AAC | 325 |

Strength varies between regiments due to a number of factors including role and the number of squadrons each regiment contains.

### AWE Burghfield

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the two licence instruments giving agreement to the limited continued use of process facilities for weapons assembly and disassembly at AWE Burghfield were issued; when his Department first required a warhead operations licence; and if he will make a statement. [190143]

**Des Browne:** The licence instruments in question were issued on 20 June and 5 November 2007. As the management and operation of atomic weapons establishment (AWE) sites is conducted under Government owned/contractor operated arrangements, it is the incumbent contractor which is licensed for nuclear operations. The first such licence was issued on 16 June 1997. The requisite licences were subsequently renewed on 29 March 2000 to take account of a change in contractor.

### Cluster Munitions

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the use of cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [191159]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Ministers and officials meet regularly with a variety of groups to discuss the UK policy on cluster munitions.

Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence engaged with his counterparts from other nations in the run up to the 'Oslo' Process Meeting in Wellington and along with his Foreign and International Development counterparts, met Lord Elton and members of the All Party Landmine Eradication Group.

### Chelsea Barracks: Sales

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1151W, on Chelsea Barracks: sales, what portion of the proceeds from the sale of Chelsea Barracks will be applied to *(a)* the defence married quarters estate and *(b)* single living accommodation. [186821]

**Derek Twigg:** Question 184828 referred to the cash flows arising from the Chelsea disposal. Defence expenditure is based on the overall spending settlements agreed with the Treasury. Within 2007-08, some £250 million will be invested in single living accommodation (SLA) and as outlined in the recent comprehensive spending review (CSR) White Paper some £550 million of the Chelsea receipt is ring-fenced for investment in service accommodation over the next three years. A further £159 million will be programmed over future CSR periods. I have therefore set out in the following table both the cash flow profile arising from sale of Chelsea and the investment profile for SLA and service family accommodation (SFA) contained in the defence financial plans.

*£ million*

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *Next CSR period* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea cash flow | 383.6 | 191.8 | 191.8 | 191.8 | — |
| SLA expenditure | 250 | | 500 | | 159 to be programmed |
| SFA expenditure | 0 | | 50 | | — |

The balance of the investment is directed at SLA, as half of the worldwide stock is currently at the lowest acceptable condition. Under current plans, 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces will be delivered by 2013. This Department plans to invest a total of £134 million on SFA in Great Britain over the next three years, of which £50 million is capital from the Chelsea receipt.

### Commonwealth: Armed Forces

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of soldiers in *(a)* non-commissioned and *(b)* commissioned ranks are from Commonwealth countries. [190046]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 1 January 2008 there were 7.1 per cent. of non-commissioned soldiers and 1.3 per cent. of commissioned officers with a Commonwealth nationality recorded.

These percentages relate to trained regular personnel only and include the non-commissioned private soldiers.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter dated 27 September 2007 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding a constituent, Mr. N. Wilson of Forglen. [187801]

**Derek Twigg:** We have no record of receiving a letter from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding Mr. Wilson. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence replied to a letter from Mr. Stewart Stevenson, the Member of Scottish Parliament for Banff and Buchan, on 25 February. A copy of this reply was sent to the right hon. Member as Mr. Wilson's Westminster MP.

### Departmental Assets

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 33-4W, on departmental assets, which assets of his Department in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad have been sold since 2000; what the (i) sale completion date and (ii) price realised was for each; what proportion of receipts from each sale was retained by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [185015]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) retains the full benefit of disposal receipts, which form part of the Defence budget agreed with HM Treasury during the periodic spending reviews.

The MOD disposes of thousands of assets each year. Records of each sale are not held centrally and could be provided only with disproportionate cost. However, the total proceeds from the disposal of the Department's fixed assets from 2000 are as follows:

| | *Proceeds (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 317,987 |
| 2001-02 | 287,923 |
| 2002-03 | 404,774 |
| 2003-04 | 481,298 |
| 2004-05 | 266,912 |
| 2005-06 | 299,317 |
| 2006-07 | 489,808 |

In addition, a table providing details of MOD land and property in the UK sold since 2000 will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in the next financial year. [191021]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 796-97W.

### Departmental Public Buildings

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of new buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172291]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* In March 2006 this Department introduced the Defence Related Environmental Assessment Methodology (DREAM), which the Office of Government Commerce recognises as equivalent to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), for Ministry of Defence construction projects.

The percentage of new buildings built to these standards for the years in which information is available is shown in the following table:

| | *Assessment method* | *Total new builds assessed* | *Percentage new builds reaching excellent standard* | *Percentage new builds reaching very good standard* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | BREEAM | 49 | 6 | 12 |
| 2006-07 | DREAM | 18 | 50 | 14 |
| 2007-08 (To end January 2008) | DREAM | 9 | 100 | 0 |

The construction costs of each building built to these standards are not separately identifiable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will break down, by sub-head in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms his Department's (i) gross resource outturn, (ii) operating appropriations in aid outturn, (iii) gross capital outturn and (iv) non-operating appropriations in aid outturn for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07; [191679]

(2) what his Department's *(a)* gross resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* operating appropriations in aid, *(c)* net capital DEL and *(d)* non-operating appropriations in aid outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non cash terms, was for financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07. [191682]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187867]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the percentage of sickness absence for Ministry of Defence civilian personnel[1] which was attributed to anxiety, depression and stress (Mental and Behavioural Disorders ICD10 category) in the calendar year 2007. The MOD does not have a specific sickness absence code for stress.

[1] This includes all permanent and casual non-industrial and industrial civilian personnel, but excludes Trading Fund, Locally Engaged Civilian and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.

| *Time period covered* | *Percentage[1] of total sickness absence days lost due to anxiety, depression and stress* |
|---|---|
| 1 January to 31 December 2007 | 19.9 |

[1] The percentage of total staff has been rounded to the nearest decimal point.

Stress-related illness may have social or domestic causes and is not necessarily work-related. However, our policies are clear in terms of the recognition of such illnesses and the support we provide.

We advise our employees on how to avoid stress by explaining how stress can be recognised and managed. Line managers are actively encouraged to look for signs of stress in their staff and to take action to manage it. Specifically, we emphasise that individuals vary in their ability to cope with stress and explain that one person's unbearable pressure may be another person's positive challenge. On our web portal page we list the various physical and psychological symptoms to help line managers to identify early signs.

http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/PeopleServices/HealthWellBeingAndSickness/PromotingHealthAndWellBeingAtWork/UnderstandAndManageStress/

For those employees who do succumb to stress-related illness, the support of the Occupational Welfare Service is available.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent on translation services for people in the UK who do not speak English by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date; [187999]

(2) what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [188000]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence holds records of translation work that was centrally contracted out for UK based customers during 2003-04 and 2004-5. However, the records do not specify whether the ultimate customers for the translations were non-English speakers. The following figures represent the costs during 2003-04 and 2004-05 of translation work centrally contracted out by the Ministry of Defence Language Service:

2003-04: £10,812

2004-05: £3,764

These costs are for translations for solely UK-based customers into Welsh, Nepali, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and Gujarati. The documents translated consisted of a wide variety of general correspondence, official publications, courts-martial transcriptions, website content and promissory notes.

Since 2005, responsibility for the commissioning of external language services has been devolved across the Department. Equivalent information for the latter years therefore is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190299]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of named day questions received by the Ministry of Defence is shown as follows.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 1,677 |
| 2002-03 | 869 |
| 2003-04 | 686 |
| 2004-05 | 278 |
| 2005-06 | 1,064 |
| 2006-07 | 799 |

Information on the number and percentage answered on the named day is only available for the 2006-07 parliamentary Session. Of the 799 questions received, 180 (25 per cent.) received a substantive answer on the named day. All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer.

## EU Rapid Reaction Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel form the British commitment to the Helsinki Headline Goal; and what percentage of the Army's commitment is formed from the infantry. [190714]

**Des Browne:** The Helsinki Headline Goal has been superseded by the Headline Goal 2010.

The UK declaration to both the Helsinki Headline Goal and the Headline Goal 2010 were based on units of capability and not numbers of armed forces personnel. These offers do not commit the UK to any action and requests for forces to support EU operations are considered on a voluntary case-by-case basis. Copies of the UK response to the Headline Goal 2010 are available in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the EU Battlegroup concept under the Headline Goal 2010 relieves the UK of its commitment to the European Rapid Reaction Force under the Helsinki Headline Goal; and if he will make a statement. [190721]

**Des Browne:** There is no European Rapid Reaction Force. However, the EU has an objective to be able rapidly to generate forces to support crisis management operations. The EU Battlegroup initiative has been developed to help meet this requirement for rapid response.

The UK's offer of forces that could be potentially made available to support EU operations whether through our response to the headline goal 2010 or through the provision of a Battlegroup does not commit the UK to any action. Requests for forces to support EU operations are considered on a voluntary case-by-case basis.

## Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much it has cost to establish the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft private finance initiative in each year since 1999; [189271]

(2) what estimates have been made of the total costs of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft; how much it has cost to check the value of a private finance initiative against a public sector comparator; and what the cost has been of the auction and negotiations with the preferred bidder. [189272]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Whole Life Cost of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft PFI programme is currently estimated to be around £13 billion. To date, the Department has incurred expenditure of approximately £47.5 million in conducting the Assessment Phase, including the internal running costs of the DE and S Integrated Project Team. The following table shows this expenditure by financial year.

| | Assessment Phase (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 1.05 |
| 2001-02 | 4.01 |
| 2002-03 | 14.10 |
| 2003-04 | 5.03 |
| 2004-05 | 4.20 |
| 2005-06 | 6.46 |
| 2006-07 | 6.83 |
| 2007-08[1] | 5.84 |
| Total | 47.51 |

[1] Reflects 2007-08 expenditure to January 2008

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 800W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost to the public purse of private contractors employed by his Department in Iraq. [190582]

**Des Browne:** Where contractors are employed in Iraq by the MOD, the manpower required forms part of the contract. Each contractor is required to provide reports of the actual numbers of staff employed under each contract. The Department is currently developing a database to record this information centrally, but until it is fully populated, the information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of each contract is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-infantry personnel have served in an infantry role in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003. [190718]

**Des Browne:** This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services are in theatre in Iraq, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age, *(c)* service and *(d)* regiment; and how many were in theatre in Iraq in each year since 2003 in each category. [190800]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on the sex, age and regiment of military personnel deployed to Iraq is not held centrally. Information on the service of military personnel deployed to Iraq is not held centrally prior to December 2005.

The total number of UK military personnel deployed to Iraq at the end of May in each year since 2003 is available on the Department's website and can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqFactsandFigures.htm

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the hourly cost of internet access was for *(a)* frontline troops in Iraq in each month since January 2003 and *(b)* frontline troops in Afghanistan in each month since January 2001. [191449]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD welfare internet service is provided free of charge to personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, it is not possible to provide information on the hourly cost of internet access because of the technical solution that is used to provide the welfare communications service. This involves all voice (telephone) and data (internet) transmissions being combined and sent via a single satellite feed with the MOD being charged for the total number of megabytes of information transmitted.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much free telephone time frontline troops are entitled to in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and how much it costs them to top-up phone time by (i) 20 minutes, (ii) 30 minutes, (iii) 45 minutes and (iv) 90 minutes. [191450]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Service personnel deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq are entitled to 30 minutes of free telephone time per week. The majority of personnel are able to use satellite cabins to make their welfare calls although those in very austere locations or on board ship will instead use Iridium or INMARSAT satellite phones.

Personnel calling an off-peak UK landline from a satellite cabin are able to top up their phone time at a cost of £2.20 for 20 minutes; £3.30 for 30 minutes; £4.95 for 45 minutes; and £9.90 for 90 minutes. Personnel calling from an Iridium satellite telephone will pay £17.80 for 20 minutes; £26.70 for 30 minutes; £40.08 for 45 minutes; and £80.10 for 90 minutes. Personnel calling from an INMARSAT system will pay £23.40 for 20 minutes; £35.10 for 30 minutes; £52.65 for 45 minutes; and £105.30 for 90 minutes. Iridium and INMARSAT charges are set by third party satellite services providers and not by the MOD communications contractor. Charges for calls to mobile telephones will vary according to the network provider chosen by the individual.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces who are *(a)* deployed and *(b)* awaiting deployment to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan have not been issued with a pair of Midel or Magnum boots; and if he will make a statement. [191467]

**Des Browne:** Since July 2007, members of the UK armed forces deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan have been provided with a pair of Meindl desert boots and a pair of Magnum desert boots as standard. Troops deploying for the winter months are also provided with an additional pair of boots designed for cold and wet conditions.

Following a further study of the optimum arrangements, and as stocks allow, deploying troops will be given the option to choose Lowe desert boots as an alternative to Meindl boots.

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have been recognised by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as refugees in need of resettlement. [189944]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** To date, we are aware of one Iraqi civilian formally employed by the Ministry of Defence who has been recognised by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a refugee in need of resettlement.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of the defence intelligence staff estimates prior to the Iraq war that claims about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction had been exaggerated. [189428]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* On 3 February 2004, the then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) announced the establishment of a Committee of Privy Councillors, to be headed by the right hon. Lord Butler of Brockwell KG GCB CVO, to review intelligence on weapons of mass destruction.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee included investigation of the accuracy of intelligence on Iraqi WMD up to March 2003, examination of any discrepancies between the intelligence gathered, evaluated and used by the Government before the conflict, and between that intelligence and what had been discovered by the Iraq Survey Group since the end of the conflict.

The Butler Committee delivered its formal report "Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction" (HC898) on 14 July 2004. That report, the conclusions of which the Government accepted in full, constitutes the formal Government review on this matter; no subsequent assessment on this matter has been undertaken within the Ministry of Defence.

### Military Bases: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which 10 UK military installations have the largest numbers of military personnel. [190713]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Individual defence installations do not routinely publish personnel data, as different organisations and agencies are responsible for the same location or site. Figures for the stationed location of UK Regular Forces are only available at local authority level using centrally held data; to do otherwise would involve disproportionate cost.

Listed are the 10 local authorities with the most stationed military personnel:

1. Portsmouth
2. Richmondshire
3. Plymouth
4. Salisbury
5. Kennet
6. North Kesteven
7. North Wiltshire
8. Westminster
9. Moray
10. West Oxfordshire

Naval Service personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship.

### Military Equipment: Land Mines

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1494W, on military equipment: land mines, when the armed forces procured the Husky, known as Chubby vehicle sets; at what price they were purchased; when they were disposed of; to whom they were sold; and at what price they were sold. [190314]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Although Chubby vehicle sets were used in Bosnia in 1996, provided, we believe, as an urgent operational requirement, we no longer hold the relevant procurement records. The Chubby vehicle sets were gifted by the MOD to the Halo Trust on 20 March 2001. The value of the gift is recorded as £27,000.

### Nuclear Power: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether nuclear *(a)* waste and *(b)* materials originating in the UK have been dumped at sea since 1978. [187709]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

Pure nuclear materials (i.e. fissile plutonium and uranium) have not been knowingly dumped at sea since 1978. However, laboratory and process waste, contaminated by nuclear materials from both the civil and military sectors, was disposed of from 1978 until 1982 into areas of the north east Atlantic.

### Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units will form the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup. [190669]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Black Watch The 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland assumed the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battle Group role on the 15 February 2008 and will retain this commitment until the 19 of May 2008, when it will hand over to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

### Territorial Army Continuous Attitude Survey

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest Territorial Army Continuous Attitude Survey. [190652]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Yes. I will place a copy of the latest Territorial Army Continuous Attitude Survey Technical Annex, produced in April 2007, and the associated questionnaire in the Library of the House.

### Western European Armaments Group: Finance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* annual budget of and *(b)* UK's contribution to the Western European Armaments Group was in each year from 1997 to 2005. [190719]

**Des Browne:** The Western European Armaments Group budgets and UK contribution to those budgets for the years 1997 to 2005 were as follows:

| | *Approved WEAG budget (€)* | *UK contribution (€)* | *UK contribution in sterling (estimated using the average general accounting rate (GAR) for that year)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 950,000.00 | 128,212.00 | 89,321.00 |
| 2004 | 483,855.00 | 65,301.00 | 45,091.00 |
| 2003 | 552,840.00 | 74,611.00 | 48,484.00 |
| 2002 | 844,544.00 | 113,980.00 | 70,931.00 |
| 2001 | 984,971.00 | 132,932.00 | 82,448.00 |
| 2000 | 631,669.00 | 103,278.00 | 68,478.00 |
| 1999 | 478,452.00 | 78,227.00 | 55,237.00 |
| 1998 | 450,720.00 | 73,693.00 | 49,708.00 |
| 1997 | 438,058.00 | 71,623.00 | 49,057.00 |

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Office in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187550]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office on 3 March (UIN 187551).

### Press

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the total annual cost of his press office was in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was for each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement; [189742]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, Question 163573, on the press office budget, for what reasons it is not possible to estimate the expenditure of the Downing street press office for each *(a)* quarter and *(b)* year since 31 March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [189763]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1099-1100W. Non-comparable information for previous years is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister how many press officers were employed in the Downing street press office in each reporting period since 31 March 1997; how many were employed on the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189764]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W, and to the answers given by my predecessor (Tony Blair) on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 895-6W, 22 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 561W, 10 April 2002, *Official Report*, column 11W and 22 November 2001, *Official Report*, column 471W.



### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Prime Minister how many plasma television screens have been purchased by 10 Downing street, and at what cost in the last 24 months. [191030]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office today.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### British Indian Ocean Territory: Military Bases

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), whether he plans to *(a)* review and *(b)* seek changes to the agreement between the UK and the US on the military use of the Chagos Islands. [190233]

**Meg Munn:** The 1966 Exchange of Notes, by which the British Indian Ocean Territory was set aside for the defence purposes of the UK and the US, will continue in force for a further period of 20 years beyond 2016, unless it is duly terminated. The UK and US will of course continue to consult closely on their mutual defence needs.

### Burma: Arms Trade

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support calls for a universal arms embargo on Burma and to introduce such an embargo through the UN Security Council. [189963]

**Meg Munn:** The UK works closely with its partners at the UN to press the Burmese regime to engage constructively with the Secretary-General's Good Offices mission. We have made clear that, should the regime fail to make progress towards genuine national reconciliation, under UN auspices, we would press for further UN action. We would support the imposition of a UN arms embargo. Such a measure would require the adoption of a Chapter VII Resolution by the Security Council.

A strict EU arms embargo is already in place. We stand ready to elaborate further restrictive measures if we see no, or limited, progress on reform by the Burmese regime.

### Burma: Sanctions

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support calls for targeted banking sanctions against members of the military regime in Burma. [189964]

**Meg Munn:** We are actively examining the options for extending existing measures to include targeted banking sanctions against members of the military regime in Burma.

The EU common position on Burma includes a ban on investment and the provision of financial services to certain enterprises linked to the military regime. It also includes an asset freeze, which targets the regime leadership, the senior ranks of the military and their family members.

### Burma: Singapore

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to urge the government of Singapore to introduce a visa ban on members of Burma' military regime to prevent them from entering Singapore for any reason. [189965]

**Meg Munn:** We are in regular contact with the Singaporean authorities regarding the situation in Burma. I spoke to the Singaporean Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2nd Permanent Secretary Bilahari Kausikan, on 18 February to discuss recent developments in Burma.

Singapore, both nationally and in its current role as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) chair, has made clear its concerns about the violent repression carried out by the Burmese authorities last year, its wish to see the regime engaging in genuine dialogue with Burma's opposition parties, and its support for the UN Secretary-General's goodwill mission. Singapore and its ASEAN partners do not support the application of sanctions at this time. The imposition of sanctions is part of our ongoing conversation with Singapore and other countries in the region.

We will continue to encourage all our ASEAN partners to do all they can to support political reform and national reconciliation.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training is provided by his Department to (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in relation to the answering of (A) written and (B) oral parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement. [191208]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Ministers appointed to work in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) receive on arrival a bespoke briefing pack, which includes guidance on parliamentary procedures.

The FCO's intranet contains written guidance on all aspects of parliamentary work, including drafting replies to written and oral questions. The FCO's Parliamentary Relations Team run a one-day course for officials on parliamentary work, which includes advice on drafting replies to written and oral questions. In addition, FCO officials have the option of attending other courses on parliamentary work offered by the National School of Government.

### Diplomatic Service: Security

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions British Embassies and Consulates have been subject to *(a)* data security breaches, *(b)* physical intrusion and *(c)* incidents which have compromised the physical integrity of the premises or the safety of staff since 1997; and what the nature of each incident was. [189987]

**Meg Munn:** It is not Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice to comment on security at its overseas posts.

### Equatorial Guinea: Diplomatic Service

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will reopen the UK mission to Equatorial Guinea. [190237]

**Meg Munn:** The UK has never had a mission in Equatorial Guinea.

Non-resident diplomatic cover for Equatorial Guinea is provided by our high commissioner in Abuja and his staff. Consular cover is provided by our deputy high commission in Lagos and there is a British Honorary Consul resident in Malabo.

The Government have no plans to establish a permanent diplomatic presence in Equatorial Guinea at this point. We believe that current arrangements are sufficient to represent UK interests in Equatorial Guinea.

### Equatorial Guinea: Simon Mann

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects a date to be set for the trial of Simon Mann in Equatorial Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [191240]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The timing of any trial is a matter for the Equatorial Guinea legal authorities.

### European Union: Banks

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to discuss the use of European banking systems to facilitate *(a)* tax evasion and *(b)* criminal activity on the part of UK citizens with the EU Council of Ministers. [190065]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We expect tax evasion and related issues to be discussed at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council today, in advance of the spring European Council on 13-14 March. The UK believes the EU has a key role to play in tackling cross-border tax evasion and financial crime. The EU continues to work to prevent tax evasion and financial crime under various directives, including the savings tax directive and relevant agreements with third countries.

### Islam

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits abroad were funded by his Department in relation to the Projecting British Muslims project in each year since it was established; what the cost of each visit was; and who the members of the relevant delegations from Britain were who participated in each visit. [191597]

**Dr. Howells:** With regard to Projecting British Islam delegations, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 831W.

### Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were made to the Israeli authorities following the attempted arrest of General Almog in September 2005 on the denial of police access to the El Al aeroplane at Heathrow Airport. [190351]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office made no representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue. Aviation security is a matter for the Department for Transport and policing at Heathrow airport is a matter for the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has obtained assurances from the Israeli authorities on the co-operation of armed Israeli air marshals with UK police officers in the lawful execution of their duty on aircraft on British soil. [190352]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not sought assurances from the Government of Israel regarding air marshals. Aviation security is a matter for the Department for Transport and policing at Heathrow airport is a matter for the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office.

### Japan: Whales

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Minister for Asia had with the Japanese Foreign Minister in Tokyo in January on Japan's whaling programme in the Southern Ocean; and if he will make a statement. [189968]

**Dr. Howells:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, visited Tokyo from 17-19 January. During his discussion with the Japanese Foreign Minister, the Minister reiterated the UK's strong opposition to Japan's whaling programme.

The Government believe whaling is inherently cruel and continue strongly to urge Japan to cease its whaling activities. In December last year our ambassador in Tokyo took part in a 30 country (plus the European Commission) demarche to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to protest against Japan's whaling programme. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) met with the deputy head of mission at the Japanese embassy in January and robustly challenged Japan's policy on whaling, pointing out that the UK would continue to state our opposition on this issue publicly.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191252]

**Meg Munn:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Nepal: Elections

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he plans to provide to assist democratic elections in Nepal. [191602]

**Dr. Howells:** We continue to believe that the elections to a Constituent Assembly in Nepal, currently planned for 10 April, are key to sustaining the momentum of the current peace process. It is important that all political parties in Nepal, with the support of the international community including the UK, work to ensure that they are credible, free and fair and that they allow a voice to all marginalised groups. We have maintained our wide-ranging backing for the electoral process, including through co-funding the Election Commission and supporting voter education programmes. In addition, we have provided funding to allow the Carter Centre and Asia Foundation to provide international and local non-governmental organisations to monitor elections. As part of our efforts to encourage wider international support, we have pressed the EU to increase the number of election monitors it will deploy to Nepal. Through the UK's Global Conflict Prevention Pool, we have recently approved funding for a number of hon. Members to travel to Nepal to take part in an election observation mission.

### Nepal: Human Rights

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political and human rights situation of the Madhesis people of Nepal. [191422]

**Dr. Howells:** The question of Madhesi rights and engagement in the political process has risen sharply up the agenda through the last year, following significant disturbances and violent protests across the Terai region. Throughout this period, the UK, with our international partners, has continued to urge the Government of Nepal to engage with Madhesi groups, to address their legitimate concerns and to bring them into a fully representative electoral process. The UK joined with our EU partners in welcoming the

28 February 2008 agreement between the Government of Nepal and the United Democratic Madhesi Front, which addresses many of the main Madhesi demands and which has allowed Madhesi parties to start the process of nominating candidates to the elections.

Through the UK's continuing support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal and local and international non-governmental organisations, the UK has worked to reduce human rights violations in the Terai and elsewhere in Nepal. While the agreement of 28 February 2008 will go some way to ensuring the recognition of Madhesi rights, the UK will continue to work with human rights defenders across Nepal to help promote respect for international human rights standards.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan. [191421]

**Dr. Howells:** I welcome the opportunity taken by the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic voice in the recent elections. I endorse the EU Election Observation Mission report's findings and we are pleased they assessed that the elections were competitive, despite the well-documented procedural problems.

Despite fundamental problems in the electoral process in the run up to election day, we recognise there has been progress since the last elections in 2002. The Government are determined to work closely with the people and Government of Pakistan to help them meet the challenges they now face—including political, economic, education and health.

### Spain: Football

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on the violence at the Bolton Wanderers versus Atletico Madrid football match in Madrid on 21 February 2008. [190041]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held discussions with his Spanish counterpart on this issue. The Home Office has requested police and other reports on the incident. Bolton Wanderers and the Football Association are also pursuing this matter with UEFA.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of clashes between the Misseriya and Dinka in Southern Kordofan. [189995]

**Meg Munn:** We are aware of clashes between the Misseriya and Dinka tribes in South Kordofan which the UN Mission in Sudan has attributed to disputes over land access, grazing rights and migration. Through the Department for International Development, we are funding a stability assessment in South Kordofan and governance capacity-building programme (implemented through the UN Development Programme) to improve institutional capacity to respond to such disputes and deal with returning internally displaced persons.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Sudan on attacks carried out by Sudanese government forces in West Darfur since 8 February and the impact of the violence on the humanitarian situation there; and if he will make a statement. [189996]

**Meg Munn:** Our ambassador in Khartoum, in a meeting with Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail on 21 February, expressed our deep concern about civilian casualties and displacement following the Sudanese armed forces attacks in the Jebel Moun in West Darfur on 18-19 February. She called on the Sudanese Government to meet their responsibilities under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and to end all aerial bombing immediately.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development, called on all parties to stop the violence, allow immediate humanitarian access, to protect civilians and to facilitate the deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur in a joint statement of 27 February.

### Sudan: China

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether progress was made during Liu Guijin's visit to the UK on co-operation between the UK and China on issues pertaining to Darfur and Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [189993]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed with Chinese Premier Wen, when they met in Beijing in January, that they would work together to advance both political talks and deployment of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur. Since then my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has discussed the issues further with Premier Wen and Chinese State Councillor Tang, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang, in advance of his visit to China last month.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, along with other ministerial colleagues and officials, has also raised these points with the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa, during the envoy's visit this week to London and in particular have encouraged him to urge restraint on all sides during his forthcoming talks in Khartoum and N'Djamena.

### Tourism: Football

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to protect non-violent British football supporters when they attend football matches in other countries. [190044]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plan for football matches involving British clubs, held overseas to ensure the level of consular support they provide to travelling British supporters is proportionate to the risk of disruption and violence. Officials work closely with the relevant local authorities, the Home Office (which has lead responsibility for policing and public safety issues at matches overseas), clubs, the Football Association and relevant fans' groups to determine the level of risk. In all cases, officials will provide British supporters with consular assistance as set out in the FCO's publication "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide". The Home Office is working closely with football safety experts across Europe in taking forward a pan-European programme of measures designed to mitigate safety and security risks at international football matches.

### Turkey: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Turkey on its decision to engage Kurdish forces in the North of Iraq. [191108]

**Mr Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has urged his Turkish counterpart that Turkey should conclude this operation as quickly as possible, and then withdraw its troops from northern Iraq. We have also pressed Turkey to take all possible steps to avoid causing harm to civilians. We continue to encourage the Turkish government, the Iraqi government and Kurdish Regional authorities to work together to resolve this issue through dialogue.

### Western Sahara: Human Rights

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Moroccan counterpart on the human rights situation in Western Sahara. [190659]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is concerned about the welfare of the people of Western Sahara. While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed human rights in Western Sahara with his Moroccan counterpart, I have discussed a range of issues regarding conditions on the ground in Western Sahara with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Fassi Fihri, most recently in July 2007. Officials in Rabat, London and New York are in regular dialogue with the Moroccan authorities, civil society and other interested parties regarding Western Sahara, including on human rights.

The UK also remains concerned that the issue of the status of Western Sahara remains unresolved, with consequent problems for the people of the region. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1783 on 31 October 2007, which renewed the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2008. The resolution also calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, without preconditions and in good faith. The UK fully supports these negotiations, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

## JUSTICE

### Crown Dependencies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department or its predecessor met representatives of the government of the Isle of Man in each year since 1997; what issues were discussed; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [190787]

**Mr. Wills:** There are regular meetings between officials in the Ministry of Justice and their counterparts in the Isle of Man and it would not be possible to list each one. Some of these meetings have taken place in the Isle of Man, some in the Ministry of Justice and some in other Government Departments. In general no formal or permanent record of these meetings is kept and most often action points are agreed between the respective officials.

From records and in the time available I can confirm that the following high-level meetings have taken place.

On 31 July and 1 August 2002 the then Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, the right hon. Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton), with officials visited the Isle of Man and held meetings with the Chief Minister, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Secretary, the President of Tynwald, the Speaker of the House of Keys and members of Tynwald. Among the issues discussed were international tax, the exchange of information, terrorism, the undersea gas pipeline, the euro, access to national lottery proceeds, student visas and Sellafield.

Between 26 and 28 November 2002 the Lord Chancellor and Permanent Secretary with other officials visited the Isle of Man and held meetings with the Chief Minister, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Financial Officer, the President of Tynwald, the Speaker of the House of Keys, members of Tynwald and the Financial Supervision Commission. Among the issues discussed were, international tax, the euro, security issues (routes to Isle of Man), speed of response on fisheries matters, the Isle of Man aircraft register, extension of maritime conventions to Isle of Man and Sellafield.

On 4 and 5 November 2003 my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy) (then Parliamentary Under Secretary to Department for Constitutional Affairs) with officials visited the Isle of Man and held meetings with the Chief Minister, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Secretary, the President of Tynwald, the Speaker of the House of Keys, members of Tynwald and the Deputy Deemster. Among the issues discussed were, the competitiveness of the Isle of Man shipping register, airport slots and regional access, taxation and market access, fisheries, the lottery, UK higher education and top - up fees, qualified teacher status, visa applications for full time study in the Isle of Man, the inclusion of the Isle of Man in UK co-production treaty arrangements, UNESCO and the nomination of Tynwald Hill as a World Heritage Site.

On 22 and 23 September 2005 the Lord Chancellor with officials visited the Isle of Man and held meetings with the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary, the

Attorney-General, members of Tynwald, the Deemster, the Chief Financial Officer, the Director of External Relations, the Financial Services Commission and the Insurance and Pensions Authority. Among the issues discussed were relations between the Isle of Man and the UK, the Isle of Man financial services industry, the impact of EU and UK initiatives on the Isle of Man, tax information exchange agreements, development of the Isle of Man's international profile, the Isle of Man space business, UK e-gaming regulation, the World Trade Organisation, immigration and anti-terrorism measures.

On 25 and 26 January 2007 the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Constitutional Affairs with officials visited the Isle of Man and held meetings with the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Minister, the President of Tynwald, the Treasury Minister, the First Deemster, the Chief Secretary, Attorney-General, Chief Financial Officer, and the Director of External Relations. Among the issues discussed were the Isle of Man's external relations, the development of the relationship between the Isle of Man and the UK and the development of an international identity framework, taxation and entrustment.

On 5 December 2007 the Isle of Man Chief Minister with officials visited the Ministry of Justice for an introductory meeting with me. Among the issues discussed by Ministers and officials was the Isle of Man's external relations and working relations between the respective administrations.

**Crown Dependencies: Legislation**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions the Privy Council consulted his Department or its predecessor on legislative matters submitted for promulgation from the Isle of Man in each year since 1997. [190784]

**Mr. Wills:** The Privy Council has not consulted the Ministry of Justice, or its predecessors, on any legislative matter submitted for promulgation from the Isle of Man since 1997. Isle of Man legislation is not submitted directly to Privy Council but to the Ministry of Justice so that the Secretary of State for Justice, in his role as the Privy Counsellor primarily responsible for matters relating to the Crown Dependencies may advise:

(a) His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man whether he may exercise his delegated authority to give Assent, on behalf of Her Majesty, to the legislation or

(b) that legislation dealing with defence; international relations; nationality and citizenship; the powers and remuneration of the Lieutenant Governor; the constitutional relationship between the UK and the Isle of Man; or which affects the Royal prerogative or the rights of The Queen in Her private capacity should be reserved for the signification of Her Majesty in Council and submitted to the Privy Council with the recommendation that Her Majesty in Council may properly be advised to make an assenting Order.

Records from 1997 to 2001 are not accessible in the available time but between 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2007 a total of 98 Isle of Man Bills were promulgated. Of those, only one was reserved for the Signification of Her Majesty in Council, the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2005.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what legislation introduced by the Government was considered for extension to the Isle of Man in each Session since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [190786]

(2) on what occasions the Government has consulted the administration of the Isle of Man on legislative issues since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [190785]

**Mr. Wills:** Since 1997 the Government have consulted the Isle of Man about extension of the Acts of Parliament listed as follows.

This list is complied by year rather than by session due to the manner in which records are held, and is not definitive as only electronic records could be accessed in the time available.

*2007*

Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill
Building Societies (Funding) and Mutual Societies (Transfers) Act 2007
Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007
UK Borders Act 2007
Serious Crime Act 2007
Draft Marine Bill

*2006*

Armed Forces Act 2006
Companies Act 2006
Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
Identity Cards Act 2006
Terrorism Act 2006
Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

*2005*

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2005
Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

*2004*

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004
Patents Act 2004
Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004
Civil Contingencies Act 2004

*2003*

Communications Act 2003
Extradition Act 2003
Co-operatives and Community Benefits Societies Act 2003

*2002*

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
Office of Communications Act 2002

*2001*

Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

*2000*

Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000

*1999*

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

*1998*

Landmines Act 1998
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998

*1997*

Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997
Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997
United Nations Personnel Act 1997

## Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190674]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people and welcomes its responsibilities under the Disability Equality Duty.

This Department will shortly be publishing its 'Disability Equality Scheme, Annual Review'. The report will be published in conjunction with the first MoJ Disability Equality Scheme (DBS) for the period 2008-11.

Key priorities identified by our stakeholders with disabilities are access to justice, to buildings and information; community engagement; and training. Related actions on these priority areas will be taken forward during the life of the forthcoming MoJ DES.

## Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1110W, on departmental marketing, how many *(a)* items of corporate display materials, *(b)* publications, *(c)* public information booklets, *(d)* items of building signage, *(e)* items of hard stationery and *(f)* lanyards his Department has procured since its establishment; and what its total expenditure on such products has been to date. [190585]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. Quantities of each item procured by the Department are detailed in the following table. Records for orders are not held centrally; the answer has therefore been based on available data.

Total expenditure on these products was given in the answer on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1922W.

*Ministry of Justice HQ and Agencies—quantities of branded items since 9 May 2007*

| *Organisation* | *(a) corporate display materials* | *(b) publications* | *(c) public information booklets* | *(d) building signage* | *(e) hard stationery* | *(f) lanyards* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ministry of Justice HQ* | | | | | | |
| 9 May 2007 to 3 March 2008 | 23 banner stand<br>2 pop up backdrops | 13 plus 6 issues of the MoJ staff magazine | 12 | External plaques and foyer signage for 5 HQ buildings in London | 25 notepads<br>162,000 envelopes<br>94,000 compliment slips<br>157,000 headed paper sheets<br>666,200 business cards | 1,250 |
| *HMCS* | 67 Banner stands | 6 corporate documents | 117 | 0 | 92,020 business cards<br>2,906,950 compliment slips<br>1,835,000 letterheads | 0 |
| *OPG* | 11 Banner stands | 1 | 79 | 82 internal signs | Launch invites and envelopes. Post it pads | 0 |
| *OCJR* | Figure not available | 2 | 7 | Figure not available | Figure not available | Figure not Available |
| *Tribunals Service* | 2 banner stands | 8 | 10 | 0 | Figure not available | 0 |
| *NOMS (inc National Probation Service)* | 7,600 plaques | 4 | 15 | 0 | Figure not available | 15,000 |

## Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190797]

**Maria Eagle:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

### Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the courts will begin to make restraining orders on acquittal under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [188814]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 will enable courts to impose restraining orders on those convicted of any offence, and also on those who are acquitted for any offence. This will mean that restraining orders will be available in a much wider range of cases.

We are currently working with the Ministry of Justice on the resource implications of this provision. When we have resolved this issue, we will be in a position to agree a timetable for the implementation of this section of the Act.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184914]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department does not hold this information centrally and it is, therefore, not possible to collate this without incurring disproportionate costs.

For posts below SCS, recruitment agencies are not used, other than in exceptional circumstances when a particular skills set is identified. This information is not held centrally.

The Civil Service Recruitment website, which was launched in December 2002, is the site of first choice for central government recruitment. There is no advertising cost associated with this facility.

As a part of the Civil Service Reform agenda applications from outside the Civil Service and from all sections of the community are encouraged. External recruitment support may be used to facilitate this.

### Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates have been detained within the Ibis Unit at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham in each of the last 36 months; and if he will make a statement. [190627]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is set out in the following table and includes people who may have been held on Ibis Unit for as little as one hour.

| | *January* | *February* | *March* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* | *December* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2005* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YP | 19 | 14 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 34 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 28 |
| YA | 32 | 17 | 12 | 16 | 26 | 27 | 17 | 19 | 11 | 29 | 45 | 35 |
| Total | 51 | 31 | 34 | 39 | 50 | 51 | 43 | 53 | 31 | 49 | 67 | 63 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YP | 22 | 30 | 29 | 19 | 33 | 35 | 38 | 34 | 26 | 14 | 24 | 22 |
| YA | 39 | 32 | 31 | 36 | 28 | 33 | 38 | 28 | 32 | 34 | 18 | 25 |
| Total | 61 | 62 | 60 | 55 | 61 | 68 | 76 | 62 | 58 | 48 | 42 | 47 |
| *2007* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YP | 21 | 18 | 25 | 21 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 20 |
| YA | 34 | 26 | 19 | 27 | 29 | 20 | 15 | 29 | 34 | 24 | 24 | 25 |
| Total | 55 | 44 | 44 | 48 | 48 | 31 | 27 | 44 | 47 | 34 | 40 | 45 |

*Note:*
YP means young person aged 15-17. YA means young adult aged 18-21.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the criteria are for determining whether an inmate at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham should be placed within the Ibis Unit; when these criteria were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [190628]

**Maria Eagle:** HMPYOI Feltham follows the national policy set out in Prison Service Order 1700 (Segregation) when determining whether an offender should be located on Ibis Unit. A full review of PSO 1700 is currently in its latter stages. The last review was completed in November 2003. Adjudications (including decisions on whether to segregate as a punishment) are conducted in accordance with the requirements of PSO 2000 (The Prison Discipline Manual).

### HM Prison Norwich: Smuggling

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the volume of contraband in HM Prison Norwich in each of the last 36 months; and if he will make a statement. [190823]

**Maria Eagle:** From 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007 there were 208 drugs finds and 149 mobile phones finds at Norwich prison. The figures are broken down by month in the following table. As the table demonstrates there has been a decrease in drug finds year on year from 86 in 2005 to 52 in 2007. The assessment is that the reduced number of drug finds has coincided with a drop in the Positive Mandatory Drug Testing rate at Norwich to 5.67 per cent. (April 2007—January 2008), which indicates that a significant

proportion of drugs coming into the establishment are being intercepted. Norwich has strategies in place to maximise mobile phone finds, and the number of such finds suggests the strategy is generating some success. It is not Prison Service policy to disclose details of individual establishment strategies for intercepting contraband.

*Drug and mobile phone finds from January 2005 to December 2007*

| | *Drugs* | *Mobile phones* |
|---|---|---|
| *2005* | | |
| January | 17 | 3 |
| February | 17 | 3 |
| March | 5 | 1 |
| April | 2 | 2 |
| May | 7 | 10 |
| June | 4 | 2 |
| July | 5 | 4 |
| August | 3 | 5 |
| September | 3 | 1 |
| October | 8 | 5 |
| November | 4 | 3 |
| December | 11 | 9 |
| Total | 86 | 48 |
| *2006* | | |
| January | 4 | 6 |
| February | 8 | 6 |
| March | 7 | 3 |
| April | 7 | 5 |
| May | 15 | 5 |
| June | 8 | 4 |
| July | 6 | 2 |
| August | 5 | 1 |
| September | 4 | 1 |
| October | 1 | 2 |
| November | 3 | 4 |
| December | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 70 | 43 |
| *2007* | | |
| January | 1 | 3 |
| February | 6 | 7 |
| March | 8 | 5 |
| April | 9 | 9 |
| May | 3 | 1 |
| June | 7 | 3 |
| July | 6 | 7 |
| August | 3 | 1 |
| September | 3 | 6 |
| October | 2 | 9 |
| November | 1 | 1 |
| December | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 208 | 149 |

## Monarchy: Marriage

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the opinion in respect of royal marriages, prepared by the Attorney General and dated 28 October 1955, at the request of the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Kilmuir is still extant; and if he will make a statement; [188413]

(2) what guidance he holds on who comes within the scope of section *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 of the Royal Marriage Act 1772; and on how many occasions the process in section 2 has been implemented in the last 30 years. [188412]

**Mr. Straw:** Any amendment to the Royal Marriages Act 1772 that touched on Succession to the Crown would engage the Statute of Westminster 1931. The opinion that the Attorney-General provided in 1955 to the then Lord Chancellor, is publicly available on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/rights/dca/inforeleased/royalmarriages.htm

The Department holds no guidance on the scope of section 1 beyond the requirement on the face of the Act that it applies to the descendants of George II except those who are the issue of princesses married into foreign families. There is no record of the process in section 2 having been implemented in the last 30 years.

## Polygamy

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* research he has commissioned and *(b)* representations he has received on the recognition of polygamous marriages. [190488]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned research or received any official representations on the recognition of polygamous marriages.

A person domiciled in a country where polygamous marriage is permitted, is free to enter into such a marriage in that country. Provided the parties follow the necessary requirements under the law of the country in question, the marriage would be recognised in England and Wales as a valid and polygamous marriage.

## Prisoners: Health

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners detained in Essex have been classified as in need of assistance for mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [190704]

**Maria Eagle:** This information is not held centrally.

Investment in prison mental health in-reach services has been nearly £20 million each year since 2004-05. In total, the Government are investing around £200 million on prison health services in 2006-07—a substantial increase on the £118 million spent in 2002-03.

All prisoners, both new prisoners and those transferred from one prison to another, benefit from a new health screening process that is designed to detect physical and mental health problems.

Prisoners who are identified as needing further help can be referred to a mental health in-reach team, who will arrange further assessment and follow up referral.

### Prisons

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on feasibility studies of the proposed titan prisons; and if he will make a statement. [188156]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government announced on 5 December that it had accepted Lord Carter of Coles' recommendation to build up to three Titan prisons. Lord Carter had access to a range of expertise and advice in drawing up his report and consulted a variety of stakeholders. The cost of work to date to examine the feasibility of Titan prisons is not separately identifiable.

### Prisons: Scotland

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there have been discussions between his Department and the Scottish Executive on the provision of high security facilities within the Scottish Prison Service for the imprisonment of terrorists convicted under the Scottish judicial system. [190851]

**Mr. Hanson:** I am not aware of any discussions with the Scottish Executive on this subject. However, HM Prison Service liaises with the Scottish Prison Service and the Northern Ireland Prison Service on a range of issues of mutual interest.

### Speed Limits: Fines

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines arising from speed cameras in London were *(a)* unpaid after exhaustion of the legal process and *(b)* overdue at the most recent date for which figures are available. [190525]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on unpaid and overdue fines from speed camera convictions is not collected centrally.

The information collected by my Department identifies the number of fixed penalties ordered to be paid and the number and amounts of court fines issued for such offences within each police force area. Fixed penalties that remain unpaid after the statutory period (28 days in the case of a fixed penalty resulting from unattended camera operation) are registered as fines at one and a half times the original fixed penalty amount.

The overall payment rate for fines in general for the period to January 2008 is 92 per cent. It is not possible to breakdown the total of unpaid fines for individual offences.

### Suicide: Internet

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to give young people greater protection from suicide-related web sites. [188281]

**Maria Eagle:** I understand concerns about these websites and the influence they may have over vulnerable people, particularly young people. As part of its review of the law relating to assisting and encouraging crime, the Law Commission examined the issue of suicide websites and made some recommendations which the Government are considering. Those recommendations, if implemented, would update but not substantively change the law. The Law Commission were absolutely clear in their conclusion that existing law is capable of dealing with the contemporary problem posed by suicide websites.

We have looked again at this area of law in the light of recent tragic events in Bridgend but we believe that the offences of assisting and attempting to assist suicide should together be sufficient to respond to any behaviour that ought to be unlawful.

### Trials: Measurement

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases are *(a)* under investigation and *(b)* awaiting court proceedings in respect of the use of imperial weights and measures; and if he will make a statement; [190478]

(2) what cases in which legal proceedings have been completed have been prosecuted in relation to preventing the use of imperial weights and measures in each of the last three years. [190479]

**Maria Eagle:** The available information on prosecutions under the Weights and Measures act 1985 for offences related to weights and measures provisions is provided in the following table:

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 for offences related to weights and measures provisions, England and Wales 2004-06* [1,2]

| | *Proceeded against* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 54 |
| 2005 | 37 |
| 2006 | 28 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
*Notes:*
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Court Proceedings Database—Office For Criminal Justice Reform

It is not possible to identify the number of these prosecutions relating solely to the use of imperial weights and measures from other prosecutions under the Weights and Measurement Act 1985.

Enforcement of weights and measures legislation is undertaken by local authority Trading Standards Departments. Local authorities do not report the number of cases under investigations or awaiting trial under weights and measures legislation to my Department.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* second and *(b)* third abortions were carried out in England and Wales in 2007. [189982]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Annual Abortion Statistics for England and Wales 2007 will be published in June this year. Statistics for repeat abortions for 2006 and previous years are available in the "Annual Statistics, England and Wales", statistical bulletin copies of which are available in the Library.

### Adult Audiology Services

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts purchased additional adult audiology services in each of the last two years. [191216]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* This information is not held centrally.

### Air Pollution: Health Hazards

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the levels of respiratory diseases in areas which are subjected to air quality management orders in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189478]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has made no assessment of the levels of respiratory diseases in areas which are subjected to air quality management orders.

### Alcohol Health Alliance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings he has had with representatives of the Alcohol Health Alliance. [190129]

**Dawn Primarolo:** On 12 December 2007, I met with Professor Ian Gilmore, who is President of the Royal College of Physicians and Chair of the Alcohol Health Alliance. The meeting was to discuss the newly established Alliance and the action the Government are taking under its strategy "Safe, Sensible, Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy".

On 21 November 2007, the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I, met with alcohol retailers, alcohol manufacturers, enforcement agencies, representatives of local councils and doctors and academics specialising in alcohol issues, to discuss the problems of under-age drinking and binge-drinking. Professor Gilmore and other representatives of Alliance member organisations took part in this meeting.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Death

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of deaths were alcohol-related for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [190130]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2006 the male death rate was 18.3 deaths per 100,000 population, and the female death rate was 8.8 deaths per 100,000 population.

These latest figures for alcohol-related deaths show that much more needs to be done to address the chronic and acute harms that are caused by alcohol misuse. It is vital that we ensure that everyone understands the sensible drinking message and that the public drinks within the low risk levels.

That is why "Safe. Sensible. Social.?the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", seeks to implement key actions to raise awareness, by:

promoting a culture of sensible drinking;

raising unit awareness—the Department of Health and the Home Office will jointly launch a much expanded, £10 million sustained national communications campaign in spring that will raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and ensure that everyone has the information they need to estimate how much they really do drink;

providing more help for those who want to drink less, through a £3.2 million investment to establish a series of intervention and brief advice 'Trailblazer' projects in health and criminal justice settings to identify people who are drinking at harmful or potentially harmful levels and to offer them help and advice; and

supporting harmful drinkers—the Government will support the development of a range of new kinds of information and advice aimed at people who drink at harmful levels and their families and friends. These will run alongside other kinds of support and advice from the national health service.

We have put in place a new NHS indicator to measure the change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm (Hospital Episode Statistics data)—the first ever national commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol health harms. This indicator is expected to encourage primary care trusts to invest in earlier identification of people who drink too much linked to advice and support from general practitioners or hospitals—shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' drinking which over time leads to liver disease and other problems.

*Notes:*

The ONS definition of alcohol-related deaths (which includes causes regarded as most directly due to alcohol consumption) was revised in 2006. Details can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496 and link on this page to 'Alcohol-related deaths in the UK'. ONS has agreed with the GROS and NISRA that this definition will be used to report alcohol-related deaths for the United Kingdom.

*Sources:*

Office for National Statistics (ONS), General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (published on 25 January 2008).

The introduction of the Tenth Revision of the "International Classification of Diseases" (ICD-10) for coding cause of death means that data following its implementation are not completely comparable with earlier years. Mortality data for England and Wales show that the introduction of ICD-10 resulted in a difference in the number of alcohol-related deaths below one per cent.

Rates are based on deaths registered in each calendar year and are directly age-standardised using the European Standard Population.

### Allergies: Health Services

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were referred on for diagnosis of a suspected allergy to *(a)* allergy specialists, *(b)* paediatricians, *(c)* pathologists and *(d)* dermatologists by GPs in 2007. [189765]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of people referred on by general practitioners for diagnosis of a suspected allergy is not collected.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department has undertaken with Skills for Health to develop national occupational standards for staff involved in allergy services. [189766]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has commissioned Skills for Health to work with stakeholders to develop national occupational standards (NOS) for staff working with allergy. The NOS will be:

informed by best practice in delivery of health care with allergy;

based on patient-led standards ensuring high standards; and

a relevant resource for the four countries of the United Kingdom and encompass the expressed need of the voluntary, independent and public sector health care services.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has designated a lead strategic health authority for allergy services. [189768]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is currently exploring the feasibility of designating a lead strategic health authority (SHA) for allergy services with interested parties, including SHAs and specialised commissioning groups.

## Ambulance Services: Manpower

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of ambulance personnel recruited in England was in each of the last five years. [187854]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not set targets for ambulance personnel recruitment. The number of ambulance personnel recruited each year is not collected centrally. Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce they need. The numbers of qualified ambulance staff and support to ambulance staff working in the NHS in England over the last five years are shown in the following table:

*NHS Hospital and Community Health Service ambulance staff by type—England as at 30 September each year*

*headcount*

| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total ambulance staff | | 25,005 | 25,641 | 26,902 | 28,180 | 28,648 |
| Qualified ambulance staff | | 15,609 | 15,957 | 17,272 | 18,117 | 16,176 |
| | Manager | 606 | 751 | 789 | 773 | 614 |
| | Emergency care practitioner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 438 |
| | Paramedic | 7,147 | 7,241 | 7,536 | 8,311 | 8,222 |
| | Ambulance technician | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,902 |
| | Ambulance personnel (old definition) | 7,856 | 7,965 | 8,947 | 9,033 | 0 |
| Support to ambulance staff | | 9,396 | 9,684 | 9,630 | 10,063 | 12,472 |
| | Ambulance personnel (new definition) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,630 |
| | Trainee ambulance technician | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,829 |
| | Trainee ambulance personnel | 2,103 | 2,137 | 2,047 | 2,201 | 0 |
| | General support | 4,100 | 4,214 | 4,078 | 4,308 | 2,561 |
| | Clerical and administrative | 2,933 | 3,059 | 3,240 | 3,286 | 3,207 |
| | Estates (maintenance and works) | 260 | 274 | 265 | 268 | 205 |

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. Although this represents less than one per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons.

*Notes:*

In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes.

As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 368 support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 21 in other areas.

The impact of duplicates on full time equivalent numbers has been minimal with the removal of 507.

The information on ambulance staff recruited or employed in Wales is not collected by the Department. The information will be available from the devolved administration in Wales.

## Breast Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the national standards for uptake of *(a)* breast and *(b)* cervical cancer screening were being achieved in (i) England and (ii) Gloucestershire on the latest dates for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189065]

**Ann Keen:** Uptake of cervical screening is not measured, women make their own appointments following receipt of a reminder letter. Therefore, to provide consistency, the figures given as follows are for coverage.

The national standard for breast screening coverage is 70 per cent., and the national standard for cervical screening coverage is 80 per cent. The following table gives coverage figures for England and Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT), for 2005-06, for breast and cervical screening.

*Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64[1][2], at 31 March 2006*

| | Eligible population[3] | Number of women screened test) | Coverage (less than 3 years since last (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 3,633,181 | 2,756,716 | 75.9 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 44,798 | 36,242 | 80.9 |

[1] The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years. Coverage of the screening programme is best assessed using the 53 to 64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
[2] The breast screening programme covers women aged 50 to 64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65 to 70 in April 2001. The last unit began inviting women aged 65 to 70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.
[3] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.
*Source:*
KC63, The Information Centre for health and social care.

*Cervical screening programme: coverage of women aged 25-64[1], at 31 March 2007*

| | Eligible population[2] | Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage) | Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 13,192,905 | 69.4 | 79.2 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 144,927 | 66.3 | 82.1 |

[1] National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).
[2] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
*Source:*
KC53 Parts A2 and A3, The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Cancer

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when the national programme for advanced communication skills training for senior cancer health care professionals will be rolled out; [187555]

(2) further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, how he will ensure that general and community based clinicians and other health care staff who treat and support cancer patients have access to good communication skills training; [187556]

(3) further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, when a national course will be developed on specific communication skills for effective face-to-face communication with children and young people with cancer; and if he will make a statement on the pilot schemes. [187557]

**Ann Keen:** The national Advanced Communication Skills Training (ACST) programme has been rolled out, via cancer networks, over the last three years with over 1,500 senior health care professionals within cancer being trained and with 250 facilitators appointed to support delivery of the programme. The course has recently been reviewed and enhanced with the new programme being launched nationally from July 2008. Educational grants are being made to cancer networks to enable the introduction of the updated model locally.

It is for cancer networks working in partnership with strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their workforce needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer. A number of networks are already looking to deliver communication skills courses to community based and generalist staff groups and it is anticipated that the "End of Life Care Strategy", which is due for publication in summer 2008, will contain further information on communication skills training for the wider workforce.

An adaptation of the ACST programme for children and young people with cancer were piloted and successfully evaluated in April 2007. When the updated model for the ACST programme is introduced in July 2008, training facilitators to deliver programmes for senior staff working in children's and young people's cancer services will commence.

## Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the uptake of screening for cancer; what initiatives are being undertaken in Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [189063]

**Ann Keen:** It is important to remember that no screening method is perfect and anyone invited to be screened for cancer must be aware of both the benefit and harm of being screened and be able to make an informed decision on whether to take part or not.

However, we do recognise the important role that screening plays and, as set out in the 'Cancer Reform Strategy', we are taking steps to build on and improve our existing screening services.

This includes extending the age ranges for both breast and bowel screening, so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to be screened. We estimate that this will mean that an extra three million men and women will be screened over the next five years.

It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations, this includes promotion of local screening services.

## Chronically Sick: Health Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients with chronic conditions supported in the community by telemedicine services in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189226]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect data on the number of patients with chronic conditions supported in the community by telemedicine services.

## Departmental Publications

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of the *(a)* Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital and *(b)* Our NHS, Our Future consultation. [187168]

**Ann Keen:** The estimated cost of the Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital exercise is not held centrally; nor are the estimated costs of consultation undertaken by other strategic health authorities as part of the nationwide Our National Health Service, Our Future review. However, the estimated cost of Our NHS, Our Future activity and materials organised and produced nationally by the Department in 2007-08 is £2.5 million.

## Doctors: Manpower

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors and nurses were employed by the NHS in *(a)* the Nottingham primary care trust area and *(b)* England in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [187305]

**Ann Keen:** The number of doctors and nurses employed by the national health service in the Nottingham primary care trust (PCT) area and England in 1997-2001 and in 2006 is shown in the following table. The figures for 2007 will be published mid March 2008.

*NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in England and each specified organisation in each specified staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

| | 1997 | 2001 | Headcount 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | |
| Medical and dental staff[1] | 60,230 | 68,484 | 90,243 |
| General practitioners (GPs)[2] | 28,046 | 28,802 | 33,091 |
| Qualified HCHS nursing staff | 300,467 | 330,535 | 374,538 |
| GP practice nurses | 18,389 | 19,846 | 23,797 |
| *of which:* | | | |
| *Total specified organisations* | | | |
| Medical and dental staff[1] | — | 1,038 | 1,257 |
| GPs[2] | — | 167 | 183 |
| Qualified HCHS nursing staff | — | 4,067 | 4,349 |
| GP practice nurses | — | 144 | 145 |
| *Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust* | | | |
| Medical and dental staff[1] | — | 1,030 | 1,246 |
| GPs[2] | — | n/a | n/a |
| Qualified HCHS nursing staff | — | 3,442 | 3,759 |
| GP practice nurses | — | n/a | n/a |
| *Nottingham City PCT* | | | |
| Medical and dental staff[1] | — | 8 | 11 |
| GPs[2] | — | 167 | 183 |

*NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in England and each specified organisation in each specified staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

| | 1997 | 2001 | Headcount 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Qualified HCHS nursing staff | — | 625 | 590 |
| GP practice nurses | — | 144 | 145 |

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] All hospital doctors but excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals, and consequently they are included in GPs.

[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

*Notes:*

1. In 2005 the Queen's Medical Centre NHS Trust and Nottingham City Hospitals NHS Trust merged to form Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. 2001 figures are an aggregate of these two organisations.
2. Nottingham City PCT was formed in 2001 from part of Nottingham Community Health NHS Trust, along with four other PCTs. It is impossible to calculate figures for Nottingham City PCT prior to 2001.
3. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Sources:*

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.
3. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

## Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 668-69W, on drug resistant tuberculosis, whether his Department has powers to detain an individual diagnosed with drug resistant tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [189625]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not have powers to detain an individual diagnosed with drug resistant tuberculosis.

The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 contains provisions relating to notifiable diseases (which includes tuberculosis) that enable a local authority to apply to a justice of the peace for an order to remove an infected individual to hospital (section 37) and to detain an infected individual in hospital (section 38), where that individual could pose a serious risk of infection to others. Such orders may direct that the period of detention should last for a specific length of time, and a justice of the peace may renew an order where necessary.

In practice, these powers are rarely used, and usually as a last resort when other efforts to encourage an individual with tuberculosis to comply with drug therapy have failed. The Health Protection Agency estimate that there are approximately 10 to 20 orders made under the 1984 Act provisions each year.

### Emergency Services: Manpower

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency care practitioners worked in the NHS in each year since 2005. [189230]

**Ann Keen:** The role of emergency care practitioner came into being in 2005 and was included in the annual national health service census for the first time in 2006. In 2006 438 (431 full time equivalent) emergency care practitioners were recorded.

### Food: Advertising

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Food and Drink Advertising and Promotion Forum is scheduled to *(a)* next meet and *(b)* publish codes on the promotion of unhealthy foods to children across non-broadcast media. [189988]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A date for the next Food and Drink Advertising and Promotion Forum meeting has yet to be set. The advertising industry's Committee on Advertising Practice (CAP) is responsible for the self-regulatory British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotions and Direct Marketing, which contains rules of the content of advertising in non-broadcast media. In July 2007, CAP updated this Code to tighten the rules governing the advertising of food and drink to children in line with new restrictions on broadcast advertising. The Department is working with key external stakeholders to address concerns about other forms of marketing including in store promotions and food packaging.

### Food: Labelling

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with representatives of the food industry on the relationship between provision of information on (i) salt, (ii) sugar and (iii) fat content of foods and individuals' ability to manage diabetes, heart disease, stroke, obesity and other chronic medical conditions; what recent representations he has received about this issue; what discussions on the matter he has had with colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and if he will make a statement. [186401]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Officials in the Department of Health have regular discussions with the food industry and other Government Departments, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, about the provision of information to consumers that enables them to make healthier food choices. People with chronic diseases such as diabetes and stroke should seek advice from their general practitioner or other health care professional about their particular dietary needs.

Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials are in regular dialogue with food industry representatives on this issue as part of discussions on the development and review of front of pack nutrition signpost labelling. The Department is encouraging the industry to provide traffic light colour coded front of pack labels for these nutrients, in line with the FSA's recommendations, which were developed to provide individuals with at-a-glance information to help them make healthier choices in line with their particular dietary needs. This is just one of a range of Government initiatives designed to improve diets, and in doing so, contribute to reducing the prevalence of diet-related diseases, such as obesity, coronary heart disease and some cancers.

### Food: Salt

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Consensus Action on Salt and Health on salt intake in diet and health. [190217]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is aware of the work of the Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH) and I spoke at an event organised by CASH during their annual National Salt Awareness Week in January this year. Officials have met CASH to discuss the review of the voluntary salt reduction targets, which is currently under way. CASH have also been present at 19 recent stakeholder meetings held by the Food Standards Agency to inform the Review.

### Health and Social Services: Discrimination

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints of age discrimination in healthcare were received by his Department in each of the last 12 months; [187679]

(2) how many complaints of age discrimination in social care were received by his Department in each of the last 12 months; [187684]

(3) what assessment he has made of progress towards the elimination of age discrimination in mental health services; [187685]

(4) what assessment he has made of progress towards the elimination of age discrimination in social care services; [187686]

(5) what assessment he has made of progress towards the elimination of age discrimination in health services; [187687]

(6) what steps his Department has taken in the last 12 months to prevent age discrimination in the provision of healthcare. [187690]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Action to address age discrimination in the provisions of health services and social care was a central aspect of the 'National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People', published in 2001. Since then there has been steady progress in eliminating age discrimination including an increase in the proportion of older people receiving intensive help to maintain a high quality of life independently at home rather than in residential care. In addition, specialist services for age related needs such as stroke and falls continue to improve and increasing numbers of older people are taking advantage of health promotion opportunities, for example stopping smoking.

Local national health service organisations and social services departments are responsible for the management and investigation of complaints,

including those of age discrimination; as such, this information is not collected centrally by the Department.

We are committed to the principle of mental health services that meet people's needs regardless of their age. As new policy is developed it is assessed for its potential impact of different age groups, and existing policy and practice is kept under review.

### Health Services: Children

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve health care services for children. [190034]

**Ann Keen:** We have initiated a full programme of work across local authorities and primary care trusts to improve services for children with disabilities following the publication of "Aiming High for disabled children", a copy of which is available in the Library. We have also set up a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service for children with mental health needs as part of the wider child health and wellbeing public service agreement target.

### Health Services: Greater London

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on Supportive Palliative Care has been fully implemented in Leyton and Wanstead. [190617]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the London SHA.

### Health Trainers

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health trainers there are in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* the NHS. [179130]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In September 2007 there were 1,282 qualified health trainers (individuals not whole time equivalents) employed, funded, or supported by the national health service in primary care trust (PCT) areas. The following table shows the distribution between PCTs.

| *Number of health trainers as at September 2007* | |
|---|---|
| PCT | |
| Bassetlaw | 0 |
| Derby City | 0 |
| Derbyshire County | 58 |
| Leicester City | 7 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 0 |
| Lincolnshire | 7 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 |
| Nottingham City | 21 |
| Nottinghamshire County | 0 |
| Bedfordshire | 16 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 0 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 4 |
| Luton Teaching | 32 |
| Mid Essex | 0 |
| Norfolk | 10 |
| North East Essex | 30 |
| Peterborough | 8 |
| South East Essex | 0 |
| South West Essex | 0 |
| Suffolk | 0 |
| West Essex | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 7 |
| Barnet | 0 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 7 |
| Brent Teaching | 14 |
| Bromley | 0 |
| Camden | 5 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 2 |
| Croydon | 0 |
| Ealing | 0 |
| Enfield | 11 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 23 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 |
| Haringey Teaching | 0 |
| Harrow | 0 |
| Havering | 2 |
| Hillingdon | 0 |
| Hounslow | 40 |
| Islington | 2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5 |
| Kingston | 0 |
| Lambeth | 17 |
| Lewisham | 17 |
| Newham | 18 |
| Redbridge | 0 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 0 |
| Southwark | 20 |
| Sutton and Merton | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 26 |
| Waltham Forest | 0 |
| Wandsworth Teaching | 0 |
| Westminster | 10 |
| County Durham | 42 |
| Darlington | 0 |
| Gateshead | 14 |
| Hartlepool | 4 |
| Middlesbrough | 0 |
| Newcastle | 16 |
| North Tees | 14 |
| North Tyneside | 15 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 11 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3 |
| South Tyneside | 12 |

| Number of health trainers as at September 2007 | |
|---|---|
| Sunderland Teaching | 22 |
| Ashton | 0 |
| Blackburn and Darwen Teaching | 1 |
| Blackpool | 13 |
| Bolton | 30 |
| Bury | 13 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 10 |
| Central Lancashire | 12 |
| Cumbria | 0 |
| East Lancashire | 22 |
| Halton and St. Helens | 41 |
| Heywood | 0 |
| Knowsley | 7 |
| Leigh and Wigan | 13 |
| Liverpool | 15 |
| Manchester | 17 |
| Middleton and Rochdale | 11 |
| North Lancashire | 0 |
| Oldham | 8 |
| Salford Teach ng | 8 |
| Sefton | 15 |
| Stockport | 0 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 12 |
| Trafford | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 |
| Western Cheshire | 0 |
| Wirral | 7 |
| Offender health (spread across PCTs) | 80 |
| Berkshire East | 8 |
| Berkshire West | 6 |
| Buckinghamshire | 0 |
| Hampshire | 10 |
| Isle of Wight NHS | 20 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 |
| Oxfordshire | 6 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 11 |
| Southampton City | 13 |
| Brighton and Hove City | 48 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 0 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 0 |
| Hastings and Rother | 0 |
| Medway Teaching | 0 |
| Surrey | 8 |
| West Kent | 0 |
| West Sussex | 2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 0 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 0 |
| Bristol | 8 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 5 |
| Devon | 7 |
| Dorset | 0 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 |
| North Somerset | 0 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 0 |
| Somerset | 0 |
| South Gloucestershire | 0 |
| Swindon | 0 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 3 |
| Wiltshire | 0 |
| Birmingham East and North | 4 |
| Coventry Teaching | 0 |
| Dudley | 0 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching | 4 |
| Herefordshire | 0 |
| North Staffordshire | 0 |
| Sandwell | 3 |
| Shropshire County | 0 |
| Solihull | 0 |
| South Birmingham | 0 |
| South Staffordshire | 6 |
| Stoke on Trent | 0 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3 |
| Walsall Teaching | 13 |
| Warwickshire | 4 |
| Wolverhampton City | 0 |
| Worcestershire | 0 |
| Barnsley | 6 |
| Bradford and Airedale | 40 |
| Calderdale | 2 |
| Doncaster | 12 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 6 |
| Hull | 16 |
| Kirklees | 11 |
| Leeds | 27 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 11 |
| North Lincolnshire | 0 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 0 |
| Rotherham | 32 |
| Sheffield | 0 |
| Wakefield District | 27 |
| Total | 1,282 |

*Notes:*
1. Not whole time equivalents breakdown not collected centrally.
2. Not all are directly employed by the NHS locally (breakdown not collected centrally).
3. Not all are funded solely by the NHS e.g. joint funding with local authority (breakdown not collected centrally)

*Source:*
The health trainer national implementation team periodic return September 2007.

## Hereditary Diseases

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of information produced by the NHS and aimed at the public on the risk of genetic disorders in children of consanguineous unions. [187699]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has not made any assessment of information produced by local national health service organisations on consanguineous marriage and the risk of genetic disorders to the public.

## Incontinence

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on incontinence, how many letters his Department received commenting on the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff from *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* others in each year since 2004; and whether the views expressed in those letters will be taken into account when he considers the options for Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care. [188411]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Department has received a large volume of correspondence on stoma and incontinence issues, however due to the way in which correspondence is recorded the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The views expressed in these letters have been and will continue to be considered by the Department in its review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

### Lung Cancer: Nurses

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of lung cancer clinical nurse specialists in the patient journey and in multi-disciplinary teams. [190039]

**Ann Keen:** In 1998, the Department issued guidance on "Improving Outcomes in Lung Cancer". The Guidance identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of the lung cancer multi-disciplinary team.

The guidance has since been fully implemented across the national health service.

The most recent round of peer review (2004-07) found that for lung cancer, almost 95 per cent. of multi-disciplinary teams had lung cancer nurse specialist provision at the time of the review.

In February 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published clinical guidelines on the treatment and diagnosis of lung cancer. The guideline recommended that all cancer units/centres should have one or more trained lung cancer nurse specialists.

NHS compliance with NICE clinical guidelines was assessed for the first time as part of the Healthcare Commission's health checks for 2006-07. Self-assessment by NHS trusts showed that 90 per cent. are making excellent, good or fair progress towards implementing NICE'S clinical guidelines.

The results of this exercise has informed performance management activity by strategic health authorities. Detailed results of the latest 2006-07 exercise can be found on Healthcare Commission's website at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/serviceproviderinformation/annualhealthcheck/overviewofresults2006/2007.cfm.

The 2007-08 health check will assesses how well the NHS has continued to perform during the financial year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The Healthcare Commission's website contains information about the health check for 2007-08 at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/serviceproviderinformation/annualhealthcheck/annualhealthcheck2007/2008.cfm

### Maternity Services

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to improve maternity services. [190035]

**Ann Keen:** In April 2007, we set out our plans for improving maternity care in "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", a copy of which is available in the Library. In the autumn of 2007, as part of the public service agreement (PSA) announcement, we introduced a PSA maternity indicator to encourage early access to maternity care, which we believe will lead to improved outcomes for mothers and babies.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 25 January 2008, on the future availability of primary medical care to non EU visitors. [190775]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The letter from the hon. Member was answered on 27 February 2008.

### Mental Health Services

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients treated for a mental illness in 2007 received NHS counselling and therapy services; and what steps his Department is taking to increase availability of such services. [191287]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information about numbers of patients who received national health service counselling and therapy is not collected centrally. The Government are investing annually in expanding this provision with funding rising to £173 million in 2010-11. As a first step, the Department is committed to expanding these therapies in 20 primary care trusts in the 2008-09 financial year.

### Mental Health: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those who committed suicide in Essex *(a)* had been previously treated and *(b)* were under treatment at the time of their death for mental health problems in each of the last five years. [190707]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The latest information for the former Essex strategic health authority (SHA), has been set out in the following table.

| *Year of death* | *Number of suicides general population* | *Number of inquiry cases* | *Proportion of inquiry cases (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 125 | 39 | 31 |
| 2002 | 144 | 39 | 27 |
| 2003 | 155 | 49 | 32 |
| 2004 | 160 | 45 | 28 |
| 2005 | 132 | 42 | 32 |
| Total | 716 | 214 | 30 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures include open verdicts and suicide verdicts.
2. Inquiry cases are those suicide cases who had contact with mental health services in the 12 months prior to death.
3. Essex SHA merged with Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA, and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA in July 2006, to form the current East of England SHA.
4. 2005 is the latest year for which data in question is available.

*Source:*
The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness.

### Mental Health: Legislation

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the new mental health advocacy services are put in place before the introduction of community treatment orders under the Mental Health Act 2007. [190530]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The main provisions of the 2007 Mental Health Act, including those for community treatment orders, are being introduced from October 2008. Due to the need to develop suitable training and commissioning arrangements for independent mental health advocates the Department aims to implement the provisions of the Mental Health Act in respect of independent mental health advocacy from April 2009.

### Musculoskeletal Disorders

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much additional funding he has allocated to the monitoring of service provision and consultation with patients and their representative groups under the Musculoskeletal Service Framework. [189492]

**Ann Keen:** Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTS) provide them with funding to deliver all national and local priorities. Expenditure on implementation of the musculoskeletal service framework will depend on local decisions on how to implement this and other priorities.

### National Institute for Mental Health

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget is for the National Institute for Mental Health in England in 2008-09; [186743]

(2) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff are employed by the National Institute for Mental Health in England; [186744]

(3) what objectives have been achieved by the National Institute for Mental Health in England since its foundation. [186745]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) was established in 2001 as a nationally co-ordinated but regionally focused organisation to support local implementation of mental health priorities across health and social care. NIMHE has provided a dedicated focus on policy implementation and support for service improvement in relation to a wide range of mental health issues that challenge services and commissioners across health and social care. Much of NIMHE's work has been done at a local level through its regional development centres and the objectives for this work are agreed with and monitored by local stakeholders in the national health service, local authorities and the third sector.

The resources supporting NIMHE are predominantly contained in the funding transferred from the Department to the NHS within the 'NHS Bundle'. For 2008-09, the planned resource allocation from the NHS bundle is £19.375 million.

There are 108, or 90.64 whole-time equivalent, staff either with full or fixed term contracts are directly employed on NIMHE work programmes and another 113, or 59 whole-time equivalent, are working on a seconded or temporary basis on specific projects.

Approximately one third of costs go on staff, most of whom work in regional development centres. The majority of expenditure is used to fund policy implementation and capacity development initiatives at national, regional and local levels, for example supporting the delivery of improving access to psychological therapies pilots, delivering race equality community engagement projects, promoting new ways of working among mental health staff.

### NHS Cleaning Summit

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2235W, on the NHS cleaning summit, whether the date for the summit has been finalised. [188512]

**Ann Keen:** The date of the cleaning summit was finalised and took place on 28 February 2008.

### NHS: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* and representations he has received on withholding non-essential treatment from abusive patients by doctors and nurses. [189491]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service security management service (NHS SMS) meets quarterly with key stakeholders representing NHS managers and staff to discuss work on tackling violence and abuse. When developing the guidance entitled 'Non Physical Assault Explanatory Notes 2004', the NHS SMS consulted with the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing. This guidance recommends that health bodies develop local procedures for withholding treatment from patients who have been abusive or violent towards NHS staff. No specific representations have been received by the NHS SMS on the topic of withholding non-essential treatment from abusive patients.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents there were of *(a)* physical, *(b)* verbal and *(c)* sexual abuse and assault of nurses, doctors and other hospital staff in each of the last 10 years. [189493]

**Ann Keen:** In April 2003, the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. Since 2004-05, the NHS SMS has collected data on the number of physical assaults reported against NHS staff in England for the categories shown in the following table. The information is not available in the categories of nurses, doctors and other hospital staff.

The number of physical assaults against NHS staff reported in the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 are in the following table.

| *Reported assaults by sector* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ambulance service | 1,333 | 1,104 | 1,006 |
| Acute/ foundation trusts | 10,758 | 11,100 | 9,685 |
| Primary care | 5,192 | 5,145 | 3,445 |
| Mental health/learning disability | 43,097 | 41,345 | 41,569 |
| Other (Special health authority) | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 60,385 | 58,695 | 55,709 |

## NHS: Learning Disability

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with learning disabilities were employed by each NHS trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [190009]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to give local involvement networks *(a)* a larger budget than patient forums and *(b)* year-on-year budgetary increases. [190251]

**Ann Keen:** The Department received an allocation of £84 million over three years from HM Treasury to fund the establishment and costs incurred by local involvement networks and has no plans to bid for any further funds. The allocations to local authorities (LAs) were based on two elements used in many similar cases to take account of key geographical factors such as deprivation, sparsity, area costs, etc. The first was a general baseline payment of £60,000 awarded to each LA. The second was calculated according to the Relative Needs Formula, which is used to allocate funding to LAs in other areas of work.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to require the National Centre for Involvement to provide information, advice and learning opportunities to patients, NHS service users and local involvement network members to improve consultation at national, regional and local level in the NHS. [190254]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) is a consortium of organisations comprising the University of Warwick, Centre for Public Scrutiny and Long Term Conditions Alliance. The NCI has been contracted by the Department to promote more effective patient and public involvement and consultation and to provide support, advice and guidance to stakeholders in this respect.

The NCI is delivering a major programme of work to support those involved in local involvement networks, specifically local authorities as well as voluntary and community sector partners. The NCI is also responsible more generally for working with national health service staff and organisations to look at how they involve patients and the public in improving health services.

## Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified and practising school nurses there were in England in each year since 1997-98. [188152]

**Ann Keen:** The annual national health service workforce census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses employed by the NHS in England for the first time in 2004. The number of school nurses from 2004 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

The 2006 census showed there were 2,968 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work, an increase of 559 or 23.2 per cent. since 2004. Of these there were 1,129 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 273 or 31.89 per cent. since 2004.

*School nurse numbers*

*England*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] | *Increase 2004-06* | *Percentage increase since 2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Headcount* | | | | | |
| School nursing service nurses | 2,409 | 2,887 | 2,968 | 559 | 23.20 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification | 856 | 943 | 1,129 | 273 | 31.89 |
| *FTE* | | | | | |
| School nursing service nurses | 1,619 | 1,913 | 2,053 | 433 | 26.76 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification | 607 | 665 | 815 | 208 | 34.31 |

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than one per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care, Non-Medical Workforce Census, general and personal medical services statistics.

## Organs: Donors

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what EU member states he has assessed for benchmarks for the performance of organ donation; and if he will make a statement. [189209]

**Ann Keen:** The report of the Organ Donation Taskforce, 'Organs for Transplant' includes data from Spain, France, Italy, Holland, Hungary, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, Denmark, and Greece. In addition, the Taskforce met the chair of an Australian

Organ Donation Taskforce, and considered data from the United States, Latvia, Finland, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland.

Given the experience of other countries and in particular that lessons from the Spanish system have been successfully implemented in Italy and several South America countries, the Taskforce believe that implementation of their recommendations will achieve a 50 per cent. increase in organ donation after death in the United Kingdom within five years.

### Palliative Care: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department proposes to allocate to primary care trusts for *(a)* children's palliative care and *(b)* disabled children's services under the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008-09; and what guidance has been issued on the allocation of such funding. [185663]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding 18 February 2008]:* Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2008-09 have already been announced. General allocations are not broken down into funding for individual services, and it is for PCTs to decide how best to resource the priorities set out in the national health service operating framework for 2008-09 and other national strategies.

In section two of the operating framework under 'Priorities' it states

> "disabled children: identifying actions and setting local targets on improving the experience of, and ranges of services for, children with disabilities and complex health needs and their families. This includes significantly increasing the range of short breaks, improving the quality and experience of palliative care services, inuproving access to therapies and supporting effective transition to adult services."

On 19 February 2008, we launched a first ever national strategy for children's palliative care "Better Care: Better Lives". The strategy will assist local commissioners, providers and regulators in devising local strategies to enable every child and young person with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition access to high-quality, family centred, sustainable care and support with services provided in a setting of choice according to the child's and family's wishes. It sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place palliative care at the centre of local children's service provision.

We also announced an additional £20 million in funding to enable the Children's Hospices and Hospice at Home grant to continue in 2009-10 and 2010-11 with £10 million available in each year.

### Palliative Care: Greater London

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners of health care to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Leyton and Wanstead. [190618]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs.

### Paramedical Staff: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of ambulance teams were assaulted while on duty in each of the last five years. [188839]

**Ann Keen:** In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. The NHS SMS has collected data on the number of physical assaults against NHS ambulance staff in England since 2004-05.

The number of physical assaults against ambulance staff reported in the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

*Number of reported physical assaults against ambulance staff*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,333 |
| 2005-06 | 1,104 |
| 2006-07 | 1,006 |

### Primary Care Trusts: Agency Nurses

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agency *(a)* nurses, *(b)* medical staff and *(c)* midwives were employed in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust (PCT); and how much each PCT spent (i) in each year and (ii) per agency worker in each category in each such year. [190442]

**Ann Keen:** We do not collect data on the number of agency staff. However data is collected on the cost of agency staff.

Tables have been placed in the Library which show the spend in each primary care trust (PCT) and national health service trust. The data is taken from the NHS trust and PCT financial returns for 2004-05—2006-07. The tables contain spend on non-NHS medical staff; non-NHS nursing midwifery and health visiting staff and the total non-NHS staff spend.

Due to the PCT reorganisation in 2006, data is presented for the old PCT structure for 2004-05 and 2005-06, and the new PCT structure for 2006-07.

Foundation trusts (FTs) do not submit financial returns and therefore are not included, except when they obtained FT status part way through the financial year, in which case data are submitted for the portion of the year before they obtained FT status.

As we do not have data on the number of agency staff, it is not possible to calculate the cost per head of staff.

### Prostate Cancer: Screening

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent comparative assessment he has made of levels of prostate cancer screening in *(a)* England, *(b)* other parts of the UK and *(c)* other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [185548]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* Currently there is no reliable method for screening for prostate cancer, therefore we have made no assessment of the levels of prostate cancer screening in England, the United Kingdom or other European Union countries.

### Psychiatry: North East

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many psychiatric beds there were in each NHS mental health trust in the North East in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [184979]

(2) what the rate of occupancy of psychiatric beds in each NHS mental health trust in the North East was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [184980]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The following table shows the number of psychiatric beds and their occupancy levels in each mental health trust in the North East for the years 2002-07.

The reduction in mental health bed numbers reflects the increasing provision by the national health service in England of treatment for patients with mental health conditions in primary care and community settings, without the need for hospital admissions.

The figures do not include the number of mental illness beds contracted to the national health service by the independent sector as this information is not centrally available.

*Number of psychiatric beds in each mental health trust in the North East 2002-07*

*Available*

| | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Code* | *Name* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* |
| RNP | Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust | 727 | 0 | 675 | 0 | 653 | 0 | 620 | 0 |
| RM6 | Northgate and Prudhoe NHS Trust | 0 | 357 | 0 | 372 | 0 | 364 | 0 | 312 |
| RW9 | South of Tyne and Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust | 518 | 28 | 509 | 12 | 490 | 12 | 477 | 12 |
| 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 39 | 0 | 22 |
| RTC | County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust | 435 | 128 | 425 | 112 | 408 | 76 | 394 | 52 |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 516 | 106 | 489 | 117 | 482 | 113 | 474 | 115 |

*Percentage occupancy*

| | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Code* | *Name* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disability* |
| RNP | Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust | 83.1 | 0 | 84.2 | 0 | 84.1 | 0 | 85.6 | 0 |
| RM6 | Northgate and Prudhoe NHS Trust | 0 | 97.4 | 0 | 85.9 | 0 | 83.8 | 0 | 91.9 |
| RW9 | South of Tyne and Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust | 75.3 | 88.0 | 83.2 | 71.2 | 83.9 | 61.7 | 77.3 | 81.3 |
| 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 85.6 | 0 | 70.1 |
| RTC | County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust | 89.5 | 88.8 | 86.5 | 75.9 | 85.9 | 80.3 | 86.9 | 71.4 |

| | | Percentage occupancy | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
| Code | Name | Mental illness | Learning disability | Mental illness | Learning disability | Mental illness | Learning disability | Mental illness | Learning disability |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 94.4 | 92.2 | 92.9 | 86.6 | 90.6 | 89.6 | 86.8 | 87.5 |

| | | 2006-07 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Code | Name | Mental illness (available) | Learning disability (available) | Mental illness (percentage occupancy) | Learning disability (percentage occupancy) |
| RX4 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 1,092 | 286 | 82.2 | 86.2 |
| 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | 0 | 7 | 0 | 70.0 |
| RX3 | Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust | 841 | 171 | 88.5 | 84.4 |

[1] South Tyneside PCT first submitted KH03 data in 2004-05

The following organisations merged in April 2006:

| Code | Name |
|---|---|
| *Old organisation* | |
| RTC | County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust |
| *New organisation* | |
| RX3 | Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust |
| *Old Organisation* | |
| RNP | Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust |
| RW9 | South of Tyne and Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust |
| RM6 | Northgate and Prudhoe NHS Trust |
| *New Organisation* | |
| RX4 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust |

*Source:*
Department of Health KH03

## Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people currently ineligible for social care who will become eligible as a result of implementation of *(a)* the measures in the review of access to services and *(b)* the proposals to be contained in the forthcoming green paper. [190246]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The review of eligibility has been requested because of the varying approaches being taken by local authorities (LAs) to eligibility to services. Some authorities are helping many more people than others even with tighter eligibility criteria, others are developing alternative new preventative services which aim to reduce the numbers of people who need care services. The review will look at the experiences across England and look to how we might better set a framework that will assist all LAs in getting the best outcomes for people who have care or support needs. Until the review is completed, we will not be able to estimate how many people will be helped or the way in which they might be helped.

The Government have not yet published the Green Paper. It is therefore not possible to say what impact any proposals that may be contained in the Green Paper will have on the number of people who are eligible for services'.

## Social Services: Manpower

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* improvement plans, *(b)* warning letters, *(c)* statutory requirement notices, (d) changes to conditions of registration and *(e)* cancellations of registration were imposed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in each category of care in each year since CSCI was established. [190313]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is shown in the following tables, which have been provided by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

We have been informed by the CSCI that it is unable to provide information relating to warning letters or improvement plans, as these are not specifically recorded in its registration and inspection database. Similarly, it is unable to identify imposed changes to conditions of registration, as the database does not make the distinction between changes to registration made by the service provider and changes which have been imposed by CSCI.

CSCI is currently developing a new enforcement database system. This will enable reporting of the number of warning letters and imposed changes to conditions of registration, but will not include historical data.

*Number of statutory enforcement notices issued to adult care services in each financial year*

| | Financial year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type of service | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Total |
| Home care agency | 2 | 1 | 6 | 39 | 48 |
| Nurses agency | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 |
| Nursing home | 113 | 86 | 136 | 142 | 477 |
| Residential care home | 229 | 216 | 221 | 359 | 1,025 |
| Total | 346 | 304 | 364 | 548 | 1,562 |

*Source:* CSCI registration and inspection database, 27 February 2008.

*Number of immediate requirement notices issued to adult care services in each financial year*

| | Financial year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Type of service* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
| Adult placement schemes | — | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| Care home-non medical | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| Home care agency | 7 | 86 | 182 | 194 | 469 |
| Nurses agency | 27 | 19 | 15 | 11 | 72 |
| Nursing home | 1,288 | 1,183 | 1,005 | 693 | 4,169 |
| Residential care home | 3,430 | 3,175 | 2,355 | 1,741 | 10,701 |
| Total | 4,755 | 4,465 | 3,561 | 2,644 | 15,425 |

*Source:* CSCI registration and inspection database, 27 February 2008.

*Non-urgent cancellations of registration of adult care services*

| *Type of service* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home care agency | — | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| Nurses agency | 8 | 6 | 10 | 24 |
| Nursing home | 8 | 7 | 6 | 21 |
| Residential care home | 16 | 26 | 27 | 69 |
| Total | 32 | 46 | 57 | 135 |

*Source:* CSCI registration and inspection database, 27 February 2008.

*Urgent cancellations of registration of adult care services*

| *Type of service* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential care home | 5 | — | 3 | 8 |
| Nursing home | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Home care agency | — | 1 | — | 1 |

*Source:* CSCI Legal Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* responsible managers and *(b)* registered persons were (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each year since the Commission was established. [190330]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested, which has been provided by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), is shown in the following table. We have been informed by the CSCI that it is unable to differentiate from its records whether the figures relate to cautions or prosecutions of registered managers or registered providers.

| | *Cautions* | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 0 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 19 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 9 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | [1]12 | [1]3 |

[1] Numbers to date.

*Source:*
CSCI registration and inspection database

## Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether tranquillisers are used by *(a)* the National Treatment Agency and *(b)* drug action teams as treatments for substance misusers for a period of more than two weeks. [190207]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Treatment Agency (NTA) is a special health authority, created by the Government in 2001 to ensure that local drug partnerships improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for the drug misusers in their area and does not directly provide treatment.

Drug action teams are local partnerships responsible for the commissioning of local treatment systems in their respective areas and do not directly provide treatment.

Treatment providers may, based on clinical assessment choose to prescribe tranquillisers in the treatment of dependence to illegal drugs. To support them in their decision making the Department published in 2007 the "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management".

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who are addicted only to tranquillisers prescribed by their doctors were treated by the National Treatment Agency Service in each year from 1999 to 2006. [190345]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Treatment Agency is a special health authority, created by the Government in 2001 to improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England and does not directly provide drug treatment. Drug treatment which involves prescribing is provided by appropriately qualified clinicians within the national health service.

## Transplant Surgery: Finance

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to *(a)* liver transplant units, *(b)* pancreas transplant centres and *(c)* cardiothoracic transplant centres in each year since 1997. [188619]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *Heart and lung transplant services* | *Liver transplant services* | *Pancreas transplant services* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | [1]— | 26.6 | [1]— |
| 1998-99 | [1]— | 27.4 | [1]— |
| 1999-2000 | [1]— | 30.4 | [1]— |
| 2000-01 | [1]— | 33.6 | [1]— |
| 2001-02 | [1]— | 35.5 | [1]— |
| 2002-03 | 30.1 | 39.5 | [1]— |
| 2003-04 | 31.3 | 41.1 | [1]— |
| 2004-05 | 33.8 | 44.6 | 3.2 |
| 2005-06 | 35.7 | 46.3 | 5.5 |
| 2006-07 | 37.9 | 50.4 | 8.6 |

[1] Not nationally commissioned.

### Wheelchairs

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information was requested from wheelchair services as part of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme data gathering exercise; and if he will place the results in the Library; [189873]

(2) when he expects to announce a decision on the new model for wheelchair services; and if he will make a statement. [189874]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Consideration is being given to the findings and recommendations of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme in relation to wheelchair services with a view to confirming the next steps in due course.

The request for information was submitted using the Review of Central Returns process. The data collection templates have been placed in the Library. The results of the data gathering exercise, some of which is commercially sensitive and is not currently available, will form part of the business case which is currently under consideration by Ministers.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Broadband

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of rural households in Yorkshire and the Humber have access to *(a)* dial-up, *(b)* broadband and *(c)* high speed broadband internet connections; and if he will make a statement. [190806]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Broadband: Rural Areas

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to ensure the availability of high speed broadband service to those living in rural and remote areas. [188928]

**Malcolm Wicks:** This remains an important issue which Government are engaged with and has been working with the Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG) and Ofcom to look at the future barriers of high speed broadband access to those living in cities, towns, rural and remote areas.

Business and Competitiveness Minister (Baroness Vadera) announced on 22 February, an independent review to look at a set of focused questions around the potential barriers to deployment of high speed broadband.

The review, led by Francesco Caio, will look at whether there are steps the Government might take to facilitate market investment in high speed networks.

More information on the review can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/telecoms/telecomsbroadband/page10034.html

### Companies: Regulation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on reducing the burden of regulation for small and medium-sized companies; and what regional considerations apply. [190495]

**Mr. McFadden:** Government undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the administrative burdens that impact businesses of all sizes as a result of complying with regulations. Upon the completion of this exercise, 25 per cent. net targets were set to reduce this burden.

In December 2007, 19 simplification plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year.

Examples of, include:

*Simpler law for smaller businesses (BERR):*

Smaller businesses stand to benefit from substantial rewrite of Company Law. Coupled with better guidance, new provisions are expected to lower third party costs and make compliance easier. Conservative estimate of £2 million annual savings delivered.

*Changes to Small Business Rate Relief (Communities):*

Small firms eligible for Small Business Rate Relief no longer have to register for relief annually. £3 million annual savings delivered, and expected to rise to £11 million by 2010.

*Small Firms audit requirements (Financial Services Authority):*

Removed the need for 3,400 small firms to have a statutory audit, saving £12.9 million per year.

Copies of these plans are available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

### Consultants

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 418W, on consultants, on what projects consultants were engaged by the East of England Development Agency in each of the last three years; and what the fee paid for each project was. [188826]

**Mr. McFadden:** The figures supplied in the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 418W, were concerned with consultants engaged by EEDA for corporate projects and corporate areas of work and the following information provides a further breakdown of these consultancy costs and project areas for the years 2004-07.

| Project | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £ Total for project |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Economic analysis, evaluation and research | — | 265,195 | 220,447 | 485,642 |
| Economic modelling and scenario planning | 16,086 | 19,422 | 51,695 | 87,203 |
| Regional Intelligence Centre | — | 8,483 | 21,520 | 30,003 |
| Transport/planning advice and analysis | — | 116,959 | 4,847 | 121,806 |
| Environmental research and analysis | — | 29,439 | — | 29,439 |
| Sustainability/Demand-led appraisal | 15,438 | 26,626 | 19,279 | 61,343 |
| Project management consultancy | 31,250 | 50,819 | 82,255 | 164,324 |
| Property advice | — | — | 48,265 | 48,265 |
| Public Affairs and Communications Advice | 15,107 | 51,608 | 39,429 | 106,144 |
| Market Research | 24,750 | — | — | 24,750 |
| Organisational support and development advice | 77,338 | 110,731 | 25,939 | 214,008 |
| ICT support and development | 29,012 | 10,703 | 33,008 | 72,723 |
| EEDA intranet design | 6,000 | 1,840 | 8,590 | 16,430 |
| Taxation advice | 11,500 | 21,829 | 7,851 | 41,171 |
| Total | 226,481 | 713,645 | 563,125 | 1,503,251 |

### Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190686]

**Mr. McFadden:** BERR's disability equality scheme was published in November 2007. This was a revision of the former DTPs scheme, updated to reflect the machinery of Government changes of June 2007. At the same time summaries and conclusions of the steps taken to fulfil the obligations to the disability equality duty were updated in the action plan and covered the period since the DTI scheme was published in December 2006.

BERR's disability equality scheme can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42734.pdf.

BERR has made progress in embedding the scheme across the Department and the 2008 annual report on the scheme will appear within the next BERR departmental annual report. We are also in the process of preparation to complete the Secretary of State report due on 1 December 2008, which will be used as a tool to make further improvements.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on translation services by his Department and its predecessor, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date. [187981]

**Mr. Thomas:** Expenditure by the Department through its centrally managed arrangements for translations services into and from English, is as follows:

| Financial year | Expenditure (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 356,391 |
| 2004-05 | 353,735 |
| 2005-06 | 408,091 |
| 2006-07 | 446,661 |
| 2007-08 (to 22 February) | 229,494 |

Information on expenditure by the Department's Agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. It is not held centrally. I am asking Agency chief executives to write direct to the hon. Member and am arranging for a copy of the list of the non-departmental public bodies to be placed in the Library of the House for the use of the hon. Member.

### Discrimination: Tribunals

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many discrimination cases were heard by employment tribunals, broken down by the type of discrimination, in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [190504]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The number of hearings by type of case is not held centrally. However, the number of discrimination cases disposed of over the last five years is given in the following table. Information is not available for 2007-08 as details are collated locally and processed and published at the end of the financial year.

*The number of discrimination cases disposed of from 2003-04 to 2006-07*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sex | 10,254 | 16,211 | 24,217 | 18,909 |
| Disability | 3,925 | 4,673 | 4,072 | 4,345 |
| Equal Pay | 2,195 | 3,943 | 11,323 | 7,854 |
| Race | 3,117 | 3,080 | 3,430 | 3,117 |
| Religion or belief[1] | — | — | 340 | 498 |

*The number of discrimination cases disposed of from 2003-04 to 2006-07*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sexual orientation[1] | — | — | 321 | 384 |
| Age[2] | — | — | — | 135 |
| Total | 19,491 | 27,907 | 43,703 | 35,242 |

[1] Information is available from 2005-06 onwards following introduction of new legislation.
[2] Information is available from 2006-07 onwards following introduction of new legislation.
Data is not available prior to the introduction of relevant legislation.
*Source:*
Appendix 1, The Employment Tribunals Service Annual Report for years 2003-04 to 2006-07

### Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when the Government plan to publish a summary of the views received on the consultation paper, Consultation on Resolving Disputes in the Workplace - Supplementary Review, launched in May 2007; [191766]

(2) when the Government plan to publish a summary of the views received on the consultation paper, Success at Work - Resolving Disputes in the Workplace, launched in March 2007. [191767]

**Mr. McFadden:** We plan to publish our response to the views expressed by consultees in this consultation in due course. We will also make available all the responses received.

### Internet

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that .co.uk internet domain names are only issued on condition that at a minimum an administrative contact is domiciled in the UK. [188162]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The responsibility for registration of .co.uk domain names rests with Nominet, a private, not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. Nominet offer an open system for registration for .co.uk domains and some 92 per cent. of registrants have an address in the UK. The company seek to ensure that contact details for registrants, that might be required in any dispute about the use of a .co.uk domain, are accurate.

### Minimum Wage

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the implications of proposals in the child care reimbursement element of his Department's response to consultation on the national minimum wage and voluntary workers for volunteering and the capacity of voluntary bodies. [190825]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since the close of the consultation on the national minimum wage and voluntary workers, my department has received written representations, largely from voluntary organisations, about the reimbursement of child care expenses. We are currently considering how best to address the issues raised with us in correspondence.

### Political Levy

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether individual trade union members have the right to *(a)* opt out from the Trades Union Congress (TUC) political fund and *(b)* opt out from their political levy being apportioned to the TUC's political fund. [191052]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Trades Union Congress has no political fund.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the level of awareness of trade union members of their right to opt out of contributing to trade unions' political funds. [191087]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has taken measures to raise awareness of this right by producing guidance on the relevant law in a publication entitled "Trade Union political funds: a guide for trade unions, their members and others". There has been no research by the Department to measure awareness of this or any other trade union right.

### Post Offices: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people responded to the consultation on the relocation of Bexleyheath post office to a WH Smith branch. [189398]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received in *(a)* opposition and *(b)* support of the relocation of Bexleyheath post office to WH Smith. [189399]

**Mr. McFadden:** My right hon. Friend has received one letter and one previous parliamentary question from the hon. Member about the relocation of Bexleyheath post office to WH Smith.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what method was used to calculate the weekly customer figures published in the branch assessments for each post office branch facing closure. [189182]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the options for outreach in the current closure programme; and what flexibility he is encouraging in the use of this method of delivering services. [190902]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I have had discussions with Post Office Ltd on the wider application of the four outreach options which were piloted with Government funding but would also encourage consideration of other viable outreach options in the light of specific local circumstances.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what minimum service is being made available by Post Office Ltd under the heading outreach as part of the current closure campaign. [190903]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Government consider that decisions about individual branch opening hours and service offerings are a matter for Post Office Ltd and individual sub-postmasters, reflecting the needs and level of demand in local communities.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the maximum financial amount is that a post master/mistress may be paid as compensation for branch closure. [190904]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The payments to subpostmasters whose offices are compulsorily closed under Post Office Ltd.'s network change programme compensate them for not being able to sell their business and are based on up to 28 months remuneration.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices have closed in Castle Point over the last 10 years; and when a further review of post offices in Castle Point will be undertaken. [190496]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Regional Development Agencies: Patents**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the patents held by each regional development agency; and whether ownership is shared with another entity in each case. [189107]

**Mr. McFadden:** No RDA itself holds patents. However, patents are held by organisations which RDAs have supported through grants and investments.

**Regional Development Agencies: Research**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each Regional Development Agency spent on research and development *(a)* in nominal prices and *(b)* as a proportion of total expenditure in each of the last five years. [189108]

**Mr. McFadden:** The tables show details of expenditure by RDAs through the 'Grant for Research and Development' programme and as a proportion of grant in aid budgets.

The programme assists start-ups and SMEs to carry out research and development work on technologically innovative products and processes. 'Grant for R and D' allows businesses to undertake projects which would be untenable if grants were not available. Similarly, it helps to attract private investors, to whom the projects would otherwise not be financially viable.

Prior to April 2005, the Small Business Service was responsible for delivering the grant offers made by the RDAs. Information on spend was collated by the SBS only on a national basis. Figures prior to 2005-06 therefore relate to grant offers made by the RDAs.

In April 2005, responsibility for delivering grant for R and D transferred from the Small Business Service to the RDAs in accordance with the Government's policy on transferring responsibility for business support to the RDAs. Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 relate to actual spend by RDAs through the Grants for R and D programme.

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *RDAs* | *Grant in aid budgets (£ million)* | *Offers (£000)* | *R and D as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)* | *Grant in aid budgets (£ million)* | *Offers (£000)* | *R and D as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)* |
| AWM | 204 | 2,392 | 1.17 | 240 | 2,743 | 1.14 |
| EEDA | 88 | 9,771 | 11.10 | 80 | 12,355 | 15.44 |
| EMDA | 101 | 4,933 | 4.88 | 117 | 3,830 | 3.27 |
| LDA | 295 | 3,923 | 1.33 | 317 | 7,697 | 2.43 |
| NWDA | 274 | 6,889 | 2.51 | 309 | 8,251 | 2.67 |
| ONE | 193 | 1,518 | 0.79 | 223 | 2,284 | 1.02 |
| SEEDA | 112 | 9,886 | 8.83 | 136 | 12,915 | 9.50 |
| SWRDA | 103 | 2,398 | 2.33 | 99 | 2,714 | 2.74 |
| YF | 211 | 4,787 | 2.27 | 244 | 6,638 | 2.72 |

| RDAs | 2004-05 Grant in aid budgets (£ million) | 2004-05 Offers (£000) | 2004-05 R and D as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage) | 2005-06 Grant in aid budgets (£ million) | 2005-06 Actual spend (£000) | 2005-06 R and D as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 217 | 1,827 | 0.84 | 272 | 1,895 | 0.70 |
| EEDA | 84 | 5,786 | 6.89 | 129 | 5,921 | 4.59 |
| EMDA | 119 | 1,697 | 1.43 | 156 | 2,259 | 1.45 |
| LDA | 328 | 4,744 | 1.45 | 373 | 3,279 | 0.88 |
| NWDA | 367 | 5,549 | 1.51 | 382 | 3,951 | 1.03 |
| ONE | 227 | 2,577 | 1.14 | 240 | 1,554 | 0.65 |
| SEEDA | 110 | 3,458 | 3.14 | 157 | 4,235 | 2.70 |
| SWRDA | 113 | 1,323 | 1.17 | 153 | 1,038 | 0.68 |
| YF | 288 | 3,103 | 1.08 | 295 | 3,165 | 1.07 |

| RDAs | 2006-07 Grant in aid budgets (£ million) | 2006-07 Actual spend (£000) | 2006-07 R and D as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 284 | 1,408 | 0.50 |
| EEDA | 134 | 3,697 | 2.76 |
| EMDA | 163 | 2,653 | 1.63 |
| LDA | 391 | 2,275 | 0.58 |
| NWDA | 400 | 2,216 | 0.55 |
| ONE | 251 | 1,730 | 0.69 |
| SEEDA | 163 | 4,135 | 2.54 |
| SWRDA | 159 | 1,561 | 0.98 |
| YF | 310 | 2,824 | 0.91 |

In addition to the Grant for R and D programme, RDAs also make other investments in Research and Development projects, examples of which are detailed as follows.

*Collaborative R and D projects*

In conjunction with science-based businesses such as the Premium Automotive Research and Development programme, a collaboration between Advantage West Midlands, Warwick University, and Jaguar Land Rover. It supports technologies that underpin component engineering and manufacturing in the luxury car sector;

*Demonstrator activities*

Such as pilot schemes of innovative new products;

*Knowledge Transfer Partnerships*

Which allow businesses to access academic research in order to create and improve commercial products, materials, and services such as the 11 Centres of Industrial Collaboration in Yorkshire set up by Yorkshire Forward, which have worked on more than 1,500 projects, grossed more than £38 million in income, and created or safeguarded over 1,400 jobs.

## South East England Development Agency: Expenditure

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the South East England Development Agency's budget has been in each year since its establishment; and what the *(a)* salary costs and *(b)* expenses have been of the (i) executive directors and (ii) non-executive directors in each year since inception. [186796]

**Mr. McFadden:** Total budget in each year since foundation:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 195,409 |
| 2005-06 | 181,500 |
| 2004-05 | 164,070 |
| 2003-04 | 125,011 |
| 2002-03 | 92,853 |
| 2001-02 | 96,093 |
| 2000-01 | 83,233 |
| 1999-2000 | 64,277 |
| 1998-99 | 543 |

These figures are based on the total expenditure per year as laid down in SEEDA's annual reports and accounts.

*(a) Salary costs*

| | Executive directors (£) | Non-executive directors (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 647,595 | 209,203 |
| 2005-06 | 640,078 | 197,810 |
| 2004-05 | 655,209 | 200,002 |
| 2003-04 | 617,986 | 195,325 |
| 2002-03 | 534,258 | 179,447 |
| 2001-02 | 420,998 | 173,302 |
| 2000-01 | 473,270 | 160,084 |
| 1999-2000 | 338,963 | 151,963 |
| 1998-99 | 30,475 | 41,886 |

The salary figures provided are based on SEEDA's annual reports and accounts. The chief executive's salary is included in the figure provided for executive directors. Figures include performance related bonuses paid to executive directors and the chief executive.

*(b) Expenses*

| | Executive directors (£) | Non-executive directors (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 36,436 | 41,357 |
| 2005-06 | 29,904 | 21,750 |
| 2004-05 | 26,500 | 45,311 |
| 2003-04[1] | 20,461 | 34,226 |
| 2002-03 | 11,241 | 19,872 |
| 2001-02 | 10,979 | 15,598 |
| 2000-01 | 13,793 | 15,310 |
| 1999-2000 | 9,450 | 19,276 |
| 1998-99 | n/a | n/a |

[1] Credit card expenditure is not included for the years 1999-2000 to 2003-04. This information is not available in electronic format and would require retrieving payroll reports from the archive. The cost limit per PQ reply currently stands at £700 actual staff costs, we are unable to retrieve this information because of disproportionate cost.

These figures include expenses paid directly to employees or expenses incurred on their SEEDA credit card.

**Wind Power**

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to what wind farm proposals his Department has lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191121]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Secretary of State has not lodged objections to any wind farm proposals in the last three years.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 4 March 2008*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cemeteries

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Health and Safety Executive next plans to publish guidance on health and safety in cemeteries. [191600]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive is working with representatives from across the burial industry to agree simple, practical guidance on how to manage the risks associated with unstable memorials. This work is being taken forward through a sub-Group of the Ministry of Justice's Burials and Cemeteries Advisory Group. The intention is to agree this guidance by early summer 2008, for publication soon after.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what fees were paid to private contractors for the operation and maintenance of his Department's buildings in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187594]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department pays an all-inclusive unitary charge under the PRIME PFI contract to its private sector partner Land Securities Trillium (LST) for the provision of fully serviced accommodation. This fully inclusive unitary charge provides for payments to private contractors for the operation and maintenance of the buildings we occupy and we are unable to separately identify the costs attributable to this element of the PFI contract.

### Departmental Civil Agencies

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effect on costs to the public purse has been of the operation of agencies within his Department's responsibilities in the last *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [185753]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* It has not been possible to quantify the effect on costs to the public purse of the operation of agencies. However information relating to DWP costs may be found in the Published Resource Account for DWP 2006/07. This is available using the following link.

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc08/0875/0875.pdf

### Departmental Overseas Workers

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many representatives of his Department were located abroad in each of the last 10 years, broken down by location; and at what cost. [185922]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department supports a small number of employees in posts abroad related to DWP business needs. The numbers, costs and locations vary from year to year. However, the details of representatives located abroad are not held centrally and could be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Telephones

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are used by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [186180]

**Mrs. McGuire:** We are constantly working to improve our services to customers and that may include periodic changes to the numbers and number ranges we use. We publicise these changes to appropriate customer groups and key stakeholders. Neither my Department nor its agencies use 0870 numbers for customer contact.

Information on the 0800 and 0845 numbers in use has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187918]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is available from June 2006 only.

The average hourly rate paid by the Department to employment agencies for agency staff from June to December 2006 was £11 61. From January to December 2007 it was £12.38.

### Employability Skills

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department is monitoring the progress of the Employability Skills programme which his Department announced on 1st August 2007. [185830]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

Progress in implementing the Employability Skills Programme is currently reported into the Department of Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS), Skills for Life programme Board. This Board will monitor reports from the Learning and Skills Council on progress against success criteria for the programme. Data will be made available on a quarterly basis via the data book.

Development of the programme has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising representatives from DIUS, DWP, LSC and JCP.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much it has cost to implement the Employability Skills programme which his Department announced on 1 August 2007. [185831]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The Employability Skills Programme is an LSC funded programme, £23 million is available to support learner's achievements in literacy, language and numeracy qualifications and to get a basic level employability qualification. DWP are further supporting learners with £14 million for Training Allowance.

DIUS has supported development of the programme with £310,000 which has funded:

Develop, set-up and support for 9 Pathfinders trials in each of the Government Office regions.

Develop and delivery of training for JCP advisers and Programme Providers.

Development and dissemination of information and promotional materials for JCP customers, advisers and programme providers.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people his Department estimates have found employment as a consequence of participating in the Employability Skills programme which his Department announced on 1st August 2007. [185832]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

Success in the Employability Skills Programme is measured in a number of ways, including achievement of literacy, language and numeracy qualifications, achievements of an employability certificate in addition to job outcomes.

Provision typically lasts 15 weeks and in that time Training Providers work with local Jobcentre Plus offices to try to identify suitable job opportunities and ideally to find work with training.

We expect the LSC to report on the full range of success criteria including qualifications and job outcomes at quarterly reviews, the first set of data to end of February 2008 will be reported at the quarterly review in April 2008.

### Employment: Families

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families came off jobseeker's allowance and income support to re-enter full-time employment in each of the last five years. [185311]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

### European Social Fund

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what disbursements have been made from the European Social Fund in each of the last three years in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area. [185833]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** This information is not available at constituency or local authority level. Most European Social Fund money is allocated at regional level. The following table shows disbursements made from the European Social Fund in England in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

*European social fund payments 2005, 2006 and 2007*

£

| Region | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 34,095,608 | 35,231,647 | 36,046,301 |
| East Midlands | 35,581,610 | 34,457,285 | 41,792,971 |
| London | 80,650,908 | 84,921,303 | 78,798,216 |
| North East | 55,543,966 | 41,478,282 | 41,034,653 |
| North West (excluding Merseyside) | 52,489,763 | 35,521,941 | 30,249,680 |
| North West (Merseyside) | 30,772,542 | 45,050,374 | 34,226,239 |
| South East | 43,553,100 | 48,381,611 | 42,416,442 |
| South West (excluding Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) | 28,028,604 | 33,408,137 | 20,686,493 |
| South West (Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) | 8,823,512 | 10,338,543 | 12,396,687 |
| West Midlands | 63,871,760 | 52,371,892 | 67,318,184 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber (excluding South Yorkshire) | 45,042,213 | 41,250,461 | 42,223,750 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber (South Yorkshire) | 41,188,272 | 45,171,016 | 19,634,521 |
| England national projects | 47,740,184 | 50,329,667 | 93,006,953 |
| Equal projects | 50,701,187 | 58,677,218 | 45,903,082 |
| Total | 618,083,229 | 616,589,377 | 605,734,172 |

*Notes:*

1. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Merseyside and South Yorkshire receive ring-fenced funding as Objective 1 areas.
2. The Department for Work and Pensions has responsibility for the European Social Fund in England. The devolved administrations have responsibility for the European Social Fund in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

*Source:*

European Social Fund Projects and Payments Database, February 2008

### Housing Benefits: Rented Housing

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimates he has made of the percentage of claimants subject to the local housing allowance who will experience a restriction in their rent as a consequence of the application of the allowance, broken down by local authority; [188062]

(2) what estimates he has made of the percentage of claimants subject to the local housing allowance who will experience a restriction in their rent as a consequence of the application of the allowance, broken down by bedroom entitlement. [188063]

**Mr. Timms:** No such estimates have been made.

The local housing allowance is being applied to new housing benefit claims in the deregulated private rented sector. Current claimants will not be moved to the new scheme unless they break their claim or change address.

We cannot estimate how many people will experience a restriction in their rent as a consequence of the local housing allowance because we do not know in advance what their accommodation choices and hence their contractual rent will be. Consequently, we do not know

how their rent will compare with the local housing allowance rate appropriate for them.

The allowance is a more transparent way to calculate housing benefit entitlement. As a result, claimants should find it easier to shop around to find a property which has a rent set at or below the appropriate local housing allowance rate. The extent to which they do this will determine the proportion of claimants who have their rent restricted. In the Pathfinder areas the percentage of claimants with a shortfall fell from 59 per cent. to 40 per cent.

We will be monitoring the number of cases with excesses and shortfalls as part of the two year review of the national roll-out of the local housing allowance.

## Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed incapacity benefit in each year since 1997; and how many claimants *(a)* reached retirement age and *(b)* died in each year. [187264]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* Information for the full year to February 1997 is not available. The available information is in the following table.

*Number claiming incapacity benefits and leaving incapacity benefits through death or moving to State Pension*

| As at February each year | Incapacity benefits commencements | Death | Stops claiming incapacity benefits and starts claiming State Pension |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 944,400 | 30,800 | 69,000 |
| 1999 | 838,000 | 29,800 | 80,400 |
| 2000 | 807,300 | 30,300 | 91,600 |
| 2001 | 788,900 | 28,200 | 43,500 |
| 2002 | 744,600 | 28,600 | 42,600 |
| 2003 | 726,600 | 27,600 | 49,100 |
| 2004 | 702,200 | 28,600 | 43,300 |
| 2005 | 663,000 | 28,000 | 63,400 |
| 2006 | 614,800 | 27,300 | 58,700 |
| 2007 | 606,800 | 27,900 | 63,300 |

*Notes:*
1. Terminations figures are produced from 5 per cent sample data.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Earlier years have been updated to include late notified terminations.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent terminations dataset

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each age category are claiming incapacity benefit in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area. [189869]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Income Support

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming income support worked for fewer than 16 hours per week in each year since 1997. [186115]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** One of the conditions for claiming income support is that claimants must not be working for 16 or more hours a week. Therefore all the people claiming income support worked for fewer than 16 hours per week in each year since 1997.

The information on those income support claimants doing some work, but less than 16 hours, is in the following table.

*Number of income support (IS) claimants (excluding minimum income guarantee) working less than 16 hours a week*

| Period ending | Number | As percentage of total IS claims |
|---|---|---|
| May 1997 | 80,900 | 3.6 |
| May 1998 | 79,700 | 3.6 |
| May 1999 | 80,200 | 3.6 |
| May 2000 | 73,200 | 3.3 |
| May 2001 | 67,000 | 3.0 |
| May 2002 | 66,000 | 3.0 |
| May 2003 | 64,500 | 2.9 |
| May 2004 | 60,200 | 2.7 |
| May 2005 | 55,200 | 2.5 |
| May 2006 | 53,000 | 2.5 |
| May 2007 | 49,300 | 2.3 |

*Notes:*
1. Data exclude minimum income guarantee (MIG) data to provide a consistent time series for income support claimants. In October 2003, pension credit replaced MIG (income support for people aged 60 or over/with partner aged 60 or over).
2. Figures are uprated to Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals and rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate five per cent. sample

## Jobcentre Plus: Training

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is planned for Jobcentre Plus staff on the implementation of *(a)* local housing allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance, *(c)* changes in liaison with the Child Support Agency for income support claimants and *(d)* changes to lone parents' eligibility for income support; and what additional resources have been allocated for such training. [187026]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 March 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training is planned for Jobcentre Plus staff on the implementation of (a) local Housing Allowance, (b) Employment and Support Allowance, (c) changes in liaison with the Child Support Agency for Income Support claimants and (d) changes to lone parents' eligibility for Income Support; and what additional resources have been allocated for training. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Existing learning products are being amended to reflect the introduction of local housing allowance and the consequent changes to our IT systems. In addition communications have been published to increase awareness among Jobcentre Plus staff.

Learning and Development for people in Jobcentre Plus is central to the successful delivery of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). We are putting in place a comprehensive package of learning and development products to fully equip Jobcentre Plus staff to deliver ESA. Detailed learning routeways are being developed for each of the roles affected. In addition,

communications are being planned to ensure all Jobcentre Plus staff are aware of ESA as a new benefit and new regime to assist customers into work.

All Jobcentre Plus staff will receive information to raise awareness of the changes to the child maintenance arrangements being introduced in July 2008 and October 2008. In addition specific learning products are being developed for staff whose roles are being directly impacted by the changes.

A full learning needs analysis is currently being conducted to assess what learning staff need as a result of the forthcoming changes to lone parents' eligibility for Income Support. All staff are likely to require some communication to raise their awareness. More detailed information will be focused on those whose roles are more directly affected. In particular advisers will be given clear advice on the existing and new flexibilities that are applicable to lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

The development and delivery of the training for staff on local Housing Allowance, child maintenance and lone parents' eligibility for Income Support are being contained within core Jobcentre Plus Learning and Development resources which exist to support the implementation of change. Detailed planning for the ESA learning and development is currently underway, which will enable an assessment of what can be absorbed within current capacity and whether any additional resource is required.

I hope this is helpful.

## Low Incomes

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how his Department defines a low income household; and whether this definition has changed since 1997; [185938]

(2) how his Department defines a household in poverty; and whether this definition has changed since 1997; [185939]

(3) what measures his Department uses for *(a)* child poverty, *(b)* working-age poverty and *(c)* pensioner poverty; and what criteria were taken into account in determining these measures; [185943]

(4) whether the way his Department measures *(a)* child poverty, (b) working-age poverty and *(c)* pension poverty has changed since 1997. [185944]

**Mr. Timms:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual National Statistics publication Households Below Average Income. This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median household income before and after deducting housing costs.

Statisticians have made a number of methodological improvements since 1997 in line with international best practice, following full consultation with users and National Statistics protocols. Improvements have been explained in the relevant publications. HBAI presents a consistent time series reflecting all changes that have been made.

As no single measure captures all aspects of poverty, the new public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices). Further information is given in the Government's PSA Delivery Agreement 17, which is available in the Library.

The public service agreement (PSA) to halve child poverty sets out indicators of child poverty. These are relative low income (below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income) absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), and combined low income and material deprivation (based on below 70 per cent. of contemporary median household income). The three indicators of child poverty reflect that income is a key aspect of child poverty. The combined low income and material deprivation indicator provides a wider measure of families' living standards. Further information is given in the conclusions document of the Department's "Measuring Child Poverty" consultation, which is available in the Library.

## National Insurance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who have been issued with *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four or more national insurance numbers. [184799]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** In 2007, there were 1,517 instances where an individual was found to be using more than one national insurance number (NINO). A further breakdown by number of NINOs used by an individual is not available.

## New Deal Schemes: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on *(a)* the new deal and *(b)* the new deal self-employment option in each year since their establishment; and what the planned budget for each is in each year of the spending review period. [185243]

**Mr. Timms:** Self-employment support is available to new deal participants through new deal for young people, new deal 25-plus, new deal for lone parents and new deal for partners. Self-employment support offers an initial awareness session for potential entrepreneurs followed by a period of supported business planning with a business expert and a period of 'test trading'. During test trading, participants start their business while continuing to receive their benefit, an allowance or working tax credits, depending on their circumstances, to help them over any initial transitional hurdles. This period can last up to a maximum of 26 weeks.

Information on the planned budget for each year of the Spending Review period is not yet available. The forecast figures for 2008-09 will be included in the departmental report 2008 which will be published in May 2008.

*New deal spend*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Total new deal spend* | *Of which, on the self-employment option* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 43 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 314 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 536 | 1 |

*New deal spend*

| *Financial year* | *Total new deal spend* | *£ million Of which, on the self-employment option* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 596 | 2 |
| 2001-02 | 672 | 1 |
| 2002-03 | 736 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 655 | 4 |
| 2004-05 | 640 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 539 | 5 |
| 2006-07 | 531 | 5 |
| 2007-08 | 557 | 7 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures up to and including 2006-07 are confirmed spend.
2. Figures for 2007-08 are planned expenditure.
3. Figures include all new deal programme costs; start-up costs; staff costs, and allowances paid to participants apart from the 50-plus element of the working tax credit, which is the responsibility of HMRC.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest million and may not sum to spend figures on each individual new deal published in the departmental report due to rounding.
5. Figures include central estimates of administration costs.

*Sources:*
DWP departmental reports 2005-06
Jobcentre Plus accounts 2006-07
DWP departmental report 2007-08 and DWP finance division.

### Occupational Health

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much the review of the health of the working age population has cost to date; [185834]

(2) when he expects the report of the review of the health of the working age population to be published. [185835]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** In March 2007 Dame Carol Black was commissioned to carry out a review of the health of the working age population. The review, which will contain recommendations for Government and stakeholders, will help us to better understand the impact of ill-health in working age people and how best we can tackle this and support people to stay in work. It will help steer the Government's strategy for the coming years.

To help her in taking forward her review, Dame Carol launched a "Call for Evidence" which ran until 30 November 2007. There has been a significant and very positive response, with over 260 submissions received and a number of very successful stakeholder events held across the country.

Dame Carol and her review team are currently in the latter stages of analysing the evidence gathered and drafting the report. She is currently hoping to submit her report to Ministers in March.

In addition to the salary costs of a small team of civil servants supporting her work, the stakeholder events cost approximately £75,000. The review will also be informed by a number of pieces of external research which Dame Carol has commissioned in partnership with the Government's Health Work and Well-being Strategy. The cost of this research to date is around £250,000 and is ultimately expected to total around £300,000. As well as informing Dame Carol's review, this research will be published separately and support the ongoing development of the Health, Work and Well-being Strategy.

### Offices: Pension Service

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the current office space is of *(a)* the Pension Service and *(b)* the Disability and Carers Service; [187708]

(2) where the premises occupied by *(a)* the Pension Service and *(b)* the Disability and Carers Service are located. [187711]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The current office space occupied by the Pension Service is 119,900 sq m while the disability and carers service occupancy is 99,550 sq m. This includes the local service outlets.

The Pension Service and the disability and carers service are major occupiers of 44 sites nationwide (the Pension Service: 29 and the disability and carers service: 15). In addition, the Pension Service's current local service outlets and some other disability and carers service functions operate out of approximately a further 200 sites.

A breakdown of these sites by location will be placed in the Library.

### Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much establishing and developing the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will cost. [185697]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This is a matter which falls within the responsibility of the acting chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mrs. Vivien Hopkins. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 4 March 2008:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much building and developing the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will cost.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

I can confirm that the operating and investment budgets of the new Pension, Disability and Carers Service Agency will be the sum of the planned, pre-merger budgets of the current Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service.

I hope this reply is helpful.

### Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners access their pension through the Post Office; how many and what proportion received their pension *(a)* on or before 21 December 2007 and *(b)* on or by 24 December 2007; how many pensioners did not receive or were unable to access their pension on or before 24 December 2007; and if he will make a statement; [185876]

(2) how many and what percentage of pensioners did not *(a)* receive, *(b)* pick up and *(c)* cash their state pension before Christmas 2007. [185875]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The vast majority (around 8.6 million) of pensioners have their pension paid by direct payment into a bank account and those who were due a

payment at Christmas were able to access their money from cash machines at any time over the holiday period. It is possible to access money in other bank accounts at the Post Office, as well as the Post Office Card Account and cheque payments, but the Department does not hold data on how many pensioners choose to do so.

The arrangements put in place to make sure that everyone received their money before Christmas worked well and around 5.4 million (60 per cent.) pensioners due to be paid over Christmas were able to access their money on Friday 21 December. The remaining around 3.6 million (40 per cent.) were able to access their money on Monday 24 December.

The information about the number of pensioners who did not subsequently collect their state pension before Christmas is not available.

The Department is reviewing its arrangements for payments due over the Christmas period.

### Pensions: Females

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the cohort of women who did not fully benefit from home responsibilities protection, referred to in the May 2006 Pensions White Paper, will be over pension age on 6 April 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the reduction from 39 to 30 in the number of qualifying years required to be eligible for a full basic state pension to these women. [185449]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not available. The cohort of women described in the 2006 White Paper, who did not fully benefit from Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP), did not do so because HRP was not introduced until 1978. Prior to 1978 periods spent out of the labour market while caring for children did not count towards State Pension entitlement.

### Public Sector. Learning Disability

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of people with learning disabilities employed in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the NHS. [189969]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

### Secretaries of State

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the Secretaries of State in his Department since 2001, with the dates of service in each case. [187756]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The list of Secretaries of State for Work and Pensions since 2001 with dates of service is in the following table.

| *Name* | *Date of appointment* | *Last day of service* |
|---|---|---|
| Alistair Darling | 27 July 1998 | 29 May 2002 |
| Andrew Smith | 30 May 2002 | 7 September 2004 |
| Alan Johnson | 9 September 2004 | 6 May 2005 |
| David Blunkett | 6 May 2005 | 2 November 2005 |
| John Hutton | 3 November 2005 | 28 June 2007 |
| Peter Hain | 29 June 2007 | 24 January 2008 |
| James Purnell | 24 January 2008 | — |

### Sick Leave

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's press release of 5 September 2007, on advice to patients on sick leave, how successful the online training tool for GPs has been. [185836]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The online training tool is an educational programme developed in partnership with Cardiff university. It has been designed to help GPs develop their skills in handling issues around fitness for work during consultations with patients. 263 GPs completed the programme as part of an independent evaluation during the development process. The results from this evaluation showed that of the GPs that took part, there was a significant change in their attitudes towards dealing with their consultations around fitness for work.

The training tool has also been used as part of a national education programme for GPs which we have been piloting in partnership with the Royal College of General Practitioners. The evaluation of the pilot showed that GPs had an increased level of confidence on dealing with consultations on fitness for work.

### Social Rented Housing

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of households in social housing he estimates were in poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006-07. [185685]

**Mr. Timms:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95, 2005-06 (Revised)". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The available information is shown in the following tables. The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government Office Region. Data for 2006-07 are not yet available so statistics for the most recent years are given instead.

*Proportion of households in social housing having an income below 60 per cent. of median in England and by region, three-year averages over 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99*

| | *Percentage of households* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| England | 31 | 55 |
| North East | 36 | 56 |
| North West | 34 | 55 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 38 | 55 |
| East Midlands | 35 | 55 |
| West Midlands | 33 | 53 |

*Proportion of households in social housing having an income below 60 per cent. of median in England and by region, three-year averages over 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99*

| | Percentage of households | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| East of England | 26 | 52 |
| London | 28 | 58 |
| South East | 21 | 52 |
| South West | 27 | 57 |

*Proportion of households in social housing having an income below 60 per cent. of median in England and by region, three-year averages over 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

| | Percentage of households | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| England | 30 | 45 |
| North East | 32 | 42 |
| North West | 31 | 44 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 32 | 42 |
| East Midlands | 33 | 45 |
| West Midlands | 32 | 45 |
| East of England | 25 | 41 |
| London | 30 | 52 |
| South East | 23 | 42 |
| South West | 27 | 41 |

*Notes:*
1. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2 The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted/equivalised for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Tables show figure in percentages rounded to the nearest percentage point.

## Social Security Benefits

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of postal claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* income support as a result of closures of jobcentres or Jobcentre Plus offices, in each region. [185873]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of these benefits is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Leslie Strathie, dated 4 March 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of the increase in postal claims for (a) Jobseeker's Allowance (b) Incapacity Benefit and (c) Income Support as a result of planned closures of Jobcentres or Jobcentre Plus Offices, broken down by region. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We do not have a postal claim scheme for these three benefits. For the vast majority of claimants, the initial claim to these benefits will be made by a telephone call to a Contact Centre. For those vulnerable customers who are unable to make contact by telephone, the claim will be taken at a face-to-face interview.

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed each type of benefit in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979; and what percentage those people were of the population in each area in each year. [186990]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available prior to 2002. The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Social Security Benefits: Applications

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households have made both continuous claims for housing benefit and council tax and repeated claims for jobseeker's allowance since 1997. [186112]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available.

## Social Security Benefits: Cost of Living

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has conducted research into the merits of reflecting varying living costs in different regions in benefit levels. [187454]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No such research has been conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the risk of fraud in claims for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support in cases where (i) the claimant attends the local jobcentre and (ii) the claim is maintained by post; [185872]

(2) what estimate he has made of the risk of fraud in claims for jobseekers allowance *(a)* where the claimant attends the local jobcentre once a fortnight and *(b)* where the claim is maintained by post. [185896]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No such estimate has been made.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has carried out into the effectiveness of the benefits campaign Targeting benefit thieves. [185918]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Targeting Benefit Thieves campaign was launched in October 2006. The Department has carried out regular quantitative tracking research, supported by qualitative research, to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of the findings of the research into benefit fraud commissioned by his Department and undertaken by GfK NOP in the Library. [185921]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Research commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions to evaluate communications activity is available through the Department's publication

scheme. Further information about the publication scheme is available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk

It is not standard practice to place communications research in the Library.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how old the *(a)* youngest and *(b)* oldest person convicted of benefit fraud was in the latest period for which figures are available. [186123]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Social Security Benefits: Publicity

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to make families aware of their benefits entitlements. [187311]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This Department does all it can, through its information providing services, to ensure that people are aware of the benefits to which they are entitled and how to claim them. Leaflets are available at benefits offices, Citizen's Advice Bureaux, and from welfare rights organisations and other advice giving agencies. Information is also available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk

From time to time, the Department for Work and Pensions and its Agencies run targeted take-up campaigns for specific benefits. For example, the Pension Service is currently actively targeting those potential claimants who have been identified as the most likely still to be missing out.

### Telephone Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Department issues to staff in *(a)* Jobcentre Plus offices, *(b)* the Pension Service, *(c)* the Disability and Carer's Service and *(d)* Benefit Delivery centres on how to respond when clients ask to be called back. [187713]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Department for Work and Pensions does not issue guidance to its agencies on such operational matters, as these are the responsibility of the agencies' chief executives.

All three agencies require staff to call back customers on the telephone when the customer requests that they do so. If appropriate the call-back will be immediate. However, in many cases arrangements will be made to call the customer back at a mutually convenient time. This allows an appropriate official to provide the best possible service by having the necessary information to hand.

### Unemployment Benefits

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people applying for out-of-work benefits were assessed as functionally illiterate in each year since 1997. [185942]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The Skills for Life survey, which was conducted in 2002-03, estimated that 38 per cent. of benefit claimants were below Level 1 in literacy.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners did not receive their winter fuel payment before Christmas 2007. [185874]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Winter Fuel Payment is to help with fuel bills rather than to pay for Christmas but the Pension Service aims to pay 99 per cent. of all Winter Fuel Payments before Christmas. This Winter The Pension Service exceeded this target paying 99.98 per cent. of all cases by Christmas. Of the 12,360,293 customers eligible for an automatic Winter Fuel Payment, which should have been paid prior to Christmas, 2,352 customers (0.019 per cent.) did not receive their payment before Christmas.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Aimhigher Initiative: Finance

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department expects to spend on the Aim Higher Initiative in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [186614]

**Bill Rammell:** In our January 2008 Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), we confirmed annual funding of £47.9 million for the Aimhigher Programme for each of the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years. Traditionally, HEFCE have supplemented this funding. In addition there is a health care strand which at £1.8 million per annum is jointly funded with the Department of Health. This means that, for the 2008/09 academic year, the total funding allocated to Aimhigher will be £78.0 million. Figures for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are still to be finalised.

The Aimhigher programme brings together universities, colleges and schools in partnership to raise the attainment levels of young people and their aspirations towards higher education. The programme provides opportunities and experiences for learners which helps to widen their horizons, develop talents, increase motivation and maximise potential.

HEFCE guidance on targeting disadvantaged learners, published in 2007, defined priority groups for Aimhigher to ensure utmost effectiveness. These groups are people from lower socio-economic groups; people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds who live in areas of relative deprivation where participation in HE is low; 'looked after' children in the care system; and people with a disability or a specific learning difficulty.

In this next phase of the programme, HEFCE is working with Aimhigher partnerships further to develop targeting of those with the talent and ability who might not consider that higher education is for them and provide a sequenced and challenging range of learning opportunities linked to a future in higher education.

### Community Relations

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which further education colleges worked with his Department to prepare the consultation document, The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism; and how those colleges were selected. [190145]

**Bill Rammell:** We worked with a number of colleges during the preparation of the consultation document The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism. These were:

Barking College
Blackburn College
Bradford College
College of North East London
Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education
Luton Sixth Form College
Oaklands College
Oldham Sixth Form College.
Stockton Riverside College
Waltham Forest College

These were identified by the Association of Colleges (AOC) as colleges with experience in promoting community cohesion.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* principals and *(b)* chief executives of further education colleges have been sent a copy of the consultation document, The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism. [190180]

**Bill Rammell:** The consultation is primarily web-based. The consultation document is available on the DIUS website and we have also set up an e-consultation facility to enable people to respond on-line via the DCSF website.

Principals and chief executives of colleges were informed of the consultation through communications including:

Association of Colleges, Association of Learning Providers and National Council for Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education all informed their members of this consultation via their regular electronic mailings;

The monthly DIUS Further Education Newsletter that is sent to all principals and other training providers.

Further to this, we are holding a series of consultation workshops around the country to discuss the proposals.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how his Department plans to work with key national student/learner organisations in order to raise awareness of risks including violent extremism; and if he will make a statement. [190146]

**Bill Rammell:** We have provided guidance to further and higher education institutions to raise their awareness of risks and to help them promote good relations and prevent extremism.

Universities and colleges need to promote and reinforce shared values and create the space for free and open debate in which all can join. It is important that institutions break down segregation among different student communities, including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue. They must also ensure student safety and institutions that are free from bullying, harassment and intimidation. They need to provide support and appropriate sources of advice and guidance for students who may be at risk and they need to ensure staff and students are aware of their roles in preventing violent extremism.

In that overall context, we are working with the NUS and student faith groups to explore what further help they need to raise awareness of potential risks and to provide support for students. We will develop our plans for students/learners in the FE sector through dialogue with the National Learner Panel, the NUS and organisations that support student faith societies as part of the consultation.

In addition, we are working with the NUS and other sectoral organisations to take forward the next stage of the debate that the Prime Minister called for in November on

"how to protect and maintain academic freedom while ensuring that extremists can never stifle debate or impose their views".

### Council of Ministers: Meetings

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to make a statement on the agenda of each Council of Ministers meeting he attends before so doing. [181824]

**Bill Rammell:** There are already arrangements in place for the provision of information to Parliament on Council of Ministers meetings. A written ministerial statement is made in both Houses before and after each Council meeting. During recesses, ministerial letters are sent to the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committees and copied to the Libraries of both Houses.

### Counselling: Finance

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will exempt those training to work as counsellors for Relate from the withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [178973]

**Bill Rammell:** No students currently studying equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs) will be affected by these changes. In future, our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that more of the million people of working age who do not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in higher education. However, in finalising our proposals in the light of consultation we have decided to make a number of adjustments. In particular, there will be a review mechanism each year starting in December 2008 to look at individual subjects of particular economic or social importance. We are sure it would be wrong for us to rush into making special arrangements for any subjects, other than those which had already been identified, before any changes to ELQs, as requiring

support in the public interest (such as medicine, initial teacher training teaching, science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, area-based studies, and modern foreign languages). But we are asking the Funding Council each year to look at levels of demand both for exempt or protected subjects and at any other subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and in cases where there is evidence of a fall in demand advise us on the best way forward. That will provide an opportunity to consider the issue raised by the hon. Member.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* average response time for answering parliamentary questions was for his Department in the last parliamentary session. [172072]

**Bill Rammell:** Drafting replies to parliamentary questions is an integral part of the jobs of a significant proportion of the Department's staff and therefore to respond to this question would incur disproportionate cost. The Department's PQ Tracking System is currently unable to break down the average response time in answering parliamentary questions. The PQ tracking IT system is being upgraded and is close to implementation. It will produce accurate statistics and a wider range of management information making it possible to manage and monitor PQs more closely.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which departments, agencies and sections of the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Trade and Industry were incorporated into his Department during the recent departmental reorganisation; how many employees there were in those departments, agencies and sections in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 to date; in which buildings these employees (i) were based in 2006 and (ii) are based; and how much floor space (A) they occupied in 2006 and (B) they occupy. [166876]

**Bill Rammell:** The following Departments, agencies and sections of the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Trade and Industry were incorporated into his Department during the recent departmental reorganisation:

*Ex DfES*

| *DfES Directorate* | *2006* | *2007* | *Headcount 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Higher Education | 166 | 169 | 161 |
| Lifelong Learning and Skills | 562 | 483 | 343 |
| Total | 728 | 652 | 504 |

*Buildings Occupied*

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith street, London SW1
Caxton House, Tothill street, London SW1
Moorfoot, Sheffield, S Yorkshire
Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire
Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co. Durham
DCSF continues to operate from all four sites.

*Ex DTI*

| *DTI Directorate/NDPB* | *2006* | *2007* | *Headcount 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Science | 76.4 | 73.8 | 76.8 |
| Science and Innovation Group | 268.8 | 249.6 | 127.7 |
| UKIPO | 887.6 | 931.6 | 961.5 |
| National Weights and Measures Laboratory | 46 | 47 | 50 |

*Buildings Occupied*

*Go Science and Science and Innovation*

151 Buckingham Palace road, London
1 Victoria street, London.
All staff are now based in Kingsgate House, Victoria street, London.

*UK IPO*

Concept House, Newport, South Wales
Nine Mile Point, Newport, South Wales
Harmsworth House, London

*NWML*

Purpose built building in Teddington

The balance of information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Education: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what cost-benefit analysis has been made of the decision to reduce funding to equivalent or lower qualification students. [175714]

**Bill Rammell:** We are not cutting funding to higher education. There is no cost to the Exchequer because we are redistributing funding away from students doing equivalent or lower level qualifications in order to fund more new entrants to higher education than would otherwise be possible. First and foremost, we took this decision as a matter of fairness and social justice, but it also has an economic rationale. The additional lifetime earnings "premium" associated with getting a first degree in this country remains comfortably over £100,000 in today's prices which makes it among the highest in the developed world. Given that, it is clear that enabling 20,000 more new students (or students progressing to a higher level) to enter higher education will bring considerable long-term benefit to both individuals and the economy, through having a larger number of more highly qualified, more productive workers than would otherwise be the case.

### EU Budget

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what lines in the European Union budget are available to fund projects initiated by his Department. [184066]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK's allocation of budget line 15 02 of the European Union budget is made available by the European Commission directly to the UK National Agencies for the Lifelong Learning Programme to provide funding to successful applicants for projects under that

programme. Projects are initiated under this funding line by a wide variety of local, regional and national organisations.

### Further Education: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how he plans to ensure that further education colleges have in place plans to respond to incidents of violent extremism. [190147]

**Bill Rammell:** We are consulting on the best way to support colleges in their role in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism. Given that we believe a differentiated approach is needed so that colleges can develop plans appropriate to their circumstances, we are not proposing to impose an additional monitoring requirement to ensure all have plans for responding to incidents of violent extremism.

We will review the consultation responses and determine what further steps, if any, are needed in this regard.

Our view is that further education colleges' response to this issue will be best managed by colleges identifying and implementing solutions that work in their particular circumstances, supported by the relevant agencies and by good practice from around the network.

### Further Education: Islam

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the research undertaken by the Learning and Skills Council on issues faced in engaging young Muslims in further education, referred to in the consultation document, The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism, will be published. [190179]

**Bill Rammell:** A report on the first phase of this research was published by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in November 2007 and is available on their website at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-engaging-young-muslims-in-learning.pdf

A second phase which is working with student groups to develop resources and more in-depth understanding of the issues faced by Muslim students will be published in summer 2008.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) students aged 17 to 21 years and (ii) mature students enrolled on higher education courses in each year since 2001. [186610]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available outturn information from HESA is shown in the following table.

Comparable outturn figures for 2007/08 will not be available until January 2009, but the latest data from UCAS show record levels of applicants and acceptances for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in 2007 and a further 7 per cent. increase for entry to such courses in 2008 at this stage in the admissions cycle—clear evidence that our policies to increase HE participation are working.

*Entrants to higher education courses by mode of study and age[1], postgraduate and undergraduate entrants, UK and overseas domiciles. English higher education institutions[2] : Academic years 2001/02 to 2006/07*

| | Full-time | | Part-time | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic year | 17 to 21 | Over 21 | 17 to 21 | Over 21 |
| 2001/02 | 266,565 | 164,890 | 17,360 | 262,570 |
| 2002/03 | 276,915 | 184,260 | 17,525 | 270,320 |
| 2003/04 | 280,175 | 195,895 | 17,765 | 273,115 |
| 2004/05 | 284,680 | 196,835 | 20,055 | 272,425 |
| 2005/06 | 301,745 | 199,850 | 21,045 | 273,720 |
| 2006/07 | 295,695 | 196,695 | 25,920 | 263,210 |

[1] Excludes a small number of students with an unknown age or an age less than 17, (This was less than 0.6 per cent. in 2006/07).
[2] Excludes the Open University.

*Note:*
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Higher Education: Applications

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria his Department uses to define a university applicant as a home or international student; and what account is taken as to whether they have indefinite leave to remain as opposed to exceptional leave to remain. [189267]

**Bill Rammell:** For student support purposes, a "home" student is a person who can demonstrate a specified connection with the UK and satisfy the other eligibility criteria. The specified connection consists of a combination of residence, immigration and in some cases nationality requirements.

Categories of student who may be eligible include those who on the first day of the first academic year of the course are:

- settled in the UK within the meaning of the Immigration Act of 1971 (which includes those with indefinite leave to remain) and
- persons awarded leave to enter or remain following a failed asylum application (Exceptional Leave to Enter or Remain, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave) and their family members.

Both categories are required to have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for the three years prior to the start of their course.

Other categories of students may qualify for tuition fee support or full student support provided they satisfy specific EEA/EC legislation requirements or have been awarded refugee status.

### Higher Education: Community Relations

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department plans to make available the audio-visual material to fight Al-Qa'ida and violent extremism referred to in the consultation document The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism. [190412]

**Bill Rammell:** Some audio materials are already available. Looking forward, the Department will review the need for further materials following the report of the consultation, working with colleges to make sure support materials in any medium meet their needs.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Quality and Improvement Agency plans to publish on its Excellence Gateway website the coherent package of support for staff at further education colleges referred to in the consultation document The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism. [190413]

**Bill Rammell:** The Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) already commissions programmes such as Skills for Life (to improve basic skills levels) and the Post-16 Citizenship Support Programme (to improve quality in the teaching and learning of citizenship that involves national events, networks and teaching materials) to support community cohesion.

QIA is already working to identify appropriate materials from existing support programmes to help providers in work on community cohesion and the final package of materials will reflect the outcomes of the consultation on this, once known.

The consultation closes on 6 May 2008 and once the responses have been analysed, work will begin on pulling together the most appropriate packages of support as defined by sector respondents themselves, for inclusion on the Excellence Gateway.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role the Quality and Improvement Agency will play in helping further education colleges to build capacity in developing the risk assessments referred to in the consultation document The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism. [190414]

**Bill Rammell:** The new FE improvement body to be established following the merger of the Quality Improvement Agency and the Centre of Excellence in Leadership will provide a single point of access for existing and future support materials via the Excellence Gateway to underpin the role that FE providers are being asked to take in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism.

The new body's remit will bring together the functions of CEL and QIA, with a strong focus on it being a strategic commissioning body to support organisational development and improve standards of teaching and learning for the benefit of learners, employers and the wider community.

QIA is already working to identify appropriate materials from existing support programmes to help providers in work on community cohesion and the final package of materials will reflect the outcomes of the consultation on this, once known.

## Higher Education: Student Wastage

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduates have failed to complete their course in each of the last 10 years. [189382]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available non-completion rates are given in the following table:

*Table 1: Proportion of full-time first degree starters who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution*

| | Proportion (percentage) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 15.8 |
| 1998-99 | 15.9 |
| 1999-00 | 15.8 |
| 2000-01 | 15.0 |
| 2001-02 | 13.8 |
| 2002-03 | 13.9 |
| 2003-04 | 14.4 |
| 2004-05 | 13.8 |

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.
*Notes:*
1. Figures from the 1996-97 academic year have been excluded due to a change in methodology between 1996-97 and 1997-98.
2. Figures for years earlier than 1996-97 are not available.

Figures for the 2005-06 academic year will be available later this year. According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is amongst the highest in the OECD countries (the UK ranks 5th out of 23 countries who report data in this area).

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 graduate courses have the highest non-completion rate from highest to lowest in each of the last 10 years. [189384]

**Bill Rammell:** Non-completion rates are not broken down by degree subject. However a sector-wide non-continuation rate is provided for each year, which is broken down by subject of study. The non-continuation rate is the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study. The rates for young entrants are shown in the table.

*Proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study*

Percentage

| Degree subject | 1999/2000 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 7.7 | 6.8 |
| Biological sciences[1] | [1]6.9 | [1]6.0 | [1]6.1 | [1]7.1 | 7.3 | 6.8 |
| Physical sciences[1] | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 6.1 | 6.0 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 6.8 | 7.0 | 11.4 | 7.5 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Mathematical sciences[2] | [2]9.8 | [2]8.0 | [2]8.4 | [2]9.4 | 5.5 | 5.3 |
| Computer sciences[2] | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 10.3 | 10.3 |

*Proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study*

Percentage

| Degree subject | 1999/2000 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Engineering and technology | 10.1 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 9.1 |
| Architecture, building, planning | 9.6 | 8.0 | 10.2 | 11.1 | 10.0 | 8.3 |
| Social studies[3] | [6]6.9 | [6]6.0 | [6]6.4 | [7]7.0 | 7.2 | 6.9 |
| Law[3] | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 6.2 | 5.5 |
| Librarianship, information sciences[4] | [6]6.9 | [6]8.0 | [6]8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Business and administrative studies[4, 5] | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [5]8.8 | 8.8 | 8.2 |
| Mass communications and documentation[5] | n/a | n/a | n/a | [5]— | 8.5 | 8.6 |
| Humanities[6] | [6]5.9 | [6]5.0 | [6]5.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Languages[6, 7] | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [7]6.3 | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Historical and philosophical studies[7] | n/a | n/a | n/a | [7]— | 5.9 | 5.0 |
| Creative arts and design | 8.7 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| Education | 8.6 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.6 |
| Combined subjects | 8.8 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 14.3 | 13.5 | 14.3 |
| All subjects | 7.8 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.2 |

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] One figure was provided for Biological and Physical Sciences until 2003/04.
[2] One figure was provided for Mathematical and Computer Sciences until 2003/04.
[3] One figure was provided for Social Studies and Law until 2003/04.
[4] One figure was provided for Librarianship, information sciences and Business & administrative studies until 2002/03.
[5] One figure was provided for Business & administrative studies and Mass communications & documentation in 2002/03.
[6] One figure was provided for Languages and Humanities until 2002/03.
[7] One figure was provided for Languages and Historical & Philosophical Studies in 2002/03.

*Note:*
1. Figures for 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
2. There is a break in the time series between academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 because the subjects' JACS coding was changed in 2002/03.

*Source:*
Performance Indicators In Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Subject rankings for non-continuation rates change over the years. However, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science consistently have the lowest non-continuation rates over the time series.

According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries (the UK ranks 5th out of 23 countries who report data in this area).

### Industrial Training: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of public expenditure on training was spent on courses primarily designed to improve regulatory compliance in the latest period for which figures are available. [190175]

**Bill Rammell:** We do not hold information on courses specifically designed to improve regulatory compliance.

Priorities for Success published in 2005 established the principle that employers should bear the full cost of specific stand alone training for staff to meet their statutory or other obligations. Therefore, from 2006-07 we ceased to fund courses such as stand alone first aid and health and safety as well as stand alone training required by staff to update qualifications in order to comply with health and safety regulations.

The reprioritisation of public funding has enabled the Government to support basic literacy and numeracy, full level two and full level three qualifications for adults providing them with the education and skills they need to fully participate in an economically successful and socially cohesive society.

### Music: Internet

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to combat the illegal downloading of music from the internet; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [190855]

**Bill Rammell:** On 22 February the Government published its strategy—'Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy'. This strategy made 26 key commitments for Government and industry across every stage of the creative process. It included a commitment

"... to consult on legislation that would require internet service providers (ISPs) and rights holders to co-operate in taking action on illegal file sharing—with a view to implementing legislation by April 2009."

However the document made clear that the Government's preferred solution was the adoption of voluntary or commercial agreements between the ISPs and right holders.

### Overseas Students: Loans

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure repayment of student loans provided by the Student Loans Company by European Union nationals living outside the UK. [187649]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The Student Loans Company has established payment arrangements for borrowers from other European Union countries who dropped out of their studies and became due to make repayment in April 2007, or who have graduated and become eligible to repay from April 2008. These existing arrangements will continue to apply when the first full cohort of borrowers from EU countries enters into repayment in April 2010.

The SLC has written to all EU borrowers due to start repayment and asked them to confirm the address where they expect to reside after graduation. If they are staying in the UK they will be expected to obtain a national insurance number and make repayments through the UK tax system. If they are going abroad they will be asked to supply an address and complete an overseas assessment form to allow repayments to be scheduled. These borrowers have been made aware of the variety of methods of repayment available to them.

So that all who can pay contribute to the costs of their education we have put in place variable threshold bands which are dependent on where the borrower

lives. Effective collection across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

In support of the EU repayment process the SLC is developing an enforcement strategy for borrowers who move abroad but who do not provide income details. This work is focussing on the collection of penalties, arrears and the movement of borrowers into litigation where this is appropriate. The SLC is piloting work in these areas and expects to have final arrangements in place by April 2009.

### Qualifications: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what qualifications are included in the £3.7 million figure in paragraph D4.9 in the 2007 pre-Budget report/comprehensive spending review. [173160]

**Bill Rammell:** Paragraph D4.9 refers to the number of adult qualifications the Government are expected to support over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period. The subsequent joint grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council from my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families published on 16 November set out in detail the number and type of achievements this would include specifically those which contribute to our public service' agreement targets.

These qualifications are basic literacy and numeracy, full level 2, full level 3 and apprenticeships all of which provide adults with the education and skills, they need to fully participate in an economically successful and socially cohesive society. In order to support the achievement of these qualifications, my Department will also be investing in programmes below level 2 through the foundation learning tier (FLT). The FLT will provide, a coherent framework of units and qualifications at entry and level 1 level that can be combined to form progression pathways. This will enable adults to engage in learning and progress through to level 2.

### Research: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's budget was for research and development for each type of renewable energy technology in each of the last 10 years. [166873]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer my hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 664W.

### Retirement

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department were above state retirement age at the latest date for which figures are available. [166874]

**Bill Rammell:** In the Department there were 12 employees over state retirement age as at 31 January 2008. This represents 1.58 per cent. of a total 756 staff.

In UK IPO there are 19 employees over state retirement age as at 25 February 2008. This represents 1.87 per cent. of a total 1,015 staff.

In NWML there are no employees over state retirement age as at 26 February 2008.

### Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost to his Department is of changing the Science and Engineering Network to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network; and if he will make a statement. [190262]

**Ian Pearson:** The total cost, to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET), of the rebranding exercise was £25,148. The network undertook this exercise as a result of feedback from stakeholders, in particular the mathematics community, who felt the name change was necessary to reflect the activities of the network.

### Science: Research

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many investigations into misconduct in science research by *(a)* universities and higher education establishments, *(b)* research councils and *(c)* other Government-funded research institutions have been carried out since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [173860]

**Ian Pearson:** This information is not held centrally by the Department. All Research Councils are committed to promoting good research conduct, take seriously any allegations of research misconduct and are currently working to develop RCUK policy on good research conduct. Research organisations (as the employers of researchers), rather than Research Councils, would normally be responsible for investigating any alleged misconduct in research by their own employees. However, there have been 10 instances since 2001 in which Research Councils have investigated allegations of misconduct, whether in universities, other HEIs, Research Council Institutes or independent research organisations.

### Students: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the *(a)* course fee per annum paid by and *(b)* unit of public funding paid for the teaching of a full-time undergraduate student studying for an equal or lower qualification was in 2007-08; [175785]

(2) pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs) as additional degrees, what forecasts he has made of fees to be charged to non-exempt full-time undergraduate ELQ students; [175786]

(3) further to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on

funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, which professional higher level qualifications will no longer receive funding; [175787]

(4) whether he consulted *(a)* the Confederation of British Industry and *(b)* professional bodies before making his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England on 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees. [175788]

**Bill Rammell:** We took this decision first and foremost as a matter of principle on grounds of fairness and social justice. But it will also benefit employers and professional bodies by expanding the supply, to a greater degree than would otherwise be possible, of highly skilled, more productive workers with higher level qualifications. We consulted on the details and no-one has seriously challenged the priority of putting first-time students first. All professional higher level qualifications will continue to attract institutional funding as now when studied by students either entering HE for the first time or progressing to a higher level qualification to ones already obtained.

The level of institutional grant paid by HEFCE in 2007-08 to teach full-time undergraduate students, whether studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications or not, varies according to the cost of teaching different subjects. Funding ranges from over £14,000 for medicine and dentistry, which are exempt subjects under the ELQ policy, to around £2,600 for the least costly subjects to teach. However, there is no necessary connection between these figures and fee levels. Tuition fees for students studying equivalent and lower level qualifications are already and will continue to be unregulated, subject only to the forces of supply and demand. Each HE provider will need to continue to set tuition fees at a level which remains competitive in a system in which there are over 250 HE providers.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what activities were recently undertaken as part of Student Finance week; and what the cost was of each. [186612]

**Bill Rammell:** The information is as follows:

Student Finance Week 2007/08 was a week long programme of PR activity.

The aim of the activity was to make the target audience aware of and direct them to view the new Student Finance DVD. The DVD contains detailed information on the package of financial support available for students entering higher education from September 2008.

The activity was aimed at young people aged 16-19 and their parents.

The breakdown of activity for Student Finance Week 2008 is set out in the following table

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Coverage in national and regional press to announce the launch of the campaign | 1,455 |
| Coverage in The Sun newspaper featuring an exclusive giveaway of the DVD | 1,100 |
| Coverage in the regional press featuring exclusive DVD giveaways | 1,340 |
| Radio morning with Bill Rammell | 5,010 |
| Nick Grimshaw vodcast placed on a variety of youth websites | 14,450 |
| Martin Lewis 'Cash Classroom' vodcast placed on a variety of websites | 2,220 |
| Coverage in personal finance pages of national titles | 4,205 |
| Coverage of celebrity graduate champions | 2,940 |
| Coverage featuring Ed Byrnes (one of the stars of the DVD) on various websites | 1,205 |
| The total cost of activity | 33,925 |

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of undergraduates enrolling on a higher education course received a bursary in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [188036]

**Bill Rammell:** It is not possible to say what proportion of students overall received a bursary. However, we know that the Student Loans made 81,000 payments in 2006-07 via the Higher Education Bursary Scholarship System (HEBSS) that they manage. HEBSS allows students to apply for a bursary via the Local Authority at the same time as they apply for financial support. It is also important to note that 38 out of 125 institutions do not use this system, so we do not hold data on the number of payments they made. Nevertheless, OFFA report that no student who was eligible and applied for bursaries failed to receive one.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the average bursary awarded to an undergraduate student was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [188037]

**Bill Rammell:** The data held indicates that a typical bursary for a student on full state support for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is around £1,000, although the exact sum each student receives will vary according to the institution's access agreement. It is not possible to create a meaningful overall average bursary because of the variance in institution's threshold above the full state support threshold.

### Students: Public Participation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of his Department's student juries. [190234]

**Bill Rammell:** Costs for the five student juries, held between November 2007 and February 2008, totalled just over £30,600. The student juries were an important preliminary to the work of the National Student Forum, which will have its first meeting on 28 February 2008.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the budget for the National Student Forum is for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [190261]

**Bill Rammell:** A budget of £51,700 has been allocated for the core activity of the National Student Forum this academic year. Up to £70,000 for additional activity, such as the development of a website, is also available as

necessary. The forum's chair will be paid an honorarium of £5,000 per annum. In addition, we will pay reasonable travel, access and subsistence expenses for the forum members and chair.

The Department will consider requests from the forum, to be agreed through the chair, for independent research up to the sum of £50,000 annually. The funding will be held by the Department and can only be used in compliance with the Department's procurement procedures and Government Accounting rules.

The National Student Forum will have its first meeting on Thursday 28 February. The forum is a demonstration of our commitment to amplifying the student voice in government.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Expenditure

**Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total capital spend was on the school academy programme in England in each year since 2003-04; and what percentage that total represented of all new secondary school building capital expenditure in England in each year. [189199]

**Jim Knight:** The following table details the capital provision for academies as a proportion of the corresponding figure for all schools.

The Department does not keep a record of the capital funding split between primary and secondary schools. This is because local authorities' formulaic funding is not ring-fenced, and the split of expenditure between primary and secondary schools is decided at local authority level.

The figures for academies, similarly, will include any contributions that the Department has made towards the primary element of academy school buildings.

| | *All schools (£ million)* | *Academies (£ million)* | *Academies as a proportion of all schools (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [1]4,144.0 | [1]130.3 | 3.1 |
| 2004-05 | [1]4,861.0 | [1]222.1 | 4.6 |
| 2005-06 | [1]5,262.0 | [1]251.7 | 4.8 |
| 2006-07 | [2]4,984.0 | [1]385.7 | 7.7 |
| 2007-08 | [3]6,320.0 | [2]425.0 | 6.7 |

[1] Actual outturn
[2] Estimated outturn
[3] Planned

### Assessments: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have requested a re-mark of a whole year group's *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 examination papers in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [188982]

(2) how many *(a)* Key Stage 2 and *(b)* Key Stage 3 examination papers in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science were re-marked following a request from schools in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [188983]

**Jim Knight:** The following Tables 1 and 2 show how many schools, since 2004, requested a group re-mark in the Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 English, mathematics and science tests, and how many scripts were re-marked following a request from schools.

Data for the period 2001 to 2003 is not available in the format requested.

The figures in the tables were provided by the National Assessment Agency (NAA), which is responsible for the administration of National Curriculum tests including the external marking and group reviews service to schools.

*Table 1*

| | *Number of schools requesting reviews of whole year group* | | | *Number of scripts re-marked as a result of a school's request* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Key Stage 2* | *English* | *Maths* | *Science* | *English* | *Maths* | *Science* |
| 2007 | 82 | 0 | 0 | 3,784 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 184 | 1 | 1 | 9,957 | 67 | 27 |
| 2005 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 4,561 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 307 | 0 | 0 | n.a | 0 | 0 |

*Table 2*

| | *Number of schools requesting reviews of whole year group* | | | *Number of scripts re-marked as a result of a school's request* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Key Stage 3* | *English* | *Maths* | *Science* | *English* | *Maths* | *Science* |
| 2007 | 116 | 0 | 3 | 25,549 | 0 | 825 |
| 2006 | 669 | 1 | 2 | 75,133 | 230 | 426 |
| 2005 | 117 | 0 | 4 | 20,544 | 0 | 870 |
| 2004 | 646 | [1]n/a | [1]n/a | [1]n/a | [1]n/a | [1]n/a |

[1] Group reviews in mathematics and science were not conducted until 2005.

### Children: Obesity

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the age groups *(a)* 5 to 8, *(b)* 9 to 11, *(c)* 12 to 13 and *(d)* 14 to 16 years were classed as obese in each school in Easington constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [186210]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The best available data on prevalence of child obesity in the North East region are available through the "Health Survey for England (HSE) and the National Child Measurement Programme" (NCMP).

The HSE 2006, published in January 2008, showed that in the North East for children aged 2-15 years, 20 per cent. of boys and 15 per cent. of girls were obese.

The NCMP weighs and measures children aged 4-5 years and 10-11 years. The Report published on February 21, 2008 showed that for the North East Strategic Health Authority, 10.9 per cent. of children aged 4-5 years, and 19.9 per cent. of children aged 10-11 years, were obese.

Obesity prevalence is available by primary care trust and local authority in the NCMP report, which is available on the Department of Health website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Healthyliving/DH_083093.

School-level results are not available from the HSE, because a sampling method is used and, due to the small numbers involved, results are not reliable below regional level.

School-level results have not been published at a national level for the NCMP. However, the dataset has

now been shared with Public Health Observatories to allow them to undertake their own analysis, including analysis at school level, according to regional and local needs.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* five to eight, *(b)* nine to 11, *(c)* 12 to 13 and *(d)* 14 to 16 years were classed as obese in each school in Tamworth constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [187723]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The best available data on prevalence of child obesity in the West Midlands region are available through the "Health Survey for England" (HSE) and the "National Child Measurement Programme" (NCMP).

The HSE 2006, published in January 2008, showed that in the West Midlands for children aged 2-15 years, 19 per cent. of boys and 18 per cent. of girls were obese.

The NCMP weighs and measures children aged 4-5 years and 10-11 years. The report published on February 21, 2008 showed that for the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority, 9.8 per cent. of children aged 4-5 years, and 16.6 per cent. of children aged 10-11 years, were obese.

Obesity prevalence is available by primary care trust and local authority in the NCMP report, which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Healthyliving/DH_083093.

School-level results are not available from the HSE, because a sampling method is used and, due to the small numbers involved, results are not reliable below regional level.

School-level results have not been published at a national level for the NCMP. However, the dataset has now been shared with Public Health Observatories to allow them to undertake their own analysis, including analysis at school level, according to regional and local needs.

### Children: Protection

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the final outcome of his Department's review of the 210 cases identified on List 99 who were subject to only a partial bar on working with children. [189067]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the written parliamentary statement of 28 February 2007 the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills reported on progress on the review of those cases where individuals were placed on List 99, but subject to a partial bar. The Secretary of State intends to make a further statement to the House in due course.

### Classroom Assistants: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants were employed in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Enfield North in each of the last 10 years. [190257]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Enfield North constituency, in each January from 1998 to 2007.

*Full-time equivalent teaching assistants[1] employed in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Enfield North constituency, in each January from 1998 to 2007*

| | Teaching assistants[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary | Secondary |
| 1998 | 70 | 10 |
| 1999 | 80 | 10 |
| 2000 | 130 | 20 |
| 2001 | 170 | 20 |
| 2002 | 220 | 30 |
| 2003 | 230 | 40 |
| 2004 | 260 | 40 |
| 2005 | 280 | 50 |
| 2006 | 300 | 60 |
| 2007 | 330 | 80 |

[1] Includes teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
School Census

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many meetings his Department's chief information officer had with officials in other Government Departments and agencies as part of Government-wide initiatives on data security in the last 12 months. [190744]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the last 12 months, the Department for Children, Schools and Families' chief information officer has had seven meetings with officials in other Government Departments and agencies as part of Government-wide initiatives on data security.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188791]

**Kevin Brennan:** No civil servants in the Department have been suspended or dismissed over the last five years for accessing obscene or other prohibited websites on their work computers.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187785]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of expenditure on personal entertainment recorded by the Department over the last 12 months are as follows:

January 2007 to January 2008, £11,555.59.

The figure excludes costs incurred as part of official events or formal meetings held to further departmental business. DCSF is unable to separately identify the costs of alcohol from those of general entertainment; as such expenditure is claimed and recorded under the general heading of Personal Entertainment.

The basic rules governing hospitality are set by HM Treasury.

*(a)* The following guidance is issued by my Department to staff on the provision of alcohol.

There is a general principle that alcohol should not be provided at public expense and never when only civil servants are present.

Moderate amounts of alcohol can be provided at public expense when entertaining non-civil servants if not providing alcohol might be regarded as unusual or cause embarrassment. Examples of such events are hospitality from Ministers, at publicity events such as launches or the rare occasions when senior staff judge that official business can best be transacted by hosting a meeting over lunch or dinner.

*(b)* Hospitality expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment is usually restricted to where senior managers (Deputy Director or above) are acting as a host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a Director or Executive Board member.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of Government change and the expenditure recorded above includes that of its predecessor department, the Department for Education and Skills. The expenditure will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

The Department does not have any executive agencies.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers and those of its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [183187]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171412]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department employs 2,875 staff in a wide variety of roles. It was formed as part of the 28 June 2007 machinery of government changes, taking in staff from the former Department for Education and Skills and the Home Office. The following table sets out the number and proportion of men and women employed in each of the general salary bands.

| *Grade* | *(a) men* | *Proportion men (Percentage)* | *(b) women* | *Proportion women (Percentage)* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administrative Assistant | 39 | 1.4 | 20 | 0.7 | 59 |
| Administrative Officer | 99 | 3.4 | 289 | 10.1 | 388 |
| Executive Officer (EO) and equivalents | 209 | 7.3 | 400 | 13.9 | 609 |
| Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and equivalents | 286 | 9.9 | 358 | 12.5 | 644 |
| Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and equivalents | 202 | 7 | 242 | 8.4 | 444 |
| Grade 7 and equivalents | 226 | 7.9 | 240 | 8.3 | 466 |
| Grade 6 | 75 | 2.6 | 77 | 2.7 | 152 |
| Senior Civil Service (SCS) | 59 | 2 | 50 | 1.7 | 109 |
| Special Adviser | 2 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | 4 |
| DCSF Total | 1,197 | 41.6 | 1,678 | 58.4 | 2,875 |

Staff undertake a wide variety of duties in support of my Department's objectives, including some specialist roles. Titles and roles of each position and other individual information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but I can add the following further information on the work force: the average age of employees across the Department is 43. 442 employees (15.4 per cent.) have identified themselves as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) staff. Additionally, 585 (20.3 per cent.) have said that they prefer not to say or have not yet declared an ethnicity.

For staff at grade 6 and below, there is a non-consolidated bonus structure that varies according to pay agreements but is negotiated annually with the trade unions and follows Cabinet Office central guidance. For all SCS staff, the bonus arrangements are determined centrally by Cabinet Office. Staff in the Department for Children,

Schools and Families participate in the general Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) determined by Cabinet Office. The PCSPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. Expenses are claimed according to central and departmental guidance available to all staff. Information on individual expenses claimed in each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174995]

**Kevin Brennan:** Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the "Part II: Subhead" detail table of our main and winter supplementary estimate as follows. The significant change between the main and winter supplementary figures is the result of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. The resources voted for Department for Education and Skills in the main estimate were divided between the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

*Subhead Detail*

| | | *Main* | *£000 Winter supplementary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *RfR1:* | | |
| | *Spending in departmental expenditure limits (DEL)* | | |
| | *Central Government spending* | | |
| A | Activities to Support All Functions | 297,628 | 237,499 |
| B | Support for Schools and Teachers not through Local Education Authorities | 1,016,355 | 1,017,805 |
| C | Support for Children and Families not paid through Local Authorities | 871,426 | 871,286 |
| D | Higher Education | 193,036 | — |
| E | Higher Education Receipts from the Department of Trade and Industry | -363,676 | — |
| F | Further Education, Adult Learning and Skills for Lifelong Learning and International Programmes | 784,167 | 5,760,703 |
| G | Support for Students in Higher Education | 2,342,283 | — |
| H | Compensation to Former College of Education Staff | 11,870 | 11,813 |
| I | Current Grants for Local Area Agreements to Support Children and Families | 328,691 | 343,404 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | |
| J | Current Grants for Local Education Authorities to Support Schools and Teachers | 4,427,268 | 4,429,668 |
| K | Capital Grants for Local Education Authorities to Support Schools | 3,444,169 | 3,447,150 |
| L | Higher Education Fees and Awards through Local Education Authorities | 1,000 | — |
| M | Current Grants to Local Authorities to Support Children and Families | 57,200 | 57,200 |
| N | Capital Grants to Local Authorities to Support Children and Families | 55,228 | 55,228 |
| O | Dedicated Schools Grants | 28,286,881 | 28,286,881 |
| | *Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)* | | |
| | *Central Government spending* | | |
| P | Loans to Students | -515,000 | — |
| | *Non-Budget* | | |
| Q | Grant in Aid to NDPBs supporting Children and Families | 739,295 | 741,795 |
| R | Loans to Students and Grant in Aid to NDPBs supporting Higher Education | 99,480 | 99,480 |
| S | Loans to Students and Grant in Aid to NDPBs supporting Higher Education | 7,276,930 | — |
| T | Grant in Aid to NDPBs supporting Further Education, Adult Education and Skills and Lifelong Learning | 11,277,720 | 91,057 |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | |
| U | Further Education supporting sixth Forms | — | 2,022,881 |
| | *RFR2:* | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | |
| | *Central Government spending* | | |
| A | Sure Start Current grants not through Local Authorities | 93,712 | 88,812 |
| B | Sure Start Schools Current grants not through Local Authorities | 43,340 | 43,340 |
| C | Sure Start Current Grants for Local Area Agreements | 1 | 1 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | |
| D | LA Current Grants | 1,099,301 | 1,099,301 |
| E | LA Capital Grants | 523,025 | 523,025 |
| | *RfR3:* | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | |
| | *Central Government spending* | | |
| A | Children's Fund | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | |
| B | LA Current Grants | 150,100 | 150,100 |
| | Total Net Resource | 62,581,430 | 49,418,429 |

## Departmental Written Questions

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions from hon. Members for answer on a named day to his Department and its predecessor received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190291]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Domestic Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* support his Department gives to children's centres, nurseries and other forms of early years providers in respect of (i) domestic violence and (ii) forced marriage. [189910]

**Beverley Hughes:** 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', the main interagency guide to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, contains information for practitioners about domestic violence and forced marriage. It makes clear that those who work with children should know how to recognise and respond to the possible abuse or neglect of a child. This will include childminders and everyone working in early years provision. 'Working Together' advises that if anyone has concerns that a child is in danger of a forced marriage, they should contact the Forced Marriage Unit. The guidance also asks Local Safeguarding Children Boards to involve children's centres in their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their local areas. The Government have also published a shorter guidance document, 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused', which is used widely by those who work with children and which provides an accessible guide to the steps to take when someone has concerns about a child.

The Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance highlights families experiencing domestic violence among those groups of families that find it hardest to access the services they need. It encourages children's centres to ensure that parents or other family members have access to appropriate support. The statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which will be statutory from September 2008, makes clear that all practitioners should have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding children issues and be able to implement the safeguarding children policy and procedure appropriately. Policies should be in line with LSCB local guidance and procedures.

## Faith Schools: Liverpool

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects work to begin on the new faith primary school in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [184460]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* This Department has fully supported the plans for the proposed new faith school in Liverpool, and have worked closely with the local authority and the Archdiocese of Liverpool to move the project forward. The delays are due to issues surrounding local organisation. The local authority has just confirmed that it will now carry out a rationalisation review in the area and will be able to advise us, by September 2008, whether they wish to proceed with plans to build the new faith school.

## Family Intervention Projects

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds have been allocated to family intervention projects for each of the next three financial years. [191386]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Secretary of State announced on 5 October 2007 that the Department for Children, Schools and Families would provide on-going funding of up to £18 million over the next three years to sustain the recently established network of 53 Family Intervention Projects. Projects will get ongoing tapered funding over 2008-11 based on current allocations. Evaluation evidence from the 53 projects shows that families who in the past may have been written off by agencies are now being offered the right help and incentives to become decent members of their community and provide their children with life chances.

## Nursery Schools: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free early years education places have been available in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [169962]

**Beverley Hughes:** The available information on the number of part-time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire local authority areas is shown in the tables.

Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Suffolk*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 1997 | 610 | n/a | 610 | n/a | n/a | [5]7,400 |
| 1998 | 560 | n/a | 560 | n/a | n/a | [5]7,600 |
| 1999 | 720 | n/a | 720 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,000 |
| 2000 | 630 | [6]0 | 630 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,000 |

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Suffolk*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 2001 | 860 | [6]480 | 1,300 | n/a | n/a | [5]7,600 |
| 2002 | 1,000 | [6]3,200 | 4,200 | 6,300 | [5]1,600 | 7,900 |
| 2003 | 1,100 | [6]3,300 | 4,400 | 6,100 | [7]1,700 | 7,800 |
| 2004 | 1,300 | [8]4,300 | 5,600 | 5,800 | [9]1,600 | 7,300 |
| 2005 | 1,300 | [8]4,400 | 5,700 | 5,800 | [9]1,500 | 7,300 |
| 2006 | 1,300 | [8]4,400 | 5,700 | 5,500 | [9]1,500 | 7,000 |
| 2007 | 1,400 | [8]4,800 | 6,200 | 5,600 | [9]1,400 | 7,000 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Norfolk*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 1997 | 1,500 | n/a | 1,500 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,200 |
| 1998 | 1,800 | n/a | 1,800 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,400 |
| 1999 | 1,900 | n/a | 1,900 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,500 |
| 2000 | 1,900 | [6]0 | 1,900 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,900 |
| 2001 | 1,900 | [6]130 | 2,100 | n/a | n/a | [5]8,400 |
| 2002 | 1,800 | [6]3,000 | 4,700 | 6,600 | [5]1,900 | 8,400 |
| 2003 | 1,800 | [8]4,300 | 6,200 | 6,500 | [7]1,900 | 8,400 |
| 2004 | 2,100 | [8]4,400 | 6,500 | 6,300 | [9]1,800 | 8,200 |
| 2005 | 2,000 | [8]4,100 | 6,100 | 6,200 | [9]1,700 | 7,900 |
| 2006 | 2,200 | [8]4,700 | 6,900 | 5,900 | [9]1,800 | 7,700 |
| 2007 | 2,100 | [8]4,900 | 7,100 | 5,900 | [9]1,800 | 7,700 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Essex*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 1997 | 1,600 | n/a | 1,600 | n/a | n/a | [5]14,000 |
| 1998 | 1,900 | n/a | 1,600 | n/a | n/a | [5]15,000 |
| 1999 | 2,000 | n/a | 2,000 | n/a | n/a | [5]15,200 |
| 2000 | 2,000 | [6]0 | 2,000 | n/a | n/a | [5]15,100 |
| 2001 | 2,000 | [6]220 | 2,220 | n/a | n/a | [5]15,100 |
| 2002 | 2,000 | [6]6,700 | 8,700 | 10,400 | [5]4,700 | 15,100 |
| 2003 | 2,000 | 9,500 | 11,500 | 10,400 | [7]4,600 | 15,000 |
| 2004 | 2,000 | [8]9,700 | 11,700 | 10,500 | [9]4,500 | 15,000 |
| 2005 | 1,900 | [8]10,000 | 11,900 | 9,900 | [9]4,500 | 14,400 |

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Essex*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 2006 | 2,000 | [8]9,900 | 11,900 | 9,900 | [9]4,200 | 14,100 |
| 2007 | 1,900 | [8]10,400 | 12,300 | 9,700 | [9]4,400 | 14,100 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

*Number of part time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four year olds—local authority: Cambridgeshire*

*Position in January each year*

| | *Part-time funded places filled by three-year-olds* | | | *Part-time funded places filled by four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 1997 | 1,100 | n/a | 1,100 | n/a | n/a | [5]5,800 |
| 1998 | 1,100 | n/a | 1,100 | n/a | n/a | [5]6,500 |
| 1999 | 1,200 | n/a | 1,200 | n/a | n/a | [5]6,300 |
| 2000 | 1,100 | [6]0 | 1,100 | n/a | n/a | [5]6,400 |
| 2001 | 1,200 | [6]870 | 2,000 | n/a | n/a | [5]5,900 |
| 2002 | 1,200 | [6]1,500 | 2,700 | 4,700 | [7]1,600 | 6,200 |
| 2003 | 1,100 | [6]2,700 | 3,800 | 4,600 | [7]1,600 | 6,200 |
| 2004 | 1,000 | [6]2,800 | 3,800 | 4,500 | [7]1,600 | 6,100 |
| 2005 | 980 | [6]4,000 | 4,900 | 4,400 | [7]1,300 | 5,700 |
| 2006 | 1,100 | [6]4,000 | 5,100 | 4,500 | [7]1,500 | 6,000 |
| 2007 | 1,100 | [6]4,300 | 5,400 | 4,400 | [7]1,600 | 6,000 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
3. Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2007" in May, which is available on my Department's website

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

## Physical Education: Teachers

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of physical education training the Youth Sport Trust recommends during initial teacher training to meet the Government's school sport public service agreement target. [189591]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* I am not aware of any recommendation the Youth Sport Trust has made about primary initial teacher training. In any event, neither this Department nor the Training and Development Agency for Schools prescribe the content for courses of initial teacher training or the time that should be spent on particular components of it. Training providers have discretion over this, but the outcome of their course must be that trainees are, on completion, able to demonstrate the various standards the Secretary of State has set out for awarding of Qualified Teacher Status.

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been allocated per pupil for the 2008-09 school year, broken down by county; [189455]

(2) what the average funding per pupil is in England for the 2008-09 school year. [189458]

**Jim Knight:** The Dedicated Schools Grant guaranteed per pupil units of funding for 2008-09 are provided in the following tables for local authorities grouped by type: London, metropolitan, unitary and upper tier. Guaranteed units of funding are not calculated at a county level. The average figure for England is £4,066

per pupil. This covers all funded pupils aged three to 15. Figures are in cash terms. In addition to the Dedicated Schools Grant there are other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised.

| *London authorities* | *2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,563 |
| Barnet | 4,559 |
| Bexley | 4,151 |
| Brent | 4,894 |
| Bromley | 3,966 |
| Camden | 6,161 |
| City of London | 7,362 |
| Croydon | 4,267 |
| Ealing | 4,832 |
| Enfield | 4,437 |
| Greenwich | 5,361 |
| Hackney | 6,170 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5,635 |
| Haringey | 4,987 |
| Harrow | 4,507 |
| Havering | 4,137 |
| Hillingdon | 4,361 |
| Hounslow | 4,651 |
| Islington | 5,812 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,757 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,256 |
| Lambeth | 5,848 |
| Lewisham | 5,556 |
| Merton | 4,452 |
| Newham | 5,071 |
| Redbridge | 4,214 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,311 |
| Southwark | 5,756 |
| Sutton | 4,293 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,289 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,584 |
| Wandsworth | 5,146 |
| Westminster | 5,439 |

| *Metropolitan authorities* | *2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Barnsley | 3,848 |
| Birmingham | 4,448 |
| Bolton | 3,978 |
| Bradford | 4,107 |
| Bury | 3,926 |
| Calderdale | 3,912 |
| Coventry | 4,110 |
| Doncaster | 3,941 |
| Dudley | 3,949 |
| Gateshead | 3,986 |
| Kirklees | 3,947 |
| Knowsley | 4,236 |
| Leeds | 3,926 |
| Liverpool | 4,320 |
| Manchester | 4,571 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 4,096 |
| North Tyneside | 3,836 |
| Oldham | 4,118 |
| Rochdale | 4,171 |
| Rotherham | 4,045 |
| Salford | 4,309 |
| Sandwell | 4,214 |
| Sefton | 3,917 |
| Sheffield | 3,947 |
| Solihull | 3,750 |
| South Tyneside | 4,092 |
| St. Helens | 3,977 |
| Stockport | 3,902 |
| Sunderland | 3,990 |
| Tameside | 3,983 |
| Trafford | 3,852 |
| Wakefield | 3,881 |
| Walsall | 4,023 |
| Wigan | 3,948 |
| Wirral | 3,937 |
| Wolverhampton | 4,145 |

| *Unitary authorities* | *2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Bath and North East Somerset | 3,891 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 4,254 |
| Blackpool | 3,982 |
| Bournemouth | 3,825 |
| Bracknell Forest | 4,017 |
| Brighton and Hove | 4,103 |
| Bristol, City of | 4,366 |
| Darlington | 3,944 |
| Derby | 3,978 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 3,715 |
| Halton | 4,226 |
| Hartlepool | 4,029 |
| Herefordshire | 3,687 |
| Isle of Wight | 4,051 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 4,168 |
| Leicester | 4,151 |
| Luton | 4,251 |
| Medway | 4,034 |
| Middlesbrough | 4,182 |
| Milton Keynes | 4,080 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4,134 |
| North Lincolnshire | 3,822 |
| North Somerset | 3,757 |
| Nottingham | 4,500 |
| Peterborough | 4,098 |
| Plymouth | 3,889 |
| Poole | 3,724 |
| Portsmouth | 4,061 |
| Reading | 4,260 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3,990 |
| Rutland | 3,898 |
| Slough | 4,404 |
| South Gloucestershire | 3,647 |
| Southampton | 4,117 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 4,026 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 3,960 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 4,070 |
| Swindon | 3,775 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,911 |
| Thurrock | 4,141 |
| Torbay | 3,922 |
| Warrington | 3,819 |
| West Berkshire | 3,984 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 4,040 |
| Wokingham | 3,844 |
| York | 3,801 |

| Upper tier authorities | 2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£) |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 3,817 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,899 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3,787 |
| Cheshire | 3,890 |
| Cornwall | 3,742 |
| Cumbria | 3,831 |
| Derbyshire | 3,825 |
| Devon | 3,707 |
| Dorset | 3,799 |
| Durham | 3,982 |
| East Sussex | 3,997 |
| Essex | 3,924 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,744 |
| Hampshire | 3,824 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,896 |
| Kent | 3,938 |
| Lancashire | 3,927 |
| Leicestershire | 3,596 |
| Lincolnshire | 3,795 |
| Norfolk | 3,807 |
| North Yorkshire | 3,854 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,785 |
| Northumberland | 3,711 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3,842 |
| Oxfordshire | 3,870 |
| Shropshire | 3,715 |
| Somerset | 3,752 |
| Staffordshire | 3,776 |
| Suffolk | 3,763 |
| Surrey | 3,976 |
| Warwickshire | 3,789 |
| West Sussex | 3,877 |
| Wiltshire | 3,713 |
| Worcestershire | 3,729 |

*Notes:*
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
2. This figure does not represent the totality of 'education' funding allocated in that year.

## Schools

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what studies his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* reviewed on the ideal size of state schools in urban and rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [190657]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The Department commissioned an international research review in 2004 on the impact of secondary school size on student, teacher and school outcomes. The research was conducted by the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating (EPPI) Centre at the Institute of Education, University of London on behalf of the Department. The research found no consistent relationship between the size of the school and pupil outcomes and was based mainly on studies from the US. The Department has not commissioned research to investigate the question of ideal school size in urban or rural areas, or on ideal primary school size.

The Secretary of State will not be making a statement on this issue.

## Schools: Health Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools in each local authority have achieved healthy school status; and if he will make a statement. [188984]

**Kevin Brennan:** The numbers and proportions of schools who have achieved National Healthy School Status for each local authority as at 21 February 2008, are shown on the following table.

The National Healthy Schools Programme (NHSP) promotes a whole school approach to health. Nationally, over 57 per cent. (12,484) of schools are now Healthy Schools which means the programme is on track to meet its published target of 75 per cent. of schools achieving National Healthy School Status by the end of December 2009.

*National healthy schools programme 21 February 2008*

| | Number of schools with national healthy schools status | Percentage of eligible schools with national healthy schools status |
|---|---|---|
| *East Midlands* | | |
| City of Derby | 51 | 53 |
| City of Nottingham | 69 | 60 |
| Derbyshire | 186 | 44 |
| Leicester City | 59 | 54 |
| Leicestershire | 180 | 63 |
| Lincolnshire | 207 | 55 |
| Northamptonshire | 139 | 43 |
| Nottinghamshire | 194 | 55 |
| Rutland | 9 | 43 |
| *East of England* | | |
| Bedfordshire | 113 | 53 |
| Cambridgeshire | 118 | 49 |
| City of Peterborough | 56 | 78 |
| Essex | 231 | 40 |
| Hertfordshire | 343 | 66 |
| Luton | 40 | 56 |
| Norfolk | 138 | 32 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 25 | 45 |
| Suffolk | 96 | 26 |
| Thurrock | 22 | 39 |
| *London* | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 34 | 57 |
| Barnet | 55 | 48 |
| Bexley | 82 | 100 |
| Brent | 29 | 36 |
| Bromley | 57 | 59 |
| Camden | 42 | 70 |
| Corporation of London | 0 | 0 |
| Croydon | 60 | 48 |
| Ealing | 47 | 55 |
| Enfield | 75 | 82 |
| Greenwich | 57 | 69 |
| Hackney | 39 | 54 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 40 | 80 |
| Haringey | 51 | 64 |
| Harrow | 15 | 22 |
| Havering | 57 | 65 |
| Hillingdon | 36 | 40 |
| Hounslow | 41 | 51 |
| Islington | 41 | 67 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 21 | 64 |
| Kingston-Upon-Thames | 28 | 56 |
| Lambeth | 47 | 57 |
| Lewisham | 47 | 53 |
| Merton | 29 | 54 |
| Newham | 46 | 54 |

*National healthy schools programme 21 February 2008*

| | *Number of schools with national healthy schools status* | *Percentage of eligible schools with national healthy schools status* |
|---|---|---|
| Redbridge | 28 | 37 |
| Richmond-Upon-Thames | 35 | 67 |
| Southwark | 63 | 65 |
| Sutton | 42 | 70 |
| Tower Hamlets | 57 | 62 |
| Waltham Forest | 48 | 62 |
| Wandsworth | 25 | 32 |
| Westminster | 25 | 49 |
| *North East* | | |
| Darlington | 8 | 21 |
| Durham | 123 | 44 |
| Gateshead | 47 | 55 |
| Hartlepool | 25 | 64 |
| Middlesbrough | 40 | 67 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 62 | 65 |
| North Tyneside | 33 | 41 |
| Northumberland | 98 | 48 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 35 | 58 |
| South Tyneside | 27 | 40 |
| Stockton on Tees | 60 | 75 |
| Sunderland | 13 | 12 |
| *North West* | | |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 47 | 66 |
| Blackpool | 21 | 51 |
| Bolton | 50 | 39 |
| Bury | 51 | 61 |
| Cheshire | 185 | 57 |
| Cumbria | 192 | 58 |
| Halton | 58 | 88 |
| Knowsley | 44 | 60 |
| Lancashire | 547 | 89 |
| Liverpool | 98 | 54 |
| Manchester | 83 | 48 |
| Oldham | 63 | 57 |
| Rochdale | 60 | 67 |
| Salford | 67 | 66 |
| Sefton | 64 | 61 |
| St. Helens | 47 | 68 |
| Stockport | 65 | 57 |
| Tameside | 53 | 53 |
| Trafford | 60 | 64 |
| Warrington | 51 | 59 |
| Wigan | 102 | 76 |
| Wirral | 75 | 57 |
| *South East* | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 27 | 71 |
| Brighton and Hove | 51 | 72 |
| Buckinghamshire | 82 | 35 |
| East Sussex | 139 | 71 |
| Hampshire | 310 | 58 |
| Isle of Wight | 29 | 41 |
| Kent | 369 | 62 |
| Medway Towns | 63 | 57 |
| Milton Keynes | 64 | 57 |
| Oxfordshire | 191 | 68 |
| Portsmouth | 42 | 63 |
| Reading | 23 | 48 |
| Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead | 39 | 64 |
| Slough | 24 | 59 |
| Southampton | 45 | 54 |
| Surrey | 241 | 59 |
| West Berkshire | 36 | 44 |
| West Sussex | 121 | 41 |
| Wokingham | 40 | 63 |
| *South West* | | |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 49 | 62 |
| Bournemouth | 26 | 65 |
| City of Bristol | 105 | 73 |
| City of Plymouth | 62 | 61 |
| Cornwall | 175 | 63 |
| Devon | 242 | 66 |
| Dorset | 118 | 66 |
| Gloucestershire | 240 | 78 |
| Isles of Scilly | 1 | 100 |
| North Somerset | 41 | 49 |
| Poole | 28 | 68 |
| Somerset | 171 | 62 |
| South Gloucestershire | 94 | 82 |
| Swindon | 59 | 73 |
| Torbay | 24 | 55 |
| Wiltshire | 133 | 56 |
| *West Midlands* | | |
| Birmingham | 190 | 46 |
| Coventry | 76 | 64 |
| Dudley | 82 | 74 |
| Herefordshire | 73 | 72 |
| Sandwell | 69 | 57 |
| Shropshire | 127 | 77 |
| Solihull | 20 | 23 |
| Staffordshire | 185 | 47 |
| Stoke on Trent | 56 | 58 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 26 | 35 |
| Walsall | 64 | 56 |
| Warwickshire | 94 | 39 |
| Wolverhampton | 52 | 49 |
| Worcestershire | 163 | 66 |
| *Yorkshire and Humber* | | |
| Barnsley | 45 | 46 |
| Bradford | 120 | 59 |
| Calderdale | 60 | 57 |
| City of York | 53 | 78 |
| Doncaster | 79 | 60 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 79 | 52 |
| Kingston Upon Hull | 43 | 44 |
| Kirklees | 112 | 59 |
| Leeds | 172 | 63 |
| North East Lincs | 39 | 58 |
| North Lincs | 52 | 63 |
| North Yorkshire | 234 | 61 |
| Rotherham | 97 | 77 |
| Sheffield | 102 | 57 |
| Wakefield | 104 | 70 |

## Schools: Public Private Partnerships

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to approve further public-private partnership projects to fund the building and refurbishing of schools in England. [190045]

**Jim Knight:** DCSF has been allocated £1.320 billion PFI credits in each financial year of the comprehensive spending period 2008 to 2011. Public Private Partnership projects, including PFI continue to form a significant part of the Department's capital programme.

PFI is used in capital procurement where it demonstratively provides the public sector with better value for money in procuring modern, high quality services from the private sector. Typically, PFI offers better value for money than conventional design and build procurement methods for schools which are almost wholly new build.

### Schools: Sports

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* females and *(b)* males play competitive sport in schools in (i) Staffordshire and (ii) England. [173256]

**Kevin Brennan:** These data have not been collected centrally. The annual School Sport Survey collects data relating to PE and School Sport at a school, rather than pupil level.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent data published by the NHS Information Centre on childhood obesity for the assessment of performance against the Government's relevant targets; and what impact these data have had on the strategy for school sport. [190434]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The NHS Information Centre recently published the results of the National Child Measurement Programme for the 2006-07 school year. The main purpose of the programme is to inform trend analysis and the effective development, planning and delivery of children's services at national and local levels. The NCMP data also underpin the local indicators in both the national indicator set for local authorities and the vital signs indicators for primary care trusts. Guidance has been issued to local areas on how they can use NCMP data to inform goal setting for these child obesity indicators. The national PSA target will be monitored through the Health Survey for England.

The NCMP is one of the largest collections of child height and weight data in the world and we are keen to ensure effective use of the data gathered, while ensuring the confidentiality of individual children who participated, including to inform the strategy for school sport. Within this constraint, the national anonymised dataset has already been made available to public health observatories to enable more detailed regional and local data analysis, including at school level.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children meeting the Government's two hours of high quality sport and physical education targets are *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese; [190435]

(2) how the Government *(a)* monitors and *(b)* measures performance against the two hours of high quality sport and physical education public service agreement target; and who is responsible for (i) collecting and (ii) interpreting data; [190436]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document relating to the *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* measurement of performance against the two hours of high quality sport or PE public service agreement target. [190438]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The annual school sport survey collects data relating to the percentage of 5 to16-year-olds who take part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport in a typical week. The survey is carried out on behalf of the Department by TNS, an independent research company who were awarded the contract to run the survey after a competitive procurement exercise.

The survey does not collect data on take up of two hours PE and sport by overweight or obese children.

Copies of the results of the latest survey have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Secondary Education

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools in England achieved above average key stage 2 to 4 results in 2007. [169335]

**Jim Knight:** The performance of each school is published in the achievement and attainment tables. These can be found in the House of Commons Library. The median Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 CVA score for maintained mainstream schools (including CTCs and academies) is 1000.7.

### Teachers: Early Retirement

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took early retirement in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk, *(c)* Essex, *(d)* Cambridgeshire, *(e)* Bedfordshire, *(f)* Hertfordshire and *(g)* England in each year since 1997, broken down by type of institution. [187609]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the number of teachers awarded early retirement benefits whose last recorded service was in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire local authorities and for England by phase of education, in each year from 1997/98 to 2006/07.

*Premature retirements[1] from local authority maintained schools, 1997/98 to 2006/07*

| | Bedfordshire | Cambridgeshire[2] | Essex[2] | Hertfordshire | Norfolk | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nursery/Primary | | | | | | |
| 1997/98[3] | 60 | 50 | 100 | 110 | 40 | 5,130 |
| 1998/99 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 980 |
| 1999/2000 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 1,080 |
| 2000/01 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 1,490 |

*Premature retirements[1] from local authority maintained schools, 1997/98 to 2006/07*

| | Bedfordshire | Cambridgeshire[2] | Essex[2] | Hertfordshire | Norfolk | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 1,520 |
| 2002/03 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 1,810 |
| 2003/04 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 60 | 2,160 |
| 2004/05 [4] | 20 | 20 | 50 | 40 | 60 | 2,640 |
| 2005/06 [4] | 10 | 30 | 60 | 60 | 50 | 2,810 |
| 2006/07 [4] | 20 | 20 | 70 | 60 | 60 | 3,150 |
| *Secondary* | | | | | | |
| 1997/98[3] | 80 | 70 | 150 | 130 | 70 | 5,750 |
| 1998/99 | 20 | 10 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 1,290 |
| 1999/2000 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 1,470 |
| 2000/01 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 1,520 |
| 2001/02 | 20 | 10 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 1,760 |
| 2002/03 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 1,970 |
| 2003/04 | 50 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 2,570 |
| 2004/05 [4] | 20 | 30 | 80 | 50 | 60 | 3,170 |
| 2005/06 [4] | 30 | 30 | 70 | 50 | 70 | 3,550 |
| 2006/07 [4] | 20 | 30 | 80 | 80 | 60 | 4,000 |
| *Special and PRUs* | | | | | | |
| 1997/98[3] | 10 | — | 20 | 10 | — | 470 |
| 1998/99 | — | — | — | — | — | 100 |
| 1999/2000 | — | — | — | — | — | 100 |
| 2000/01 | — | — | — | — | — | 150 |
| 2001/02 | — | — | — | — | — | 200 |
| 2002/03 | — | — | — | — | — | 190 |
| 2003/04 | — | 10 | 10 | — | — | 210 |
| 2004/05 [4] | — | — | — | — | — | 240 |
| 2005/06 [4] | — | — | 10 | 10 | — | 290 |
| 2006/07 [4] | — | 10 | — | 10 | — | 320 |
| *Total* | | | | | | |
| 1997/98[3] | 190 | 120 | 270 | 250 | 110 | 11,370 |
| 1998/99 | 30 | 20 | 60 | 40 | 50 | 2,370 |
| 1999/2000 | 20 | 30 | 70 | 40 | 50 | 2,650 |
| 2000/01 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 3,160 |
| 2001/02 | 30 | 20 | 90 | 80 | 60 | 3,470 |
| 2002/03 | 40 | 30 | 90 | 80 | 70 | 3,960 |
| 2003/04 | 60 | 50 | 100 | 60 | 100 | 4,930 |
| 2004/05 [4] | 40 | 50 | 130 | 90 | 120 | 6,060 |
| 2005/06 [4] | 40 | 60 | 130 | 120 | 120 | 6,640 |
| 2006/07 [4] | 40 | 50 | 150 | 150 | 120 | 7,460 |

[1] Premature retirements include actuarially reduced benefit awards from 2000/01.
[2] Cambridgeshire and Essex local authorities were re-organised on 1 April 1998 and therefore the figures for 1997/98 are for the former local authority areas including Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) and Southend and Thurrock (Essex).
[3] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension Scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997/98 than in other years.
[4] Provisional estimates. All years may be subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards and suspension of pension benefits where teachers return to service.

*Source:*
Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and Pensioner Statistical System Penstats.

### Teachers: Labour Turnover

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in Yorkshire and the Humber have left the profession within *(a)* one year, *(b)* five years and *(c)* 10 years of completing their qualified teacher status induction period since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [190805]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Teaching Methods: Finance

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timetable is for the national implementation of funding for local authorities to pay for one-to-one tuition for children in English and mathematics following the Making Good Progress pilot project; what other provisions of the project are to be implemented nationally; and if he will make a statement. [189943]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have committed to the delivery of national one-to-one tuition for 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 pupils in mathematics by 2010-11. However, we expect that some tuition will also take place on a national basis in the financial year 2009-10.

School progression targets to improve the proportions of pupils making two levels of progress within a key stage are being introduced in pilot schools in the academic year 2008/09, with national progression targets coming on stream for all schools from the academic year 2009/10.

All other elements of the pilot, including the financial premium and single level tests, will be subject to further evaluation before any decision is made about whether to implement them on a national basis.

### Truancy

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are recorded as missing from education, broken down by age; how many have been so recorded in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [190061]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested by the hon. Member is not available on a national basis. A new statutory duty commenced in February 2007 for local authorities to put robust systems in place to identify children missing from education. Local authorities have been busy implementing these systems over the past year and they should now be able to provide local level data on how many children are missing in their area. However, reliable information on how many children are missing from education cannot be produced nationally using current methods of collection. This information has never been collected. The Department is considering how to collect appropriate information on children missing from education in the future.

### Young People: Public Participation

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he expects the youth panel announced by the Prime Minister to be set up; who he expects its members to be; what he expects its costs to be; and if he will make a statement. [168415]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

We are working jointly with Communities and Local Government to plan for and convene the youth panel later this year.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Buildings: Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* under-floor insulation and *(b)* under-floor heating is taken into account when assessing the energy efficiency of a property for an energy performance certificate. [189548]

**Caroline Flint:** The energy efficiency of a new build domestic property is assessed using SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure), the Government's calculation methodology for assessing the energy efficiency of dwellings. It includes provision for accounting for *(a)* under-floor insulation and *(b)* under-floor heating.

Existing dwellings are assessed by Reduced Data SAP (RdSAP) which makes assumptions about floor insulation based on the age of the property.

The energy efficiency of the vast majority of commercial buildings is assessed using SBEM (Simplified Building Energy Model) which takes account of both under-floor insulation and under-floor heating.

### Bus Services

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the effect on local authorities' expenditure of free or subsidised bus shelters provided by advertising companies; [190007]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the effect on its expenditure if free or subsidised bus shelters were no longer provided by advertising companies. [190006]

**John Healey:** The Department has made no estimate of the effect on either its own expenditure or of expenditure by local authorities as a result of the continuation or cessation of free or subsidised bus shelters provided by advertising companies.

### Business: Non-Domestic Rates

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 226-27W, on business: non-domestic rates, what records her Department holds of the rates of levy applicable in each business improvement district. [191636]

**John Healey:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Casinos: Greater Manchester

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings the regional Minister for the North West has had with *(a)* Councillor Richard Leese, *(b)* the hon. Member for Manchester Central and *(c)* the Prime Minister on the super-casino proposal for Manchester. [191623]

**Hazel Blears:** The regional Minister for the North West has not had any meetings with those suggested on the super-casino proposal for Manchester.

### Community Relations: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on *(a)* the development of the new web-based one stop shop on cohesion, *(b)* the deployment of teams to support areas undergoing particularly rapid change, *(c)* the programme of work to realise increased inter-faith dialogue and social interaction within communities and *(d)* placing work with key partners on a more strategic footing in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11, as referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [190113]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government have made a substantial increase in funding for cohesion in the Spending Review and we are currently developing plans for a wide range of activity, as set out in the Government's response to the final report of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion.

With respect to increasing inter faith dialogue and interaction, in 2007-08, £4.982 million was spent on the faith communities capacity building fund, one of whose objectives was increased inter faith activity; £175,000 was granted to the inter faith network; and a contract for research in support of the current consultation on inter faith dialogue and activity has been let to the faith based regeneration network for £32,700. Plans for work to promote inter faith dialogue and action for 2008-09 to 2010-11 have not yet been finalised. However, we are developing an inter faith strategy (which is currently out for consultation) and this will set the framework for future resourcing decisions. Plans for the one stop shop on cohesion, teams to support areas facing rapid change and placing work with key partners on a more strategic footing are currently being developed. No expenditure has yet been committed for 2007-08 to 2010-11.

### Council Tax

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what measure of inflation local authorities will base council tax changes in 2008-09. [191666]

**John Healey:** The level of council tax is a matter for local authorities, not central Government.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in her Department. [188805]

**Mr. Dhanda:** For the senior civil service (SCS), for whom reward arrangements are managed centrally by the Cabinet Office, the 2007-08 pay ranges are:

| | Minimum | £ Ceiling |
|---|---|---|
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 1A | 65,280 | 127,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 2 | 81,500 | 160,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

For staff below the SCS the 2007-08 the pay ranges in DCLG are:

| | Minimum | £ Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| Typists (National) | 15,876 | 17,899 |
| Typist (London) | 19,317 | 21,779 |
| Administrative Assistant (National) | 14,959 | 16,350 |
| Administrative Assistant (London) | 18,402 | 20,114 |
| Administrative Officer (National) | 18,973 | 21,123 |
| Administrative Officer (London) | 22,098 | 24,601 |
| Executive Officer (National) | 21,842 | 26,866 |
| Executive Officer (London) | 24,461 | 30,086 |
| Higher Executive Officer (National) | 25,547 | 31,423 |
| Higher Executive Officer (London) | 28,105 | 34,508 |
| Senior Executive Officer (National) | 31,525 | 38,775 |
| Senior Executive Officer (London) | 33,922 | 41,723 |
| Grade 7 (National) | 38,962 | 31,916 |
| Grade 7 (London) | 42,435 | 56,544 |
| Grade 6 (National) | 47,880 | 63,800 |
| Grade 6 (London) | 52,292 | 69,678 |

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what private finance initiative projects were approved within her Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each. [190863]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of her Department's expenditure was allocated to Government growth areas in the last year for which figures are available. [190955]

**Caroline Flint:** In 2007-08 Communities and Local Government has allocated:

£122.1 million through the Growth Areas Fund to support delivery in the three newer Growth Areas of Ashford, London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough and Milton Keynes/South Midlands;

£182 million through the Thames Gateway Fund; and

£41.8 million through the Growth Points Fund to support delivery in the 29 existing Growth Points.

This equates to around 3.3 per cent. of the total DEL budget.

Information on the total amount of departmental funding which is directed at the growth areas through other programmes is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

### Dorset Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire engines were operating in Dorset Fire and Rescue Service in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007-08. [191234]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* In 1997 Dorset had 44 operational fire engines, while in 2006 there were 41. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

### Dorset Fire and Rescue Service: Emergency Calls

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response time of Dorset Fire and Rescue Service to emergency call-outs was in each of the last 24 months. [191236]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer March 2008]:* The most recent fire statistics available are for 2006 and only cover response times for primary fires. Response times on incidents, other than primary fires are not available. The following table shows Dorset Fire and Rescue Service's average response time, in minutes, to primary fires, by month, for 2005 and 2006.

*Table 1: Average response times in minutes, by month, to primary fires[1] by Dorset FRS area, 2005 and 2006[2] (time of call and time of mobilisation to time of arrival)*

| Month | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | First call to attendance | Mobilisation to attendance | First call to attendance | Mobilisation to attendance |
| January | 6.78 | 440 | 8.08 | 4.68 |
| February | 7.29 | 4.92 | 8.09 | 4.70 |
| March | 8.15 | 4.70 | 7.82 | 4.39 |
| April | 7.98 | 448 | 8.04 | 4.33 |
| May | 7.48 | 4.26 | 8.46 | 4.75 |
| June | 8.44 | 4.97 | 8.47 | 5.01 |
| July | 8.20 | 4.65 | 9.24 | 5.37 |
| August | 8.37 | 4.98 | 8.89 | 5.09 |
| September | 7.98 | 4.66 | 8.08 | 4.72 |
| October | 8.54 | 5.23 | 7.70 | 4.44 |
| November | 7.92 | 4.54 | 7.42 | 4.50 |
| December | 7.52 | 3.94 | 7.90 | 4.56 |

[1] Incidents with a response time greater than 59 minutes are excluded as response time data maybe incorrect and will therefore skew the averages.
[2] Data for 2006 is provisional and subject to change.

### Eco-Towns

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of an eco-town is. [190514]

**Caroline Flint:** The definition of an eco-town is set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, which was published alongside the Housing Green paper last July, and is available in the House Library.

### Eco-Towns: Planning

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation the Government have had with local planning authorities before potential sites for eco-towns are announced by developers; what planning procedures apply to eco-towns; what criteria she will use to ensure the sites chosen do not adversely affect the environment; and whether there will be a presumption against building eco-towns on *(a)* functional floodplains and *(b)* the green belt. [190512]

**Caroline Flint:** We are contacting local authorities in areas where schemes look to have good potential as part of an initial assessment of bids and expect to publish proposals shortly. We are aware that some developers have already publicised their bids and that is a decision for them.

In terms of the planning process I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1262W.

In relation to ensuring the environment is not adversely affected I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 29 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1991W. This will ensure that development on floodplains and the green belt are considered in the usual way as part of the planning process.

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority social services departments have reported evidence of female circumcision among their ethnic minority communities; and what steps she has taken to tackle the practice of female circumcision in ethnic minority communities. [184580]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Data on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are not collected or held centrally by the Department of Health (DH), the Department responsible for adult services, or the department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the Department responsible for children's services.

We are taking the following steps to tackle the practice of FGM:

DH has provided grant aid to the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) for work on the prevalence of FGM, which will help local authorities plan services for the communities affected by FGM.

DCSF's publication 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' has been issued to local agencies including local authorities. This document includes guidance on the need to identify children at risk of FGM and take action to safeguard them.

To raise awareness of the risks of FGM, and to discourage its practice, DCSF is currently providing a specialist voluntary organisation (Agency for Culture Change Management) with more than £130,000 over three years in order to: raise the profile of the dangers of FGM to girls across black and minority ethnic communities; and provide training for professionals on protection from FGM and treating those already harmed.

'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education', which came into force in January 2007, also contains guidance about FGM and signposts further sources of information available on the DCSF's teachernet website.

FGM is recognised as a form of domestic abuse highlighted in 'Responding to domestic abuse: A handbook for health professionals', published by DH in January 2006.

There are at least 10 specialist clinics in the NHS which treat women and girls who have been mutilated. These clinics all have trained and culturally sensitive staff who offer a range of health care services for women and girls including reversal surgery.

### Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing regional FireControl Project centres prior to them becoming fully operational; and if she will make a statement. [190920]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The rent and other accommodation costs (excluding business rates which have yet to be set) that will be met by Communities and Local Government

before the Regional Control Centre network is fully operational is estimated to be £20,019,391. During this period EADS, the technology supplier, will install the new FireControl technology in the buildings. The buildings will also be occupied by the regional project teams overseeing the work required to prepare for cut-over to the new system.

### Fire Services: Mergers

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to fund research into the potential for efficiencies from mergers of fire and rescue authorities; and if she will make a statement on her plans for further restructuring of fire authorities. [191643]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Fire and Resilience research programme for 2008-09 is currently being considered and prioritised.

The Government have no plans for compulsory restructuring of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The Government have long recognised that there are some challenges both organisational and operational for which FRAs working in isolation do not have the capacity to provide the most efficient, effective and economical response. Their approach has therefore been to encourage better joint working and co-operation between FRAs on a voluntary basis including, where there are clear efficiency and effectiveness benefits to be gained, the combination of two or more FRAs.

### Fire Services: Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of fire brigade officers recruited in England and Wales was in each of the last five years. [187855]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The number of successful firefighter applicants (whole-time and retained) are shown as follows:

*Successful firefighter applicants: England and Wales 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 3,175 |
| 2002-03 | 2,977 |
| 2003-04 | 2,874 |
| 2004-05 | 2,239 |
| 2005-06 | 2,606 |

There is currently no national recruitment target for firefighters in England. Fire and Rescue Authorities may have their own local recruitment targets.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the capital budget for each of the Government Offices for the Regions is for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [190710]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The capital budgets in 2007-08 are as set out in the following table:

| *GO* | *Capital budget (£)* |
|---|---|
| North East | 0 |
| Yorks and Humber | 1,548,000 |
| East Midlands | 120,000 |
| South East | 70,000 |
| London | 0 |
| North West | 110,000 |
| West Midlands | 105,000 |
| East | 0 |
| South West | 0 |
| Total | 1,953,000 |

In addition the Regional Co-ordination Unit holds the balance of the total budget of £2,860,000 for any ICT or central infrastructure capital requirements.

The specific capital budgets for each region for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 have yet to be set though the annual budget is £2,860,000.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many voluntary home condition reports have been logged on the Home Condition Report Register to date. [176181]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of voluntary home condition reports which have been lodged on the home condition report register up to 27 February 2008 is 1,743.

### Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost of the home information pack area trials has been to date, broken down by main budget heading. [183258]

**Caroline Flint:** My Department has spent approximately £3.6 million to date on the area trials.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Greater London

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how London boroughs will be represented on the London sub-committee of the Homes and Communities Agency. [189518]

**Caroline Flint:** I have agreed with the chief executive designate of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Mayor of London that we expect London boroughs to be actively involved through participation on the sub-committee of the HCA Board and involvement in the delivery of individual schemes on the ground, reflecting their key role in delivering housing in London.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, on housing: low incomes, what the overall APRs would be in scenarios *(b)* and *(c)* of the answer, given the effect of interest being charged at three per cent. a year after the first five years on part two of the equity loan. [189242]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to deliver affordable housing equally in urban and rural areas. [191559]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government expect to see increased delivery of housing supply, particularly in terms of affordable housing, to meet needs in all parts of the country. Delivery should be based on regional and local priorities with an assessment of the need for affordable housing after taking into account household growth projections and other socio-economic factors. In the next three years, for the purpose of setting targets, we have focussed on those smaller rural settlements where delivery is the most challenging. Our new national target commits the Housing Corporation to deliver 10,300 completed affordable housing units in settlements of less than 3,000 inhabitants over the period 2008-11.

**Immigrants: Information Services**

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities she expects to have produced information packs for newcomers to the UK by the end of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; what guidance her Department plans to provide to local authorities on the information to be included in such packs; and what steps her Department plans to take to encourage production of such packs. [187404]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has worked with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to produce a Migrant Information Pack template which was published on the IDeA website on 4 February. Local authorities have been encouraged to use this new resource however are not obliged to do so. At the same time we published on the Communities website, a note which explains the purpose of the template and encourages local authorities to produce information packs.

**Local Authorities: Reorganisation**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on local authorities: reorganisation, whether her Department will direct the Boundary Committee to take account of *(a)* the views of local residents and *(b)* local identities when deciding whether to restructure local authority areas across (i) traditional and (ii) existing shire and county boundaries. [189409]

**John Healey:** The Secretary of State has no such power of direction. I announced on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 67WS that we have requested the Boundary Committee to advise on whether there are any alternative unitary proposals for Exeter, Ipswich and Norwich and surrounding areas that would deliver the outcomes specified by the five criteria specified in our request. The Boundary Committee is required to consult on any alternative proposals that it identifies.

**Multiple Occupation: Foreign Workers**

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to improve fire safety in multi-occupancy housing areas with large migrant worker populations. [187318]

**Caroline Flint:** As part of the "Fire Kills campaign" we have run a series of fire safety advertisements in some of the main Polish newspapers in England to promote smoke alarm ownership and maintenance messages. The Government have also implemented management regulations that apply to all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The management regulations impose a variety of duties on landlords of such properties, including requirements to keep means of escape from fire free from obstruction and in repair and to maintain fire fighting equipment and alarms. Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, 'responsible persons' are required to carry out and implement a fire risk assessment for the commons and shared parts of an HMO. The Government have also introduced mandatory HMO licensing of properties of three or more storeys, housing five or more persons who form two or more households. Landlords of licensable HMOs are required to install smoke alarms and to keep them in proper working order. Landlords who fail to comply with either the management regulations or licence conditions are subject to a fine of £5,000.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to improve waste disposal services in multi-occupancy housing areas with large migrant worker populations. [187319]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government have implemented management regulations that apply to all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The management regulations impose a variety of duties on the managers of such properties, including the duty to provide waste disposal facilities and ensure arrangements are in place for the disposal of refuse and litter from the property using the waste disposal services provided by the local authority. A breach of a management regulation is subject to a fine of £5,000.

**Multiple Occupation: Licensing**

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to begin the review of the licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. [171398]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department is committed to an ongoing review of the operation and effectiveness of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing regime. As part of this process the Department has recently introduced flexibility for local authorities in respect of the prescribed standards for the numbers of toilets, bathrooms and wash hand basins in all HMOs. The Department is committed to the Building

Research Establishment (BRE) conducting a study in 2008-09 on the practical implication, effectiveness and impact of the HMO licensing regime since implementation.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 7 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 703W, on houses in multiple occupation, how many applications for houses in multiple occupation licences have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in each local authority since April 2006. [171399]

**Caroline Flint:** Up to 4 February 2008, 265 local authorities had provided information on the number of applications received for licences for houses in multiple occupation and these totalled 24,926. 239 local authorities had also provided information on the number of licenses issued or refused and these totalled 14,193 and 93 respectively. This left 10,640 for which an outcome had yet to be notified in a usable form to the Department. It is the local authorities with substantial numbers of applications where the usable data is outstanding. The Department is working with these authorities to resolve this issue.

51 local authorities had confirmed that they had received no applications and 38 local authorities had provided no information. The full list of local authority returns has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sanctions are available to her Department to take action against local authorities who do not implement the licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. [171400]

**Caroline Flint:** A local authority that does not implement the mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) under the Housing Act 2004 is failing in its statutory duty, and could therefore be challenged through the courts.

## Natural Gas: Safety Measures

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many prosecutions there were of landlords for breach of gas safety regulations in residential properties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [184899]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is in the following table:

*Proceedings instituted by HSE under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 and 1998*

| | *Total offences prosecuted* | *Offences prosecuted against s35[1] then s36[1] (landlords duties)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 192 | 46 |
| 1998-99 | 237 | 62 |
| 1999-2000 | 208 | 49 |
| 2000-01 | 185 | 94 |
| 2001-02 | 191 | 88 |
| 2002-03 | 111 | 21 |
| 2003-04 | 97 | 28 |
| 2004-05 | 74 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | 89 | 31 |
| 2006-07 | 104 | 9 |

[1] Landlords' duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 regulation 35 paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) were revoked by Gas Safety (Installation and use) Regulations 1998 regulation 36.

*Note:*

Offences prosecuted refer to an individual breach of health and safety legislation; a prosecution case may include more than one offence.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to broaden the membership of local involvement networks compared to patients' forums; and what assessment she has made of the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review funding settlement for local involvement networks on that broadening. [190252]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

Local involvement networks (LINks) will enable genuine involvement of a far greater number of people than is currently available under patients' forums, ensuring local communities have a stronger voice in the process of commissioning health and social care and enabling them to influence key decisions about the services they both use and pay for.

LINks offer several key benefits over patients' forums:

- they will cover health and social care services (rather than just health);
- they will give more people the opportunity to become involved;
- they will build on the work of voluntary and community sector groups; and,
- they will be flexible to local circumstances (rather than being centrally prescribed).

These changes are aimed at promoting open and transparent communication between communities and the health service, and will develop trust and confidence, increasing accountability to local people.

We know from the experience of patients forums that the statutory nature of membership has limited their diversity. We are clear that LINks must be able to be flexible and reflect the nature of local communities. We therefore do not wish to centrally prescribe details on membership. However, we do think it is important to provide models of good practice in terms of recruitment, support and conduct of those involved in LINk activity and these will be set out in LINks guidance.

The Department received an allocation of £84 million over three years from HM Treasury to fund the establishment and costs incurred by LINks and has no plans to bid for any further funds.

Although the remit of LINks and levels of involvement will be greater than those of forums, we believe that they will be able to make better use of existing levels of funding by drawing on the resources and activities, which are already present in local communities.

## Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Government Departments

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what bookings the QEII Conference Centre has arranged, at commercial rates, for Whitehall-based Government departments in the last six months. [191092]

**Mr. Dhanda:** All room-hire bookings made by the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre are arranged at commercial rates for whichever sector is making the booking. Details of bookings made by or for Government Departments and their arm's length bodies from September 2007 to February 2008 are as follows:

| *Organisation* | *Event Description* |
|---|---|
| Department for Communities and Local Government (00030077) | Preventing Extremism : Strengthening Communities Learning from the Pathfinder Year |
| The Office of Government Commerce (00032923) | OGC—ASSET MANAGEMENT 2008 |
| Home Office (00044159) | Leadership and Learning Directorate Away Day |
| Department for Communities and Local Government (00030077) | DCLG Conference |
| Central Office of Information (00029689) | COI Roadshow |
| UK Trade and Investment (00042288) | Emerging Markets Forum |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families (00044010) | DCSF Conference |
| Department for Transport (00007266) | Department for Transport |
| National School of Government (00004391) | National School of Government |
| Learning and Skills Council (00037765) | Learning and Skills Council |
| Department for Communities and Local Government (00044016) | DCLG Conference 2008 |
| Department for Work and Pensions—C/o NYS Corporate Limited (00044457) | Unlocking Britain's Talent |
| UK Trade and Investment (00042288) | UK Inward Investment Annual Review |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families (00042554) | Department for Children, Schools and Families |
| R Glasgow and Associates Public Relations Limited (00039813) | Senior Civil Service Conference, Leading the Home Office |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families (00044010) | Celebrating Success |
| NEIL STEWART ASSOCIATES LTD (00004327) | Local Area Agreements 3rd Annual Conference |
| NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (00031725) | NHS Live in partnership with NESTA |
| NEIL STEWART ASSOCIATES LTD (00004327) | Environment Agency Conference Annual 2008 REF SW113 |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families (00044010) | DCSF Childcare Providers Conference |
| Department for Transport (00007266) | National Business Travel Network -Better Transport, Better Business |
| Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (00044306) | Getting the UK Vocational Qualifications System Right : A Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity |
| Legal Services Commission (00044283) | Legal Services Commission Reception |
| Learning and Skills Council (00037765) | Making Sense of the Skills Pledge |
| R Glasgow and Associates Public Relations Limited (00039813) | Home Office Conference |
| Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (00044382) | Business Priority for a Global Europe |
| National School of Government (00004391) | NSG Strategy Conference |
| Central Office of Information (00029689) | Our NHS, Our Future—Improving Quality |
| National School of Government (00004391) | National School of Government Conference |
| R Glasgow and Associates Public Relations Limited (00039813) | Home Office Conference |
| RS Live (00004013) | Quality Improvement Agency Conference |
| HM Treasury (00036783) | FATF Meeting |

## Regional Ministers

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which stakeholders regional Ministers consulted on the Government draft legislative programme in September and October of 2007; what response regional Ministers made to each of these stakeholders; and what steps were taken as a result of this consultation. [190891]

**Mr. Dhanda:** As stated in the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May), on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1157W, all Regional Ministers consulted with stakeholders on the Government draft legislative programme in September and October. In addition a number wrote to interested parties inviting their views. Among those consulted were representatives from local authorities, business, public institutions, voluntary and community sectors, hon. Members and Noble Lords, and environmental groups.

Regional Ministers were asked to lead a discussion with regional stakeholders on the Government draft legislative programme and all comments received by Regional Ministers were forwarded to the Cabinet Office. To provide further information on responses to stakeholders and further steps taken, would incur disproportionate costs.

## Regional Ministers: Community Development

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings have taken place between regional Ministers and Treasury officials to discuss regeneration in each Minister's region since the regional Ministers were appointed. [190685]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed.

## Social Rented Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has plans to replace the MoveUK scheme with different arrangements. [189540]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government recognise the importance of promoting mobility within the social housing sector. In July we re-launched two of the former moveUK schemes, the Seaside and Country Homes and LAWN, and these are on target to deliver 500 to 600 mobility (home moves) per year.

We have also announced additional funding of £3.8 million to support sub-regional choice based lettings schemes to widen the scope for mobility.

We are also considering how best to support and facilitate other wider national mobility options.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the cause of the recent performance of the MoveUK scheme; and if she will make a statement. [189554]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 18 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 133WS, on Housing Employment Mobility Services (moveUK). The then Minister for Housing and Planning outlined that the Department

'decided to terminate this agreement in the interests of the public and the taxpayer because of serious concerns about the performance and fitness for purpose of the software developed by SSPL [the Contractor] to provide those services'.

### Social Rented Housing: Sales

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of total revenue of registered social landlords in England and Wales was generated from sales of property in the latest period for which figures are available. [188870]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The global accounts 2006 published by the Housing Corporation (the regulator for housing associations in England) show that turnover for the social landlord sector was £9,061 million of which the surplus on sales of assets amounted to £536 million, 6 per cent. of the total revenue.

Due to the way various sales are disclosed within the accounts, it is not possible to arrive at the complete figure for sales of properties. Significantly, the surplus on sales figure stated above is the net result of revenue less cost and does not therefore reflect the full revenue from sales. In addition, housing associations derive revenue from the sale of shared ownership homes, a significant element of which is not included in the figure above.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Data Protection

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether the Sub-Committee on Information Security has a member of HM Treasury on it; [169741]

(2) whether the Sub-Committee on Information Security issued any instructions to *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Department for Work and Pensions on information security in the last 12 months; [169742]

(3) whether the Sub-Committee on Information Security has received any reports of security breaches at *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Department for Work and Pensions in the last two years; [169743]

(4) when the Sub-Committee on Information Security last discussed information security at HM Revenue and Customs; [169744]

(5) whether the Sub-Committee on Information Security found any weaknesses in the integrity system at *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in the last two years; [169745]

(6) when the IT security officers forum met in the last three years; and whether a representative of *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs attended; [169746]

(7) whether minutes of the IT security officers forum will be made available to investigators looking at the recent HM Revenue and Customs data loss; [169747]

(8) whether the IT security officers forum has discussed security at *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions in the last two years; [169748]

(9) when the last reassessment of risk was reported to his Office by *(a)* each Government Department and *(b)* his Office in accordance with section 0 (24) of the Manual of Protective Security; [169749]

(10) whether the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security has a member of HM Treasury on it; [169750]

(11) whether the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security has issued any instructions to *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Department for Work and Pensions on information security in the last 12 months; [169751]

(12) whether the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security received any reports of security breaches at *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Department for Work and Pensions in the last two years; [169752]

(13) when the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security last discussed information security at HM Revenue and Customs; [169753]

(14) whether the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security found any weakness in the integrity system at *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs during the last two years. [169754]

**Edward Miliband:** The Sub-Committee on Information Security and the Interdepartmental Committee on Protective Security were replaced in 2004 with sub-committees of the Official Committee on Security. It is established practice not to disclose the details of attendees and activities of official committees.

### Departmental Responsibilities: Electronic Government

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which projects relating to *(a)* e-democracy, *(b)* digital inclusion and *(c)* transformational government are the responsibility of his Department. [189906]

**Mr. Watson:** As set out in the comprehensive spending review the Minister for the Cabinet Office, who chairs the new Cabinet Committee on Public Engagement and the Delivery of Services, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury hold operational departments to account for the delivery of the Transformational Government commitments within the Service Transformation

Agreement. Each Secretary of State is responsible for the delivery of service transformation projects within his or her department.

The Cabinet Office is not responsible for any projects on e-democracy or digital inclusion.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189797]

**Mr. Watson:** This information is not separately identified in the Cabinet Office accounts and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Non-Profit-Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what his Department's *(a)* procurement and *(b)* tendering policy is in respect of social enterprises; [186653]

(2) how many contracts his Department has with social enterprises; and what the value of each of those contracts is. [186654]

**Phil Hope:** Businesses that are awarded contracts by the Cabinet Office are not currently required to state whether they are social enterprises and no detailed central record of contracts awarded is held. Therefore the information for the department as a whole is available only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1 April 2007, the Office of the Third Sector within the Cabinet Office has contracted with a number of social enterprises and social enterprise representative bodies either as strategic partners and/or for other services including:

CAN
Cats Pyjamas
Co-operatives UK
Development Trusts Association
The Innovation Exchange
Pack-It
Plunkett Foundation
Prowess
School for Social Entrepreneurs
Social Enterprise Coalition
Social Enterprise London
Social Firms UK
Society Media
Striding Out

The total value of the contracts and grants awarded to the social enterprises since 1 April 2007 is £3,583,300.

### Office of the Third Sector: Manpower

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent staff work within his Department's Office of the Third Sector. [191027]

**Phil Hope:** There are 54 full-time equivalent staff working in the Office of the Third Sector as at 28 February 2008.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff who work in the Office of the Third Sector were previously *(a)* Government special advisers, *(b)* Labour party employees and *(c)* trades union employees. [191093]

**Phil Hope:** All civil servants are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the "Civil Service Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code". Information relating to an individual's employment history is confidential between an employer and an employee.

### Public Appointments

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008 to Question 184563, which public appointments, other than those for which his Department is directly responsible, Sir Alistair Graham has held; and what salary he has received in respect of those appointments, in each of the last five years. [188986]

**Mr. Watson:** For information on Sir Alistair Graham's public appointments prior to June 2006, I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1378-9W.

In addition to the public appointments for which the Cabinet Office are responsible, outlined in my earlier reply to him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 689-90W, other public appointments held by Sir Alistair since 2006 are set out in the following table with remuneration details:

| *Sponsor Department* | *Body* | *Position* | *Dates in post* | *Remuneration* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department for Transport | British Transport Police Authority | Chair | From 1 July 2004 for 4 years | 60 days a year at £25,800 with inflationary rises. |
| Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills | Appeals Committee | Registered as a potential Appeals Committee Chair | Not used since 2006 | 0 |
| Ministry of Justice | Employment Appeals Tribunal | Member | 1 April 2003 to date | £4,852 since April 2006 (7 days during 2006-07 at £276 per day and 10 days during 2007-08 at £292 per day) |

### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many plasma television screens have been purchased by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and its agencies and *(b)* other offices for which he has responsibility in such matters, and at what cost in the last 24 months. [191025]

**Mr. Watson:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Voluntary Organisations

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide public services in Chorley constituency that are three-year contracts; and what progress has been made on increasing the proportion of such contracts which are of a three-year duration. [191200]

**Phil Hope:** This information is currently not held centrally.

I will be reporting on government progress in meeting the three year funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three year funding from 2009 onwards.

### Voluntary Work: Shipley

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in Shipley constituency are awarded three year contracts; [191585]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in Shipley constituency that are three year contracts. [191586]

**Phil Hope:** This information is currently not held centrally.

I will be reporting on Government progress in meeting the three year funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three year funding from 2009 onwards.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 5 March 2008*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Big Ben: Visits

**Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many public tours were made of the Clock Tower in each of the last five years. [191296]

**Nick Harvey:** 1,674 groups comprising 7,460 individuals visited the Clock Tower in 2007. Records were not kept for previous years.

### Freedom of Information

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission by what means hon. Members are consulted before cases involving the House are brought before the Freedom of Information Tribunal; what the total cost to the House has been of such cases to date; and if he will make a statement. [190771]

**Nick Harvey:** The House has appealed to the Information Tribunal on three separate occasions: twice in respect of hon. Members' travel expenses and once in respect of information about the Additional Costs Allowance. In each case before lodging an appeal, the Members Estimate Committee—the body responsible for giving advice on matters connected with the allowances—was consulted. In each case the Committee took the view that as hon. Members held divergent views on the extent to which such information should be made available to the public it was appropriate that the level of disclosure should be considered by the Tribunal. In addition, where the appeals related to the allowances of named individuals, the Members concerned have been kept informed at each stage of the process.

The total external legal costs of the two previous appeals and the cost to date for the most recent appeal is £51,947. Other legal and staff costs including those relating to advice from the House's Legal Services Office and those associated with staff time are not separately available.

### Parliamentary Archives: Visits

**Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many members of the public visited the Parliamentary Archives in Victoria Tower in each of the last five years. [191280]

**Nick Harvey:** The number of visits by members of the public in organised groups to the Parliamentary Archives' repository in the Victoria Tower was 225 (20 groups) in 2003-04, 360 (26 groups) in 2004-05, 495 (40 groups) in 2005-06, 442 (39 groups) in 2006-07, and 412 (41 groups) in 2007-08.

### Press

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent in each of the last two years on the refurbishment of the Press restaurant. [190304]

**Nick Harvey:** The final cost to the House of the recently completed refurbishment of the Press Gallery was £8.2 million. This is higher than the figure of £7.7 million given on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 947, because there were additional costs for removing asbestos and contractors final claims. As well as modern office accommodation, the improved facilities include a new kitchen and a multi-purpose restaurant and café/bar.

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the costs to the Commission were of the provision of facilities to the Parliamentary Press Gallery in each of the last five years. [190305]

**Nick Harvey:** The direct resource cost of the provision of facilities to the Parliamentary Press Gallery over the past four years—as long as records are retained—has been as follows:

£

| | *Support staff* | *Catering* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 93,000 | 179,300 | 272,300 |
| 2005-06 | 103,000 | 226,800 | 329,800 |
| 2006-07 | 104,000 | 201,100 | 305,100 |
| 2007-08 forecast | 112,000 | 147,700 | 259,700 |

## WALES

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191477]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office comprehensive spending review settlement was agreed, with HM Treasury, as a three year settlement, fully taking account of efficiency savings.

Further information on the budget of the Wales Office will be contained in the Wales Office annual report, due to be published later this year.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191244]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department has used the following amounts of bottled water, in the last three years.

| | *Litres* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,665 |
| 2006 | 2,072 |
| 2007 | 2,090 |

My Office, in line with Government initiatives on sustainable development, is exploring possibilities of installing filter taps to provide a drinking water tap in the kitchen at my London office. The water is used for water coolers. No additional bottled water is purchased.

My Cardiff office is fitted with a filter tap for drinking water.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Assets Recovery Agency: Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland Chief Constable on the transfer of the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [189381]

**Paul Goggins:** I have discussed issues relating to asset recovery with the Chief Constable in the course of my regular meetings, including the merger of the Assets Recovery Agency with the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

All law enforcement agencies in the Organised Crime Task Force—the Police Service of Northern Ireland, HM Revenue and Customs, Assets Recovery Agency and Serious Organised Crime Agency—are currently working together to draw up the Northern Ireland assets recovery action plan for 2008 to 2010, which I intend to publish by the spring.

### Crime: Drugs

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* cocaine, *(b)* heroine, *(c)* ecstasy, *(d)* amphetamine and *(e)* cannabis was seized in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [186984]

**Paul Goggins:** The latest figures available for the seizures requested cover the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. These are shown in the following table.

*Cocaine, Heroin, Ecstasy, Amphetamine and Cannabis Seizures, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*

| *Drugs seized* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sept* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *NI Totals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cocaine Powder (gms) | 1,112.4 | 5,066.2 | 13,762.9 | 462.3 | 507.9 | 3,813.2 | 1,450.4 | 2,217.4 | 272.5 | 3,732.0 | 176.0 | 3,566.6 | 36,139.7 |
| Cocaine Wraps | 1 | 14 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 42 |
| Crack Cocaine (gms) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| *(b)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heroin Ampoules | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Heroin Mls | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 30.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 40.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 79.1 |
| Heroin Powder (gms) | 68.0 | 51.4 | 132.9 | 21.4 | 46.0 | 0.0 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 60.2 | 98.0 | 0.0 | 482.4 |
| Heroin Wraps | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| *(c)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecstasy Tablets | 2,172 | 17,665 | 4,293 | 23,420 | 14,670 | 20,923 | 7,966 | 2,045 | 982 | 1,204 | 2,587 | 20,781 | 118,708 |
| Ecstasy Capsules | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ecstasy Powder (gms) | 0.0 | 105.0 | 0.0 | 4.9 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 194.8 | 188.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 519.8 |
| Ecstasy Crystal (gms) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,500.0 | 70.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,579.0 |
| *(d)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amphetamine Powder (gms) | 506.3 | 3,226.7 | 626.3 | 1,546.8 | 1,343.3 | 1,888.9 | 572.8 | 1,914.6 | 986.8 | 3,646.5 | 787.3 | 958.4 | 18,004.7 |
| Amphetamine Tablets | 46 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 39 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 16 | 143 |
| Amphetamine Wraps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 26 | 98 |
| *(e)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cannabis Resin (gms) | 93,564.1 | 10,842.2 | 15,496.7 | 11,805.2 | 12,917.8 | 13,113.7 | 3,506,477.3 | 4,828.0 | 2,189.7 | 3,309.2 | 7,525.6 | 1,467.7 | 3,683,536.9 |
| Cannabis Herbal (gms) | 487.6 | 56.3 | 248.3 | 3,996.0 | 348.3 | 1,467.2 | 572.4 | 4,216.7 | 9,535.8 | 3,002.0 | 423.5 | 2,280.5 | 26,634.5 |
| Cannabis Oil (gms) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.0 |
| Cannabis Joints | 32 | 16 | 19 | 10 | 10 | 35 | 15 | 24 | 19 | 15 | 22 | 4 | 221 |
| Cannabis Plants | 80 | 183 | 13 | 22 | 208 | 174 | 251 | 128 | 203 | 103 | 17 | 66 | 1,448 |

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187958]

**Mr. Woodward:** Expenditure on alcohol is not recorded separately by the Northern Ireland Office and to identify it could only be done so at disproportionate cost. Entertainment is included within the overall spend on hospitality.

The total hospitality spend for the Department and its agencies within the last 12 months is £307,000. This figure is net of any receipts relating to the recovery of costs, for hospitality provided to bodies outside of the Department.

Expenditure on hospitality is set out in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187544]

**Mr. Woodward:** Reimbursable expenses for senior civil service staff in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies for the last 12 months covering February 2007 to January 2008 totalled £85,000.

Under the Civil Service Management Code Departments and agencies must:

reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business;

comply with the additional conditions and rules on travel, relocation expenses, compensation for loss or damage to property, and overseas expenses set out in sections 8.2 to 8.6 of the Code; and

ensure that their rules provide for claiming recompense, including verification and authorisation.

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Labour Turnover

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers *(a)* left and *(b)* joined the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [191218]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the numbers who have joined and left the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last three completed financial years and current year to date.

| | *Recruitment (includes transfers from other forces)* | *Leavers*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 (to 29 February 2008) | 336 | 470 |
| 2006-07 | 459 | 440 |
| 2005-06 | 443 | 404 |
| 2004-05 | 538 | 454 |

[1] Leavers includes officers leaving under severance, medical and injury on duty retirements.

## Terrorism

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will consider prohibiting the Irish Republican Liberation Army under the Terrorism Act 2000. [185725]

**Mr. McNulty:** I have been asked to reply.

The following Irish organisations are proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000:

Continuity Army Council;

Cumann na mBan;

Fianna na hEireann;

Irish National Liberation Army;

Irish People's Liberation Organisation;

Irish Republican Army;

Loyalist Volunteer Force;

Orange Volunteers;

Red Hand Commando;

Red Hand Defenders;

Saor Eire;

Ulster Defence Association;

Ulster Freedom Fighters; and

Ulster Volunteer Force.

As a matter of normal policy and practice we do not comment on organisations not on the proscribed list.

## Wind Power

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191111]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office has no responsibility for these matters, however the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had responsibility for the Northern Ireland Departments until 8 May 2007 when devolution was restored.

I am advised by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister that no objections to wind farm proposals were made by the Northern Ireland Departments in 2006 and in the period 1 January 2007 to 7 May 2007.

## Young Offender Institutions

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many young people on average were detained in each young offender institution in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [191219]

**Paul Goggins:** The information is provided in the following table.

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre | 26 | 25 | 31 |
| HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood | 200 | 206 | 199 |

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre provides accommodation for young people aged 10 to 17.

HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood holds young people aged 16 to 21. Those males aged over 21 who are allowed exceptionally to complete their sentences at Hydebank Wood are also classed as young offenders.

## SCOTLAND

### Postal Services

7. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on postal services in Scotland. [190399]

**David Cairns:** My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

### Universities: Research

8. **Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on UK Government funding for research in Scottish universities. [190400]

**Des Browne:** I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues. Scotland's share of public funding for research is 12.5 per cent. as compared to a population share of 9 per cent.

### Public Spending

9. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much per capita was spent from the public purse in Scotland in the most recent period for which figures are available. [190401]

**David Cairns:** The latest Treasury public expenditure statistical analyses figures show that the planned spend in Scotland for 2006-07 was £8,623 per head. Public spending per head has increased at a faster rate for England than it has for Scotland in every year since 2001-02.

### Armed Forces: Health Care

10. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the provision of health care for armed forces personnel based in Scotland. [190402]

**Des Browne:** I have had various discussions with the First Minister on a range of subjects including armed forces personnel. The Scottish Executive has the duty to ensure NHS boards in Scotland implement their responsibilities to the armed forces, service families, and veterans. The Ministry of Defence has numerous, regular discussions at various levels to assist the Executive and NHS Scotland in this respect.

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the recent Defence Committee report on medical care for the armed forces, HC327 of session 2007-08. [190406]

**Des Browne:** I have not discussed the recent Defence Committee report on medical care for the armed forces with the First Minister. The Scottish Executive has the duty to ensure NHS boards in Scotland implement their responsibilities to the armed forces, service families, and veterans. The Ministry of Defence has numerous, regular discussions at various levels to assist the Executive and NHS Scotland in this respect.

### Financial Services

11. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the financial services sector in Scotland. [190403]

**David Cairns:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, and I have regular engagement with the industry's significant employers in Scotland who continue to benefit from the UK's economic, monetary and fiscal framework that has underpinned the stability of our economy for so long. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, is also a member of the Chancellor's High Level Group on Financial Services.

### Comprehensive Spending Review

12. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the comprehensive spending review settlement provided to the Scottish Executive. [190404]

**Des Browne:** The results of the comprehensive spending review delivered an unequivocally good settlement for Scotland. By the end of the period, the money available to the Scottish Executive will reach £30 billion—more than double the 1999 figure of £14 billion which Donald Dewar had.

### Broadcasting

13. **Rosemary McKenna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish broadcasters on the future of broadcasting in Scotland. [190405]

**David Cairns:** I recently addressed the Salford "Television from the Nations and Regions" conference, where I had discussions with a number of independent broadcasters from across the UK. I have also recently met with the Controller of BBC Scotland and the Chief Executive of Scottish Media Group.

### Devolution

15. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales on the progress of devolution. [190407]

**Des Browne:** I meet regularly with Cabinet colleagues to discuss a wide range of issues. Both the Secretary of State for Wales and I are members of the Cabinet's Constitution committee which is chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice. The committee considers a wide range of constitutional matters.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what campaigns were undertaken by agencies of his Department in conjunction with external public relations companies in each of the last five years, broken down by lead agency; what the cost of each campaign was; and what public relations companies were involved in each campaign. [187579]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has only one executive agency—The Royal Parks Agency. They have used external companies for the following campaigns:

| | *Campaign* | £ |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | Diana Princess of Wales Fountain—Media Strategy | 8,813 |
| 2005 | Diana Princess of Wales Fountain—Media strategy | 4,700 |
| 2006 | Solar Shuttle—Brunswick | 1,500 |
| 2006 | Regent's Park Sport—Brunswick | 4,500 |
| 2007 | Regent's Park Sport—Brunswick | 8,000 |

### Government Departments: Flags

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on his Department's consultation on flying the Union flag from Government buildings. [189728]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W.

### Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what forecast he has made of the number of inbound visitors to the UK in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2012 and *(d)* 2020; [187688]

(2) how many inbound tourist visitors to England he estimates there will be in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2012 and *(d)* 2020. [187494]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* Information on inbound tourist forecasts to England is not available.

VisitBritain only projects the volume of inbound tourism to the UK for the year ahead due to the large number of factors that can influence the volume and value of inbound tourism over the longer term.

The most recent forecasts estimate growth by around 2 per cent. during 2008, with 32.3 million visitors expected. This is an aggregate forecast regardless of purpose of visit.

Full details of the VisitBritain forecasts can be found at:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/MarketIntelligenceResearch/TrendsForecasts.asp

Preliminary projections of visitor numbers to the games in 2012 were included in "The Value of the Olympic and Paralympics Games to UK Tourism", a study carried out from VisitBritain and VisitLondon, published in September 2007. This study projected an additional 321,000 inbound visitors to London in 2012, contributing to an additional 1.7 per cent. in total tourism industry revenue.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many inbound tourist visits were made to England in 2007; and what the visitor spend was. [187493]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* Information on inbound tourism visits to England in 2007 is not available. However, the latest provisional monthly figures for inbound tourism to the UK are shown in the following table. These figures are subject to quarterly revisions in light of more accurate data on passenger figures the coming available at the end of each quarter. Therefore data should be treated with caution.

*Overseas residents visits and spend in the UK—October to December 2007*[1]

| | *2007* | *Percentage change on previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| Visits (millions) | 7.7 | 2 |
| Expenditure (£ billion) | 4.0 | 2 |

[1] Please note that all estimates are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to sampling and other sources of error.

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey 'First Release' (ONS)

The latest full year data on inbound visits and spend to England relate to 2006, where overseas residents made an estimated 27.6 million visits spending £13.8 billion.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Sales

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central government receipts were from council house sales in *(a)* St. Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of total revenues from council house sales this represented in each area in each year. [189480]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is tabled as follows.

*£000*

| | *Right to buy receipts* | *Set aside/pooling*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| *St. Albans* | | |
| 1997-98 | [2]— | 3,643 |
| 1998-99 | [2]— | 3,299 |
| 1999-2000 | [3]659 | 5,318 |
| 2000-01 | 7,586 | 5,642 |
| 2001-02 | 3,426 | 2,522 |
| 2002-03 | — | — |
| 2003-04[4] | 9,615 | — |
| 2004-05 | 6,000 | 1,080 |
| 2005-06 | 3,343 | 1,185 |

| | Right to buy receipts | £000 Set aside/pooling[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,738 | 2,019 |
| *Hertfordshire*[5] | | |
| 1997-98 | [2]— | 40,100 |
| 1998-99 | 17,268 | 34,305 |
| 1999-2000 | 43,871 | 60,362 |
| 2000-01 | 60,317 | 30,682 |
| 2001-02 | 50,621 | 54,704 |
| 2002-03 | 63,481 | 36,568 |
| 2003-04[4] | 70,048 | — |
| 2004-05 | 39,669 | 8,180 |
| 2005-06 | 26,835 | 10,794 |
| 2006-07 | 23,467 | 14,309 |

'—'No data

[1] The table does not provide the percentage of right to buy receipts set aside or pooled, because only the total amount of housing receipts set-aside/pooled is collected.

[2] Information available only at disproportionate cost.

[3] Data only available for one quarter.

[4] No data on set-aside were collected for 2003-04 as a result of the transition to the pooling regime which was introduced in 2004-05.

[5] For some years, the figures for Hertfordshire may actually be higher, because data may be missing from some of the authorities.

The table shows the total capital receipts from right to buy (RTB) sales of local authority dwellings in St. Albans and Hertfordshire. The figures for Hertfordshire are the aggregate of figures for the following 10 authorities that lie within that county: St. Albans city council, Broxbourne borough council, Dacorum borough council, East Hertfordshire district council, Hertsmere district council, North Hertfordshire district council, Stevenage borough council, Three Rivers district council, Watford borough council, and Welwyn Hatfield district council. The figures are net of discount and are as reported by local authorities.

The table also shows the value of capital receipts set-aside from 1997-98 to 2003-04 (the last year in which the set-aside regime existed). Under the set-aside regime, with-debt local authorities (that is, authorities with outstanding major long-term loans) were required to set-aside a proportion of the capital receipt generated by the disposal of a housing revenue account (HRA) asset, for the repayment of housing debt. Debt-free authorities (that is, authorities with no outstanding major long-term loans), on the other hand, were free to use the whole of their housing receipts for any capital purpose. When set-aside exceeds RTB receipts, it is because set-aside includes a proportion of receipts from not only RTB, but also whole-stock transfers, non-RTB dwelling sales, and sales of other HRA assets such as housing land.

From 1 April 2004 set-aside no longer applied to most housing receipts. All local authorities, both with-debt and debt-free, paid over or "pooled" the same amounts to the Secretary of State which would have formerly been set aside by with-debt authorities. Until the introduction of the pooling regime, set-aside was the mechanism that allowed a proportion of housing capital receipts to be redistributed for investment elsewhere. When an authority set aside an amount, the need for central government revenue support for that amount of borrowing through HRA subsidy disappeared, thereby enabling central to provide support for borrowing elsewhere.

The process of pooling is currently being reviewed as part of the wider review of housing finance.

### Council Tax: Parking

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1019W, on council tax: parking, how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned the dwellinghouse coding for parking of *(a)* G1, *(b)* G2, *(c)* G3, *(d)* G4, *(e)* G5, *(f)* G6, *(g)* G7, *(h)* G8 and *(i)* G9, according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [191657]

**John Healey:** As at 4 February 2008 the number of domestic dwellings in England for which the Valuation Office Agency has assigned these dwelling house codes are:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| G1 | 6,835,670 |
| G2 | 1,084,727 |
| G3 | 34,439 |
| G4 | 8,872 |
| G5 | 1,184 |
| G6 | 770 |
| G7 | 170 |
| G8 | 163 |
| G9 | 278 |

### Council Tax: Tax Yields

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish figures for the cash revenue from council tax in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08, broken down by billing authority. [191638]

**John Healey:** A table giving details of the council tax collected in each billing authority in England in 1997-98 and 2006-07 has been deposited in the Library of the House. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

The figures in the table are shown in thousands and are the amount collected within the year, irrespective of the year to which the money relates. The figures therefore include both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years, but exclude amounts funded by council tax benefit.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities including to the creation of unitary authorities.

### Domestic Violence: Refuges

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many domestic violence refuge places there are per head of the population in each local authority area; [188276]

(2) what plans she has to review the provision of domestic violence refuge bedspace numbers. [188275]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This Government take extremely seriously the issue of protection for people at risk of domestic violence. We do not currently hold the information

requested centrally. However we plan to commission new research that will look at the provision of refuge bed spaces and the effectiveness of other housing interventions across the country.

As my hon. Friend will be aware, I agreed during the committee stage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill to consider her amendment which would allow people who are homeless because of domestic violence to have priority need and be owed a homelessness duty. I will report back to my hon. Friend and the House in due course.

### Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average percentage rate was for satisfaction with household waste collection facilities measured under best value performance indicators in each year in which the information has been collected. [191574]

**John Healey:** Best value user satisfaction survey results show that 79 per cent. 84 per cent. and 86 per cent. of residents were satisfied with waste collection in 2006-07, 2003-04 and 2000-01 respectively. A report containing these results, published by the Audit Commission, has been deposited in the Library.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage rate was of satisfaction with household waste collection facilities for each local waste collection authority in each year that best value performance indicators statistics have been compiled. [191650]

**John Healey:** These data are published by the Audit Commission and a copy of the relevant reports has been deposited in the Library.

### Ecobuild 2008

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what involvement her Department had in the Ecobuild 2008 Exhibition and Conference. [191459]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department had a stand at Ecobuild that provided up to date information on a range of departmental policies, and Communities and Local Government officials spoke at a number of workshops. Also, I gave a speech at Ecobuild on the 27 February—a copy of which can be found on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/ecobuild2008.

### Eco-Towns

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what minimum energy efficiency standard domestic dwellings in eco-town developments will need to be built. [191640]

**Caroline Flint:** As set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, homes and the whole eco-town development should be built in a way to incorporate energy systems that can reach zero carbon standards.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual dwellings will be built, on average, in each eco-town; and over what period. [191641]

**Caroline Flint:** The average number of dwellings expected to be built in each eco-town ranges between 5-20,000. We expect there to be up to five eco-towns by 2016 and 10 by 2020.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against what technical criteria eco-town bids will be assessed. [191642]

**Caroline Flint:** Eco-towns will be assessed against the criteria set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, and in relation to technical aspects these are covered in the environment and carbon criteria. Assessments will also be informed by the Code for Sustainable Homes, which as the Prospectus sets out will be used as a guide on sustainability issues.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many eco-town bids she expects to be approved. [191769]

**Caroline Flint:** We expect that there will be 10 eco-towns developed through the eco-towns programme.

### Empty Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty homes in England; and if she will make a statement. [187020]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48W.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Egham

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings the regional Minister for the South East has had with *(a)* the chief veterinary officer and *(b)* the Prime Minister on the foot and mouth outbreak in Egham in 2007. [191624]

**Hazel Blears:** The regional Minister for the South East is also the DEFRA Minister for Marine, Landscape and Rural Affairs. He was therefore in constant contact with the chief veterinary officer throughout the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2007. He also attended COBRA briefing sessions, visited some areas of the South East affected by the outbreak and briefed relevant local Members of Parliament on the situation as it developed.

### Home Information Packs

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home condition reports are on the Home Condition Report electronic register. [191649]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of voluntary home condition reports which have been lodged on the Home Condition Report Register up to 27 February 2008 is 1,743.

### Housing Act 2004

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions of the Housing Act 2004 have yet to be implemented or commenced. [191668]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** All of the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 that relate to England have been commenced.

### Housing Improvement: Disabled

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Part M of the Building Regulations applies to house extensions and improvements; and if she will make a statement. [190455]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 29 March 2008]:* Part M does not apply to an extension of, or a material alteration of, a dwelling.

### Housing Improvement: Planning Permission

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason a full design and access statement is required in relation to minor household extensions *(a)* in conservation areas and *(b)* for listed buildings; and if she will make a statement. [191299]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A design and access statement is a report supporting a planning application to explain and justify a development proposal. A design and access statement is required for all planning applications, with a few limited exceptions such as existing dwelling houses outside designated areas. A design and access statement is also required for listed building consent. A major part of a design and access statement is the explanation of how local context has influenced the design. Local context is particularly important for conservation areas and listed buildings. A design and access statement can nevertheless be very concise so long as it effectively covers all of the design and access issues for a proposed development.

### Housing: Databases

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency stores the unique property reference number of a domestic property that is provided to it through the Valuebill interface. [191677]

**John Healey:** Yes.

### Housing: Licensing

**Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have *(a)* applied for designation of an area as subject to additional licensing and *(b)* obtained designation under the terms of section 58 of the Housing Act 2004. [189249]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There have been no formal applications to the Department from local authorities seeking approval for additional HMO licensing schemes, therefore no designations have been granted under the terms of section 58 of the Housing Act 2004.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* arm's length management organisations are in (i) positive and (ii) negative subsidy with reference to the housing revenue account. [188338]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table lists those local housing authorities that are in positive housing revenue account (HRA) and negative HRA subsidy. Local authorities that have delegated housing management functions to an arm's length management organisation are marked with a superscript[1].

*Local housing authorities with positive HRA subsidy entitlement in 2006-07*

Ashfield[1]
Barnsley[1]
Basildon[1]
Birmingham
Blackpool[1]
Blyth Valley[1]
Bolton[1]
Brent[1]
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Camden
City of London
Derby[1]
Ealing[1]
Easington[1]
Eastbourne[1]
Gateshead[1]
Greenwich
Hackney[1]
Hammersmith[1]
Haringey[1]
Hounslow[1]
Islington[1]
Kensington[1]
Kings Lynn
Kingston Upon Hull
Kirklees[1]
Lambeth[1]
Leeds[1]
Leicester
Lewisham[1]
Lincoln
Liverpool
Manchester[1]
Newcastle upon Tyne[1]
Newham[1]
North Tyneside
Nottingham[1]
Oldham[1]

Plymouth
Rochdale[1]
Salford[1]
Sandwell[1]
Sheffield[1]
South Norfolk
Southwark
Stockton[1]
Teesdale
Thanet
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest[1]
Westminster[1]
Wigan[1]

*Local housing authorities with negative HRA subsidy entitlement in 2006-07*

Adur
Alnwick
Arun
Ashford
Aylesbury
Babergh
Barking
Barnet[1]
Barrow
Bassetlaw[1]
Berwick
Blaby
Bolsover
Bournemouth
Bracknell
Braintree
Brentwood
Bridgnorth
Broxtowe
Bury[1]
Cambridge
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Caradon
Carrick[1]
Castle Morpeth
Castle Point
Charnwood[1]
Cheltenham[1]
Chesterfield
Chester-le-Street
Chorley
City of York
Colchester[1]
Corby
Crawley
Croydon
Dacorum
Darlington
Dartford
Daventry
Derwentside
Doncaster[1]
Dover
Dudley
Durham
East Devon
East Riding
Ellesmere Port
Enfield
Epping Forest
Exeter
Fareham
Fenland
Gedling
Gloucester[1]
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Guildford
Harborough
Harlow
Harrogate
Harrow
Havering[1]
High Peak[1]
Hillingdon[1]
Hinckley
Ipswich
Kettering
Kingston upon Thames
Lancaster
Lewes
Luton
Macclesfield
Mansfield
Medway Towns
Melton
Merton
Mid Devon
Mid Suffolk
Milton Keynes
Mole Valley
NE Derbyshire[1]
New Forest
Newark[1]
North Cornwall
North Kesteven
North Lincoln
North Shropshire
North Warwick
Northampton
Nuneaton
NW Leicester
Oadby and Wigston
Oswestry
Oxford City
Pendle
Poole[1]
Portsmouth
Reading
Redbridge[1]

Redditch
Ribble Valley
Richmondshire
Rochford
Rotherham[1]
Rugby
Runnymede
Rutland
Salisbury
Sedgefield
Sedgemoor[1]
Sefton
Selby
Shepway
Slough
Solihull[1]
South Beds
South Cambridge
South Derby
South Gloucs
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Lakeland[1]
South Northants
South Tyneside[1]
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea[1]
St. Albans
Stevenage[1]
Stockport[1]
Stoke-on-Trent
Stroud
Sutton[1]
Swindon
Tamworth
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Tendring
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Uttlesford
Wandsworth
Warrington[1]
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wear Valley[1]
Wellingborough
West Lancashire
Winchester
Woking
Wokingham
Wolverhampton[1]
Wycombe

2006-07 is the latest financial year for which audited data are available. Although local housing authorities in surplus and so making HRA subsidy payments to the Department outnumber local housing authorities receiving positive HRA subsidy, the Exchequer made a net contribution of £148 million to HRA subsidy nationally.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, and 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 690-91W, on housing: low incomes, what the early repayment charges are on *(a)* Part 1 and *(b)* Part 2 of the loans offered by Yorkshire Building Society if the mortgage is redeemed or the property is sold within the first five years of the mortgage. [189241]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The question does not relate to our low cost home ownership policy. It is in relation to loans offered by a mortgage lender.

The Yorkshire Building Society should be contacted for details of early repayment charges on parts 1 and 2.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Housing Corporation plans to produce an assessment methodology for determining the impact of affordable housing investment decisions on community cohesion; and if she will make a statement. [190154]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As set out in the response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, published on 4 February, the Housing Corporation within their Affordable Housing Programme requires all Investment Partners to provide a 'Method Statement' that details how they intend to meet the needs of diverse communities.

The Corporation will be doing further work later this year on an assessment methodology for determining the impact of affordable housing investment decisions on community cohesion.

### Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* percentage increase and *(b)* cash change in (i) housing management allowance, (ii) housing maintenance allowance and (iii) major works allowance subsidies for local authorities in England was in each year since 1997. [164189]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The percentage and cash changes to the management allowance, maintenance allowance and major repairs allowance are shown in the following table.

| | *Management cash change (£)* | *Maintenance cash change (£)* | *MR cash change (£)* | *Management change* | *Maintenance change (%)* | *MRA change (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 6.52 | 21.67 | [1]— | 1.8 | 3.5 | [1]— |
| 2001-02 | 0.51 | 23.80 | [1]— | 0.1 | 3.7 | [1]— |
| 2002-03 | 30.34 | 42.63 | 13.66 | 8.4 | 6.4 | 2.5 |

| | Management cash change (£) | Maintenance cash change (£) | MR cash change (£) | Management change | Maintenance change (%) | MRA change (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 35.61 | 44.20 | 13.18 | 9.1 | 6.2 | 2.3 |
| 2004-05 | 49.39 | 83.54 | 15.06 | 11.6 | 11.0 | 2.6 |
| 2005-06 | 53.44 | 91.77 | 21.64 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 3.6 |
| 2006-07 | 50.15 | 87.83 | 16.07 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 2.6 |
| 2007-08 | 21.95 | 36.58 | 17.86 [1] | 3.8 | 3.8 | 2.8 |
| 2008-09 | 25.49 | 34.73 | 18.52 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 2.8 |

[1] Major repairs allowance introduced in 2001-2002

*Note:*
Data pre-2000-2001 are only available at disproportionate cost.

Figures in the table are based on stock weighted average allowances for England. Certain factors used in the calculation of allowances are updated every year. For instance, the costs of building labour varies regionally and this variation can fluctuate from year to year. This means that the allowances for management, maintenance and the MRA can have regional variations in them from year to year. These variations redistribute the management, maintenance and MRA pot within the allowances, rather than adding extra allowance.

## Housing: Standards

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1328-9W, on housing standards, which councils have delivery dates to meet the decent home standard; and what those dates are in each case. [177187]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have given her Department notice that they will not be able to achieve the decent homes standard by 2010. [180080]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the *(a)* 2026 new housing targets and *(b)* annual new housing targets proposed by each of the advisory panels of all the respective regional assemblies in England. [189172]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Government sets the overall strategy for housing supply in England. The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (July 2007), sets out a target to increase housing supply to 240,000 additional homes per annum by 2016.

Four out of eight RSSs have a plan life period, which extend to 2026:

Yorkshire and Humber
West Midlands
South East
South West

The remaining four RSSs have a plan life period, which extends to 2021:

North East
North West
East Midlands
East of England

Detailed housing targets are not set by Government, but are set out in regional and local plans which are developed through regional and local planning processes.

Detailed housing targets proposed in each RSS can be examined by accessing the websites cited as follows:

*North East*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/ourregion/regional_strategies/

*North West*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

*Yorkshire and Humber*

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report/

*East Midlands*

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/psc/suscom/rss/eastmidlandsplan/

*West Midlands*

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47

*East of England*

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

*South East*

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html

*South West*

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

## Housing: Thermal Insulation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to promote innovation in the development of thermal insulation materials to be fitted to existing housing stock. [191464]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department has been working with DEFRA, BERR and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) to consider how we might promote innovation in this area, in particular with respect to the more difficult to treat solid-walled properties. As a result, the TSB included the issue of thermal insulation of existing buildings in its recent £12 million call for collaborative research and development proposals in the area of materials for energy. A number of research proposals have been received and are currently being evaluated.

These three Departments in conjunction with Communities and Local Government have also collaborated with the TSB in developing their Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform which will be launched this spring. This focuses on what is needed to enable UK industry to successfully meet the requirements of level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, to meet similar high levels of performance for new non- domestic buildings, and to develop materials for retrofitting the existing building stock. This will include fostering innovative improvements to the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings.

### Infrastructure Planning Commission

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what scrutiny activity the Infrastructure Planning Commission will undertake other than of National Policy Statements. [191935]

**John Healey:** The Infrastructure Planning Commission's main function will be to examine and determine applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects. National Policy Statements will be scrutinised by Parliament.

### Local Government: Pay

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what measure of inflation local authorities will base staff pay changes in 2008-09. [191656]

**John Healey:** Pay uplifts for local authority employees, other than teachers, are negotiated by the Local Government Employers and the trade unions in the National Joint Council.

The Government's policy is that public sector pay settlements should reflect the individual labour market position of work forces, be consistent with achievement of the Government's CPI inflation target of 2 per cent., be affordable and represent value for money for taxpayers.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Educational Institutions

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether account is taken by the Valuation Office Agency of the presence of sprinklers when calculating the rental value of educational premises for business rates. [189517]

**John Healey:** Fire suppression sprinklers are designated as rateable. Therefore, they will be taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency when they assess the rateable value of all rateable properties including educational premises.

### Planning Permission: Appeals

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what proportion of cases where a local authority lost a planning appeal, the local authority was obliged to meet all the costs of the appeal in financial year 2006-07. [190426]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information to provide an answer to the precise question is not available. In 2006-07, 362 awards of appeal costs were made against local planning authorities. This figure comprises both full awards, where authorities lost the appeal, and partial awards where authorities did not lose the appeal but were made liable to pay partial costs for one or more aspects of the appeal. No record is available of the proportional breakdown between full and partial awards.

The actual amount to be paid is not determined by a costs award. This is for the parties to settle by negotiation initially in accordance with longstanding Government guidance contained in DOE Circular 8/93.

### Planning Permission: Renewable Energy

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on planning permission: renewable energy, if she will provide a list of the no overall control council authorities referred to in the table. [190894]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The councils with no overall political control who refused planning permission for renewable energy projects in 2007 are as follows:

Allerdale Borough Council (two cases)
Bedford Borough Council
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
Eden District Council

The councils with no overall political control who had undetermined planning applications for renewable energy projects at the end of 2007 are as follows:

Allerdale Borough Council (four cases)
Bedford Borough Council
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council (three cases)
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (two cases)
Castle Morpeth Borough Council
Derby City Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eden District Council (two cases)
Kerrier District Council (two cases)
Leeds City Council
Mid Devon District Council (two cases)
Milton Keynes Council (two cases)
North Cornwall District Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Tendring District Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

### Planning: Floods

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on flood risks to existing householders from nearby large scale developments in flood plains; and if she will seek to arrange discussions with insurance companies on these concerns. [183837]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: The Government are well aware of the potential impacts large scale developments might have on the risk of

flooding to existing householders. To manage these risks and avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas we published planning guidance on development and flood risk in 2001, and strengthened this with the new Planning Policy Statement (PPS)25 in December 2006. PPS25 requires that the flood risk to and from all new development in flood risk areas, and from development over 1 ha outside these areas is assessed as part of the application for planning permission.

We also made the Environment Agency a statutory consultee on planning applications and introduced a flooding direction so that planning authorities cannot approve major developments against an objection from the Agency without first referring them to Ministers.

We are committed to working with the insurance industry to maximise the availability of flood insurance for homes and small businesses, and maintain regular contact with the Association of British Insurers to discuss insurance cover for existing properties, and other issues of mutual interest.

**Planning: Greenbelt**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regional planning authorities have powers to *(a)* review and *(b)* remove green belt designation. [191646]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No. Regional spatial strategies prepared by regional planning bodies set the framework for green belt policy and settlement policy for the region, forming the context for local plan-making by local planning authorities. Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts", states that local planning authorities can alter green belt boundaries through their local plans only in exceptional circumstances. Any such proposal will be subject to full consultation and independent examination.

**Public Buildings: Fire Prevention**

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what standards are used to test the combustibility of composite cladding panels used in the walls and roofs of new public buildings, with particular reference to schools and hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [191443]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) apply to building work, typically the erection, extension or material alteration of a building. Part B sets out requirements for fire safety and is supported by guidance in Approved Document B which sets out appropriate levels of fire performance for materials, products and structures when tested to relevant British or European standards.

Fire performance is tested using either the relevant parts of British Standard, BS 476 or using the tests specified in the relevant part of European Standard, EN 13501. The necessary level of performance that should be obtained will depend upon the type of building, the nature of the construction product and where it is located.

Specific guidance on meeting the fire safety requirements of the Building Regulations in the design and construction of schools is given in Building Bulletin 100 which is published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and on hospitals in Health Technical Memorandum 02-05 which is published by the Department of Health.

**Regeneration: Blackpool**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to the regeneration of *(a)* the Talbot Gateway and *(b)* other regeneration in central Blackpool for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [191321]

**John Healey:** Investment by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and English Partnerships forms an important part of the overall package of regeneration measures for Blackpool announced in Parliament on 26 February 2008 in response to the report of the Blackpool Task Force. Central Government does not itself make decisions on, or directly fund, such investment, which quite properly must be informed by regional and local funding priorities and be funded according to the criteria and resources of the relevant organisations.

The NWDA have worked closely with ReBlackpool on the Talbot Gateway development, have provided initial financial support and now await costed proposals for the next stages. Talbot Gateway is expected to lever significant private sector investment.

**Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the Thames Gateway Pan Gateway Inward Investment Plan; and if she will make a statement. [191594]

**Caroline Flint:** The three Regional Development Agencies involved in the Thames Gateway are currently developing a joint Pan-Gateway inward investment service which will come into place in April 2008, details of which will be published alongside their Economic Development Investment Plan. They are also preparing a joint inward investment marketing strategy which will be ready for execution in the summer.

**Rightmove: Finance**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency has budgeted for payments to Rightmove.co.uk plc in 2008-09. [191632]

**John Healey:** The Valuation Office Agency has made no specific provision for payments to Rightmove.co.uk plc.

**Sustainable Development: Expenditure**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to the publication by her Department of Sustainable Communities Act 2007: A Guide, whether cross-regional expenditure by *(a)* Government Offices for the Regions and *(b)* regional development agencies will be classed as public expenditure that cannot be mapped to local authority areas. [191651]

**John Healey:** Section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports. A local spending report produces information about public expenditure in relation to a particular geographical area. While the basis behind local spending reports is to identify where public money is spent, it will not be possible or cost effective to map all public expenditure. For example, some public funding supports services which are not geographically specific or are used by people from a number of local authority areas.

Work on implementation is currently at an early stage and we aim to consult on proposals in the summer.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Birds: Imports

**Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the regulation of wild bird imports of the non-EU species proposed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for inclusion in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 has changed since the EU banned bird imports because of concerns over avian influenza. [190441]

**Joan Ruddock:** The EU ban on the import of wild birds has meant that, other than birds imported for conservation programmes, only captive-bred birds from approved breeding establishments have been permitted for import into the EU. These, and those birds imported for conservation programmes, must undergo a period of quarantine.

Birds of prey, such as those proposed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for inclusion in Schedule 4, that are imported under exemptions from the ban continue to be subject to the controls under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether birds imported into the UK from other EU member states with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species sales certificates may be traced for DNA testing if required. [191014]

**Joan Ruddock:** There are no import controls between EU member states. CITES listed birds moved within Europe for commercial purposes will require a certificate issued under Article 10 of Regulation EC No 338/97 by the member state of its origin.

If the bird in question is noted as being captive bred, and provided the parent birds are available for examination, it would be possible for the bird's ancestry to be established through DNA analysis of blood or tissue. This would of course require the co-operation of the CITES management authority of the member state in question.

### Boilers: Standards

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if the Government will consider the merits of using industry expertise to work with the European Commission to produce a separate standard for heating controls rather than including them with boilers as outlined in the Energy-using Products Directive; [189852]

(2) what assessment the Government has made of the effects of Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive on the UK heating controls industry. [189904]

**Joan Ruddock:** Heating controls play an important role in reducing the energy used by heating systems and the Government published a consultation paper on 17 January setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on the DEFRA website.

Following receipt on 31 January of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the Framework Directive on the Eco Design of Energy Using Products (EuP), the Market Transformation Programme sent a copy of the proposals to a distribution list of several hundred stakeholders, including any business or trade association that had previously expressed an interest in receiving information on developments on heating, asking for comments within three weeks to prepare a position for the Consultation Forum meeting on 29 February.

DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss both the proposals in the consultation paper on domestic heating and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters. In addition, officials have held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry, including a site visit to better understand the boiler supply chain, in order to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the implications of the proposed implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive of boilers outside the scope of the Directive. [189902]

**Joan Ruddock:** My officials regularly meet and discuss issues on an EU level and have held a number of meetings, informal and formal, with the Commission on the Energy Using Products Directive and its impact on the water heater and boiler heating industry.

The Commission is currently analysing responses from the boiler and water heater industry on its proposals for the Energy-using Products Directive. My officials also attended a Consultation Forum (comprising the Commission, European Trade associations and other member state representatives) on the Directive on 29 February where this issue was discussed.

### Energy-using Products Directive

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what *(a)* research and *(b)* assessments he has evaluated on the impact of the Energy-using Products Directive on the boiler-making industry; and if he will make a statement; [191056]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the impact of Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive on the UK heating controls industry; [191057]

(3) what account was taken of electrical equipment waste arising from the requirement of the Energy-using Products Directive to supply system bundles after 2013. [191058]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's market transformation programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of the implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive based on the Commission's current proposals.

Heating controls play an important role in reducing the energy used by heating systems. DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss the proposals in the public consultation launched on 17 January, which set out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating, and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters.

Officials have also held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry in order to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

Following receipt on 31 January of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the Framework Directive on the Eco Design of Energy Using Products (EuP), the Government's market transformation programme sent a copy of the Commission's proposals to a distribution list of several hundred stakeholders, including any business or trade association that had previously expressed an interest in receiving information on developments on heating, asking for comments within three weeks to prepare a position for the Consultation Forum meeting, which was held on 29 February.

### Heating: Energy Conservation

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure the Energy-using Products Directive does not negatively impact on the proposed UK strategy to develop the market for advanced heating controls in new and existing homes. [189256]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to raising product efficiency. We are working with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry and the European Commission to develop proposals which will maximise the standards and efficiency of products covered by the Energy Using Products Directive and ensure these do not negatively impact on the market for advanced heating controls in new and existing homes.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on DEFRA's website.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the controls industry to discuss the creation of a separate standard for controls. [189903]

**Joan Ruddock:** Heating controls play an important role in reducing the energy used by heating systems. DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss the proposals in the public consultation launched on 17 January, which set out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating, and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters.

Officials have also held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry (including a site visit to better understand the boiler supply chain) in order to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

Following receipt on 31 January of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the Framework Directive on the Eco Design of Energy Using Products (EuP), the Government's Market Transformation Programme sent a copy of the Commission's proposals to a distribution list of several hundred stakeholders, including any business or trade association that had previously expressed an interest in receiving information on developments on heating, asking for comments within three weeks to prepare a position for the Consultation Forum meeting held on 29 February.

I have no current plans to meet representatives of the controls industry.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure the Energy-using Products Directive complements the proposed UK strategy to develop the market for advanced heating controls in new and existing homes. [189905]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to raising product efficiency and we are working with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry and the European Commission to develop proposals which will maximise the standards and efficiency of products covered by the Energy Using Products Directive and ensure these do not negatively impact on the market for advanced heating controls in new and existing homes.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation is available on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consideration his Department has given to the establishment of progressive minimum standards for heating controls under the energy-using products framework directive; [190105]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to ensure the energy-using products directive complements the proposed UK strategy to develop the market for advanced heating controls; [190123]

(3) what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the energy-using products directive maximises carbon savings of heating controls. [190167]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to raising product efficiency and we are working with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry and the European Commission to develop proposals which will maximise the standards and efficiency of products covered by the energy using products directive, without negatively impacting on the market for heating controls.

Heating controls play an important role in improving the efficiency of heating systems and the Government have recently published a consultation paper setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission about application of provisions matching those in the proposed energy-using products directive to boilers beyond the scope of the proposed directive. [190125]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA officials regularly meet and discuss issues on an EU level and have held formal and informal meetings with the Commission on how its proposals for implementing the energy using products directive may impact on the boiler and water heater industry.

The Commission is currently analysing responses from the boiler and water heater industry on the Commission's proposals and DEFRA officials attended a consultation forum (comprising the Commission, European Trade Associations and other member state representatives) on the directive on 29 February where concerns raised by this industry were discussed.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which bodies his Department has consulted on the development of the energy-using products framework directive; [190109]

(2) if he will meet heating controls industry representatives to discuss the creation of a standard for heating controls; [190124]

(3) what meetings with stakeholders during the three week consultation on the energy-using framework directive period his Department has planned other than the consultation forum on 29 February; [190162]

(3) what consideration the Government have given to involving industry expertise in the development of a standard for heating controls distinct from that contained in the energy-using products directive. [190166]

**Joan Ruddock:** Heating controls play an important role in reducing the energy used by heating systems and the Government published a consultation paper on 17 January setting out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating. A copy of the consultation document is available on the DEFRA website.

Following receipt on 31 January of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the framework directive on the eco design of energy using products (EuP), the Market Transformation programme sent a copy of the proposals to a distribution list of several hundred stakeholders, including any business or trade association that had previously expressed an interest in receiving information on developments on heating, asking for comments within three weeks to prepare a position for the Consultation Forum meeting on 29 February.

DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss both the proposals in the consultation paper on domestic heating and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters. In addition, officials have held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry, (including a site visit to better understand the boiler supply chain) to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

I have no current proposals to meet with the heating controls industry.

### Nature Conservation

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methods his Department uses to assess the validity of captive breeding claims of species in Annex A of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species before issuing sales certificates. [191015]

**Joan Ruddock:** Captive breeding claims are assessed by the UK CITES management authority in consultation with our scientific authority, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. The evidence provided by the applicant is assessed against the criteria set out in Article 54 of EU Regulation 865/2006, that is:

that the specimen is, or is derived from, the offspring born or otherwise produced in a controlled environment;

the breeding stock was established in accordance with the legislative provisions applicable at their time of their acquisition and in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild;

the breeding stock has not been supplemented by specimens taken from the wild (except in certain restricted circumstances);

the breeding stock has itself produced second or subsequent generation offspring in a controlled environment, or is managed in a manner that has been demonstrated to be capable of producing second generation offspring in a controlled environment.

A specimen is assessed as captive bred if both the Management and scientific authorities are satisfied that all of these criteria are met. If there are any doubts about the evidence supplied by the applicant, an inspection may be carried out to verify these claims. This inspection may include DMA testing of parents and their claimed offspring.

If the authorities are not able to satisfy themselves that a specimen meets the criteria above, they may still decide to issue a certificate, but with conditions attached to it to restrict how the specimen can be used commercially. Certificates issued under CITE are issued by Animal health.

### Nature Conservation: Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* English Nature, *(b)* Buglife and *(c)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the

impact of the development of wetlands and sites of special scientific interest on the west of Canvey Island; and if he will make a statement. [190499]

**Joan Ruddock:** No representations have been received from Natural England (English Nature's successor), Buglife, or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the impact of the development of wetlands and Sites of Special Scientific Interest on the west of Canvey Island.

### Nature Conservation: Thames Estuary

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the impact on wildlife on and around *(a)* Two Tree Island, *(b)* Canvey Island wetlands and *(c)* mainland wetlands in Castle Point constituency of dredging the Thames estuary for the (i) Thames gate port shipping channel and (ii) the Thames gateway port development; and if he will make a statement. [190501]

**Joan Ruddock:** No representations have been received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the impact on wildlife on and around the inter-tidal wetlands within Castle Point district

## PRIME MINISTER

### Constitutional Reform

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his statement of 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 815-6, on constitutional reform, what steps he plans to take to raise the level of public interest and engagement in the issues to which he referred; and if he will make a statement. [191550]

**The Prime Minister:** Empowering the citizens of this country so they have a more direct say over the decisions that affect their lives, and greater influence over the work of the Government between elections, is central to the work of each Department in Whitehall.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears) has announced she will publish a White Paper focused on empowering citizens and involving people in improving local services and promoting active citizenship.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W, on departmental visits abroad, how many visits overseas by officials in her Office there were in the financial year 2006-07. [191396]

**Helen Goodman:** Details of overseas ministerial visits by the Leader of the House of Commons in the financial year 2006-07 are included in the annual table published by the Cabinet Office which can be found at:



http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/

Officials accompanied the Leader or Deputy Leader of the House on the following visits;

| *Dates* | *Destination* |
|---|---|
| 18-19 April 2006 | Vienna, Austria |
| 31 August 2006 | The Hague, Netherlands |
| 28 October to 6 November 2006 | Vietnam, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) |

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

## HEALTH

### Aphasia: Health Services

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts commission aphasia support services. [191828]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally.

### Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to issue guidance on the administering of enbrel and humira to people diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis. [191179]

**Ann Keen:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has received two appeals against its final appraisal determination on adalimumab (brand name Humira), etanercept (brand name Enbrel) and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. Final guidance will not be published until the appeals have been heard.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189782]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department operates a homeworking scheme under which a person's home is formally designated as their regular place of work for some or all of the working week. At the end of December 2007, the Department had seven homeworkers.

Homeworking is one of a number of arrangements that the Department provides to promote flexible working, including part time working, flexitime schemes, job sharing, part year appointments, unpaid leave, and compressing the working week into less than five days. The use of information technology also allows many staff to work from home on an occasional basis.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the redesign and implementation of his new departmental website. [190256]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department relaunched its corporate website (www.dh.gov.uk) on 10 February 2008 following a project to redesign the site and restructure the content. The total cost of the redesign and implementation project was £513,000. This includes user research, visual and template design, content review and restructure, technical build, test and deployment, and testing.

The relaunch of the Department's website was far more than a simple 'redesign'. As well as incorporating a new graphic design, the entire website structure was completely changed to reflect better the work of the Department and its priorities. The Department's website was last redesigned four years ago. User research and customer feedback demonstrated that it had become outdated and content was increasingly difficult to find. Feedback suggests that this redesign has significantly improved the ease with which users find information on the site.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188799]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Salary range minima and maxima for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in each of the three geographical locations are presented in the following three tables. The Department is responsible for setting these ranges.

*Table 1: National pay rates*

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Administrative Officer (AO) | 14,826 | 19,449 |
| Executive Officer (EO) | 18,519 | 28,112 |
| Higher Executive Officer (HEO) | 23,721 | 32,627 |
| Senior Executive Officer (SEO) | 29,298 | 41,991 |
| Grade 7 | 39,695 | 56,543 |
| Grade 6 | 50,014 | 68,410 |

*Table 2: Outer London pay rates*

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| AO | 16,356 | 20,673 |
| EO | 20,049 | 28,112 |
| HEO | 25,251 | 34,157 |
| SEO | 30,827 | 42,314 |
| Grade 7 | 41,225 | 57,452 |
| Grade 6 | 51,544 | 69,940 |

*Table 3: Inner London pay rates*

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| AO | 17,886 | 22,203 |
| EO | 21,579 | 28,290 |
| HEO | 26,781 | 35,687 |
| SEO | 32,357 | 43,844 |
| Grade 7 | 42,755 | 58,982 |
| Grade 6 | 53,074 | 71,470 |

Salary ranges for SCS grades do not differ by location. These ranges are set centrally and apply across all Government Departments.

| Grade | Minimum (£) | Maximum (£) |
|---|---|---|
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

## Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what private finance initiative projects have been approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years, broken down by *(a)* value and *(b)* start date. [190886]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The capital value and start date for every signed private finance initiative project are recorded centrally on HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

## Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse for replacements. [187472]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is in the following table.

*Departmental losses/thefts for the years from 1997-98 to 2006-07*

| Financial year | Laptops | Replacement cost (£) | Mobile telephones | Replacement cost (£) | Other information technology (IT) equipment/peripherals | Replacement cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 23 | 43,098.68 | 19 | 768.88 | 38 | 4,621.42 |
| 1998-99 | 19 | 40,068.70 | 19 | 691.25 | 37 | 14,388.27 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 | 36,260.35 | 26 | 556.95 | 30 | 8,276.51 |
| 2000-01 | 23 | 46,917.62 | 43 | 1,331.64 | 36 | 8,583.73 |
| 2001-02 | 35 | 62,275.69 | 36 | 994.77 | 18 | 7,230.30 |
| 2002-03 | 30 | 49,672.07 | 37 | 2,692.53 | 27 | 13,639.56 |
| 2003-04 | 34 | 51,459.53 | 29 | 1,953.67 | 16 | 3,503.71 |
| 2004-05 | 23 | 32,783.94 | 15 | 1,398.97 | 14 | 5,694.20 |
| 2005-06 | 18 | 20,599.97 | 11 | 436.52 | 10 | 3,393.87 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 11,509.71 | 18 | 652.50 | 12 | 2,972.65 |
| Total | 234 | 394,646.26 | 253 | 11,477.68 | 238 | 72,304.22 |

*Note:*
Other IT equipment and peripherals includes items such as digital cameras, ansaphones, personal digital assistants, pagers, printers, charger units, etc.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the *(a)* printing and *(b)* design costs of producing publications in the latest year for which information is available. [187169]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The total expenditure on printing of publications, including brochures, leaflets, forms, reports, posters, handbooks, newsletters, folders, guidelines and disability versions was £3,701,321.01 in the financial year 2006-07.

The Department does not record design costs separately from other aspects of information and publicity production. An examination of orders placed with the companies on the Department's design roster or with the Central Office of Information suggests that the total expenditure on design in 2006-07 was approximately £750,000.

### Fair Trade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189508]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has promoted fair trade fortnight 2008 to departmental staff on the Department's intranet home page as 'site of the week'.

The Department also promoted fair trade fortnight as 'site of the week' on the homepage of the Department's intranet in 2006 and 2007.

### Head Lice

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of trends in the incidence of head lice over the last five years; [188749]

(2) what advice is given to *(a)* GPs, *(b)* pharmacies and *(c)* schools on head lice infestation; [188750]

(3) whether he plans to reintroduce regular inspections for head lice in schools. [188751]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the incidence of head louse infestation is not collected centrally. Our policy, which is shared by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, is to encourage a 'whole school approach'. This entails encouraging parents to check their children and other family members for head lice as need arises and arranging treatment where necessary, with advice and support from the local primary health care team. We have no plans to reintroduce regular inspections in schools.

The Department has produced a leaflet containing guidance on the prevention and treatment of head lice. The leaflet is widely available from locations that include schools and general practitioner surgeries and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/63/47/04116347.pdf

### Health Services: Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was allocated to each central budget held at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* strategic health authorities in 2007-08; and what his Department's latest estimate of the outturn for each budget is. [191453]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Full year 2007-08 information on central budgets is not yet available but the 2007-08 departmental report which has a provisional publication date of May 2008, will provide a breakdown of the main budget lines.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been allocated to each central budget held at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* strategic health authorities in 2008-09. [191454]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on 2008-09 allocations to each central budget held at the Department and at strategic health authorities is not yet available.

### Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage GPs to work more closely with voluntary organisations to provide patients with peer support and information. [189561]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is encouraging general practitioners (GPs) to work more closely with voluntary organisations to provide patients with peer support and information. The main way of delivering this is through support to GP practices as commissioners.

World class commissioning (WCC) is designed to encourage primary care trusts (PCTs) to make decisions based on detailed, local needs assessments, using the views of front line primary care clinicians and with close collaboration with patients, the public, community partners and a range of service providers. Practice based commissioning is at the core of WCC and is the main medium for practices to feed in their views and ideas on how to improve services for their patients into PCTs commissioning strategies. This allows practices, using the needs assessment produced by the PCT and the local authority, to address the specific needs of their patients using a wide range of service providers, including voluntary organisations.

The Department has also commissioned a number of primary care service frameworks to support PCTs in commissioning primary medical care services. For example the long term conditions framework includes a requirement for the provider to demonstrate multi-professional and integrated teams working across the whole care pathway, including voluntary and community organisations.

### London Strategic Health Authority: Expenditure

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the London Strategic Health Authority has spent its strategic capital in *(a)* the current year to date and *(b)* each of the previous three years; and whether any such capital has been spent in (i) Redbridge and (ii) Waltham Forest; [186323]

(2) how the London Strategic Health Authority has spent its operational capital in *(a)* the current year to date and *(b)* each of the previous three years; and whether any such capital has been utilised in (i) Redbridge and (ii) Waltham Forest; [186324]

(3) how the London Strategic Health Authority has spent the central budget capital for which it has taken a role in allocating in *(a)* the current year to date and *(b)* each of the previous three years; and whether any such capital has been utilised in (i) Redbridge and (ii) Waltham Forest. [186325]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The requested information is provided in the following tables.

Capital expenditure in Redbridge and Waltham Forest is available for national health service organisations, rather than for the area. Information is therefore provided for relevant NHS organisations in the Redbridge and Waltham area, which are--Redbridge primary care trust (PCT), Waltham Forest PCT, Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals, NHS Trust, North East London Mental Health NHS Trust and Whipps Cross University hospital NHS Trust.

*Table 1: 2007-08 year to date expenditure on capital in London PCTs*

£000

| | All PCTs in London | Redbridge PCT | Waltham Forest PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Central Budgets (Programme) | 11,198 | 442 | 0 |
| Strategic | 1,130 | 0 | 0 |
| Operational | 8,070 | 0 | 0 |
| Locally funded | 17,403 | 1,829 | 1,226 |

*Note:*
Locally funded includes expenditure funded by central budgets, strategic and operational capital. Further analysis is not available.
*Source:*
Financial Information Management System (FIMS) returns quarter 3 2007-08.

*Table 2: Figures for 2004-05 - 2006-07 for all London PCTs and for Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs*

£000

| | All PCTs in London | Redbridge PCT | Waltham Forest PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 89,698 | 1,552 | 1,197 |
| 2005-06 | 99,651 | 1,607 | 4,994 |
| 2006-07 | 54,887 | 714 | 530 |

*Note:*
Figures prior to 2007-08 for PCTs cannot be analysed in the same detail as in Table 1.
*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules for the PCTs for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

*Table 3: Capital expenditure in London NHS trusts*

£000

| | All London NHS Trusts | Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | North East London Mental Health NHS Trust | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 433,105 | 18,872 | 2,399 | 19,506 |
| 2005-06 | 366,270 | 15,090 | 1,669 | 11,495 |
| 2006-07 | 390,791 | 24,967 | 6,357 | 6,214 |
| 2007-08 Q3 | 283,646 | 4,767 | 2,145 | 2,378 |

*Notes:*
1.Figures prior to 2007-08 for NHS trusts cannot be analysed in the same detail as in Table 1.
2.The three trusts shown have sites within the Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCT areas, but the expenditure reported cannot be analysed as taking place in a particular site.
3.NHS foundation trusts are not included in the London total.
*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules for London NHS trusts 2004-05 to 2006-07. FIMS returns Quarter 3 year to date 2007-08.

## NHS: Expenditure

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1259-60W, on NHS expenditure, what the figures are for the area covered by the primary care trusts in *(a)* Wiltshire, *(b)* Hampshire, *(c)* Northumberland, *(d)* London, *(e)* Gloucestershire and *(f)* Oxfordshire. [189059]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows expenditure per head by primary care trusts (PCTs) within the areas specified. There is also an element of expenditure accounted for by strategic health authorities (SHAs) but this cannot be determined for these areas, and is therefore not included.

£ per head

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiltshire | 848.47 | 952.89 | 1,033.25 | 1,132.49 | 1,155.34 |
| Hampshire | 839.87 | 954.52 | 1,072.39 | 1,151.81 | 1,181.98 |
| Northumberland | 939.64 | 1,045.38 | 1,177.37 | 1,284.61 | 1,424.92 |
| London | 1,070.14 | 1,174.57 | 1,320.37 | 1,406.14 | 1,415.80 |
| Gloucestershire | 834.44 | 924.26 | 1,045.54 | 1,144.09 | 1,184.70 |
| Oxfordshire | 859.64 | 957.08 | 1,054.70 | 1,088.94 | 1,134.23 |

*Notes:*
1. Expenditure shown is the total expenditure of PCTs within the areas stated.
2. Expenditure shown does not include all national health service expenditure within the area. SHA expenditure cannot be included because it is not possible to identify it by geographical area. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded from the figures. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.
3. 2006-07 is the latest year for which information is available.
*Sources:*
Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2006-07.
Office of National Statistics unweighted population figures.

### NHS: Plastic Surgery

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of rectifying problems arising from private cosmetic treatments and surgeries in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189469]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

### NHS: Surgery

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of how many people have undergone an inappropriate surgical procedure in the national health service in each of the last 10-years. [190584]

**Ann Keen:** Information on people who have undergone an inappropriate surgical procedure in the national health service is not collected centrally.

### NHS: Transport

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to require the Healthcare Commission to include the monitoring of private patient transport services provided for NHS patients in the annual health check. [190253]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

### Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was to the NHS of treating patients with a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each year since 1997-98. [189477]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested.

### Psychiatry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to increase the availability of psychological therapies in the NHS. [191473]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In 2006 the Department launched its improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT) demonstration site programme. Following the success of these sites, the Secretary of State announced investment in October 2007 for the provision of psychological therapies, for people suffering from depression and anxiety disorders, rising to £173 million by 2011. This is in addition to the £146 million invested in 2006-07 by the national health service on psychological therapies for people with a range of mental health conditions, including those with more severe and enduring mental health problems who are usually provided with services by specialist mental health teams. On 26 February 2008, I launched a national implementation plan to help the strategic health authorities to deliver the IAPT programme over the next three years.

### Seroxat

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1215W, on Seroxat, if he will issue new guidance on prescribing Seroxat. [191809]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidance on how to use paroxetine (brand name Seroxat) safely and effectively along with information on potential adverse effects is provided in the product information for prescribers (the summary of product characteristics) and in the patient information leaflet (PIL) which accompanies the medicine. These documents are authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) at the time of licensing and updated through the life of the product as new information on potential adverse effects and benefits emerges.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines Expert Working Group on the safety of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the safety of this entire class of drugs, including paroxetine. This review examined all available evidence. In December 2004 the Expert Working Group published its conclusions including that the balance of risks and benefits of all SSRIs in adults remained positive in their licensed indications. This is consistent with the view of the regulatory authorities in Europe and the United States that benefits of SSRIs outweigh the risk of adverse drug reactions and that they are effective treatment for depressive illness and anxiety disorders.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on the management of depression in primary and secondary care in December 2004. NICE is in the process of updating this clinical guideline with updated guidance expected in June 2009. NICE also published a clinical guideline on the identification and management of depression in children and young people in September 2005.

Since the completion of the review by the Government's Expert Working Group on the safety of SSRIs and publication of its findings, updated prescribing advice has been issued in relation to Seroxat as new information has become available.

### Streptococcus: Screening

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the enriched culture method test for Group B Streptococcal infections. [191810]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) guideline on antenatal care states that

"pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for group B streptococcus (GBS) because evidence of its clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness remains uncertain".

This is consistent with advice from the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) and the Royal college of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

A proposal for NICE to appraise the use of an enriched culture medium for the detection of GBS carriage in a subset of pregnant women with clinical risk factors has been submitted on behalf of the UK NSC GBS coordinating group. NICE are currently considering this topic as part of a wider assessment of the approach they should adopt in assessing proposals for appraisals of diagnostics.

### Strokes: East of England

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken for stroke patients to receive a diagnostic brain scan in the East of England region. [191354]

**Ann Keen:** The new National Stroke Strategy, announced in December 2007, will modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke across England. The Strategy emphasises the need to improve access to scans and stipulates that brain imaging should be performed in the next scan slot, or within 60 minutes of request during the out of hours period. We are asking all local stroke networks to ensure that any patient who could benefit from urgent care is transferred to an acute stroke centre that provides 24-hour access to scans and other specialist stroke care.

We have fully costed the proposals in the strategy, and this will be reflected in the allocation that goes to primary care trusts for next year. In addition, we have committed new funds totalling £105 million over the next three years. Some of that new funding will be used to develop demonstration sites for acute services that will enable us not only to show a step change in service provision in those areas, but also to provide lessons that can be shared. The £105 million is central funding—on top of money going into the NHS to support this change.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the management of communication impairments in hospital stroke units; and if he will make a statement. [191820]

**Ann Keen:** The new National Stroke Strategy, announced in December, will modernise services and deliver the best treatment for stroke across England. The strategy emphasises the need for prompt access to specialist acute stroke units, with a multidisciplinary team on hand to provide for all an individual's needs.

Rehabilitation after stroke is effective. The strategy highlights the need for high quality specialist rehabilitation, including speech and language therapy, available as soon as possible after a stroke, following discharge, and for as long as it is needed. This includes access to speech and language therapy.

We have fully costed the proposals in the strategy, and this will be reflected in the allocation that goes out to primary care trusts for next year. In addition, we have committed central funds totalling £105 million over the next three years. Some of that new funding will be used to train stroke specialist professionals, including allied health professionals. The £105 million is central funding—on top of money going into the national health service to support implementation of the strategy.

### Strokes: Voluntary Organisations

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides to voluntary sector organisations working with people with communication difficulties following stroke. [191821]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is currently funding two Section 64 three-year projects that started in 2007-08.

Connect—the Communication Disability Network is the organisation leading on The Enabling New Connections project (now renamed Connect-ed). The project's overall aim is to explore and demonstrate how to forge a diverse, sustainable, self care community for people living with aphasia.

Thrive is the charity that is leading on the Just 20! project (now renamed Just 30! project) The objectives of the project are to provide a simple pocket guide with information on the benefits of gardening and other step-by-step activities, which would support improvements in health for those recovering from a stroke or from heart conditions.

### Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced through framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189149]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Total expenditure on translation services for the calendar year 2007 was £141,352.03 and of this figure £54,036.53 (38.2 per cent.) was commissioned from companies on the Department's translation services roster. The remaining expenditure was purchased through the Central Office of Information who may provide the service in-house or from the commercial sector.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1450W, on translation services, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in cost between 2005 and 2006. [188081]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Levels of requests for translation vary from year to year with expenditure for 2006 being higher than that in either 2005 or 2007 (£141,352.03). A possible explanation for the rise in 2006 is that the major consultation document 'Your Health, Your Care, Your Say' was translated in that year at a cost of approximately £25,000.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1450W, on translation services, what the cost of such services was between 1st January and 31 December 2007. [188085]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The total cost of translation for the Department in the 2007 calendar year was £141,352.03.

## TRANSPORT

### A130: Accidents

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many serious road traffic accidents there were on the A130 between Sadlers Farm, Benfleet and Waterside Farm, Canvey Island in each of the last 10 years; how many such accidents resulted in *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities in each such year; and how many of these accidents were caused by vehicles travelling (i) on to and (ii) off Canvey Island. [191796]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents which resulted in *(a)* injuries (serious or slight) and *(b)* fatalities on the A130 between the roundabout at Sadlers Farm, Benfleet and the roundabout at Waterside Farm, Canvey Island in 1997 to 2006 are shown in the following table.

*Number of accidents*

| | *(a) Accidents resulting in injuries* | | *(b) Accidents resulting in fatalities* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Serious* | *Slight* | | *Total* |
| 1997 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 1998 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 1999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2000 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 2003 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| 2004 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Note:*
Accidents are classified according to the severity of the most severely injured casualty involved in the accident.

The numbers of these accidents by direction of the vehicles are shown in the following table.

*Number of accidents*

| | *N/NW from Waterside Farm* | *S/SE from Sadlers Farm* | *Both directions* | *Direction not known* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2000 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2001 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2003 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2005 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age was of people killed in road traffic accidents on the A130 between Sadlers Farm, Benfleet and Waterside Farm, Canvey Island in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [191798]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There was only one fatality resulting from a reported personal injury road accident on the A130 between the roundabout at Sadlers Farm, Benfleet and the roundabout at Waterside Farm, Canvey Island in the last 10 years (occurring in 1999). Age information is not disclosed for single fatalities.

### Aircraft: Air Conditioning

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on air contamination levels in commercial aircraft. [190765]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The Government do not want anyone to be at risk to their health when flying and is leading the world in research on this issue.

To date the UK has (i) commissioned a major review of the evidence by the independent Committee on Toxicity, which reported on 20 September 2007; (ii) commissioned first functionality tests to identify equipment capable of capturing real time fume events from Cranfield university, which was published on 21 February 2008; (iii) commissioned a data analysis study of fume events and operational parameters; and (iv) is commissioning a second and more substantive phase of real time functionality tests with a number of participating airlines to assemble real time data on substances which may be in cabin air during fume events. This will take place later this year.

The first functionality tests were evaluated though independent peer-review by scientists in UK, Europe and the USA. Future work in this area will be similarly peer-reviewed before publication, and a steering committee has been set up to oversee the next phase of our research in this area.

### Biofuels

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has recently commissioned on the impacts of biofuels. [190936]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In recent years, the Department for Transport (DfT) has commissioned various pieces of biofuel-related research. The principal projects are listed in the following table, and the results are for the most part available via the DfT's website.

| | *Title of research* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | Ethanol emissions testing |
| 2003 | International resource costs of biodiesel and bioethanol |
| 2003 | Emissions performance of vegetable oil fuel |
| 2003 | Liquid Biofuels and Renewable Hydrogen to 2050: an assessment of the implications of achieving ultra-low carbon road transport |
| 2005 | RTFO feasibility study (including a study of how best to manage the sustainability impacts of biofuels) |
| 2006-07 | Preparation of detailed carbon and sustainability reporting guidance for transport fuel suppliers (including development of reporting methodology and carbon calculation tool) |
| 2008 | The economic and environmental impacts of Government support for biodiesel produced from tallow |

The Department has also part-funded and participated in a number of other biofuel-related research projects, over the same period, including for example a number of projects led by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership. Other Government Departments including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have also commissioned various pieces of research into the impacts of biofuels. Most recently, for example, DEFRA has commissioned a review of work on the environmental sustainability of international biofuels production and use, which is due to report shortly.

The Department for Transport has recently invited the Renewable Fuels Agency to lead a review of the evidence around the impacts of biofuel production, particularly the indirect effects. Initial analysis is due to be available by early summer.

### Dartford River Crossing: Concessions

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make all Essex and Kent residents eligible to register for the new Dartford River Crossing discount which is to be offered to residents of Dartford and Thurrock. [189342]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our proposal which was set out to the House in a written statement on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 87-90WS, is that residents of the Dartford and Thurrock local authority areas should be eligible for discounts. We are now consulting on our proposals, and we will make public our conclusions after the consultation exercise has closed.

### Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions her Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190762]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Transport is currently reviewing its progress against the commitments given in its Disability Equality Scheme, as it is required to do under section 3.11 of the statutory code of practice of the Disability Equality Duty. Key progress to date has included consulting on major reform of the Blue Badge scheme and the introduction of concessionary fares on buses from 1 April 2008.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184341]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. The figures provided here for lost, missing and stolen devices are for the entire Department including its agencies and shared service centre. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported. There is no distinction in the records between lost and missing devices. The number of those and of stolen mobile devices for each year since the Department's formation in 2002 is as follows.

*2007*

15 mobile telephones were lost or missing and 5 were stolen,
5 personal data assistants were lost or missing and 2 were stolen,
6 laptop computers were lost or missing and 24 were stolen.

*2006*

13 mobile telephones were lost or missing and 15 were stolen,
1 personal data assistant was lost or missing and 5 were stolen,
4 laptop computers were lost or missing and 9 were stolen.

*2005*

6 mobile telephones were lost or missing and 22 were stolen,
no personal data assistants were lost or missing and 1 was stolen,
4 laptop computers were lost or missing and 14 were stolen.

*2004*

13 mobile telephones were lost or missing and 24 were stolen,
no personal data assistants were lost or missing and 1 was stolen,
1 laptop computer was lost or missing and 23 were stolen.

*2003*

9 mobile telephones were lost or missing and 20 were stolen,
no personal data assistants were lost or missing and 1 was stolen,
no laptop computers were lost or missing and 13 were stolen.

*2002*

1 mobile telephone was lost or missing and 2 were stolen,
no personal data assistants were lost or missing and 4 were stolen,
no laptop computers were lost or missing and 7 were stolen.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185269]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. The figures provided here for lost, missing and stolen devices are for the entire Department including its agencies and shared service centre. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported. All hand held devices including BlackBerries and other palm or pocket PC type devices have been included, with unit values typically from £100 to £350. The number of lost and stolen personal data assistants in each of the last five years is as follows.

*2007*

5 personal data assistants were lost or missing and 2 were stolen.
The value of these items was £1,644.

*2006*

1 personal data assistant was lost or missing and 5 were stolen.
The value of these items was £1,724.

*2005*

no personal data assistants were lost or missing and 1 was stolen.
The value of this item was £300.

### Departmental Paternity Leave

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department's rules on paternity leave refer to the rights of *(a)* adoptive parents and *(b)* parents whose child was stillborn after 24 weeks gestation to take such leave. [190929]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department's paternity rules apply to both adoptive parents and to parents whose child was stillborn after 24 weeks gestation.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by her Department in each of the last three financial years. [190808]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hmstreasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Treasury's information was last updated in October 2007. Norfolk county council's street lighting project subsequently reached financial close in November 2007. The following table summarises the relevant information from Treasury's website with the addition of the Norfolk street lighting project:

| *Financial year (1 April to 31 March each year)* | *Commissioning body* | *Project name* | *Date of financial close (mm/yyyy)* | *Total capital value (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Transport for London | DLR Woolwich Extension | May 2005 | 177.00 |
| | London Borough of Ealing | Street Lighting | July 2005 | 31.92 |
| | Highways Agency | NRTS | September 2005 | 287.40 |
| | London Borough of Lambeth | Lambeth Street Lighting | November 2005 | 17.22 |
| | South Tyneside MBC | Street Lighting | December 2005 | 31.50 |
| | Highways Agency | A1 (M) Alconbury to Peterborough | February 2006 | 128.00 |
| | London Borough of Enfield | Street Lighting | March 2006 | 23.70 |
| | London Borough of Barnet | Barnet Lighting Services | March 2006 | 27.77 |
| 2006-07 | Leeds City Council | Street Lighting | April 2006 | 94.60 |
| | Dorset County Council | Dorset Street Lighting | October 2006 | 43.07 |
| 2007-08 | Derby City Council | Derby Street Lighting PFI | April 2007 | 38.43 |
| | Norfolk | Street Lighting PFI | November 2007 | 41.58 |
| | Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council | Street Lighting PFI | August 2007 | 20.89 |

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what property has been lost or stolen from her Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187467]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000.

The information requested is not held centrally. It has been estimated that, due to the broad scope of this question and the decentralised and devolved structure of the Department, to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) (UIN 184341).

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has created a Property Asset Register (PAR); and whether a PAR Board has been established. [190931]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport Property Assets Board (PAB) was established on 21 March 2006.

Work is under way on developing a single property asset register. This follows a PAB recommendation to review property recording arrangements across the Department with the intention being to identify a pan-DfT solution that will link DfT data held on the Office of Government Commerce electronic Property Mapping Service (e-PIMS) to a geographical information system mapping base. This will enable viewing and interrogation of landed estate on electronic Ordnance Survey maps simultaneously with records on e-PIMS. The findings from this project will be published in due course.

### Departmental Retirement

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what correspondence has been received from the trade unions representing staff in her Department on partial retirement; when her Department replied to this letter; and when her Department's management will meet the unions to discuss partial retirement. [190930]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Trade unions initially wrote to the Human Resources Department in the centre Department about partial retirement on 3 December 2007. The centre Department responded to trade unions by e-mail on 12 February 2008 and wrote again on 28 February, following finalisation of the partial retirement policy and guidance by civil service pensions in mid-February. At present, there have been no meetings between trade unions and management in the centre Department. In the Department's agencies, the Highways Agency met with trade unions on 12 February and a meeting is planned for mid-March with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Discussions in other agencies will happen as partial retirement processes are developed.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what documents her Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187984]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The DFT and its Executive Agencies have translated the following documents:

| *DFT (Central) or Executive Agency* | *Title* | *Language/s* |
|---|---|---|
| DFT (Central) | South West Airports Consultation (2003) | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | South East Airports Consultation (2003) | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Air Transport White Paper | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Consultation on Transport Energy Clean Vehicle Programme | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Consultation on Adding Capacity at London Heathrow Airport: summary and exhibition material | Punjabi, Urdu, Somali, Bengali, Gujarati, Polish |
| DFT (Central) | Get Across Road Safety | Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu, Turkish |
| DFT (Central) | DFT business cards | various |
| DFT (Central) | Transport Matters (2005) | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Cleaner Motoring Leaflet - Drive Clean, Drive Cheaper | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Teach Road Safety (for parents) | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Consultation on Graduated Fixed Penalty and Deposit Scheme and Enforcement of Drivers | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Disability Equality Scheme | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Transport and Works Act Orders Brief Guide | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Urban Green Transport consultation paper | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | South East Pilot | Polish, French, German, Spanish |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Side Swipe materials | Polish, French, German, Spanish |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Vehicle Identity Check Scheme | English, Welsh, Urdu, Polish, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Arabic. |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | MOT Certificate | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Supported/related MOT documentation | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | MOT 'Stuffers' and leaflets | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Flexible Bus registration applications and supplementary forms | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Application to change or cancel details of a local service registration | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Local Service bus registration. Welsh drivers public inquiry call up letters | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Frequently asked questions about flexible bus registrations | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Traffic regulation conditions | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | Fuel Consumption booklet | Welsh |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Driving in GB as a visitor or a new resident. | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Vehicle Excise Duty | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Licensing and Registering your vehicle using a V55/4 or V55/5 issues in place of V959 | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Used Vehicle Imported into C.B. from a Non-European Member State | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish. |
| DFT (Central) | Disability Equality Scheme | Welsh |

| DFT (Central) or Executive Agency | Title | Languages |
|---|---|---|
| DFT (Central) | Transport and Works Act Orders Brief Guide | Welsh |
| DFT (Central) | Urban Green Transport consultation paper | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | South East Pilot | Polish, French, German, Spanish. |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Side Swipe materials | Polish, French, German, Spanish. |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Vehicle Identity Check Scheme | English, Welsh, Urdu, Polish, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Arabic. |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | MOT Certificate | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Supported/related MOT documentation | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | MOT 'Stuffers' and leaflets | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Flexible Bus registration applications and supplementary forms | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Application to change or cancel details of a local service registration | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Local Service bus registration. Welsh drivers public inquiry call up letters | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Frequently asked questions about flexible bus registrations | Welsh |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | Traffic regulation conditions | Welsh (Bilingual) |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | Fuel Consumption booklet | Welsh |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Driving in GB as a visitor or a new resident. | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Vehicle Excise Duty | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Licensing and Registering your vehicle using a V55/4 or V55/5 issues in place of V959 | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Used Vehicle Imported into G.B. from a Non-European Member State | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | How to Import your vehicle into G.B. | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Taking a vehicle out of the country | Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Classical Chinese, Gujarati, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | Clamping down on vehicle tax evasion | Polish |
| Highways Agency | Regional quarterly journey planning leaflets | French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Polish |
| Driving Standards Agency | Theory test pass or fail certificate | Welsh |
| Driving Standards Agency | Postal application form for a practical driving test | Welsh |
| Driving Standards Agency | Driving test appointment letter | Welsh |
| Driving Standards Agency | Letter apologising for the cancellation of the practical driving test due to bad weather | Welsh |
| Driving Standards Agency | Practical test pass certificate | Welsh |
| Driving Standards Agency | Driving test report form, including a copy for issue to candidates after the test | Welsh |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | "Stay SAFE at the seaside" -dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard | Welsh |

In addition to the above forms available to people who do not speak English, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency makes available in Welsh, all forms and documents for persons residing in Wales.

The Highways Agency also offers a translation service on request for all its published documents. Details of the service are provided in each publication. During 2007-08 there were no foreign language requests.

The Driving Standards Agency publishes the Welsh version of The Highway Code on behalf on the Department for Transport

Information on translations by the Department's non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

## Driving Tests

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many multi-purpose driving test centres *(a)* have been established, *(b)* are in the process of construction and *(c)* are awaiting the identification of a suitable site in each Government office region. [191533]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* The figures for England by Government office region are as follows:

*London*

Two multi-purpose driving test centres have been established (Erith and Enfield), one site has been acquired subject to planning consent (Basildon), one site is in negotiation (Uxbridge) and a site for one centre has not yet been identified (Croydon).

*South East*

Four centres are under construction (Herne Bay, Burgess Hill, Farnborough and Fareham), two are in negotiation (Maidstone and Newbury), one site is in planning appeal (Poole) and suitable sites have not yet been identified for two centres (Aylesbury and Eastbourne).

*South West*

Two centres have been established (Exeter and Gloucester), two are under construction (Swindon and Bristol), two sites are still in negotiation (Redruth and Taunton) and one site has been acquired subject to planning consent (Plymouth).

*East of England*

Three sites have been established (Bedford, Ipswich and King's Lynn) and four are under construction (Cambridge, Kettering, Norwich and Peterborough).

*West Midlands*

Two centres have been established (Shrewsbury and Birmingham), one site is in negotiation (Wolverhampton).

*East Midlands*

Two centres have been established (Leicester and Rotherham), three are under construction (Nottingham, Burton and Lincoln).

*Yorkshire and the Humber*

Two centres have been established (Hull and Scunthorpe); negotiations are in progress for a further three sites (Leeds, York and Keighley).

*North West*

One centre has been established (St. Helens), two are under construction (Chester and Carlisle) and four sites are in negotiation (Atherton, Blackburn, Stoke and Stockport).

*North East*

Two centres have been established (Gateshead and Darlington).

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which planned multi-purpose driving test centres will not be opened before October 2008. [191534]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* There will be 23 multi-purpose test centres that are planned but will not be opened before October 2008. The centres concerned are:

Blackburn
Stockport
Aylesbury
Wolverhampton
Newbury
Eastbourne
Aberdeen
Stoke
Croydon
Haverfordwest
Maidstone
Uxbridge
Taunton
Keighley
Leeds
York
Bathgate
Bournemouth
Fort William
Bristol
Dundee
Lerwick
Redruth

## Galileo

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on their levels of support for the Galileo project. [191065]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I held discussions on Galileo with European counterparts at last November's Transport Council. The subsequent Council conclusions confirmed member states' unanimous support for the programme.

On 28 February my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport held a meeting with the French Transport Minister that included a discussion on the programme. Both countries reaffirmed their support for Galileo at this meeting.

## Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions took place with the rolling stock company responsible for the Thames Valley commuter trains run by First Great Western prior to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise on the intention to refurbish these trains. [190606]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Secretary of State has held no discussions with the rolling stock company responsible for the Thames Valley commuter trains run by First Great Western.

## Higher Civil Servants: Resignations

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of the Senior Civil Service in her Department resigned and received a payment on leaving the Civil Service in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007. [190242]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of resignations from the Senior Civil service in the Department for Transport was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2004 | 2 |
| 2005 | 1 |
| 2006 | 8 |
| 2007 | 10 |

No one who resigned received a payment on leaving the Civil Service.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Pay

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* grading levels and *(b)* pay of staff of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and if she will make a statement. [188741]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency regularly reviews grading and reward structures and systems in accordance with public sector pay policy and best HR practice for the management of people and reward structures.

### Motor Vehicles: ICT

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to publish the results of the consultation on in-vehicle information systems. [189870]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department intends to publish a summary of the results of the initial consultation on in-vehicle information systems this spring. It will be available on the departmental website and copies will be sent to the Libraries of both Houses.

### Public Transport: Sight Impaired

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of enforcement procedures under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 relating to the rights of blind or partially sighted people to travel with their guide dogs. [190331]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 enables regulations to be made requiring all new land-based public transport vehicles to be accessible to disabled people. Regulations have been made for trains, buses and coaches (used on local and scheduled services), though there are no specific regulations which make provision for guide dogs. However, Part 5 of the Act also places a duty on licensed taxi drivers, operators and drivers of licensed private hire vehicles in England and Wales to carry guide, hearing and other prescribed assistance dogs in their taxis and to do so without charge. We have made no specific assessment of the effectiveness of enforcement procedures.

### Railways: Pensions

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the findings of the Railway Pensions Commission's final report. [190172]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I welcome the Railway Pensions Commission's final report and appreciate the work they have done. This report raises some important and complex issues. It is initially for the rail employers and unions to take these forward, and they will be entering into detailed discussions shortly. The Department for Transport is also considering the Commission's findings, but it is too early for me to comment on them.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plans to take to reduce levels of disruption caused by road works. [190937]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government have taken a number of steps to reduce the disruption caused by works in the highway. These include a duty on local highway authorities to manage the expeditious movement of traffic on their network and to consider the impact on neighbouring networks. Three sets of Regulations come into force this spring to strengthen the powers of authorities to control works in the highway by statutory undertakers, mainly utility companies.

The Highways Agency (HA) puts considerable effort into reducing the disruption caused by planned works. The HA uses the latest techniques to reduce the time works takes and provides information to the public of possible delays, which allows them to choose a different route.

### Trains: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential advantages in carbon reduction terms from the use of hybrid diesel and battery trains. [188473]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport has commissioned a study, to be published in March, which identifies potential carbon savings through the use of hybrid diesel high speed trains. Further work is being commissioned to identify the benefits of hybrid technology for trains operating urban and rural services.

### Transport for London: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Transport for London's debt is; and if she will make a statement. [189305]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Transport for London's financial status, including levels of debt at any given point of time, is the responsibility of the London Mayor.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what tonnage of carbon dioxide was offset by the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in respect of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office's air travel in 2006-07. [191115]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The tonnage of carbon dioxide offset by the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in respect of the Cabinet Office's air travel in 2006-07 was 1,631 tonnes.

### Departmental Expenditure Limits

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-37WS, on the departmental expenditure limit (2007-08) for what reasons there was a drawdown on the reserve for V matched funding. [191148]

**Phil Hope:** As set out in the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 35-37WS, there was a draw down on the reserve of £4,729,000 for v matched funding.

The youth volunteering organisation v is able to draw down on Government match funding on a pound for pound basis, when they secure funding from the private sector, as set out in Budget 2005. This match fund is held in the HM Treasury Reserve to be drawn down by the Office of the Third Sector on behalf of v.

### Government Departments: Data Protection

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* (i) procedures and (ii) guidance his Department has provided and *(b)* recommendations his Department has made across Government on the secure disposal of electronic and hard copy media by Government departments and agencies; and if he will make a statement. [190730]

**Mr. Watson:** The Manual of Protective Security (MPS) sets out the policies that Departments should apply across all areas of security including the secure disposal of data.

On 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, the Prime Minister announced that he had asked the Cabinet Secretary, with the advice of security experts, to work with Departments to ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data. The publication of an interim report was announced on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. A final report is expected in spring 2008 which will outline steps taken during the course of the work.

### Office of the Third Sector: Finance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the Office of the Third Sector's expenditure in 2007-08; and what budget has been set for the Office for 2009-10. [191095]

**Phil Hope:** The outturn for the Office of the Third Sector for 2007-08 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess. The budget for the Office of the Third Sector can be found in the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2007-08 published on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/D/A/springsupps0708_cabinet_office.pdf.

The 2009-10 programme budget is as set out in the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-4, on Afghanistan, how many civilian helicopters leased by NATO are in use in Afghanistan; and whether any are operating in *(a)* Helmand, *(b)* Kandahar, *(c)* Zabul, *(d)* Uruzgan, *(e)* Ghanzi, *(f)* Pakitka, *(g)* Khost and *(h)* Paktia provinces. [190836]

**Des Browne:** NATO has a contract for a civilian contractor to transport by air up to 13,000 kg per day of cargo in the four largest regional command areas of Afghanistan. The contract is for a service, rather than for a number of capital assets, and therefore the number of helicopters or fixed wing aircraft used to deliver this service can and does vary on a day-to-day basis.

The contract requires a capability to operate from the four main regional hubs outside Kabul to forward operating bases and other locations throughout Afghanistan. The regional hubs are: Kandahar in the south; Herat in the west; Mazar e Sharif in the north; and Bagram in the east. The southern hub covers as required the provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, and Uruzgan. The eastern hub covers the provinces of Ghanzi, Pakitka, Khost and Paktia.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* ambush and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks have been carried out against international security assistance force troops in Helmand Province in each month in 2007; [172154]

(2) how many *(a)* ambush and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks were carried out against international security assistance force troops in Helmand Province in each month in 2007. [162790]

**Des Browne:** The following table records the number of attacks (direct and explosive devices) instigated by enemy forces on ISAF forces in Helmand Province, Afghanistan for each month requested. I am withholding details of these attacks as the information would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

| *2007* | *Number of attacks* |
|---|---|
| January | 65 |
| February | 92 |
| March | 149 |
| April | 82 |
| May | 132 |
| June | 120 |
| July | 125 |
| August | 131 |
| September | 125 |
| October | 108 |
| November | 132 |
| December | 151 |

This data is based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operation environment.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many attacks were made on British forces in Southern Afghanistan in *(a)* May 2006, *(b)* June 2006, *(c)* July 2006, *(d)* August 2006 and *(e)* September 2006, with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 62W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations; [161882]

(2) how many attacks have been made on British forces in Afghanistan in each month since October 2006. [162657]

**Des Browne:** The following tables shows the number of attacks (direct or using mines/improvised explosive devices) instigated by enemy forces on ISAF forces in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in each of the months requested. It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, separately to identify attacks directed exclusively at British forces given the multinational nature of forces operating in Helmand Province.

| | *Number of attacks* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| May | 3 |
| June | 18 |
| July | 133 |
| August | 141 |
| September | 150 |
| October | 49 |
| November | 32 |
| December | 53 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 65 |
| February | 92 |
| March | 149 |
| April | 82 |
| May | 132 |
| June | 120 |
| July | 125 |
| August | 131 |
| September | 125 |
| October | 108 |
| November | 132 |
| December | 151 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 71 |

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operation environment.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts were recorded between British forces and insurgents in Southern Afghanistan in each month since May 2006, with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 61-2W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations. [161883]

**Des Browne:** The number of direct engagements (regardless of the instigator or the means of instigating the incident) between ISAF forces and insurgents in Helmand Province per month since May 2006 are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of contacts* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| May | 4 |
| June | 18 |
| July | 140 |
| August | 180 |
| September | 177 |
| October | 77 |
| November | 48 |
| December | 64 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 110 |
| February | 156 |
| March | 260 |
| April | 178 |
| May | 208 |
| June | 178 |
| July | 189 |
| August | 170 |
| September | 197 |
| October | 149 |
| November | 161 |
| December | 202 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 106 |

It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, separately to identify attacks exclusively involving British forces given the multinational nature of forces operating in Helmand Province.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operation environment.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* suicide bombings and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks were recorded against (i) (A) NATO and (B) British forces and (ii) Afghan civilians in each month since May 2006 in Afghanistan. [161935]

**Des Browne:** It is not possible further to break down these statistics in the way requested as in some instances it is not possible to determine against whom a particular attack was targeted.

The numbers of suicide attacks recorded in Afghanistan are shown in the following table.

| | Number of suicide attacks |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| May | 6 |
| June | 3 |
| July | 8 |
| August | 13 |
| September | 19 |
| October | 13 |
| November | 13 |
| December | 9 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 12 |
| February | 8 |
| March | 14 |
| April | 13 |
| May | 15 |
| June | 12 |
| July | 22 |
| August | 11 |
| September | 12 |
| October | 11 |
| November | 4 |
| December | 8 |

I am withholding details of the number of improvised explosive attacks as the information would or would be likely, to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and capability of the armed forces.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operation environment.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current status is of Taliban leader Naim Atallah who was captured in Helmand province in August 2007. [190892]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2169W.

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to review the provision of military airfields in the UK. [191327]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the previous answer I gave on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W.

### Armed Forces: Dismissal

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers have been subject to manning control since April 2006; and how many of those had *(a)* 12 years and *(b)* 15 years service. [191554]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers were subject to manning control after 12 years service in the last 12 months. [191555]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers in the *(a)* 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment and *(b)* Royal Logistics Corps were (i) subject to and (ii) discharged under manning control in the last 12 months. [191556]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single living accommodation units for service personnel are of standard *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 in each country in which UK forces are deployed. [184382]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The standard of single living accommodation (SLA) is assessed by grade for charge (GfC)—a measure of the physical condition of the accommodation and other relevant environmental and scaling factors. SLA bed-spaces in each country in which UK forces are deployed are at the following GfC:

| | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 2,356 | 1,494 | 4,186 | 8,989 |
| Cyprus | 67 | 14 | 534 | 882 |
| Falklands/ Ascension Islands | 14 | — | — | 6,105 |
| Gibraltar | 325 | 24 | 41 | — |
| Rest of World | 34 | 62 | 87 | 2,014 |

The low grade given to SLA in the South Atlantic Islands for example, reflects the remote location and environmental factors rather than the actual condition of the accommodation which is considered reasonable.

It should be noted that a large proportion of overseas SLA is only used during operational deployments. Although much of this accommodation is G4fC, residents are not charged for it.

In Cyprus, some 650 bed-spaces will be upgraded by 2012 for use on a permanent basis. In addition, there are ongoing programmes of improvement work in all the above locations including the Hired Accommodation Revitalisation Programme project, which aims to replace or upgrade the entire hired estate in Germany over the next five years.

Over the next decade the MOD will spend over £8 billion on accommodation, including some £3.1 billion on bringing accommodation up to the top condition. This will include the delivery of some further 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces by 2013.

### Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel left the armed forces to join private military companies in each year since 2003. [190648]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on the number of personnel who have left the armed forces to join private military companies is not held centrally. Total outflow and voluntary exit rates from the trained strength, broken down by Officers and Other Ranks, can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5—'Trained Outflow to Civil Life'. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly and all publications can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html

Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and also at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women's pay was paid late in each of the last five financial years. [173709]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 13 December 2008]:* The number of service personnel who were paid late in each of the last five financial years were as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 29 |
| 2003-04 | 26 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 474 |
| 2006-07 | 773 |

### Armed Forces: Suicide

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many suicides there were among British armed services personnel in each of the last 10 years for which records are available, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age, *(c)* regiment and *(d)* service in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [190880]

**Derek Twigg:** A total of 213 coroner-confirmed suicides or open verdict deaths among regular service personnel occurred during the 10-year period 1997 to 2006 (excluding any violent or unnatural deaths that have not yet been fully investigated by the coroner). Details which can be released without incurring potential disclosure of individual identities include:

Of the 213 coroner-confirmed suicide and open verdicts, eight were female service personnel;

A breakdown of suicide and open verdicts during this period, by age and by year is provided in the following table:

*Table 1: Suicide and open verdict deaths: UK regular armed forces, by age and by calendar year, 1997 to 2006*

*Number*

| | *All* | *<20 years* | *20-24* | *25-29* | *30-34* | *35-39* | *40+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 213 | 31 | 53 | 46 | 35 | 30 | 18 |
| 1997 | 26 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 1998 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 1999 | 27 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 2000 | 36 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 2001 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 2002 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 2003 | 26 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 2005 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 2006 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Information on suicide and open verdicts by regiment (or other service equivalent) could be disclosive of individual identities. For this reason, the information cannot be provided.

A breakdown of suicide and open verdicts during this period by service and by year is provided in the following table:

*Table 2: Suicide and open verdict deaths: UK regular armed forces, by service and by calendar year, 1997 to 2006*

*Number*

| | *All* | *Naval service*[1] | *Army* | *RAF* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 213 | 34 | 141 | 38 |
| 1997 | 26 | 4 | 17 | 5 |
| 1998 | 19 | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| 1999 | 27 | 6 | 17 | 4 |
| 2000 | 36 | 6 | 22 | 8 |
| 2001 | 15 | 2 | 11 | 2 |
| 2002 | 15 | 4 | 11 | 0 |
| 2003 | 26 | 3 | 16 | 7 |
| 2004 | 19 | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| 2005 | 20 | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| 2006 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 2 |

[1] Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Information for 2007 will be released in DASA's National Statistics Notice "Suicide and open verdict deaths among UK regular armed forces personnel" on 31 March.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of breakdown and maintenance damage have been recorded in the *(a)* Vector and *(b)* Bulldog vehicle since it first entered service. [190725]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Based on records from the Equipment Failure Reporting System (EFRS), since the Vector vehicle entered service, approximately 119 Equipment Failure Reports (EFRs) have been raised. For the Bulldog vehicle there have been approximately 228 EFRs.

The EFRS is the mandated system for the user to report equipment failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, as well as equipment failure of any item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor does this data record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety.

These figures do not include any instances of equipment failure that have not been formally reported by the user.

Bulldog and Vector fleets are currently making a significant contribution to current operations.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department's order for Ridgeback vehicles will be placed. [190409]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The preferred Ridgeback vehicle has been identified. Commercial negotiations are continuing and we will make further announcements in due course.

**AWE Burghfield: Floods**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2138W, on AWE Burghfield: floods, and page 22 of the Health and Safety Executive Nuclear Newsletter, November 2007 issue, on what date *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive nuclear installation inspectorate was satisfied that emergency arrangements were in place and *(b)* operational activities resumed. [187040]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Following the flooding at AWE Burghfield in July 2007, contingency emergency arrangements put in place were considered by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) to be adequate at all times for the activities being undertaken. NII inspected the interim facilities and witnessed an emergency exercise on 24 October, and agreed that nuclear operations could recommence on 5 November 2007.

**Ballistic Missile Defence**

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications of missile defence systems for the UK's defence industry. [191055]

**Des Browne:** UK defence industry has the opportunity to participate in the work to develop missile defence systems. The MOD supports this effort through the work of the UK Missile Defence Centre, which provides assistance and advice to UK industry.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peacekeeping Operations**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the change in size of the EUFOR military force in Bosnia-Herzegovina from November 2007 to February 2008. [190722]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The size of the EU military force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA) has reduced from 2,566 at the end of November 2007 to 2,232 at the end of February 2008. The reductions resulted from the progressive transfer of responsibilities from EUFOR ALTHEA to Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the attendant closure of former camps at Mostar used by French forces and Rajlovac used by German and Italian forces.

**BOWMAN Combat Radio System**

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what anti-jamming capability the *(a)* Bowman and *(b)* Clansman communications system has. [191595]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

**Challenger Tanks: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tracks needed replacement on Challenger 2 main battle tanks in each of the last six months; how many spare tracks there were available in theatre in each such month; and how many spare tracks there are available. [191344]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The number of tracks issued across the entire fleet in each of the last six months and the number of full vehicle sets of spare track available in Iraq in the last six months are:

| | *Number of tracks issued across the entire fleet* | *Spare tracks available in Iraq* |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| September | 8.75 | 3 |
| October | 6.5 | 3 |
| November | 10.25 | 3 |
| December | 1 | 3 |
| *2008* | | |
| January | 6.75 | 3 |
| February | 9.75 | 3 |

The number of tracks which needed replacement is not held centrally. A Unit does not stipulate why it is demanding track or part of a track, which might be requested to be either fitted to a vehicle or for stock. A full set of Challenger 2 track is made up of 160 links and is accounted for/stored in sections of five links joined together, called a wrap. A Unit can demand a full vehicle set or a single wrap if it requires only spare links.

There are currently 95 spare tracks available in storage.

**Cyprus: Military Bases**

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1490W, on Cyprus: military bases, how many individuals were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of poaching under the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004 in each of the last three years. [190933]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will write to my right hon. Friend.

**Defence Equipment and Support: Recruitment**

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of commercial experience is required of candidates for each grade of post at the Defence, Equipment and Support headquarters at Abbeywood. [191532]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* The level of commercial experience required by candidates will depend on the specific requirements of the job.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the savings target is for each top level budget holder in his Department in 2007-08. [190716]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Under the spending review 2004 efficiency programme, the MOD is required to achieve £2.83 billion of cumulative input and output efficiency savings by the end of 2007-08. We are on course to overachieve against this target.

These savings are delivered by departmental change programmes and by implementing the force capability changes set out in 'Delivering Securities in a Changing World: Future Capabilities', published in July 2004, rather than by targets on Top Level Budget (TLB) holders. Further details can be found in the MOD Efficiency Technical Note which is available online at:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3F55E01546B54E14B086C399208B9575/0/mod_etn_051205.pdf

As part of the 2007 Financial Planning Round, further efficiency savings targets for 2007-08 were agreed with individual TLB holders as follows:

| *TLB* | *Saving (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Fleet | 10,639 |
| Land Forces | 31,541 |
| Air Command | 12,765 |
| Central TLB | 4,272 |
| Defence Estates | 3,032 |
| CJO | 2,031 |
| Total | 64,280 |

Efficiency savings across the Department are reinvested to fund high priority areas of expenditure, such as support to operations and our personnel, including through sustained investment in accommodation.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191491]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD completed its zero-based budget review as part of the comprehensive spending review 2007, the outcome of which was announced in July 2007.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to protect the security of personal data held by his Department, with particular reference to interference by militant extremists; and if he will make a statement. [190450]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence regulations require that personal data are protected in accordance with legal statute and the Government's own internal security guidance. The Ministry of Defence is fully engaged in the Cabinet Office led Data Handling Review and we have confirmed to Robert Hannigan's team our committed to meeting the implementation dates he has set. In addition, I have also invited Sir Edmund Burton, Chairman of the Information Assurance Advisory Council, to examine the adequacy of the measures taken to protect personal data held by the MOD. Depending on his findings, I will consider what further measures may be required.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185418]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Empty Property

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* total value of the empty properties owned by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies and other public bodies for which he has responsibility in the last 12 months. [190638]

**Derek Twigg:** Details of all properties that have been empty for all or part of the last 12 months and their associated costs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD only assesses the sale value of properties when they come forward for disposal.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 964, on departmental Freedom of Information (FOI), if he will give a breakdown of all identifiable sources of the FOI requests received by his Department. [190949]

**Derek Twigg:** Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Ministry of Defence are broken down by source as follows:

Academics
Businesses
Media and Journalists
MPs/Peers
Private Individuals
Not Specified
Non-profit organisations
Other

However, it is not necessary for a person making a request under the Freedom of Information Act to declare their occupation or background.

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189785]

**Derek Twigg:** 169 civilian staff are recorded on the Department's central system (HRMS) as home workers. It is possible that under historic reporting

arrangements there may be significantly more whose home working is not recorded centrally. 44 new formal home working arrangements were approved in the year from February 2007 to January 2008. Staff may also work from home on an occasional basis, but such arrangements are not recorded centrally.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188802]

**Derek Twigg:** The salary range for each pay band of civil servants in the Ministry of Defence is shown in the following table:

| *Pay Band* | *Minimum* | £ *Maximum* |
|---|---|---|
| SCS1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCS2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |
| B1 | 50,598 | 68,048 |
| B2 | 41,528 | 54,488 |
| C1 | 31,650 | 40,515 |
| C2 | 24,725 | 33,253 |
| D | 19,315 | 26,626 |
| E1 | 14,721 | 23,534 |
| E2 | 12,694 | 19,315 |
| Skill Zone 1 | 12,694 | 16,249 |
| Skill Zone 2 | 14,012 | 17,936 |
| Skill Zone 3 | 15,089 | 21,853 |
| Skill Zone 4 | 18,844 | 24,725 |

With the exception of the Senior Civil Service, the figures in the table are for the main body of civilian staff covered by the MOD annual pay award. The figures exclude staff in Trading Funds, those whose pay is determined by analogue to outside counterparts (e.g. MOD police), locally engaged civilians overseas and many highly specialist grades linked to the MOD main pay award.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2007-08, if he will break down, by sub-head, his Department's revised provision in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [191681]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the anticipated operating and non-operating appropriations in aid are for each year of the comprehensive spending review; and whether they were included in the near cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits given in his answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1893W, on Departments: public expenditure. [191685]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Anticipated operating and non-operating appropriations in aid are published in Departmental Estimates. Operating and non-operating appropriations in aid were included in the 2006-07 outturn figures quoted in my answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1893W.

### Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down by sub-heading the payment of £55 million per year to the main contractor for his Department's main building. [187603]

**Derek Twigg:** I am unable to break down the annual payment for the provision of fully serviced office accommodation for Main Building and Old War Office under the PFI Contract as the contract is not constructed in this manner. The contract payments include a service element and the repayment of the bank debt under the terms of the PFI credit agreements.

The £55 million annual payment figure is derived from the £1.65 billion annual project approval figure (based on a constant price estimate i.e. excluding inflation) spread equally over 30 years.

### Gurkhas: Dismissal

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from the Gurkha Regiment were discharged under manning control in the last 12 months. [191445]

**Derek Twigg:** None.

### HMS Southampton

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current status is of HMS *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Exeter; and when a decision will be taken on their out of service dates. [190643]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** HMS Exeter and Southampton are currently in operational service with the Royal Navy. On present plans, they are due to be withdrawn from service during 2009.

### Iraq: Helicopters

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what enhancements to helicopter capabilities his Department is making in response to experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. [191609]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* As a result of experience on operations, we are taking steps to increase the robustness of our existing helicopter fleets, such as the purchase of the six Danish Merlin helicopters and the conversion of the eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters to a support helicopter role. We have carried out extensive modifications to improve the operational capability of our helicopters in response to Urgent Operational Requirements, including fitting new rotor blades to some of our Sea Kings to improve their performance in hot and high conditions, enabling their deployment to Afghanistan. We are also uplifting the number of flying hours we will deliver each month to commanders on the ground in Afghanistan from our Chinook and Apache fleets.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to provide free Wi-Fi for front-line troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. [191448]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is not possible at this time to provide a date of when free Wi-Fi will be provided to personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, it is my intention to inform the House on progress soon.

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government has provided air transport for Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence granted leave to enter the UK from the Middle East; and whether there are plans to provide such transport in the future from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* third countries. [190410]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

No Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have yet been granted indefinite leave to enter the UK from the Middle East under the criteria for the Locally Engaged Iraqi staff assistance scheme. Therefore the Government have not provided air transport to assist their movement to the UK.

All formerly employed staff who are accepted for resettlement under the Gateway Protection Programme, will be provided with travel to the UK on commercial airlines from third countries in the Middle East.

A small number of current staff have been made redundant since 7 August 2007 and have opted to seek indefinite leave to enter the UK. Assistance with transport and flights from Iraq to the UK will be provided for these staff and their dependants.

### Joint Rapid Reaction Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which brigade forms the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF); whether it is fully equipped; whether the JRRF is deployed; and when the future JRRF will take over. [190670]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Army commitment to the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) is normally centred on the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), the Lead Airborne Task Force (ABTF) and the High Readiness Mechanised or Armoured Brigade. Due to 16 Air Assault Brigade's impending deployment to Afghanistan the ABTF was replaced by the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup (SSFIBG) on 15 February 2008 and will not be re-established until January 2009.

The Army elements of the JRRF that are currently held at high readiness are the SLE and SSFI BG. The SSFI BG is based on a Light Infantry Role Battlegroup, provided by The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland until 19 May 2008. The SLE is based on 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles until 30 March 2008.

For non-discretionary JRRF tasks, equipment holdings exist to ensure mission success. However, some equipment might need to be re-apportioned from supporting training for operations or from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, depending on the task, to ensure that appropriate quantities are available.

### Military Aircraft: Expenditure

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure was on transport aircraft *(a)* procurement and *(b)* maintenance by his Department in each year since 1997. [190640]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The RAF air transport fleet is comprised of C-17, Hercules C-130J/K, Tristar, VC10, BAE 125 and BAE 146 aircraft.

Between 1996 and 2000, the MOD introduced 25 Hercules C-130J aircraft into service with the RAF. The total procurement cost for these aircraft was US$ 1.4 billion; however, the costing profile is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Two additional C-17 aircraft are due to be delivered to the RAF later this year. I am withholding information on procurement costs as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

A number of areas within the Department incur maintenance expenditure on the RAF's air transport fleet. The financial information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figures provided in the following table are the logistic support costs that can be directly attributed to the fixed wing aircraft fleets in the financial years for which costs are readily available.

The table does not include contract lease costs for three commercially owned military registered Agusta A109E helicopters which are used in the VIP transport role, as disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 218 |
| 2003-04 | 229 |
| 2004-05 | 207 |
| 2005-06 | 210 |
| 2006-07 | 249 |

*Notes:*
1. Costings for financial years prior to 2002-03 are incomplete and are not included.
2. These figures include the lease cost of four C-17 aircraft. Disclosure of the value of the lease would prejudice commercial interests.
3. Defence Equipment and Support staff costs are not included.
4. Costs have been rounded to the nearest million.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times helicopters of the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Royal Air Force were cannibalised for spare parts in each year since 2001, broken down by helicopter type. [190647]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The numbers of cannibalisations for helicopters operated by the Army Air Corps, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force are shown in the following table. The figures shown are for the Forward Fleet—i.e. aircraft with the front-line commands and utilised for operational deployments or other tasks.

| Airframe | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Army* | | | | | | | |
| Apache AH | — | — | 80 | 72 | 154 | 295 | 251 |
| A109 | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gazelle | — | — | 298 | 223 | 94 | 35 | 11 |
| Lynx 7 and 9 | — | — | 428 | 567 | 461 | 304 | 191 |
| *RN* | | | | | | | |
| Sea King 4/6 | — | — | 98 | 103 | 159 | 181 | 126 |
| Sea King 5 | 63 | 51 | 75 | 118 | 82 | 91 | 90 |
| Sea King 2/7 | 45 | 72 | 33 | 75 | 78 | 88 | 37 |
| Merlin 1 | 253 | 370 | 466 | 338 | 389 | 455 | 407 |
| Lynx 3 | 181 | 176 | 120 | 119 | 110 | 93 | 64 |
| Lynx 8 | 197 | 97 | 83 | 54 | 71 | 105 | 48 |
| *RAF* | | | | | | | |
| Sea King 3/3A | 262 | 278 | 193 | 205 | 242 | 185 | 89 |
| Chinook 2/2A | — | — | 496 | 1021 | 571 | 276 | 165 |
| Merlin 3 | — | — | 416 | 240 | 246 | 396 | 265 |
| Puma | — | — | 647 | 676 | 222 | 168 | 81 |

[1] Figures shown are as at January 2008

Figures for Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) operated airframes prior to financial year 2003-04 are not available because the system used to capture and store this data was not introduced until 2003.

Cannibalisation is an accepted short-term measure employed by the armed forces around the world to ensure maximum numbers of equipment are available. It is often the only course of action where replacement items cannot be sourced in the required timeframe.

The figures shown in the table refer to individual instances of cannibalisation and not the number of aircraft involved. All instances of cannibalisation are authorised and undertaken in accordance with clearly defined regulations. The term 'cannibalisation' can refer to the removal of single or small numbers of components, of any size. It does not necessarily refer to the wholesale utilisation of capital components or airframes.

### Military Bases: Devonport

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans for Devonport Naval Base are over the next 10 years. [190164]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Naval Base Review considered the future of all three Naval Bases, including Devonport, and concluded that the most effective means of supporting the Royal Navy is to retain and optimise the three Bases.

A number of maritime change programmes are currently in progress that will have an impact on all three Bases. These include work resulting from the Naval Base Review decision, changes to equipment and platform support arrangements and our evolving strategic partnership with industry. Each is designed to ensure that waterfront activity is delivered in an efficient and sustainable manner.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts there were between British forces and anti-coalition militia in each month since October 2006. [190717]

**Des Browne:** For Operation Herrick, Afghanistan, I have nothing to add to my answer of today.

For Operation Telic, Iraq the number of recorded attacks on coalition forces in Multi-National Division (South East) per month since October 2006 is as follows:

| | Number of contacts |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| October | 179 |
| November | 181 |
| December | 259 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 226 |
| February | 337 |
| March | 245 |
| April | 224 |
| May | 336 |
| June | 376 |
| July | 401 |
| August | 191 |
| September | 22 |
| October | 29 |
| November | 30 |
| December | 28 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 37 |
| February | 32 |

It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, separately to identify attacks exclusively involving British Forces.

These figures are an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operation environment.

### QinetiQ: Land

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of land disposals by Qinetiq has been in each of the last three years. [190421]

**Des Browne:** When QinetiQ was vested as a company in 2001, it was required to purchase its assets from the Government. Consequently, the receipts from the sale of land go directly to the company and, therefore, the details of disposals are a matter for them.

However, claw-back arrangements are in place to ensure that the taxpayer benefits directly from any substantial subsequent increase in value of the land once sold. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W.

### Royal Naval Hospital Haslar: Operating Costs

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operating costs of Royal hospital Haslar were in each of the last five years. [190635]

**Derek Twigg:** The Royal hospital Haslar has been administered since 2001 under a partnering arrangement with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT). It currently provides a limited range of clinical facilities, predominantly for NHS civilian patients. It also continues to provide training and experience for well over 100 military doctors and nurses. Operating costs falling to the MOD include certain staff costs, utilities, estate maintenance and works, equipment, services provided under contract, and medical supplies. MOD gross costs were as follows:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 18.8 |
| 2004-05 | 16.1 |
| 2005-06 | 17.7 |
| 2006-07 | 17.1 |
| 2007-08 | 12.9 |

*Notes:*
1. The costs of PHT civilian staff employed on the site and other costs incurred directly by PHT are not included.
2. Military personnel costs are not included. Many military personnel employed at Haslar also have duties elsewhere and their costs are not readily disaggregated.
3. PHT makes a financial contribution towards meeting the MOD's costs, in acknowledgement of the support provided towards meeting its own outputs.
4. Costs are final outturn figures, except for 2007-08, which is a forecast. During the current year many MOD civilian staff are being progressively transferred to PHT, with a corresponding transfer of responsibility for costs.

### Surface Ship Support Alliance

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of the Surface Ship Support Alliance. [190837]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Surface Ship Support (SSS) Project is part of the wider Maritime Change Programme (MCP) that aims to deliver an affordable and sustainable maritime enterprise, and is an important element of the Defence Industrial Strategy.

The SSS Project is currently exploring a wide range of support options to deliver sustainable, efficient and affordable support to legacy complex warships. One of these is the formation of an alliance between the MOD and the two major surface ship support contractors (Babcock Marine and Fleet Support Limited). While this approach is currently the leading option, no final decisions have yet been taken.

Under the alliance approach, several batches of upkeep packages have already been successfully agreed by MOD and industry. By giving industry visibility of future plans, it is able to plan ahead and adapt their capabilities to meet future requirements.

### Taliban

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of who and what the Taliban are. [191410]

**Des Browne:** The Taliban remains a collection of predominantly Pushtun groups and individuals, motivated by a number of different factors, including extreme ideologies, tribal sympathies and personal ambitions.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Admiralty House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1158-9W, on Admiralty House, (1) what minor works were undertaken; [189572]

(2) what the cost was to the public purse of the minor works. [189588]

**Meg Munn:** In line with normal procedure a one-off deep clean of the property was undertaken at change over of tenants. This included cleaning of lights, curtains, nets and windows, at a cost of £3,319.67, including value added tax (VAT).

A pelmet, tracking and curtains for one window was supplied and installed at a cost of £1,030.16, including VAT.

Two bedrooms, an adjacent corridor and one bathroom were repainted and a washer dryer, a tumble dryer, fridge freezer and mixer taps were supplied and installed. The cost of these works and equipment was £9,322.92, including VAT.

### Bombs

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to encourage the international community to support the ban of cluster munitions. [191469]

**Dr. Howells:** In his Guildhall speech on 12 November 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated the Government were working

"internationally for a ban on the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of those cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm to civilians."

We will continue our efforts both in the Oslo Process and in the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which includes users and producers of cluster munitions who have remained outside the Oslo Process, to ensure that the humanitarian objective we and many others share is fulfilled. The next CCW

meeting will take place in Geneva from 7-11 April and the next Oslo Process meeting will take place in Dublin from 19-30 May.

**British Overseas Territories: Administration of Justice**

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what competence the Government has in respect of *(a)* the appointment, *(b)* the suspension and *(c)* the dismissal of any chief justice in an overseas territory; and if he will make a statement. [186460]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* All British Overseas Territories except Anguilla, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the British Antarctic Territory and the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) have their own Chief Justice. Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands are under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which has a Chief Justice. Cases from South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory are heard by the Chief Justice of the Falkland Islands, and in the SBAs Senior Judges are appointed when required.

In most Territories which have their own Chief Justice, the appointment is the responsibility of the Governor, acting on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen in right of the Territory. In a few Territories, e.g. St. Helena and the Falkland Islands, the Chief Justice is appointed by the Governor acting on instructions given by Her Majesty The Queen in right of the Territory through a Secretary of State. This, in practice, means the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In general, suspension and dismissal of the Chief Justice in those Territories which have one is the responsibility of the Governor of the Territory, acting as Her Majesty The Queen's representative in right of the Territory.

**British Virgin Islands**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to visit the British Virgin Islands. [191817]

**Meg Munn:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to him on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1812W.

**Canada: Diplomatic Service**

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* commercial staff were employed in the British High Commission in Ottawa in each of the last five years. [190532]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Management Information system only goes back to 2005. Figures prior to this date are not available without incurring disproportionate cost. It is not possible to breakdown the numbers by category of employment. Staff numbers fluctuate due to officers leaving and arriving at post. There are no UK-based commercial staff in Ottawa.

Staff numbers are shown as follows.

1 April 2005—17

1 April 2006—17

1 April 2007—15

1 January 2008—17

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of maintaining the British High Commission in Ottawa was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [190533]

**Dr. Howells:** The cost of maintaining our High Commission in Ottawa in the financial year 2006-07 was as follows:

Locally Engaged Staff pay budget: £1.8 million for 75 staff and some seasonal relief staff

Administration Budget: £950,000

The cost of maintaining our High Commission in Ottawa in the financial year 2007-08 is as follows:

Locally Engaged Staff pay budget: £1.9 million for 80 staff and some seasonal relief staff

Administration Budget: £1.1 million

All utility costs stand at approximately £123,000 for the office building, High Commissioner's Residence and staff properties.

**Caribbean: Royal Visits**

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department negotiated the hire of the Leander for use by HRH Prince of Wales during his visit in March 2008 to the Caribbean; and if he will make a statement. [190629]

**Meg Munn:** The Department for Transport has overall responsibility for the funding of official travel for members of The Royal Family. This is administered by The Royal Travel Office in Her Majesty The Queen's Household.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official gifts HRH Prince of Wales will be presenting during his official visit to Caribbean countries in March 2008; and whether the cost of such gifts is to be met from public funds. [190733]

**Meg Munn:** His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will present official gifts to the hosts and those who are playing a significant part in the organisation of the visit. The nature of these gifts will follow long-standing precedents, but it would be inappropriate to specify them before their presentation to recipients. The cost of official gifts will be met from official funds.

**China: Family Planning**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he discussed *(a)* the Chinese One Child Policy and *(b)* forced abortion with the authorities during his visit to China; and if he will make a statement. [190868]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss the One Child Policy or forced abortions with Chinese authorities during his visit. He did, however, discuss the overall human rights situation with Foreign Minister Yang.

The One Child Policy was discussed during the recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing in January. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies, but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion. We will continue to encourage the Chinese to meet international human rights standards at every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU.

### Committee for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries are represented on the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; what the terms of reference for the Committee are; and if he will make a statement. [190866]

**Meg Munn:** Countries are not represented on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Committee Members are nationals of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and serve on the basis of their personal expertise. They do not represent governments. However, consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of different cultures and principal legal systems. A list of the current members of the Committee can be found at:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/membership.htm

The Committee's functions are set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Essentially they are to monitor States Parties' implementation of the Convention and make recommendations on how this can be improved. Monitoring is done primarily through a public reporting and examination process. States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention have also given the Committee competence to receive complaints from individuals alleging that their rights under the Convention have been violated. The UK is party to the Protocol as well as the Convention.

CEDAW monitors implementation of the whole Convention. The Convention concerns the elimination of discrimination against women in a wide range of areas, including in respect of health care. While the Convention itself does not explicitly mention abortion or reproductive rights, Articles 12 and 14 refer to access to health care services, including those related to family planning. It is possible that a Committee might address issues relating to abortion and/or reproductive rights when examining a State Party's implementation of the Convention. But this is for the Committee to decide.

In addition to making recommendations to individual States Parties on implementing the Convention, the Committee is also able to issue general guidance to all States Parties focussing on specific aspects of the Convention. These are produced periodically in the form of non-binding "General Recommendations". A number of these General Recommendations relate to health matters. In particular, General Recommendation 24 from 1999, relates to "Women and Health". This does address, among other things, issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the British representative is on the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; what relevant specialist qualifications he or she holds; what his or her career has been to date; when he or she was selected and by whom; what process was followed in his or her selection; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the position; how many were short-listed for interview; how candidates were appraised; what criteria were adopted for the appointment; whether candidates' views on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* reproductive rights and *(c)* contraception were sought; and if he will make a statement. [190867]

**Meg Munn:** There is no UK representative on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

CEDAW's 23 members are elected by the States Parties to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. States Parties nominate candidates from among their own nationals, but members serve in a personal capacity and do not represent governments. The Convention states that CEDAW should consist of experts of "high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention".

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which private finance initiative projects have been approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years, broken down by *(a)* value and *(b)* start date [190885]

**Meg Munn:** The capital value and start date for every signed Private Finance Initiative project are recorded centrally on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189504]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is promoting Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 among staff within the Department by featuring the Fairtrade website as the FCO intranet's "website of the week" and drawing attention to Fairtrade Fortnight.

### France: National Security

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the French Commission currently undertaking a review of French defence and national security, and if he will make a statement. [186720]

**David Miliband:** UK and French officials meet regularly to discuss defence and security issues, both bilaterally and in the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the EU. In addition, senior officials in the Ministry of Defence, the Cabinet Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office held discussions with M. Mallet, the Head of the French Commission, during his visit to the UK in October 2007.

### Homosexuality

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken with its international counterparts to end the criminalisation of homosexuality in other countries. [191470]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have adopted an international policy of prioritising work on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights where there is complete illegality, or there are moves to introduce criminalisation, and seek ways to lobby for decriminalisation.

The then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) and I, as the then Deputy Minister for Women and Equality, issued a joint statement pledging our support for worldwide protests against homophobia planned to mark the International Day against Homophobia on 17 May 2007.

The UK has long been at the forefront of encouraging the EU to speak out in favour of promoting and protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. At the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September 2007, the EU delivered a speech that condemned the fact that relationships between adults of the same sex are criminal in two participating states, namely Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

In the past year we have also lobbied in support of the UN-Economic and Social Council continuing to grant consultative status to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender non-governmental organisations. We also lobbied to persuade Rwanda not to criminalise same sex acts in the revised penal code, and Nigeria not to outlaw advocacy in favour of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, intends to raise this issue when he visits the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

We also raise this issue bilaterally. For example, our high commissioner in Singapore went to see Singapore's Attorney General on 26 October 2007 about various human rights issues, including the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

### Drinking Water

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187672]

**Meg Munn:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by examining individual invoices. This could only be done at disproportionate cost.

### Sri Lanka: Press Freedom

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Sri Lanka on the freedom and security of journalists working in that country. [190553]

**Dr. Howells:** In April 2007, our then High Commissioner in Colombo discussed the issue with Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollogama. During that meeting, the High Commissioner made clear that the UK would continue to defend fundamental rights and values such as media freedom.

Our High Commission in Colombo meets journalists on a regular basis and responds to any requests for assistance. We are aware of the recent report by "Reporters Without Borders" which catalogues serious violations of press freedom in Sri Lanka. The UK will continue to work with national and international partners to support media freedom.

### Sudan: Capital Punishment

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of people executed in Sudan in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [189994]

**Meg Munn:** Our Embassy in Khartoum receives occasional reports about executions in Sudan from non-governmental organisations such as the Sudanese Organisation Against Torture (SOAT). SOAT reported that five individuals were executed on 24 February as punishment for murder. We do not, however, have figures relating to the past five years.

Through the EU-Sudan Human Rights Dialogue the UK lobbies the Government of Sudan to suspend the death penalty with a view to abolishing it. The Sudanese Government has told us that it had suspended the use of the death penalty for pregnant or lactating women. We understand that the sentence would be carried out once the child reached the age of two.

### Sudan: China

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Chinese government on the situation in Darfur. [190755]

**Meg Munn:** During his visit to China on 25-29 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reinforced the messages agreed between Ministers and the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa during his visit to the UK on 21-22 February.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary agreed with the Chinese Foreign Minister and Premier Wen on the need to press the Government of Sudan and rebels to end the violence in West Darfur; to facilitate the rapid and effective deployment of UN-African Union

Mission in Darfur; and on the need for progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, in his speech at Peking University on 29 February, called on the Governments of Sudan and Chad to stop supporting rebels in each other's countries, and underlined the need for the Government and all parties in Sudan to respect their responsibilities under international law; and to engage constructively in peace talks.

### Western European Union

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role and mission is of the Western European Union; what assessment he has made of its impact in European security; and if he will make a statement. [190691]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** All the operational aspects of the Western European Union (WEU), including its capacity to plan and conduct crisis management operations, were transferred to the EU following the establishment of the European Security and Defence Policy in 1999. The only remaining active component is the WEU Parliamentary Assembly which provides collective inter-parliamentary oversight of European defence issues.

### World War II: Genocide

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the statements made by the President of Iran on denial of the Holocaust; and if he will make a statement. [190870]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government have consistently condemned President Ahmadinejad's statements questioning the Holocaust, and has made clear that these statements are wholly unacceptable, abhorrent, and have no place in civilised political debate. In December 2006, under the guise of an academic exercise, the Iranian Government hosted a conference to which they invited a number of well-known Holocaust deniers. The aim of the conference was to cast doubt on whether the Holocaust took place in an attempt to undermine Israel's existence. Former Prime Minister, the right hon. Tony Blair, publicly condemned the conference in the strongest terms and I summoned the Iranian Ambassador to express the Government's anger at the event. In January 2007 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning without reservation any denial of the Holocaust. The UK strongly supported this resolution. Iran was the only country that chose to disassociate itself from the consensus shared by all other UN members on this issue.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage businesses to offer apprenticeship places. [190935]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government report "Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All" available at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/world_class_apprenticeships.pdf

sets out a range of measures to encourage many more employers to expand their apprenticeship numbers and to join the programme. These include new financial incentives; a national matching service; and new flexibilities so that employers can bring their own qualifications into apprenticeship frameworks.

Over the past decade, we have more than doubled the number of young people and adults starting apprenticeships in England. Over the period to 2020 we project that apprenticeship starts will increase to over 250,000 per year.

### Central Government: Copyright

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many copyrights held by the Government have been surrendered for the benefit of humanity in the last 10 years; and what his policy is on surrendering Government-held copyrights in the field of genetics for the public good. [180438]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government keep no central records of Crown copyright works it generates. Government policy on the use of Crown copyright is the responsibility of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), whose general policy is to permit most Crown copyright to be re-used under a click-use licence at nil cost, in order to encourage re-use.

### Educational Institutions: Copyright

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of copyrights held by teaching establishments within his responsibilities and *(b)* the revenues which accrue annually from such copyrights. [180418]

**Ian Pearson:** Copyright is an unregistered right which arises automatically. As a signatory to the Berne Convention, the UK is precluded from keeping mandatory registers of copyright works. Consequently no central records are kept. UK teaching establishments are responsible for managing any copyright protected works they generate and for tracking any revenue generated by commercial exploitation. Collecting information centrally on revenues generated in this way would entail disproportionate cost.

### Research: Finance

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what factors he takes into account in planning future allocations of research funding. [167529]

**Ian Pearson:** The Treasury has not yet announced a future spending round. If any such announcement is made, I will then consider the priorities for the allocations of research funding.

## Teachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many teachers of *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* physics in schools currently hold a degree in the subject in which they teach. [189232]

**Jim Knight:** Information is available for England from the Secondary Schools Curriculum survey (SSCSS) which is an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures will be published in spring 2008.

The following table provides the number of full-time teachers employed in maintained secondary schools by the highest post A level qualification held in the subjects they teach in 2002 from SSCSS.

*Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England*

*Percentages*

| | *Degree*[3] | *BEd* | *PGCE* | *Cert Ed* | *Other Qual.* | *No Qual.* | *Total teachers (Thousand)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | 42 ± 3 | 15 ± 2 | 9 ± 2 | 7 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 24 ± 2 | 28.2 |
| English | 51 ± 3 | 15 ± 2 | 7 ± 1 | 6 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 20 ± 2 | 29.4 |
| Combined/General science | 62 ± 3 | 12 ± 2 | 10 ± 2 | 4 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 11 ± 2 | 28.3 |
| Biology[4] | 71 ± 5 | 7 ± 3 | 11 ± 4 | 3 ± 2 | - ± 1 | 7 ± 3 | 5.6 |
| Chemistry[4] | 72 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 12 ± 4 | 1 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 7 ± 3 | 5.2 |
| Physics[4] | 63 ± 6 | 11 ± 4 | 15 ± 4 | 3 ± 2 | - ± - | 8 ± 3 | 4.7 |
| Other sciences[4] | 10 ± 5 | 4 ± 4 | 5 ± 4 | - ± - | - ± - | 80 ± 8 | 1.6 |
| French | 54 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 10 ± 2 | 3 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 23 ± 3 | 16.0 |
| German | 47 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 13 ± 4 | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 30 ± 5 | 6.9 |
| Spanish | 37 ± 7 | 8 ± 4 | 19 ± 6 | - ± - | 3 ± 2 | 33 ± 7 | 3.6 |
| Other modern languages | 18 ± 8 | - ± - | 9 ± 7 | - ± - | 3 ± 4 | 71 ±10 | 1.4 |
| Design and technology[5] | 26 ± 3 | 20 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 21 ± 3 | 2 ± 1 | 24 ± 3 | 20.9 |
| ICT[5, 6] | 13 ± 2 | 6 ± 1 | 8 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 3 ± 1 | 69 ± 3 | 18.9 |
| Other/Combined technology[5] | 30± 10 | 13 ± 8 | 16 ± 7 | 18 ± 9 | 2 ± 3 | 20 ± 9 | 1.6 |
| Business studies | 30 ± 5 | 11 ± 4 | 9 ± 3 | 4 ± 2 | 3 ± 2 | 43 ± 5 | 6.5 |
| Classics | 33 ± 7 | - ± - | 2 ± 4 | 2 ± - | - ± - | 63 ± 7 | 1.0 |
| History | 57 ± 4 | 9 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | - ± - | 23 ± 3 | 13.7 |
| Religious education | 22 ± 3 | 8 ± 2 | 8 ± 2 | 4 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 57 ± 4 | 14.2 |
| Geography | 53 ± 4 | 9 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | 5 ± 2 | 1 ± 1 | 25 ± 3 | 13.7 |
| Other social studies | 35 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 2 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | - ± 1 | 54 ± 6 | 4.9 |
| Combined arts/humanities/ social studies | 5 ± 3 | 4 ± 2 | 7 ± 3 | 1 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 83 ± 5 | 5.3 |
| Music | 59 ± 5 | 15 ± 4 | 5 ± 2 | 6 ± 3 | 2 ± 2 | 13 ± 4 | 6.3 |
| Drama | 25 ± 4 | 10 ± 3 | 12 ± 3 | 6 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 45 ± 5 | 8.1 |
| Art and design | 54 ± 4 | 10 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 9 ± 3 | 1 ± 1 | 20 ± 4 | 9.3 |
| Physical education | 25 ± 3 | 31 ± 3 | 6 ± 2 | 13 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 22 ± 2 | 21.4 |
| Careers education | 2 ± 2 | 1 ± 2 | 3 ± 3 | 4 ± 4 | 3 ± 4 | 87 ± 7 | 1.5 |
| PSHE[6] | 1 ± - | 1 ± - | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± - | - ± - | 95 ± 1 | 61.4 |
| General studies | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | - ± 1 | - ± - | 95 ± 2 | 7.1 |
| Citizenship | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | - ± 1 | - ± - | 94 ± 2 | 9.0 |
| Other | — | — | — | — | — | — | 32.8 |
| Total[2, 7] | 33 ± - | 10 ± - | 7 ± - | 5 ± - | 1 ± - | 44 ± - | 383.4 |

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

*Source:*
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

## Teachers: Recruitment

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which five teaching disciplines faced the most shortages in recruitment in each of the last 10 academic years. [189459]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the full-time classroom teacher vacancy rates in local authority maintained secondary schools by subject in England 1997 to 2007.

*Full-time classroom teacher vacancy[1] rates in local authority maintained secondary schools in England by subject. January of each year. Coverage: England.*

| | *Vacancies as a percentage of teachers in post[2]* | | | | | | | | | | *Number of vacancies* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2007* |
| All vacancies | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1,130 |
| Main teaching subject[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mathematics | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 200 |
| Information Technology | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 90 |
| All sciences[4] | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 210 |
| Languages | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 60 |
| English | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 140 |
| Drama | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 20 |
| History | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 20 |
| Social sciences | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 10 |
| Geography | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 20 |
| Religious education | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 40 |
| Design and technology | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 90 |
| Commercial/ business studies | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 20 |
| Art, craft or design | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 20 |
| Music | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 30 |
| Physical education | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 60 |
| Careers | 1.9 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0 |
| Other main and combined subjects | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 100 |
| Total vacancies (numbers) | 650 | 860 | 840 | 1,140 | 2,530 | 2,350 | 1,940 | 1,530 | 1,440 | 1,230 | 1,130 | |

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term. See notes to editors 11 to 12 for further details.
[2] Teachers in post include full-time qualified regular teachers in (or on secondment from) maintained secondary schools, plus the secondary portion of full-time regular divided service, peripatetic, advisory and miscellaneous teachers.
[3] The number of teachers in post by main teaching subject is estimated using the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (1996 survey for years 1997 to 2001 and 2002 survey for years 2002 to 2005).
[4] The distinction between single science vacancy rates and combined science has been discontinued.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding. *Source:*
618g survey

## Teachers: Training

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many mathematics and physics teachers graduated in each of the last 10 years. [189396]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected centrally.

## Teaching Methods

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* teacher-training institutions and *(b)* schools on the use of Brain Gym with pupils. [190817]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

We do not prescribe the design of Initial Teacher Training programmes or give guidance on any specific training aids that may be used to deliver those programmes. Programme design is at the provider's discretion, as long as it complies with the requirements for Initial Teacher Training, set out in guidance from the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

We do not provide guidance or advice to schools on the use of Brain Gym.

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189779]

**Gillian Merron:** Central records of the number of home workers are not collated and are available only at a disproportionate cost. Arrangements are agreed between line managers and individuals.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191512]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has recruited a total of 12 staff over the age of 55 during the last three years. The number of such staff recruited, for each year since 2005, is shown in the following table.

| | *Number of staff recruited over the age of 55* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 5 |
| 2006 | 5 |
| 2007 | 2 |
| Total | 12 |

### Developing Countries: Sanitation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government have provided to developing countries for water and sanitation improvements since 1997. [191472]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID statistics on water and sanitation disbursement cover the period from 2000 onward and were £165 million in 2000-01; £152 million in 2001-02; £146 million in 2002-03; £225 million in 2003-04; £240 million in 2004-05; and £242 million in 2005-06. A detailed breakdown of DFID support for the water sector over the last five years can be found in the two reports titled 'Financial Support to the Water Sector 2002 to 2004' and 'Financial Support to the Water Sector 2004 to 2006', prepared for DFID by WS Atkins Plc. Both have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to encourage the supply of fair trade products to the UK market. [191471]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government are a strong supporter of the growing fair and ethical trade sector. The Department for International Development has provided almost £12 million to promote fair and ethical trade initiatives since 1997. We recently announced a new £1.2 million grant to the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation to scale up Fairtrade labelling, particularly in the poorest countries.

We are also keen to encourage the private sector to do more to proactively source goods from developing countries. To support this DFID has launched a £2 million Food Retail Industry Challenge Fund (FRICH). This will support innovative business models that will help bring millions of farmers into profitable fair trading relationships with UK shoppers.

### Stabilisation Unit

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people have been deployed by the Stabilisation Unit in *(a)* Nepal, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Afghanistan, *(d)* Lebanon and (e) Sudan. [191437]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Unit has, since its establishment, deployed a mix of its own staff, individual experts from its database and individuals from consultancy firms. The total number of personnel who have been deployed to each country as at 29 February 2008 are:

| *Country* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Nepal | 4 |
| *(b)* Iraq | 14 |
| *(c)* Afghanistan | 36 |
| *(d)* Lebanon | 5 |
| *(e)* Sudan | 16 |

Each person deployed to a country has been counted only once even if they were deployed to the same country on a number of occasions.

### Stabilisation Unit: Finance

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £269 million stabilisation aid fund will be allocated for use by the Stabilisation Unit. [191438]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Unit is performing a number of roles in respect of the stabilisation aid fund (SAF):

Helping to design the criteria and allocation mechanisms for the SAF;

Advising on priorities for SAF funding in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Helping to design some specific SAF programmes, and;

Providing civilian experts to deliver some SAF programmes.

The exact allocation of responsibility for managing SAF funds has yet to be determined and will depend on the final design of the programmes. Stabilisation Unit core funding will not be a charge to the SAF.

### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191078]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID has purchased 78 plasma screens in the past 24 months, at a cost of £117,018. All are in use in DFID's worldwide video-conferencing network, and none have television tuners.

## TREASURY

### Defence: Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the comprehensive spending review 2007, if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology and calculations that provide the

basis for his statement that defence expenditure will rise by 1.5 per cent. in real terms between 2008-09 and 2010-11. [191686]

**Yvette Cooper:** Details of the Ministry of Defence settlement are given Table D14 in Annex D8 of the 2007 pre-budget report and comprehensive spending review document, which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/C/B/pbr_csr07_annexd8_143.pdf

The relevant deflators can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/8/GDP_Deflators_20071220_NA_update_circ.xls

### Delivery Unit

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff work in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; and what the budget for the unit was for 2007-08. [191088]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has an agreed headcount for 2007-08 of 33, and a budget of £3.639 million.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184344]

**Angela Eagle:** The records do not distinguish between lost and missing items. The remainder of the information is presented in the following table:

| | *Item* | *Lost and missing* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | Mobile Telephones | - | - |
| | PDAs | - | 1 |
| | Laptop Computers | - | 2 |
| 2002 | Mobile Telephones | 1 | - |
| | PDAs | 11 | - |
| | Laptop Computers | - | 22 |
| 2003 | Mobile Telephones | 3 | - |
| | PDAs | - | 2 |
| | Laptop Computers | 3 | 6 |
| 2004 | Mobile Telephones | 2 | 1 |
| | PDAs | - | 1 |
| | Laptop Computers | 2 | 2 |
| 2005 | Mobile Telephones | - | - |
| | PDAs | - | 1 |
| | Laptop Computers | 1 | 2 |
| 2006 | Mobile Telephones | - | - |
| | PDAs | 1 | - |
| | Laptop Computers | 1 | 1 |
| 2007 | Mobile Telephones | - | 1 |
| | PDAs | 1 | 1 |
| | Laptop Computers | - | 5 |

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191776]

**Angela Eagle:** The departmental website is compliant with Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and displays ICRA's label on the home page.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191521]

**Angela Eagle:** In the last three calendar years HM Treasury recruited the following number of people over the age of 55:

| | *Number of employees* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 10 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2005 | 3 |

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187464]

**Angela Eagle:** Records show the following items have been lost or stolen from the Department since 1997:

| | *Item* | *Number* | *Estimated replacement cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Desktop computers | 3 | 5,700 |
| | Laptop computers | 2 | 4,506 |
| | Telephone answering machines | 2 | 200 |
| 1998 | Laptop computer | 1 | 2,264 |
| 1999 | Desktop computer | 1 | 2,000 |
| | Laptop computers | 2 | 4,000 |
| 2000 | Laptop computer | 1 | 2,233 |
| | Disk drives | 2 | 300 |
| | Projector | 1 | 900 |
| 2001 | Laptop computers | 2 | 3,360 |
| | Personal organiser | 1 | 50 |
| 2002 | Desktop computers | 2 | 3,944 |
| | Laptop computers | 22 | 22,000 |
| | Computer monitors | 3 | 1,425 |
| | Safedial cards | 5 | 4,000 |
| | Projector | 1 | 950 |

| | Item | Number | Estimated replacement cost (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Personal organisers | 11 | 2,200 |
| | CD writer | 1 | 100 |
| | Mobile phone | 1 | 50 |
| 2003 | Desktop computer | 1 | 1,000 |
| | Laptop computers | 9 | 10,935 |
| | Safedial cards | 2 | 1,600 |
| | Personal organisers | 2 | 800 |
| | Mobile phones | 3 | 150 |
| 2004 | Laptop computers | 4 | 4,564 |
| | Safedial cards | 6 | 4,800 |
| | Personal organiser | 1 | 200 |
| | Mobile phones | 3 | 150 |
| 2005 | Laptop computers | 3 | 2,817 |
| | Safedial cards | 8 | 6,400 |
| | Personal organiser | 1 | 200 |
| 2006 | Laptop computer | 2 | 1,400 |
| | Personal organiser | 1 | 200 |
| 2007 | Mobile phone | 1 | 50 |
| | Personal organiser | 2 | 400 |
| | Laptop computers | 5 | 3,500 |
| | Safedial cards | 3 | 2,400 |

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179875]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2207W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson).

## Economic Growth

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* inward investment was in each of the English regions in each year for which figures are available. [191355]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 March 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about the rate of economic growth and inward investment for each of the English regions in each year for which figures are available. (191355)

ONS currently publish regional Gross Value Added (GVA). These data are published in Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) regions and data for the Government Office regions of England (NUTS1 data) run from 1989 to 2006 on a consistent basis. These data are at current prices, therefore the effects of inflation are not taken into account.

ONS do not publish regional inward investment data.

The year on year percentage growth rate of the level of GVA for the time period 1990-2006 are presented in tables A and B.

*Table A: Gross value added annual percentage growth rate, 1990 to 1998*

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 8.7 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 6.0 |
| North East | 8.1 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| North West | 8.2 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 5.4 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 8.2 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.2 |
| East Midlands | 8.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.1 |
| West Midlands | 8.5 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| East of England | 9.4 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 7.0 |
| London | 8.5 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 8.8 |
| South East | 9.1 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 8.2 |
| South West | 9.4 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 6.3 |
| England | 8.7 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.7 |

*Table B: Gross value added annual percentage growth rate, 1999 to 2006*

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 4.2 | 5.3 |
| North East | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 4.9 | 5.5 |
| North West | 4.1 | 3.6 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 3.3 | 3.6 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 3.5 | 4.6 |
| East Midlands | 3.5 | 3.6 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 4.2 | 5.0 |

*Table B: Gross value added annual percentage growth rate, 1999 to 2006*

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 5.0 |
| East of England | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 3.5 | 4.7 |
| London | 6.6 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 5.7 |
| South East | 6.0 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 5.1 |
| South West | 5.1 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 5.4 |
| England | 5.0 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 4.1 | 5.1 |

## Foreign Workers: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [191002]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford, (b) the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. (191002)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford Parliamentary constituency and the London Borough of Bexley, for the twelve month periods ending in June for 2005, 2006, and 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent which is currently available.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Number of non-UK born persons in employment in Bexleyheath and Crayford and the London borough of Bexley in the last three year*

| | Migrant workers (thousand)[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending:* | *Bexleyheath and Crayford* | *London borough of Bexley* |
| June 2005 | 4 | 13 |
| June 2006 | 5 | 13 |
| June 2007 | 5 | 13 |

[1] Includes males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59. Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

*Note:*

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).

it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey

## Households

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many couple households *(a)* with and *(b)* without dependent children there were in each year since 1992; how many and what proportion of these in each category were couples of working age where (i) one and (ii) both were (A) in and (B) out of work. [191324]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many couple households (a) with and (b) without dependent children there were in each year since 1992; how many and what proportion of these were couples of working age where (i) one and (ii) both were (A) in and (B) out of work in each category. (191324)

This question has been answered on a family basis rather than household basis because more than one couple can live in a household. In addition figures provided are for working age couples in the United Kingdom, that is where both partners are of working-age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).

'Out of work' has been interpreted to include those unemployed or economically inactive.

Dependent children are defined as children under 16 years of age and those aged 16-18 who have never-married and are in full time education.

The information is given in the table attached. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending in June of each year for 1997, 1999 and 2001 to 2007. Comparable estimates for 1992-1996, 1998 and 2000 are not currently available.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Number and percentage of working age[1] couples with and without dependent children[2] by economic status, United Kingdom, April to June 1997 to 2007 not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage[3]*

| | Thousand | | | | Percentage | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total[4] | Both partners employed | Both partners not employed | One employed and one not employed | Total | Both partners employed | Both partners not employed | One employed and one not employed |
| *Couples with dependent children* | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 5,661 | 3,555 | 430 | 1,507 | 100 | 65 | 8 | 27 |
| 1998 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| 1999 | 5,590 | 3,600 | 354 | 1,455 | 100 | 67 | 6 | 27 |
| 2000 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| 2001 | 5,563 | 3,624 | 346 | 1,404 | 100 | 67 | 6 | 26 |
| 2002 | 5,506 | 3,580 | 326 | 1,412 | 100 | 67 | 6 | 27 |
| 2003 | 5,471 | 3,540 | 295 | 1,407 | 100 | 68 | 6 | 27 |
| 2004 | 5,467 | 3,552 | 307 | 1,398 | 100 | 68 | 6 | 27 |
| 2005 | 5,489 | 3,592 | 296 | 1,365 | 100 | 68 | 6 | 26 |
| 2006 | 5,460 | 3,560 | 298 | 1,392 | 100 | 68 | 6 | 27 |
| 2007 | 5,444 | 3,565 | 282 | 1,364 | 100 | 68 | 5 | 26 |
| *Couples without dependent children[6]* | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 5,241 | 3,414 | 491 | 1,091 | 100 | 68 | 10 | 22 |
| 1998 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| 1999 | 5,257 | 3,459 | 461 | 1,071 | 100 | 69 | 9 | 22 |
| 2000 | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| 2001 | 5,323 | 3,596 | 424 | 1,048 | 100 | 71 | 8 | 21 |
| 2002 | 5,329 | 3,579 | 413 | 1,041 | 100 | 71 | 8 | 21 |
| 2003 | 5,342 | 3,596 | 388 | 1,021 | 100 | 72 | 8 | 20 |
| 2004 | 5,299 | 3,595 | 413 | 975 | 100 | 72 | 8 | 20 |
| 2005 | 5,271 | 3,575 | 382 | 967 | 100 | 73 | 8 | 20 |
| 2006 | 5,253 | 3,542 | 370 | 973 | 100 | 73 | 8 | 20 |
| 2007 | 5,216 | 3,551 | 378 | 943 | 100 | 73 | 8 | 19 |

[1] Both members of the couple are of working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).
[2] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged or 16-18 who have never married and are in full-time education.
[3] When calculating percentages, the couples with unknown economic status are excluded.
[4] Includes couples with unknown economic status of one or both members.
[5] Comparable estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not currently available.
[6] Couples without dependent children includes couples with no children

*Note:*
As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty. Estimates are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey.

## Mortgages

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of first time buyers who took out mortgages with a loan to value ratio of 90 per cent. or more in the most recent period for which figures are available. [191676]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government does not hold these figures. The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes a range of statistics on UK housing and mortgage markets, including the number of mortgages taken out by first time buyers and the median loan to value ratio of these loans, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

## National Income

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate of the gross domestic product deflator at market prices, where 2006-07 equals 100, is for financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11. [191684]

**Angela Eagle:** Projections for changes in the GDP deflator by financial year were published, as usual, in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (Cm 7227) Table B3: Economic assumptions for the public finance projections. This includes an estimate for 2007-08 and projections for 2008-09 through 2010-11. Updated projections will be published in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report" on 12 March 2008, in the normal way.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the seasonally adjusted Gross Domestic Product (Expenditure) deflator (YBGB), rebased to 2000, for each quarter of financial years 1990-2000 to 2007-08. [191687]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting a copy of the

seasonally adjusted Gross Domestic Product (Expenditure) deflator (YBGB), rebased to 2000, for each quarter of financial years 1990-2000 to 2007-08. (191687)

The attached table displays this information, with the deflator re-referenced to the 2000-01 financial year. A figure for the last quarter of the latest financial year is not yet available.

*Table A*

| *Year* | *Financial Quarter* | *Deflator (YBHB)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 | Q1 | 73.3 |
| | Q2 | 75.3 |
| | Q3 | 75.7 |
| | Q4 | 77.2 |
| 1991-92 | Q1 | 78.4 |
| | Q2 | 79.4 |
| | Q3 | 80.5 |
| | Q4 | 81.5 |
| 1992-93 | Q1 | 82.3 |
| | Q2 | 82.0 |
| | Q3 | 82.4 |
| | Q4 | 83.5 |
| 1993-94 | Q1 | 83.8 |
| | Q2 | 84.6 |
| | Q3 | 85.1 |
| | Q4 | 85.3 |
| 1994-95 | Q1 | 85.3 |
| | Q2 | 85.3 |
| | Q3 | 86.5 |
| | Q4 | 86.9 |
| 1995-96 | Q1 | 87.9 |
| | Q2 | 88.2 |
| | Q3 | 88.6 |
| | Q4 | 89.7 |
| 1996-97 | Q1 | 90.9 |
| | Q2 | 91.6 |
| | Q3 | 91.5 |
| | Q4 | 92.3 |
| 1997-98 | Q1 | 93.1 |
| | Q2 | 94.1 |
| | Q3 | 94.7 |
| | Q4 | 95.1 |
| 1998-99 | Q1 | 95.8 |
| | Q2 | 96.6 |
| | Q3 | 96.8 |
| | Q4 | 97.4 |
| 1999-2000 | Q1 | 98.3 |
| | Q2 | 98.6 |
| | Q3 | 98.5 |
| | Q4 | 98.9 |
| 2000-01 | Q1 | 99.3 |
| | Q2 | 99.7 |
| | Q3 | 100.0 |
| | Q4 | 101.0 |
| 2001-02 | Q1 | 101.6 |
| | Q2 | 101.5 |
| | Q3 | 102.6 |
| | Q4 | 103.8 |
| 2002-03 | Q1 | 104.8 |
| | Q2 | 105.2 |
| | Q3 | 105.6 |
| | Q4 | 106.8 |
| 2003-04 | Q1 | 107.8 |
| | Q2 | 108.5 |
| | Q3 | 109.0 |
| | Q4 | 109.2 |
| 2004-05 | Q1 | 110.6 |
| | Q2 | 111.2 |
| | Q3 | 112.2 |
| | Q4 | 112.6 |
| 2005-06 | Q1 | 113.3 |
| | Q2 | 113.2 |
| | Q3 | 114.5 |
| | Q4 | 115.1 |
| 2006-07 | Q1 | 115.5 |
| | Q2 | 117.2 |
| | Q3 | 117.8 |
| | Q4 | 118.3 |
| 2007-08 | Q1 | 119.8 |
| | Q2 | 120.6 |
| | Q3 | 121.0 |

## Northern Rock

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual value of new mortgages that Northern Rock will need to originate in order to prevent a non-asset covenant breach occurring of the Granite securitisation vehicles. [188944]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The sale of mortgages from Northern Rock into Granite is a commercial decision for Northern Rock.

The estimated value of mortgages that Northern Rock would need to sell into Granite in order to avoid a non-asset trigger is a commercially sensitive matter.

## Public Expenditure

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to lay the main estimates for 2008-09 before the House. [191680]

**Yvette Cooper:** No decision has yet been taken on the date of publication and laying in the House of the main supply estimates for 2008-09. As agreed with Parliament, this will normally take place within five weeks of the Budget, subject to the House sitting.

## Taxation: Bingo

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the level of value added tax payable by bingo clubs; and if he will make a statement. [191566]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was

the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* other tax was paid by bingo clubs in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of loss of tax revenue from the closure of clubs in (i) the current financial year and (ii) the next financial year; and if he will make a statement. [191567]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the amount of VAT paid on individual goods and services.

Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett. Bingo clubs are also subject to the usual taxes imposed on business.

The state of the bingo industry is incorporated into the forecast of total betting and gaming duties, which includes bingo duty receipts, and will be published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

### Taxation: Gambling

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much remote gaming duty *(a)* was collected in each year since the duty was imposed and *(b)* he estimates will be collected in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [191793]

**Angela Eagle:** Remote gaming duty was introduced in September 2007 and duty returns are completed quarterly. Receipts will be included in the Betting and Gaming Bulletin which can be accessed at: http//www.uktradeinfo.com. An updated forecast of total betting and gaming duties, which includes remote gaming, will be published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

### Trade Competitiveness: City of London

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the EU Capital Requirements Directive on the competitiveness of the City of London. [191584]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury produced a regulatory impact analysis for the areas of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD) that the Treasury were responsible for transposing into UK law. This analysis considered the implications of the various transposition options for the competitiveness of the City of London, amongst other factors. Further information can be found on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/capital_requirements_directive/consult_capitalrequirements_index.cfm

The Financial Services Authority was responsible for analysing the implications of the areas of the CRD which it was responsible for transposing. Further information can be found on the FSA's website at:

www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/CP/2006/06_03.shtml

### UK Women's Budget Group

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how often he has met the UK Women's Budget Group; and when he next expects to meet them. [190921]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### VAT: Registration

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the time taken for Office Green Group (UK) Ltd, based in Brentwood and Ongar constituency, to receive VAT registration. [191607]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a statutory duty of confidentiality which restricts the use and disclosure of the information it holds relating to the tax affairs of individuals, companies and other bodies.

However, HMRC acknowledges that there have been difficulties with registering new businesses for VAT. An action plan for tackling delays was implemented in June 2007 and HMRC has put additional staff in post, invested in IT improvements, and continues to refine the risk criteria so they stay targeted on the right risks. These measures have significantly improved VAT Registration performance.

During December 2007 and January 2008 HMRC delivered their target performance level with over 70 per cent. of applications being processed within 14-days.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Attendance Allowance: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford were in receipt of the *(a)* higher rate and *(b)* lower rate of attendance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [189386]

**Mrs. McGuire:** At May 2007, 860 people were in receipt of the higher rate of attendance allowance and 960 people were in receipt of the lower rate in the parliamentary constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with EDS on the costs of extending use of the child support computer system beyond 1 April 2008; and who will meet those costs. [191783]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The use of the child support computer system is covered by an existing contract with EDS. This contract runs, initially, until 2010 and under the terms of the contract EDS retain obligations to provide the relevant services at agreed contracted prices until

expiry. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will assume responsibility for child support computer systems during 2008, however the Department for Work and Pensions will remain responsible for agreeing the Commission's funding.

## Departmental ICT

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180577]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Although the department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

those current projects and programmes undertaken by the Department where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business, and

where non-delivery of the IT element would significantly damage the project's or programme's ability to deliver its intended results.

For all programmes or projects with the exception of Child Support Agency (CSA) Operational Improvement Plan the costs and dates reported relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element. In the case of CSA OIP which is an operational improvement programme only the IT element costs and delivery timelines are recorded in the table.

The table shows information on the programme/project purpose, start date, original planned completion date, expected completion date, originally planned costs and estimated costs.

It should be noted that the scope of projects can change as they pass through the project lifecycle and as plans and costs become more robust. At each stage of this process they are checked to ensure that they continue to fit with Departmental strategy and continue to deliver value for money.

| | | *(i)* | *(ii)* | *(iii)* | *(iv)* | *(v)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Project* | *Purpose* | *Start date* | *Original planned completion date* | *Expected completion date* | *Originally planned costs (£ million)* | *Estimated costs (£ million)* |
| Pensions Transformation Project—(see note 3). | The programme will transform The Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies. | January 2002 | March 2007 | 2010-11 | 429 | 598 |
| Customer Information System | This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by Other Government Departments. | July 2003 | September 2007 | February 2008 | 40 | 89 |
| Document Repository Service | This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation. | July 2006 | November 2008 | November 2008 | 6 | 11 |

| Project | Purpose | (i) Start date | (ii) Original planned completion date | (iii) Expected completion date | (iv) Originally planned costs (£ million) | (v) Estimated costs (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central Payments System (formerly part of Payment Modernisation | A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error. | April 2004 | October 2006 | December 2010 | 90 | 153 |
| Customer Management System (previously known as Working Age Services Modernisation Project (WASMP) | The CMS releases develop and implement a new front-end data gathering system for primary Jobcentre Plus benefit processing systems, including auto-transfer of data. | January 2001 | April 2008 | April 2008 | 252 | 269 |
| Employment and Support Allowance | The project delivers the system and processes to implement the new ESA allowance. | August 2006 | October 2008 | October 2008 | 295 | 295 |
| HR IS/IT programme | Following the merger of the Employment Service and the Benefits Agency Human Resources functions the DWP HR organisation is undergoing modernisation and moving from a centralised, old-style personnel function to a new outward facing HR Group. This includes changing how DWP delivers policies and services. The HR IS/IT Programme contributes to the delivery of these improvements ensuring its operation is efficient and effective and supports Departments learning and leadership objectives. | June 2003 | March 2006 | March 2008 | 63 | 53 |
| On Time Solution | Provide a range of improved information services to DWP businesses, including improved quicker Management Information, Fraud and Error intervention and analysis. | March 2006 | March 2011 | March 2011 | 11 | 11 |
| Operational Improvement Plan (see note 4). | Operational and organisational restructuring of the Child Support Agency to deliver more money to more children. | April 2006 | April 2009 | April 2009 | 107 | 110 |
| Provider Referrals and Payment Project | Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers. | April 2007 | April 2009 | June 2010 | 17 | 15 |

| Project | Purpose | (i) Start date | (ii) Original planned completion date | (iii) Expected completion date | (iv) Originally planned costs (£ million) | (v) Estimated costs (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Web Enabled Local Service System | Provide a solution to replace the existing standalone IT used by Local Services providing LS flexibility | October 2007 | January 2009 | January 2009 | 4 | 4 |
| State Pension Reform Delivery Programme | To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK Pension System long term. | April 2007 | April 2010 | April 2010 | 151 | 154 |
| Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System | This Project develops and delivers a core IT platform that provides a lasting foundation for modern flexible IT support of business priorities, by introducing a new system to provide the Programme Protection Community with a single national data store of all fraud, compliance and risk cases. | December 2004 | April 2006 | June 2008 | 11 | 33 |
| DWP Change Programme | This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision. Including major projects to bring in Continuous Improvement using Lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business change projects to allow greater access to information. | April 2007 | March 2011 | March 2011 | 286 | 286 |
| Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (see note 6). | To establish a new child maintenance system that delivers more money to more children and better value for money to the taxpayer. | March 2007 | March 2007 | 2014-15 | 870 | 866 |

*Notes:*

1. Original planned completion date and originally planned completion costs are the date and costs agreed to by the relevant Departmental management committee at the time the project or programme passed through Gate zero (or an equivalent process) of the Department's governance procedures. We expect these to be refined as costs and timelines become clearer through the lifetime of the project. We regularly review costs and benefits at the appropriate governance points to ensure that they continue to deliver value for money.
2. The costs above represent the costs of implementing the particular project and programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included above as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate. These savings are demonstrated in the recent NAO report "The Efficiency programme: A Second Review of Progress".
3. Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included
4. When first conceived the Pensions Transformation Programme was to be funded by way of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement. During the early stages of development, best practice for financing the programme indicated that PFI was no longer the appropriate financing method and thus it was decided to use departmental funds. Financing the development using departmental funds has the effect of increasing the development costs of the programme while reducing the operating cost of the programme by a similar amount. Thus the actual amount of money committed to the programme is broadly the same.
5. The Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan is a business recovery programme and is not a business change project in the normal sense. The focus of the programme is the organisational and operational restructuring of the Agency to deliver significant performance improvements, getting more money to parents. It specifically aims to tackle the key area of debt, compliance and enforcement. Over a three year period the programme will design, develop and implement, process and organisational change underpinned by continuing remediation of existing computer systems and the introduction of further IT enhancements in preparation for the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission organisation.
6. At this stage, with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission yet to be established, these costs are best viewed as planning assumptions. They will depend ultimately on how C-MEC will configure its services; the details and timing of the transitional arrangements to the new scheme; and the choices that parents will make. All of these factors are subject to significant uncertainties. It should also be noted that estimated IT costs account for less than 20 per cent. of the overall costs.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which agencies under his Department's responsibilities use the *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone codes for customer enquiries; how many 0845 and 0870 telephone codes each agency uses; and how much revenue was generated for each of these codes by each agency in each of the last five years. [183887]

**Mrs. McGuire:** None of my Department's agencies use 0870 numbers for customer inquiries. Information on the use of 0845 numbers is in the table:

| *Agency* | *0845 numbers in use* |
|---|---|
| Child Support Agency | 11,500 |
| Jobcentre Plus | 198 |
| The Pension Service | 26 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 6 |

In addition, although not formally an agency, the Department's debt management service uses nineteen 0845 numbers.

The high number of lines in the CSA reflects a one-time business model which gave each agent a direct dial number that clients could use to contact a specific person. The facility still exists but its use is minimal since the agency adopted an advanced telephony model with an area based single number for clients, which routes calls to the person best equipped to answer the query.

The Department received a rebate of £1,463,738.45 for the period covering 1 October 2005 to 30 November 2007 and this was used to pay for other telecommunication services. No information is available for any earlier period and no breakdown of this figure is available. The Department ceased this arrangement on 14 December 2007 and no longer receives any rebate. This change in arrangement does not affect the charge a customer pays for contacting the Department.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced through framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189160]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Under the Race Relations Amendment Act (2000) and the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), the Department has a responsibility to make appropriate provision to communicate with customers who do not speak English or Welsh, or who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, or who provide the Department, at our request, with legal or official documents written in a foreign language.

The Department for Work and Pensions provides a national range of translation and interpreting services across all of its agencies that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use of multi-lingual staff, who are willing and able to interpret or to undertake an interview in a foreign language
- Face-to-face individual interpreters and signers for local office customers
- English to Welsh translation for documentation which is partly done by the small in-house Welsh Language Unit and the remainder by external providers
- Ethnic Translation Services of a large number of written documents in a wide range of languages
- Written English and Welsh to Braille translation and Braille to English and Welsh translation
- Formatting of printed documents into easy-read format
- Telephone interpreting service (multi-lingual)

In order to deliver these services on a national basis the Department for Work and Pensions has established a number of framework agreements via full open tender processes with a number of external providers.

All of the above services are outsourced except for a small number of multi-lingual staff who offer their services on an as required basis within their local office.

### Disability Living Allowance: Elderly

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons disability living allowance is not available for the first time to people over the age of 65. [189875]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The aim of disability living allowance is to focus additional help with the extra costs of disability on people who are severely disabled early, or relatively early, in life.

Attendance allowance provides help with the disability-related extra costs of people who experience the onset of disability after age 65.

### Housing Benefit: Administration

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he proposes to introduce a linking rule for customers on housing benefit with short breaks in claims before transferring them to local housing allowance. [189538]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We will not be introducing linking rules in the local housing allowance (LHA) regulations.

Any linking rules would introduce complexity into the LHA scheme, undermining one of our key objectives, which is to reduce complexity within benefits.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of incapacity benefit claimants who have had a full, independent medical assessment. [181646]

**Mrs. McGuire:** All new claimants of incapacity benefits have always been subject to medical assessment in order to establish their eligibility to the benefit.

Since 3 April 2000, the Personal Capability Assessment has generally been applied from the outset of a claim although there are some exceptions.

It is not possible to calculate the proportion of incapacity benefit claimants who have had a full medical assessment.

### Incapacity Benefits: Industrial Diseases

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disablement benefit awards have been paid to those with *(a)* asbestoses, *(b)* mesothelioma and *(c)* other asbestos-related diseases, broken down by (i) region and (ii) sex; how much has

been paid in such compensation in each year; and what the total annual value of the payments made has been. [178608]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Industrial Accidents

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of accidents among *(a)* temporary, *(b)* short-term, *(c)* low-qualified and *(d)* permanent workers were in each year since 1997. [188388]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Figures from the labour force survey (LFS) for the three-year period 2003-04 to 2005-06 indicate that the average rate of reportable accidents for all workers (which includes temporary, short-term and permanent workers) is 1,090 per 100,000 workers. The figure for workers in occupations requiring few or no qualifications is 2,070 per 100,000 workers. The structure of questions in the LFS does not allow reliable comparison of separate accident rates for temporary, short-term and permanent workers. The aforementioned rates quoted are not available for each year requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on funding for worker safety advisers. [188362]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Recent representations on funding for worker safety advisers in the construction industry have been received from the Strategic Forum for Construction's Health and Safety Group.

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reduce the health and safety risks of *(a)* migrant, *(b)* temporary agency, *(c)* women, *(d)* young and *(e)* older workers. [188387]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) works to ensure dutyholders properly control risks to all workers regardless of employment or migration status, age or gender. Its recent focus on migrant and temporary workers has included targeted inspection, investigation and enforcement; preparation of advice and guidance; collaborative work with Government Departments and other stakeholders; and research. On women, young and older workers, HSE's work has included provision of web-based advice and guidance on reducing risks to young workers and to new and expectant mothers; collaboration with other agencies in health and safety awareness raising events; and sponsorship of research on the implications of an ageing work force.

### Industrial Health and Safety: Black Economy

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of health and safety standards in the informal economy. [188363]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) enforces the requirements of health and safety legislation wherever it finds failings, regardless of the status of the workers affected. However, formal assessment of health and safety standards overall in the informal economy is by definition extremely difficult. HSE works in partnership with other Government Departments to identify and tackle failings in compliance wherever they occur. A recent example is our involvement in a programme of work to detect illegal employment of migrants in the West Midlands, and the use of information and intelligence arising from this to target inspection at workplaces, some of which were previously unknown to HSE.

### Industrial Health and Safety: Stress

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the health and safety implications of stress at work; and if he will make a statement. [188386]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Work-related stress is a major cause of occupational ill health, poor productivity and human error. That means increased sickness absence, high staff turnover and poor performance and a possible increase in accidents due to human error. My Department and the Health and Safety Executive recognise the impact that work-related stress can have on the British work force. HSE has therefore developed Management Standards for Work-related Stress, designed to address the key causes of stress at work and help employers, employees and their representatives manage the issue sensibly and minimise the impact of work-related stress on their businesses.

### Industrial Health and Safety: Temporary Employment

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure all temporary and agency workers are incorporated into the legal framework of health and safety. [188364]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Temporary and agency workers have been protected by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 since it came into force, and by relevant statutory provisions made under the Act since then, including in particular sections of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 applying specifically to workers in these categories. The Health and Safety Executive enforces the legislation in respect of this group in the same way as to any other group, as set out in its enforcement policy statement.

### Kelda: Employment

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely employment effects of the takeover of Kelda by a private equity group. [189611]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The acquisition of Kelda Group by Saltaire Water is a commercial matter for the enterprises concerned and their shareholders.

## Low Incomes: Children

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the number of children in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living in families with incomes at or below 60 per cent. of median incomes; and what estimate he has made of the numbers living in such families in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [189727]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 745W.

## National Insurance Contributions: Females

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women reaching the age of 68 in 2010 who will have *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight and *(i)* nine years too few of national insurance contributions to claim a full basic state pension. [178293]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information in the format requested is not available. Estimates of women reaching 61 in 2003-04 (and due to reach age 68 in 2010-11) is provided in the following table. Figures refer to own contribution records only. Some of these women may be receiving higher amounts of basic state pension based on their husbands' or former husbands' contribution records.

| | *Number of additional qualifying years needed to reach full basic state pension based on their own contribution record* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *5* | *6* | *7* | *8* | *9* |
| Number of women reaching 61 in 2003-04 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 11,000 | 12,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are taken from a 1 per cent. sample of the Lifetime Labour Market Database and so are subject to variation. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. The figures in the table relate to cases where the women were deemed to be resident in the UK in 2003-04.
3. Dates refer to financial years i.e. 2003-04 covers the period from 6 April 2003 to 5 April 2004.

*Source:*
1 per cent. Information Directorate datasets, 2003-04.

## Pathways to Work: Dorset

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the successful contractor for the Pathways scheme in Dorset will be announced; and when the contract will commence. [190613]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Pathways to Work service became available in Dorset in December 2006, and was introduced as part of the phase which completed the planned roll-out of Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways to Work in 18 districts across England, Scotland and Wales. Dorset does not receive the Pathways service through the provider-led model, therefore, there will be no overall delivery contract. As in all Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways districts, however, the service is delivered in partnership with local partner organisations.

Details about the availability of Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways services were made available through the use of marketing posters, leaflets and customer letters. Details of the offices delivering the service were posted on the Department's website in December 2006.

## Pensions: Females

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of women with *(a)* 30, *(b)* 31, *(c)* 32, *(d)* 33, *(e)* 34, *(f)* 35, *(g)* 36, *(h)* 37, *(i)* 38 and *(j)* 39 contributory years towards the basic state pension; and how many in each case will be aged (i) 50, (ii) 51, (iii) 52, (iv) 53, (v) 54, (vi) 55, (vii) 56, (viii) 57, (ix) 58, (x) 59, (xi) 60, (xii) 61, (xiii) 62, (xiv) 63 and (xv) 64 and over on 6 April 2010. [177943]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Currently around 35 per cent. of women reaching state pension age are entitled to a full basic state pension. Due to the 2007 Pensions Act, it is estimated that in 2010, this proportion will rise to around 75 per cent. The modelling used to produce these estimates is based on examining how the overall average entitlement to basic state pension changes and does not provide detailed projections of each individual's entitlement. Therefore the information requested is not available.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women reaching the age of 60 years in 2010 who will have *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight and *(i)* nine years too few national insurance contributions to be eligible for a full basic state pension. [179401]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Currently around 35 per cent. of women reaching state pension age are entitled to a full basic state pension. Due to the 2007 Pensions Act, it is estimated that in 2010, this proportion will rise to around 75 per cent. The modelling used to produce these estimates is based on examining how the overall average entitlement to basic state pension changes and does not provide detailed projections of each individual's entitlement. Therefore the information requested is not available.

## Pensions: Luton

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of trends in pensioner poverty in Luton since 1997; [188243]

(2) how many pensioners in Luton are living in poverty. [188244]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95—2005-06".

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. Information on the number and percentage of pensioners in the East of England living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs is set out in the following table.

*Pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs in East of England: 1995-96 to 2005-06*

| Three-year averages | Number of pensioners (million) | Percentage of pensioners |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96—1997-98 | 0.26 | 28 |
| 1996-97—1998-99 | 0.27 | 29 |
| 1997-98—1999-2000 | 0.27 | 28 |
| 1998-99—2000-01 | 0.27 | 28 |
| 1999-2000—2001-02 | 0.25 | 26 |
| 2000-01—2002-03 | 0.25 | 25 |
| 2001-02—2003-04 | 0.24 | 24 |
| 2002-03—2004-05 | 0.22 | 21 |
| 2003-04—2005-06 | 0.18 | 18 |

*Notes:*
1. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Income is assessed after deducting housing costs.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. As part of PSA17 Delivery Agreement, three indicators of low income poverty will be monitored: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent. median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices, all measured after housing costs.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for pension credit have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* refused in Luton since its introduction. [188240]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In Luton, South there have been 5,910 successful claims to pension credit since its introduction through to May 2007. Information on the number of claims that have been refused is not available.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners have received pension credit in Luton South constituency since its introduction; [188241]

(2) what the average value of pension credit paid in Luton South constituency has been since introduction. [188242]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is in the following table.

*Household recipients and average weekly amounts of pension credit for Luton' South parliamentary constituency*

| | Household recipients | Average weekly amounts of pension credit (£) |
|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 3,390 | 56.32 |
| May 2004 | 4,030 | 52.91 |
| May 2005 | 4,260 | 54.12 |
| May 2006 | 4,330 | 56.29 |
| May 2007 | 4,330 | 59.73 |

*Notes:*
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 are as at November.
4. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of pension paid to pensioners was in Luton in each year since 1997; and what the average change was in such value in each year. [188247]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Such information as is readily available is in the following table:

£

*Luton, South parliamentary constituency*

| | Average weekly amount of state pension | Change in weekly average amount |
|---|---|---|
| September 1999 | 69.08 | — |
| September 2000 | 70.25 | 1.17 |
| September 2001 | 75.95 | 5.70 |
| May 2002 | 78.60 | — |
| May 2003 | 81.39 | 2.79 |
| May 2004 | 84.46 | 3.07 |
| May 2005 | 87.65 | 3.19 |
| May 2006 | 91.00 | 3.35 |
| May 2007 | 95.22 | 4.22 |

*Notes:*
1. 1999-2001 numbers are based on a five per cent sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The change in average has not been calculated between 2001 and 2002 as sample data are not available at May.
3. Parliamentary constituency breakdowns are not readily available before September 1999.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest penny.
5. State pension includes basic state pension, additional pension and graduated retirement benefit.

*Source:*
1999-2001, 5 per cent. sample, DWP Information Directorate.
2002-07, 100 per cent. DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Pensions: Recipients

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were receiving pensions in the United Kingdom in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189435]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at May 2007, there were 10,780,310 recipients of state pension in Great Britain.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## State Retirement Pension

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the increases in the basic state pension payable in each year from 2009-10 to 2012-13 if surpluses in the National Insurance Fund were reallocated to state pensions. [190768]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* National insurance contributions (NICs) and associated social security benefits operate within the Government's fiscal rules designed to ensure sound public finances and when there is a surplus it is invested in public services. Any surplus of NICs over social security benefits in any one year (the NIF surplus) is not therefore an extra resource available to spend.

## State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of pensioners received their pensions while living abroad in the latest period for which figures are available; [189433]

(2) how many British pensioners were living outside the United Kingdom in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [189434]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at May 2007, there were 1,066,120 people in receipt of UK state pension living outside the United Kingdom. This is around 9 per cent. of state pension recipients.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average call waiting time has been for customer call centres in his Department in the last 12 months, broken down by contact number and region. [173276]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information available is provided in the following tables. All figures are in seconds unless otherwise stated.

| *Centre/region* | *Contact number* | *Business area* | *December 2006* | *January 2007* | *February 2007* | *March 2007* | *April 2007* | *May 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debt Centre Salford/Trafford[1] | 08456003334 | Off Benefit | 28 | 35 | 28 | 30 | 39 | 24 |
| | 08456003335 | Enforcement | 17 | 13 | 22 | 12 | 11 | 21 |
| | 08456024201 | Off Benefit (SF)[1] | — | — | — | — | 13 | 14 |
| Child Support Agency Liverpool[3] | 08457133133 | — | 6 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| Child Support Agency Birkenhead | 08456090062 | — | 16 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 |
| Child Support Agency Dudley | 08456090062 | — | 21 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 18 |
| Child Support Agency Belfast | 08456090092 | — | 26 | 37 | 25 | 26 | 29 | 25 |
| Child Support Agency Falkirk | 08456090042 | — | 19 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Child Support Agency Plymouth | 08456090072 | — | 25 | 35 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 25 |
| Child Support Agency Hastings | 08456090052 | — | 27 | 32 | 27 | 22 | 23 | 22 |
| Benefit inquiry Line Preston[4] | 0800882200 | Main Line | 15 | 44 | 46 | 36 | 48 | 45 |
| | 0800243355 | Textphone | 9 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| | 0800441144 | Forms Completion | 14 | 31 | 56 | 56 | 50 | 41 |
| DLA/AA Helpline Blackpool[4] | 08457123456 | Change of Circs Menu option 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| | 08457123456 | New Claim Pack Menu option 2 | — | — | 18 | 12 | 12 | 11 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | December 2006 | January 2007 | February 2007 | March 2007 | April 2007 | May 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 08457123456 | Decision Making and Appeals Menu option 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | 08457123456 | General Inquiries Menu option hold | 106 | 118 | 122 | 126 | 148 | 143 |
| | 08457224433 | Textphone | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| | 08456020194 | District Office | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| | 08456020197 | Motability | 24 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 22 |
| | 08453001403 | 3rd Party Text | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 13 |
| | 08459000121 | 3rd Party | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 24 | 26 |
| The Pension Service Bath | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 6 | 10 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 15 |
| The Pension Service Birmingham | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 16 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 18 |
| The Pension Service Burnley | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 29 | 30 | 30 | 38 | 43 | -- |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 1 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 86 | 75 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 1 | 2 | 2 | 59 | 101 | 84 |
| The Pension Service Cwmbran | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 9 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 24 | 45 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 4 | 19 | 26 | 30 | 26 | 41 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 3 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 38 |
| The Pension Service Dundee | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 31 | 50 | 73 | 35 | 90 | 118 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 59 | 30 | 80 | 33 | 34 | 54 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 30 | 22 | 88 | 45 | 33 | 48 |
| The Pension Service Leicester | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 16 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 23 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 12 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 65 | 40 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 7 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 77 | 68 |
| NPC (Newcastle) | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 4 | 32 | 29 | 60 | 133 | 100 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 19 | 26 | 58 | 60 | 38 | 36 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 39 | 40 | 50 | 56 | 41 | 34 |
| The Pension Service Motherwell | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 15 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 13 | 12 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 22 | 30 | 46 | 48 | 45 | 35 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 8 | 13 | 33 | 47 | 31 | 22 |
| The Pension Service Seaham | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 18 | 15 | 9 | 20 | 15 | 16 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 14 | 28 | 69 | 108 | 93 | 90 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 13 | 22 | 61 | 148 | 91 | 87 |
| The Pension Service Stockport | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 32 | 52 | 55 | 102 | 173 | 158 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 4 | 13 | 22 | 29 | 32 | 69 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 3 | 13 | 21 | 27 | 24 | 60 |
| The Pension Service Swansea | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 12 | 27 | 24 | 24 | 38 | 58 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 8 | 30 | 70 | 56 | 27 | 63 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | December 2006 | January 2007 | February 2007 | March 2007 | April 2007 | May 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 49 | 50 | 39 | 37 | 20 | 47 |
| The Pension Service Warrington | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 19 | 34 | 79 | 128 | 98 | 36 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 14 | 14 | 16 | 41 | 31 | 25 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 11 | 12 | 15 | 24 | 9 | 27 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | June 2007 | July 2007 | August 2007 | September 2007 | October 2007 | November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debt Centre Salford/Trafford[1] | 08456003334 | Off Benefit | 14 | 16 | 16 | [2]64 | 23 | 19 |
| | 08456003335 | Enforcement | 14 | 20 | 25 | [2]44 | 30 | 13 |
| | 08456024201 | Off Benefit (SF)[1] | 10 | 10 | 15 | 18 | 16 | 15 |
| Child Support Agency Liverpool[3] | 08457133133 | — | 14 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Child Support Agency Birkenhead | 08456090062 | — | 29 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Child Support Agency Dudley | 08456090062 | — | 21 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 20 |
| Child Support Agency Belfast | 08456090092 | — | 22 | 27 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 20 |
| Child Support Agency Falkirk | 08456090042 | — | 26 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 24 |
| Child Support Agency Plymouth | 08456090072 | — | 35 | 37 | 22 | 20 | 19 | 20 |
| Child Support Agency Hastings | 08456090052 | — | 24 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 22 |
| Benefit inquiry Line Preston[4] | 0800882200 | Main Line | 36 | 44 | 53 | 45 | 38 | 32 |
| | 0800243355 | Textphone | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| | 0800441144 | Forms Completion | 47 | 46 | 67 | 45 | 53 | 42 |
| DLA/AA Helpline Blackpool[4] | 08457123456 | Change of Circs Menu option 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | 08457123456 | New Claim Pack Menu option 2 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 11 |
| | 08457123456 | Decision Making and Appeals Menu option 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| | 08457123456 | General Inquiries Menu option hold | 143 | 151 | 168 | 167 | 138 | 151 |
| | 08457224433 | Textphone | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| | 08456020194 | District Office | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| | 08456020197 | Motability | 23 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 28 | 27 |
| | 08453001403 | 3rd Party Text | 13 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| | 08459000121 | 3rd Party | 24 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 22 |
| The Pension Service Bath | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 11 |
| The Pension Service Birmingham | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 17 | 24 | 21 | 21 | 15 | 15 |
| The Pension Service Burnley | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 35 | 47 | 48 | 25 | 28 | 24 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | June 2007 | July 2007 | August 2007 | September 2007 | October 2007 | November 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 132 | 41 | 39 | 49 | 41 | 36 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 96 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 40 | 30 |
| The Pension Service Cwmbran | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 37 | 57 | 40 | 32 | 29 | 20 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 43 | 27 | 23 | 27 | 27 | 23 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 34 | 26 | 34 | 37 | 29 | 19 |
| The Pension Service Dundee | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 144 | 270 | 221 | 23 | 25 | 25 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 101 | 130 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 24 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 87 | 137 | 33 | 23 | 20 | 16 |
| The Pension Service Leicester | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 23 | 30 | 34 | 51 | 27 | 26 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 337 | 463 | 80 | 41 | 44 | 106 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 282 | 401 | 133 | 48 | 53 | 1 |
| NPC (Newcastle) | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 38 | 69 | 84 | 74 | 53 | 77 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 82 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 29 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 60 | 47 | 41 | 32 | 24 | 31 |
| The Pension Service Motherwell | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 15 | 21 | 54 | 57 | 33 | 27 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 89 | 43 | 58 | 36 | 30 | 38 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 55 | 40 | 66 | 36 | 25 | 32 |
| The Pension Service Seaham | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 8 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 12 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 190 | 87 | 70 | 59 | 27 | 30 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 178 | 77 | 61 | 41 | 24 | 23 |
| The Pension Service Stockport | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 186 | 156 | 103 | 120 | 62 | 35 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 125 | 125 | 125 | 123 | 58 | 39 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 73 | 87 | 103 | 86 | 3 | 20 |
| The Pension Service Swansea | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 60 | 99 | 120 | 77 | 32 | 36 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 125 | 38 | 77 | 69 | 42 | 82 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 93 | 85 | 133 | 90 | 48 | 99 |
| The Pension Service Warrington | 08456060265 | Change of Circumstances | 24 | 45 | 65 | 174 | 83 | 37 |
| | 08453001084 | State Pension | 81 | 20 | 17 | 37 | 41 | 50 |
| | 0800991234 | Pension Credit | 39 | 53 | 46 | 56 | 53 | 41 |

[1] Debt Centre Salford became Debt Centre Trafford from April 2007. Debt Management Trafford took responsibility for recovery of social fund loans from those no longer in receipt of benefit (Off Benefit SF).
[2] System failure impacted wait times.
[3] Deals exclusively with all of the Agency's old scheme (prior to March 2003) related calls.
[4] Figures are for average speed to answer a call. This measure is the same as average call waiting time as both represents the average amount of time callers had to wait before the call was answered.

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | November 2006 | December 2006 | January 2007 | February 2007 | March 2007 | Percentage April 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus Group 1[1, 2] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 91.4 | 92.2 | 83.1 | 75.00 | 84.9 | 76.6 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 76.9 | 86.7 | 81.5 | 88.6 | 95.1 | 90.7 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 97.5 | 94.7 | 91.7 | 88.3 | 91.1 | 69.9 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | November 2006 | December 2006 | January 2007 | February 2007 | March 2007 | Percentage April 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 93.8 | 96.7 | 84.7 | 81.4 | 89.8 | 84.8 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | 95.0 | 89.0 | 89.7 | 90.1 | 92.6 | 88.7 |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 2[3] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 92.4 | 96.1 | 89.1 | 75.9 | 84.6 | 77.4 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 78.3 | 86.5 | 81.8 | 82.6 | 85.2 | 87.5 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 98.5 | 96.2 | 93.8 | 86.2 | 95.0 | 85.3 |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 92.1 | 96.7 | 87.8 | 85.3 | 89.5 | 84.6 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 3[4] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 84.8 | 91.7 | 77.6 | 77.7 | 80.4 | 84.2 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 79.5 | 87.0 | 84.3 | 85.1 | 88.2 | 86.3 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 4[5] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 89.6 | 90.6 | 82.3 | 75.4 | 82.4 | 81.1 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 80.6 | 88.6 | 80.5 | 81.9 | 87.6 | 84.3 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 97.6 | 95.3 | 92.9 | 88.6 | 92.4 | 80.8 |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 95.9 | 97.4 | 88.9 | 84.0 | 90.1 | 84.0 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | May2007 | June 2007 | July 2007 | August 2007 | September 2007 | Percentage October 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus Group 1[1, 2] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 81.8 | 75.7 | 83.6 | 86.6 | 74.0 | 86.7 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 93.6 | 85.8 | 76.7 | 75.3 | 81.2 | 79.4 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 82.0 | 91.7 | 93.2 | 86.5 | 76.0 | 82.8 |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 85.2 | 88.7 | 91.0 | 86.5 | 66.7 | 75.7 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | 93.8 | 94.5 | 97.3 | 96.8 | 92.2 | 93.7 |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | 8.6 | 12.0 | 29.6 | 68.0 | 63.5 |

| Centre/region | Contact number | Business area | May2007 | June 2007 | July 2007 | August 2007 | September 2007 | October 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Percentage |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | 94.3 |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 2[1] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 83.4 | 78.9 | 83.0 | 85.2 | 76.2 | 85.7 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 85.8 | 77.4 | 82.5 | 80.7 | 78.9 | 79.6 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 86.5 | 91.0 | 92.7 | 88.9 | 79.5 | 81.5 |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 85.0 | 87.6 | 90.8 | 84.7 | 63.9 | 75.8 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | — | 5.5 | 21.8 | 49.2 | 61.1 | 59.9 |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | 91.2 | 95.3 | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 3[4] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 85.6 | 82.8 | 80.1 | 87.5 | 78.0 | 84.8 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 84.7 | 76.3 | 71.2 | 75.2 | 79.3 | 90.9 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | 55.7 | 48.6 | 38.5 | 34.8 | 60.5 | — |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Group 4[5] | 08456060234 | Jobseeker Direct | 80.8 | 67.3 | 76.3 | 75.8 | 72.8 | 85.0 |
| | 08000556688 | First Contact | 85.7 | 83.6 | 77.2 | 69.0 | 79.6 | 86.5 |
| | 08456012001 | Employer Direct | 82.4 | 89.8 | 93.6 | 88.5 | 78.2 | 86.0 |
| | 08456000043 | Nino Allocations | 85.0 | 89.7 | 91.2 | 89.2 | 74.4 | 79.0 |
| | 080085440 | National Benefit Fraud Hotline | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Crisis Loan | 55.7 | — | — | 62.1 | 70.6 | 68.5 |
| | Benefit Delivery Centres | Crisis Loan Decision Making | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456008192 | IB LP Campaign | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 08456004271 | DWP Postal Line | — | — | 97.2 | 85.6 | — | — |

[1] Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres do not collate average call waiting or average speed of answer times. The data provided relate to the Service Level Agreement in place to answer 80 per cent. of calls within 30 seconds; up to September 2007, this was to answer 80 per cent. of calls within 20 seconds.
[2] Sites within Group 1 are Grimsby, Halifax, Lowestoft, Grimsby Employer Direct and Southend.
[3] Sites within Group 2 are Blackburn, Bootle, Paisley, Garston, Liverpool and Clydebank.
[4] Sites within Group 3 are Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Sheffield, Dundee, Blackpool and Poole.
[5] Sites within Group 4 are Bangor, Bridgend, Pembroke Dock, Taunton, Torquay, Caerphilly and Exeter.

## Unemployment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on unemployment, what the equivalent figures were for 1997. [190913]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

*Number of working age workless households by type. Great Britain: Quarter 2 (April, May, June) 1997*

| | Number (thousand) |
|---|---|
| Two parent household with dependent children | 371 |
| Lone/single parent household with dependent children | 756 |
| Other household with dependent children | 18 |
| Total number of workless households with dependent children | 1,145 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The figures show the number of working-age households with dependent children where no adult works.
3. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (a woman aged between 16 and 59 or a man aged between 16 and 64).
4. Workless individuals are those who are either International Labour Organisation unemployed or economically inactive (that is, not in employment).
5. A dependent child is defined as a child aged under 16 or aged under 19 and in full-time education.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons residents of care homes are considered ineligible for the winter fuel allowance. [183642]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Residents of care homes who are not in receipt of pension credit are entitled to a shared winter fuel payment of either £100 if they are aged 60-79 or £150 if they are aged 80 or over. This is because they share the accommodation with other people who are also entitled to the payment and are responsible for a share of the heating costs.

Residents of care homes who are in receipt of pension credit are not entitled to a winter fuel payment. This is because historically people living in a care home and in receipt of an income-related benefit have received public funding for their care and accommodation costs including heating. Originally this was through the income-related benefit itself but for many years now has been through funding from the local authority. This is still the case for the vast majority of residents of care homes receiving pension credit and therefore the winter fuel payment is not payable in these cases.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a winter fuel payment in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189350]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07, 17,500 people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and 44,800 people in the London borough of Bexley received a winter fuel payment. We expect the numbers to be similar for this winter.

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Inflation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will link the winter fuel payment to the rate of inflation. [189021]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The winter fuel payment provides a significant contribution to an older person's winter fuel bill. The payment has increased significantly since its introduction, rising from £20 to £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over. We currently have no plans to link the payment to the rate of inflation although we keep these issues under consideration.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Stockton-on-Tees

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received the £200 winter fuel payment in Stockton South constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [189330]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A £200 winter fuel payment is paid to a person aged 60 or over living at home (£100 if they share a home with someone else eligible for a winter fuel payment—this may be a spouse, partner, sibling or friend). £300 is payable to a person aged 80 or over (£150 if they share a home with another eligible person).

In winter 2006-07, a total of 17,790 people in the Stockton, South constituency received a winter fuel payment. We expect the number to be similar for this winter.

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

## JUSTICE

### Broadmoor Prison: Day Release

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the effectiveness of the operation of the day release system at Broadmoor Prison in light of the reconviction of Shaun Jarvis for crimes committed while on day release. [189062]

**Mr. Hanson:** The hon. Member is referring to Dartmoor prison.

The Release on Temporary Licence system (Maintain Family Ties—ROTL), at Dartmoor operates under Prison Service Order 6300. This provides release on temporary licence to certain prisoners. It gives guidance and describes the mandatory actions required to progress a prisoner's resettlement/rehabilitation needs, whilst at the same time minimising any risk to the public. The PSO is a national document which provides the only means by which a prisoner can be released while in custody.

A prisoner is only released on ROTL following a thorough risk assessment undertaken by a specially convened Board which examines the risks posed as was the case at Dartmoor.

The Governor and Area Manager are satisfied that the arrangements in place for day release are robust. As evidence of this there was only one Temporary Licence Failure out of over 4800 licences issued by HMP Dartmoor in 2007.

### Community Legal Service: Contracts

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firms of solicitors held community legal services contracts for the supply of criminal law advice and representation in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [191337]

**Maria Eagle:** Contracts for the supply of criminal law advice and representation are held with the Criminal Defence Service (CDS). The CDS contracts with solicitors' offices rather than firms, and a firm may have more than one office. 2,223 took up new contracts to supply such services with effect from 14 January 2008, after the latest round of tendering.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firms of solicitors held community legal services contracts to supply criminal law advice and representation in 2005. [191338]

**Maria Eagle:** Contracts for the supply of criminal law advice and representation are held with the Criminal Defence Service (CDS). The CDS contracts with solicitors' offices rather than firms, and a firm may have more than one office. 2,643 held such contracts to supply criminal law advice and representation as at 31 March 2005.

## Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188788]

**Maria Eagle:** The ex-DCA does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained at only disproportionate cost. A system has recently been put in place to record such information. It is in the process of being updated, but from October 2007 to date, there have been no dismissals for IT mis-use.

For NOMS and OCJR, there have no suspensions or dismissals on either ground in the period January 2005 to date. Prior to this the information was not held centrally in the format requested, and could be obtained at only disproportionate cost.

For the Prison Service, the information on suspensions is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

According to centrally held records, 13 staff were dismissed for inappropriate use of Prison Service IT between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2007. A breakdown of these dismissals, for each of the last five financial years, is provided in the following table:

| | *Number of dismissals* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 7 |
| 2006-07 | 3 |

## Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191265]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297 available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7297/7297.pdf

For the period covered by the Command Paper, the department published seventeen impact assessments. The hon. Member will find these under the entry for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs. Departments are in the process of identifying the final impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007. From April 2008, all final impact assessment will be published on a central website.

I have included in my answer a table of the final impact assessments published in the Command Paper, and for completeness the partial impact assessments published by this Department since its creation on 9 May 2007. This does include both regulatory impact assessments and impact assessments developed initially by the Department for Constitutional Affairs but which the Ministry of Justice has carried forward.

| *Regulatory impact assessments* | *Web address* | *Dated published* |
|---|---|---|
| *Final Impact Assessments published in Command Paper 7297* | | |
| Local Land Charge Fees: Guidance for registering authorities on setting fees for local land charge services in England | http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/land_fees/response2506.pdf | January 2007 |
| Increasing penalties for deliberate and wilful misuse of personal data | http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/misuse_data/Regulatory-Impact-Assessment.pdf | February 2007 |
| Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill Overarching RIA | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Youth Rehabilitation Orders | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Sentencing and Appeals Provisions | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Modification of power to make Referral Order | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Access by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) to Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) records | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Youth Conditional Caution | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Extension of powers of CPS designated caseworkers | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Criminal Legal Aid | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-1.pdf | June 2007 |
| Miscarriages of Justice compensation | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| Extreme pornographic material | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| Prostitution | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| Premises Closure Orders | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |

| *Regulatory impact assessments* | *Web address* | *Dated published* |
|---|---|---|
| Statutory one year review of juvenile Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| Special Immigration Status | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| Violent Offender Orders | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/regulatory-impact-assess-2.pdf | June 2007 |
| *Partial Impact Assessments published with consultation papers* | | |
| Regulation of Enforcement Agents | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0207.htm | 30 January 2007 |
| Draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limits and Fees) Regulations 2007 | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2806.htm | 29 March 2007 |
| Part 46 of the Civil Procedure Rules: Fast Track Trial Costs | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0607.htm | 3 April 2007 |
| Cost Recovery in Pro Bono Assisted Cases. Proposals for Primary Legislation | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0707.htm | 16 April 2007 |
| Case Tracks Limits and the Claims Process for Personal Injury Claims | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp0807.pdf | 20 April 2007 |
| Wrongful Death and Bereavement Damages | http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/damages/cp0907.pdf | 4 May 2007 |
| Psychiatric Illness | http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/damages/cp0907.pdf | 4 May 2007 |
| Accommodation Expenses and Gratuitous Care | http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/damages/cp0907.pdf | 4 May 2007 |
| Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in Family Courts a new approach. | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/consult-family-courts.pdf | 20 June 2007 |
| Cremation Regulations Consolidation and Modernisation | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1107.htm | 16 July 2007 |
| Conditional Fee Agreements in Publication Proceedings: Success Fees and After the Event Insurance | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1607.htm | 9 August 2007 |
| Criminal Defence Service: Recovery of Defence Costs Orders | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2007.htm | 30 August 2007 |
| The Debt Claim Process: Helping people in debt to engage with the problem, | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2207.htm | 5 September 2007 |
| Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Code of Practice and Regulations | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2307.htm | 10 September[1] |
| Quality Assurance for Advocates | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1307.htm | 17 September 2007 |
| Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 -Relevant Third Party | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp3107.htm | 12 December 2007 |
| Public Law Family Fees | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp3207.htm | 19 December 2007 |
| Local Authority Charges for Property Search Services | http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/lacpssl80108.htm | 18 January 2008[2] |
| *Published alongside Ministry of Justice legislation* | | |
| The Legal Services Act | http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/RIA-Supplement-v021.pdf | —[3] |

[1] 2007 Impact assessment development led by DH with MoJ support.
[2] A joint consultation with Communities and Local Government, but impact assessment developed by MoJ.
[3] A supplement to the original regulatory impact assessment accompany the bill was published in June 2007.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1186W, on departmental travel, what his Department's expenditure on travel and subsistence was in financial year 2006-07. [191351]

**Maria Eagle:** The spend on travel and subsistence in 2006-07 was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Former DCA - staff | 4,028,810 |
| Former DCA - judicial | 381,443 |
| HMCS - staff | 8,765,601 |
| HMCS - judicial | 3,449,142 |
| Tribunals - staff | 3,420,951 |
| Tribunals - judicial | 7,325,767 |
| OPG | 26,918 |
| OCJR | 682,500 |
| NOMS - staff | 3,221,798 |
| NOMS - programme | 2,444,486 |
| Custodial Property - staff | 177,925 |
| HMPS | 19,048,191 |
| Total | 52,973,532 |

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the "Civil Service Management Code".

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Electoral Systems

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the Government Review of Electoral Systems. [191590]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government published the Review of the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997 on 24 January this year. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made upon publication, *Official Report*, column 61WS.

## Freedom of Information

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many freedom of information (FOI) requests the Open Government Unit received in each year since

2005; how many requests the unit took longer than *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months to respond to; and how many FOI requests the unit has failed to respond to. [190799]

**Mr. Straw:** Requests for information made to the National Offender Management Service under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are processed centrally by the Open Government Unit (OGU). OGU received 508 requests in 2005, 1,130 in 2006, and 870 between January and September 2007. These are extracted from the latest certified Ministry of Justice returns which are published at quarterly intervals. The next figures covering the period up to the end of 2007 will be issued at the end of March / early April 2008. Of these 2,508 requests, 84 took longer than six months and nine longer than 12 months to respond to, the remaining requests were responded to in under six months.

## Internet: Pornography

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions there were and *(b)* successful convictions were obtained for the publication or distribution of obscene matter or offensive material on the internet in each of the last three years. [191390]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the publication or distribution of obscene or offensive material in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data are unable to separately identify those offences which relate specifically to the internet as the offences used are not internet specific.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

*The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts[1] and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the publications or distribution of obscene or offensive material in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1,2,3]*

| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 343 | 232 |
| 2005 | 512 | 368 |
| 2006 | 761 | 516 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The offences used are not internet specific, the court proceedings database is unable to separately identify those offences which relate to internet based offences.
[4] Includes the following statutes and offence description:
Obscene Publications Act 1959 S.2(1)—Publishing obscene material. Having obscene article for publication for gain.
Obscene Publications Act 1959 S.2—Having negative for publication of obscene article for gain.
Communications Act 2003 S.127(1)(a)—Send by means of electronic communications network a message/matter which was grossly offensive or of an indecent/obscene/menacing character.
Communications Act 2003 S.127(1)(b)—Cause to be sent by means of an electronic communications network a message/matter which was grossly offensive or of an indecent/obscene/menacing character.
Malicious Communications Act 1988 S.1(1)(b)—Sending article which is in whole or in part indecent or grossly offensive.
*Source:*
Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

## Legal Profession

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many solicitors have ceased providing legal services to clients who require legal aid in *(a)* total, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales in each of the last three years. [189558]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures cannot be given for individual solicitors but only solicitor offices. They reflect the aggregate of decisions made by many individuals and hence are subject to frequent amendment as and when new information becomes available.

The reductions in the number of solicitor offices, for both civil and criminal legal aid in the last three years is as set out in the following table. The figures reflect the trend of the last several years for offices doing small amounts of legally aided work to drop out of the market or merge with other offices, so that work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices.

This trend has not affected significantly the ability of the public to obtain legal aid conveniently when they require it. 95 per cent. of the population of England and Wales live within five miles of a legal aid provider and the total number of acts of assistance given by providers has increased.

A solicitor office may hold both a civil and a criminal contract and the aggregate of civil and criminal offices does not reflect the total number of them. Neither is the location of a solicitor office necessarily an indication of where providers carry work out. A provider in England could carry out work in Wales and vice versa.

| | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total spend (£ million net cash) | 1,980 | 2,028 | 2,038 |
| *Total reduction* | | | |
| Criminal | 98 | 35 | 26 |
| Civil[1] | 195 | 357 | 312 |
| *England reduction* | | | |
| Criminal | 85 | 30 | 6 |
| Civil[1] | 186 | 340 | 297 |
| *Wales reduction* | | | |
| Criminal | 13 | 5 | 20 |
| Civil[1] | 9 | 17 | 15 |

[1] Excludes not for profit sector

## Legal Services Commission: Contracts

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firms of solicitors held contracts with the Legal Services Commission for the supply of legal advice in family law matters in 2006. [191060]

**Maria Eagle:** Contracts for the supply of legal advice in family law matters are held with the Community Legal Service (CLS). The CLS contracts with solicitors' offices rather than firms and they may have more than one. 2,881 solicitors' offices held contracts with the Legal Services Commission for the supply of legal advice in family law matters as at 31 March 2006.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191251]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department does not hold central records of the number of litres of bottled water purchased over the past three years. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In response to the Act on $CO_2$ Campaign the Ministry of Justice took steps in August 2007 to reduce its use of bottled water in meetings, and continues to look at further reductions in the use of bottled water where it is practicable to do so.

### Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings the hon. Member for Liverpool, Garston has attended since 1 December 2007 in her role as Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice. [182740]

**Maria Eagle:** I have had meetings with the following stakeholders in my role as Ministerial Champion for Women in the Criminal Justice System.

The Minster for Women and Equality
The Attorney General and the Solicitor General
Right Hon Baroness Corston
Juliet Lyon, Director of the Prison Reform Trust
Frances Crook, Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform
The Royal College of Nursing (in prisons)
The Bishop for Prisons
Regional Offender Managers
The Right hon. Lord Bradley
The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health
The Inter Ministerial Group on Reducing Reoffending
The Director General of the Prison Service
The Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service
The Chief Inspector of Prisons
The Director of Probation
The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman
First inter-ministerial subgroup for overseeing implementation of the Corston recommendations
Ministerial Roundtable on Suicide

I have also established an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group on Women Offenders and the implementation of the Corston Review.

### Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of current inmates of prisons in England and Wales who served in the UK armed forces in either of the conflicts in the Gulf. [191336]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not collected centrally. Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively. However, there are no estimates available for the proportion of veterans in custody who have served in specific conflicts.

### Prisoners: Self-mutilation

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recorded self-harm incidents there were in each prison in each of the last five years. [191782]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| *Recorded self-harm incidents*[1] | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | 168 | 166 | 122 | 219 | 215 |
| Askham Grange | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Acklington | 28 | 47 | 79 | 102 | 52 |
| Albany | 69 | 94 | 37 | 18 | 38 |
| Ashfield | 286 | 239 | 172 | 224 | 142 |
| Ashwell | 2 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 16 |
| Aylesbury | 22 | 83 | 116 | 346 | 265 |
| Belmarsh | 74 | 123 | 91 | 76 | 99 |
| Buckley Hall | 765 | 1,082 | 597 | 43 | 23 |
| Blundeston | 18 | 19 | 12 | 16 | 18 |
| Bedford | 120 | 123 | 117 | 152 | 199 |
| Brockhill[2] | 674 | 475 | 278 | 252 | 0 |
| Bristol | 95 | 156 | 190 | 102 | 164 |
| Birmingham | 117 | 97 | 210 | 604 | 530 |
| Bullingdon | 48 | 37 | 50 | 42 | 81 |
| Brinsford | 70 | 23 | 73 | 102 | 86 |
| Blakenhurst | 463 | 322 | 152 | 178 | 217 |
| Bullwood Hall | 659 | 1,065 | 1,584 | 320 | 7 |
| Brixton | 119 | 69 | 88 | 25 | 49 |
| Bronzefield | [3]n/a | [3]274 | 831 | 1,165 | 1,743 |
| Chelmsford | 43 | 70 | 98 | 137 | 132 |
| Cardiff | 56 | 99 | 74 | 96 | 27 |
| Camp Hill | 76 | 26 | 31 | 15 | 43 |
| Cookham Wood | 158 | 163 | 197 | 184 | 216 |
| Coldingley | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Castington | 93 | 89 | 92 | 106 | 68 |
| Channings Wood | 11 | 12 | 26 | 51 | 32 |
| Canterbury | 3 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 21 |
| Dartmoor | 35 | 31 | 46 | 67 | 51 |
| Dovegate | 163 | 100 | 174 | 210 | 156 |
| Drake Hall | 18 | 23 | 44 | 22 | 56 |
| Durham | 540 | 417 | 374 | 274 | 216 |
| Doncaster | 318 | 370 | 336 | 276 | 269 |
| Dorchester | 39 | 62 | 38 | 54 | 55 |
| Deerbolt | 68 | 59 | 104 | 131 | 99 |
| Downview | 183 | 71 | 362 | 282 | 234 |
| Erlestoke | 5 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 25 |
| Standford Hill | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| East Sutton Park | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Everthorpe | 4 | 9 | 16 | 28 | 41 |
| Eastwood Park | 789 | 1,163 | 2,597 | 2,147 | 2,013 |
| Exeter | 31 | 65 | 107 | 85 | 56 |
| Elmley | 23 | 83 | 138 | 93 | 95 |
| Forest Bank | 214 | 257 | 200 | 333 | 317 |
| Ford | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Foston Hall | 185 | 614 | 774 | 614 | 1,168 |
| Frankland | 32 | 106 | 182 | 223 | 343 |
| Feltham | 104 | 161 | 144 | 126 | 220 |
| Full Sutton | 50 | 55 | 143 | 82 | 109 |
| Featherstone | 32 | 18 | 12 | 28 | 43 |
| Garth | 14 | 55 | 51 | 56 | 41 |
| Gloucester | 100 | 87 | 115 | 83 | 90 |

| Recorded self-harm incidents[1] | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guys Marsh | 34 | 17 | 13 | 38 | 82 |
| Grendon/Spring Hill | 13 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 14 |
| Glen Parva | 197 | 217 | 232 | 149 | 249 |
| Gartree | 16 | 11 | 13 | 19 | 51 |
| Hollesley Bay | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Huntercombe | 56 | 73 | 69 | 67 | 86 |
| Moorland Open (Hatfield) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holme House | 61 | 96 | 65 | 109 | 88 |
| Hindley | 76 | 46 | 156 | 71 | 41 |
| Hull | 152 | 178 | 208 | 124 | 143 |
| High Down | 112 | 193 | 118 | 204 | 151 |
| Highpoint | 140 | 33 | 30 | 71 | 60 |
| Haslar | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Haverigg | 9 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 36 |
| Holloway | 958 | 1,184 | 1,402 | 1,475 | 1,106 |
| Kirkham | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Kennet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Lancaster | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| Leicester | 127 | 141 | 138 | 174 | 155 |
| Leeds | 317 | 388 | 223 | 150 | 146 |
| Lancaster Farms | 23 | 15 | 92 | 153 | 21 |
| Lowdham Grange[2] | 4 | 16 | 19 | 30 | 42 |
| Lindholme | 9 | 13 | 18 | 36 | 57 |
| Lincoln | 120 | 162 | 141 | 166 | 219 |
| Long Lartin | 15 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 93 |
| Latchmere House | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Low Newton | 387 | 800 | 1,129 | 746 | 982 |
| Liverpool | 374 | 339 | 280 | 177 | 132 |
| Littlehey | 48 | 139 | 128 | 166 | 117 |
| Lewes | 128 | 181 | 135 | 124 | 79 |
| Leyhill | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Moorland | 188 | 100 | 149 | 124 | 152 |
| Morton Hall | 63 | 50 | 49 | 81 | 99 |
| Manchester | 324 | 255 | 238 | 259 | 275 |
| Maidstone | 9 | 13 | 27 | 41 | 28 |
| Mount | 13 | 26 | 31 | 20 | 29 |
| Edmunds Hill | 156 | 207 | 13 | 17 | 23 |
| New Hall | 1,689 | 1,125 | 1,065 | 1,266 | 1,193 |
| Nottingham | 175 | 135 | 101 | 162 | 191 |
| Northallerton | 28 | 60 | 16 | 35 | 30 |
| North Sea Camp | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Norwich | 214 | 291 | 345 | 510 | 261 |
| Onley | 195 | 86 | 88 | 102 | 160 |
| Peterborough | 0 | 0 | 973 | 1,329 | 1,245 |
| Portland | 58 | 119 | 110 | 161 | 173 |
| Parkhurst | 182 | 140 | 85 | 160 | 150 |
| Preston | 146 | 100 | 126 | 238 | 241 |
| Parc | 326 | 251 | 368 | 285 | 189 |
| Kingston | 2 | 11 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| Pentonville | 186 | 104 | 241 | 295 | 205 |
| Rochester | 9 | 58 | 18 | 50 | 45 |
| Reading | 21 | 39 | 60 | 45 | 38 |
| Rye Hill | 46 | 147 | 198 | 85 | 86 |
| Ranby | 11 | 7 | 8 | 30 | 40 |
| Risley | 34 | 31 | 47 | 41 | 40 |
| Send | 78 | 78 | 97 | 200 | 155 |
| Stafford | 40 | 75 | 82 | 68 | 99 |
| Stoke Heath | 168 | 250 | 192 | 217 | 227 |
| Stocken | 32 | 18 | 37 | 29 | 48 |
| Swaleside | 29 | 34 | 13 | 36 | 85 |
| Shepton Mallet | 1 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 7 |
| Swinfen Hall | 69 | 107 | 97 | 85 | 130 |
| Styal | 376 | 1,061 | 1,416 | 1,581 | 1,324 |
| Sudbury | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Swansea | 62 | 33 | 64 | 63 | 50 |
| Shrewsbury | 38 | 67 | 65 | 60 | 82 |
| Thorn Cross | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Verne | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Weare | 18 | 28 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Wellingborough | 21 | 23 | 11 | 46 | 28 |
| Winchester | 299 | 260 | 153 | 155 | 82 |
| Wakefield | 50 | 91 | 151 | 187 | 120 |
| Wealstun | 15 | 10 | 35 | 33 | 45 |
| Woodhill | 28 | 81 | 124 | 139 | 188 |
| Warren Hill | 8 | 21 | 14 | 18 | 13 |
| Wayland | 25 | 30 | 44 | 60 | 32 |
| Wymott | 4 | 11 | 90 | 66 | 94 |
| Werrington | 2 | 13 | 30 | 24 | 12 |
| Wolds | 10 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 19 |
| Whitemoor | 84 | 100 | 156 | 131 | 83 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 190 | 127 | 115 | 126 | 120 |
| Whatton | 1 | 8 | 3 | 17 | 70 |
| Wandsworth | 54 | 194 | 55 | 60 | 141 |
| Wetherby | 19 | 60 | 67 | 24 | 12 |
| Total | 16,393 | 19,214 | 23,465 | 22,891 | 22,459 |

[1] The Prison Service/NOMS defines self-harm as any incident where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of method, intent or severity of any injury. The numbers of self-harm incidents reported here are based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service incident reporting system. Many self-harm incidents often involve the same individuals, and changing numbers of incidents at different prisons can reflect the movement of such prisoners. Also, some prisons have re-rolled during the time period and therefore caution needs to be taken when interpreting rises and falls. Apparent dramatic declines in numbers may illustrate the impact of re-rolling from female to male prisons. Self-harm is a high volume incident that can be subject to technical and recording problems. While the system provides a sensible indication of the scale of self-harm the numbers of incidents should not be treated as absolute.
[2] Bronzefield opened June 2004.

## Prisons: Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on implementing equality and diversity policies in each prison in each of the last three years. [188292]

**Maria Eagle:** It is not possible to disaggregate the sums spent on implementing equality and diversity policies in each prison. HM Prison Service takes very seriously its legal duty to promote equality and tackle unlawful discrimination, and this forms an integral part of the work of all managers and members of staff in prisons.

In terms of the resources dedicated to equality and diversity, figures are not collected centrally, and to do so would be at disproportionate cost.

Each prison has as a sub-group of its senior management team, a Race equality action team, led by the governor or deputy governor, which meets regularly to oversee work on race equality. Each prison also has a race equality officer, which is a full-time or equivalent post in 74 prisons, and a part-time role in the others. Many establishments also have parallel structures for the management of other diversity strands, with diversity action teams meeting regularly, and diversity managers, disability officers and/or equal opportunities officers, some of which are full-time posts and others part-time roles.

## Prisons: Food

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average spend by his Department per prisoner per day on food was in each prison in each of the last five years. [191792]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the average daily cost of food for prisoners whose meals are directly provided by the public Prison Service for the last five years for which data is available. Figures for contracted out prisons were provided by the Minister of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1504W.

£

| | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 1.75 | 1.80 | 1.58 | 1.57 | 1.40 |
| Ashwell | 1.75 | 1.96 | 1.85 | 1.96 | 2.08 |
| Askham Grange | 1.66 | 1.41 | 2.02 | 1.49 | 1.81 |
| Aylesbury | 2.29 | 1.88 | 1.76 | 1.58 | 1.66 |
| Bedford | 2.15 | 2.10 | 1.96 | 1.85 | 1.82 |
| Belmarsh | 2.50 | 2.21 | 1.94 | 2.12 | 1.62 |
| Birmingham | 1.91 | 1.87 | 1.88 | 1.52 | 1.48 |
| Blantyre House | 1.66 | 1.54 | 1.46 | 1.40 | 1.54 |
| Blundeston | 2.16 | 2.06 | 2.08 | 2.06 | 1.62 |
| Brinsford | 2.29 | 1.39 | 1.75 | 1.68 | 1.80 |
| Bristol | 1.89 | 1.82 | 1.58 | 1.58 | 1.53 |
| Brixton | 1.71 | 1.62 | 1.63 | 1.58 | 1.51 |
| Brockhill | 1.48 | 1.94 | 2.59 | 1.84 | 1.90 |
| Bullwood Hall | 1.95 | 1.98 | 2.62 | 2.45 | 2.34 |
| Canterbury | 2.30 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 1.98 | 1.96 |
| Cardiff | 1.76 | 1.75 | 1.63 | 1.67 | 1.53 |
| Castington | 1.98 | 2.05 | 2.03 | 1.83 | 2.47 |
| Channings Wood | 1.66 | 1.74 | 1.72 | 1.58 | 1.43 |
| Chelmsford | 1.69 | 2.11 | 2.20 | 2.08 | 1.68 |
| Coldingley | 2.19 | 2.08 | 2.05 | 1.96 | 1.76 |
| Dartmoor | 1.88 | 1.88 | 1.79 | 1.71 | 1.63 |
| Deerbolt | 2.18 | 2.00 | 1.97 | 1.63 | 1.77 |
| Dorchester | 2.11 | 1.75 | 1.80 | 1.80 | 1.65 |
| Dover | 2.08 | 2.36 | 2.47 | 2.22 | 1.31 |
| Downview | 2.09 | 1.87 | 1.88 | 1.97 | 1.90 |
| Drake Hall | 2.46 | 2.22 | 1.73 | 1.76 | 1.67 |
| Durham | 1.89 | 1.72 | 2.09 | 1.82 | 2.01 |
| East Sutton Park | 1.54 | 2.30 | 2.31 | 2.08 | 2.02 |
| Eastwood Park | 1.80 | 1.89 | 1.77 | 1.85 | 2.07 |
| Elmley (inc. Standford Hill) | 1.93 | 2.83 | 1.93 | 1.86 | 1.62 |
| Erlestoke | 2.25 | 2.00 | 1.96 | 1.80 | 1.48 |
| Everthorpe | 1.88 | 1.74 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.47 |
| Exeter | 2.07 | 1.95 | 1.89 | 1.65 | 1.46 |
| Featherstone | 1.86 | 1.74 | 1.72 | 1.58 | 1.71 |
| Feltham | 2.77 | 2.71 | 3.41 | 3.00 | 2.39 |
| Ford | 2.06 | 1.76 | 1.94 | 1.90 | 1.65 |
| Foston Hall | 2.22 | 1.83 | 1.91 | 1.75 | 1.56 |
| Frankland | 2.00 | 2.21 | 1.67 | 1.98 | 1.98 |
| Full Sutton | 2.15 | 2.01 | 1.76 | 1.73 | 1.87 |
| Garth | 2.01 | 1.74 | 1.69 | 1.57 | 1.69 |
| Gartree | 1.89 | 2.08 | 2.07 | 1.72 | 1.84 |
| Glen Parva | 1.91 | 2.01 | 1.88 | 1.94 | 2.01 |
| Gloucester | 2.06 | 2.06 | 1.96 | 1.95 | 1.97 |
| Grendon/Spring Hill | 1.13 | 1.79 | 1.86 | 1.81 | 1.59 |
| Guys Marsh | 2.03 | 1.97 | 1.91 | 1.93 | 1.82 |
| Haslar | 2.33 | 1.68 | 1.53 | 1.65 | 1.94 |
| Haverigg | 1.91 | 1.74 | 1.81 | 1.72 | 1.59 |
| Hewell Grange | 2.45 | 2.52 | 1.61 | 1.51 | 1.53 |
| High Down | 1.94 | 2.01 | 2.04 | 1.89 | 1.87 |
| Highpoint (inc Edmunds Hill) | 2.06 | 2.53 | 1.96 | 1.90 | 1.28 |
| Hindley | 1.95 | 1.89 | 2.25 | 1.99 | 1.89 |
| Hollesley Bay (inc Warren Hill) | 1.09 | 1.99 | 1.81 | 1.55 | 1.35 |
| Holloway | 2.41 | 2.52 | 2.42 | 1.84 | 1.89 |
| Hull | 1.81 | 2.05 | 1.83 | 1.85 | 1.43 |
| Huntercombe | 2.90 | 3.54 | 3.33 | 2.59 | 2.65 |
| Kingston | 2.33 | 2.10 | 2.07 | 2.62 | 2.49 |
| Kirkham | 2.91 | 2.72 | 1.98 | 2.13 | 1.93 |
| Kirklevington | 1.71 | [redacted] | 1.66 | 1.55 | 1.20 |
| Lancaster Castle | 2.40 | 1.95 | 1.55 | 1.65 | 1.53 |
| Latchmere House | 1.11 | 1.27 | 1.20 | 1.46 | 1.33 |
| Leeds | 1.82 | 1.64 | 1.56 | 1.60 | 1.41 |
| Leicester | 1.90 | 2.01 | 1.93 | 1.86 | 1.94 |
| Lewes | 2.16 | 2.05 | 2.15 | 2.02 | 1.98 |
| Leyhill | 2.04 | 2.61 | 1.56 | 1.30 | 1.27 |
| Lincoln | 1.56 | 1.70 | 1.62 | 1.47 | 1.77 |
| Lindholme | 1.68 | 1.60 | 1.82 | 2.12 | 2.14 |
| Littlehey | 1.67 | 1.65 | 1.52 | 1.43 | 1.40 |
| Liverpool | 1.86 | 1.83 | 1.87 | 1.96 | 1.77 |
| Long Lartin | 2.33 | 2.01 | 1.97 | 1.85 | 2.51 |
| Low Newton | 2.40 | 2.41 | 2.28 | 1.63 | 1.69 |
| Maidstone | 1.84 | 1.73 | 1.71 | 1.74 | 1.63 |
| Manchester | 1.96 | 1.98 | 1.73 | 1.97 | 1.89 |
| Moorland (closed + open) | 2.32 | 2.31 | 1.71 | 2.36 | 2.33 |
| Morton Hall | 1.88 | 1.81 | 1.99 | 1.63 | 1.28 |
| Mount | 2.01 | 1.92 | 1.79 | 1.67 | 1.61 |
| New Hall | 2.00 | 2.13 | 2.13 | 2.10 | 1.96 |
| North Sea Camp | 1.84 | 2.11 | 1.69 | 1.60 | 1.41 |
| Northallerton | 1.83 | 1.57 | 2.22 | 1.71 | 1.40 |
| Norwich | 2.04 | 1.57 | 1.49 | 1.63 | 1.62 |
| Nottingham | 1.98 | 2.04 | 1.67 | 1.76 | 1.82 |
| Onley | 2.10 | 2.00 | 2.43 | 2.78 | 2.27 |
| Parkhurst (inc. Albany and Camp Hill) | 2.00 | 2.03 | 1.83 | 1.68 | 1.61 |
| Pentonville | 1.78 | 1.84 | 1.79 | 1.73 | 1.62 |
| Portland | 2.01 | 2.00 | 2.35 | 1.70 | 1.86 |
| Preston | 2.08 | 2.22 | 2.09 | 2.08 | 1.66 |
| Ranby | 1.89 | 2.07 | 1.66 | 1.86 | 1.72 |
| Reading | 2.12 | 1.89 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 |
| Risley | 1.97 | 1.79 | 1.79 | 1.84 | 1.52 |
| Rochester (inc. Cookham Wood) | 2.63 | 2.50 | 2.46 | 1.92 | 1.85 |
| Send | 2.45 | 2.40 | 2.23 | 1.97 | 1.84 |
| Shepton Mallet | 1.91 | 1.91 | 1.90 | 1.66 | 1.72 |
| Shrewsbury | 1.95 | 1.56 | 1.87 | 1.65 | 1.78 |
| Stafford | 2.14 | 1.65 | 1.53 | 1.58 | 1.74 |
| Stocken | 1.85 | 2.04 | 1.84 | 1.81 | 1.75 |
| Stoke Heath | 2.17 | 2.09 | 2.18 | 2.02 | 1.81 |
| Styal | 2.17 | 2.24 | 2.42 | 2.09 | 2.01 |
| Sudbury | 1.82 | 1.53 | 1.48 | 1.52 | 1.53 |
| Swaleside | 1.72 | 1.68 | 1.61 | 1.60 | 1.67 |
| Swansea | 1.81 | 1.75 | 1.63 | 1.86 | 1.89 |
| Swinfen Hall | 2.03 | 2.34 | 1.77 | 1.82 | 2.13 |
| Thorn Cross | 2.35 | 1.97 | 1.83 | 1.62 | 1.84 |
| Usk and Prescoed | 1.57 | 1.66 | 1.61 | 1.45 | 1.21 |
| Verne | 1.77 | 1.69 | 1.71 | 1.52 | 1.58 |
| Wakefield | 1.65 | 1.28 | 1.49 | 1.67 | 1.65 |
| Wandsworth | 2.16 | 1.79 | 1.64 | 1.79 | 1.71 |
| Wayland | 2.18 | 2.04 | 2.04 | 1.95 | 1.72 |
| Wealstun | 1.99 | 2.05 | 1.81 | 1.88 | 1.76 |

£

| | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weare | [1]— | [1]— | 1.87 | 1.74 | 1.79 |
| Wellingborough | 2.22 | 2.03 | 2.09 | 1.94 | 2.03 |
| Wellington | 2.07 | 1.96 | 2.16 | 1.69 | 2.26 |
| Wetherby | 2.57 | 2.24 | 1.94 | 2.16 | 2.52 |
| Whatton | 1.67 | 1.32 | 1.60 | 1.68 | 1.19 |
| Whitemoor | 1.99 | 1.80 | 1.71 | 1.73 | 1.73 |
| Winchester | 2.52 | 1.99 | 2.03 | 1.99 | 1.69 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1.87 | 2.03 | 2.03 | 2.06 | 1.91 |
| Wymott | 1.86 | 1.77 | 1.73 | 1.74 | 1.63 |

[1] Closed.

## Prisons: Nutrition

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements there are on *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions to act upon nutritional guidance offered by the Food Standards Agency in respect of food provision for (i) older people and (ii) adults in institutions. [191358]

**Maria Eagle:** HM Prison Service has recently completed a routine review of its catering policy and a revised Prison Service Order (PSO 5000 the Catering Manual) will be published shortly. The revised PSO includes additional guidance from the Food Standards Agency to further help prison caterers in England and Wales provide food that meets the nutritional needs of all prisoners.

## Shoplifting

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* were cautioned, *(b)* received a penalty notice for disorder and *(c)* were convicted for shoplifting in each of the last three years. [191391]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested covering cautions, convictions and penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) for the years 2004-06 is provided in the following table.

*Number of offenders cautioned, defendants found guilty and penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for shoplifting, England and Wales 2004-06*[1,2]

| | Cautioned | Found guilty | PNDs issued |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 41,165 | 69,542 | [3]2,072 |
| 2005 | 44,012 | 64,076 | 21,997 |
| 2006 | 45,054 | 58,536 | 38,772 |

[1] The cautions and found guilty data are provided on the principal offence basis. PND data is a count of all penalty notices for disorder issued during the year.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The offence of retail theft (goods of value under 20); was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004.

*Source:*
Court proceedings and penalty notices for disorder databases—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

## Solicitors: Negligence

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to remove the 15 year rule for negligence of solicitors under the Limitation Act 1980. [191791]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Limitation Act 1980 sets out time limits for bringing certain types of civil claim. These include claims arising from negligence including negligence on the part of professionals such as solicitors. In certain specific circumstances, the Act imposes a 15 year 'long stop' limitation period which operates to bar claims where the claimant has not discovered the damage complained of until after the 'primary' limitation period has expired.

The Law Commission has made recommendations to reform the law of limitation. These include reducing the 15 year period described above to 10 years. The Government have accepted these recommendations in principle and is currently preparing a consultation paper which will seek views on a draft Bill to implement them. Any changes to the law will be made after full consultation.

## Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, its predecessor and its agencies, and at what cost in the last 24 months. [191024]

**Maria Eagle:** The MOJ has purchased 397 plasma television screens in the last 24 months at a total cost of £516,478. This excludes HM Prisons and NOMS, who are unable to answer without attracting disproportionate costs. HM Courts Service bought the majority of the screens as part of the Videolinks Project, which allows vulnerable witnesses to take part in trials without actually being present. Videolinks also connects to a number of prisons, which saves money by allowing certain meetings and proceedings to occur which would otherwise require prisoner transport and accommodation.

## Trade Unions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether civil servants who are trades union officers in his Department are permitted to use *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave to engage in political activities. [191036]

**Mr. Straw:** Civil Servants in my Department who are trades union officers are provided with time off to undertake trade union duties through a facility agreement. The facility agreement does not provide for paid or unpaid leave to engage in political activities.

The extent to which a member of staff is permitted to use either paid or unpaid leave to engage in political activities is determined by whether their role is categorised as 'politically free' (broadly comprising all prison officer grades, industrial staff and operational support grades), 'politically restricted' (broadly comprising senior management grades) or 'intermediate' (broadly non-operational administrative staff and junior managers).

Subject to these conditions, Civil Servants in my Department may apply for either paid or unpaid time off to engage in political activities. Regulations regarding political activities are contained in the staff handbook and apply to all staff, including those engaged in trade union activities.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester, of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 205W, on trades unions, whether those recognition agreements permit employees of his Department to take *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave to undertake political officer duties for those unions. [191049]

**Mr. Straw:** Trade Union recognition agreements in my Department do not include regulation of political activities, which are covered by the staff handbook.

### Video Games: Prosecutions

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought against retailers who sold video games and DVDs to underage customers in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those cases were successful. [189422]

**Maria Eagle:** Data on the number of prosecutions and convictions under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales 1997 to 2006 can be found in the table.

Information available to the Ministry of Justice relating to the Video Recording Act 1984 and amendments do not give the age of the customer, only the defendant. It is also not possible from the information held to distinguish prosecutions from other offences under the Act for the sale of video games or DVD's.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

*The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales 1997-2006*[1,2,3,4]

| | *Prosecuted* | *Found guilty* | *Proportion (%) successful (i.e. number found guilty as a proportion of those prosecuted)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 161 | 146 | 91 |
| 1998 | 141 | 127 | 90 |
| 1999 | 225 | 163 | 72 |
| 2000[5] | 187 | 167 | 89 |
| 2001 | 167 | 149 | 89 |
| 2002 | 157 | 139 | 89 |
| 2003 | 124 | 102 | 82 |
| 2004 | 169 | 132 | 78 |
| 2005 | 101 | 89 | 88 |
| 2006 | 104 | 81 | 78 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Some of the statistics relate to illegal sales but it is not possible to tell whether these were necessarily sales to children.
[4] Includes the following statutes and offence description:
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 11 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(4).
Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 9 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Supplying video recording of unclassified work.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 10 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(5).
Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops.
Video Recording Act 1984 Sec 13.
Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 14 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(6).
Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification.
[5] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
*Source:*
Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Capita

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid to Capita for its education services in each year since 1997. [188368]

**Kevin Brennan:** Our finance system can only produce information from April 1999 onwards.

The amounts paid to Capita listed in the following table show the total amount paid to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 1999. The amounts may include payments for services other than educational services as we are unable to differentiate between payments for educational services and those for other types of service.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 13,628,872 |
| 2000-01 | 26,365,741 |
| 2001-02 | 42,377,830 |
| 2002-03 | 27,050,920 |
| 2003-04 | 35,895,108 |
| 2004-05 | 211,887,690 |
| 2005-06 | 198,944,409 |
| 2006-07 | 114,262,373 |
| 2007-08 | 96,520,046 |

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries. The figure for 2007-08 is for amounts credited up to December 2007.

### Children in Care: Jersey

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities in England with responsibility for children's services have placed children in the care of the States of Jersey since 1980; and what steps are being taken to ascertain the whereabouts of those people placed in care. [190958]

**Kevin Brennan:** No provisions exist in law for the responsibility for children in care to be transferred from English local authorities to the States of Jersey.

Any English local authority proposing to make arrangements for a child in care to be placed outside the jurisdiction of England and Wales (which includes placing a child in Crown Dependencies such as Jersey) requires the permission of a court, the child's consent, and the permission of all those with parental responsibility for the child, before doing so. The placing local authority retains parental responsibility for the child in such cases, which includes the responsibility for safeguarding them and promoting their welfare, as well as (since 2001) keeping in touch with care leavers until at least the age of 21. Data on the numbers of children placed in Jersey by English local authorities are not collected centrally.

## Children: Databases

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the first additional risk assessment recommended by Deloitte in its security review of ContactPoint will be completed; and whether the full report will be made public; [190734]

(2) how frequently ongoing security risk assessments of ContactPoint, as recommended by Deloitte, will be conducted; and whether each report will be made public in full; [190735]

(3) on what date the decision was made not to publish a summary of Deloitte's review of the security of ContactPoint; [190736]

(4) whether the summary of Deloitte's review of the security of ContactPoint placed in the Library on 21 February 2008 includes reference to each recommendation made by Deloitte in the full report; [190737]

(5) when he expects the ContactPoint database to become fully operational; [190738]

(6) what assessment has been made of the *(a)* time, *(b)* manpower and *(c)* expenditure that will be required to implement in full the recommendations made by Deloitte in its security review of ContactPoint; [190739]

(7) whether *(a)* Deloitte and *(b)* another organisation will be commissioned to undertake a further security review of ContactPoint; [190740]

(8) what plans there are to upgrade the security of ContactPoint following Deloitte's security review. [190750]

**Kevin Brennan:** In response to question 190734, the risk assessment, recommended by Deloitte, which will look in detail at the contractor's design, will be completed by May 2008. The report will not be made public, as it will contain details of specific security arrangements. However, the ContactPoint security statement, which is publicly available, will be updated to reflect any changes made to security arrangements.

In response to question 190735, our plans for future risk assessment are based on key project milestones. These are:

at the end of detailed technical design;

before the system goes live;

at the end of the 'Early Adopter'phase; and

when there is any significant change in the external threat level or any significant project change.

These plans will be kept under review. Decisions about making the reports public will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

In response to question 190736, the decision to publish only the executive summary of the Deloitte report was taken on 13 February 2008.

In response to question 190737, the executive summary includes all the recommendations. The Government have accepted them all.

In response to question 190738, ContactPoint is expected to be deployed to 'Early Adopter' local authorities and two of our seven national partners by the end of October 2008 and to all other local authorities and national partners in 2009.

In response to question 190739, an interim assessment has been conducted which indicates that the recommendations can be implemented within the current planned budget and timescale. The full assessment can only be made once the updated risk assessment is completed.

In response to question 190740, ContactPoint will continue to be reviewed by independent security experts during system build and before it is implemented. Security will, of course, be audited during operation. It has not yet been decided who will conduct further independent reviews.

In response to question 190750, the Deloitte review did not identify any significant security issues, but made a number of minister recommendations for controls to be in place when the system goes live in addition to those already planned. The report observed that the importance of security appears to be ingrained within key areas of the ContactPoint Project. The first task, which is already under way, is to undertake an impact assessment of the detailed recommendations contained in the report.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the ContactPoint user acceptance test referred to in the written statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 55-8WS, on ContactPoint, will be undertaken; and what use will be made of the results; [190741]

(2) on what occasions ContactPoint will require *(a)* hard and *(b)* electronic data; [190742]

(3) what arrangements he has made for *(a)* independent accreditation and *(b)* ongoing monitoring of security procedures within organisations which have access to ContactPoint; [190743]

(4) what procedures will be put in place to ensure that all organisations accessing the ContactPoint database are aware of their responsibilities on security; what auditing will take place to ensure compliance; and if he will make a statement; [190745]

(5) what work has been undertaken to establish the level of risk of security breaches occurring in the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement; [190746]

(6) what level of security risk his Department has determined as acceptable for ContactPoint; [190747]

(7) what plans there are to review the role of self-certification as referred to in the written statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 55-58WS, on ContactPoint; and if he will make a statement; [190748]

(8) what plans he has to monitor compliance with self-certification procedures among organisations connecting to ContactPoint; and how this will be funded; [190749]

(9) what *(a)* security, *(b)* auditing and *(c)* other procedures will be followed when a ContactPoint user wants to gain access to a common assessment framework assessment for a particular child. [190751]

**Kevin Brennan:** In response to question 190741, ContactPoint User Acceptance Testing is scheduled to take place between July and September 2008.

We plan to engage a representative set of future ContactPoint users to:

Verify that CP meets the stated business requirements, and its practical readiness,

Ensure the end to end system and processes meet the defined acceptance criteria.

User Acceptance Testing will form an important part of assessing ContactPoint is in readiness for deployment.

In response to question 190742, all data inputs to ContactPoint will be delivered over secure electronic channels. The frequency of updates of this data will vary depending on what is practicable and desirable for each source.

In response to question 190743, *(a)* All partner organisations will be supported through their accreditation process by the local authority acting as an independent sponsor. Those performing the sponsor roles will be trained and appropriately qualified, *(b)* Ongoing monitoring will be performed at multiple levels across the ContactPoint delivery structure.

The following will be in place:

monitoring of user access by line management;

compliance checks—that line management is monitoring user access by each organisation's internal audit or compliance team;

monitoring—that line management are monitoring their users by the local ContactPoint management team;

compliance checks— that the local authority ContactPoint team is performing its monitoring role by each local authority's internal audit or compliance team;

monitoring - that line management are monitoring their users by the local ContactPoint management team;

compliance checks - that the local authority ContactPoint team is performing its monitoring role by each local authority's internal audit or compliance team;

local authorities will log and monitor complaints and data subject access requests, identifying where follow up checking needs to take place;

discussions will be held between local authority internal audit and the internal audit of those organisations using ContactPoint to ensure congruence of risk assessments and sharing of lessons learned;

regular reviews of local authority ContactPoint team activities;

spot checks by organisation, local authority and nationally;

national reviews of management information based on a range of security

parameters;

Any areas of concern flagged by monitoring will be linked to mandatory follow-up procedures, including internal disciplinary action which could lead to dismissal and/or criminal prosecution.

All monitoring is linked to a process of continual improvement, with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of monitoring, detection and follow-up activity.

In response to question 190745, accreditation will ensure a range of organisational policies and procedures are in place in each accredited organisation. These include a requirement to appoint responsible and accountable officers, to train staff, to set out accountabilities, to plan and implement a programme of inspections and audits, and to report issues to the sponsoring local authority.

Auditing is a multi-level series of cross checks, executing monitoring activities, and checking that monitoring is taking place.

Responsibilities will be set out clearly and will be covered in training and supporting materials (such as guidance and user manuals). Regular meetings will be used (between local authorities and partner organisations, and between the national team and local authorities) to ensure messages on responsibilities continue to be understood, to promote best practice, to raise and resolve issues around compliance, and to discuss other operational issues or difficulties.

In response to questions 190746 and 190747, in determining the security policy for ContactPoint, the Government guidance on risk assessment and security controls set out in the Cabinet Office's Manual of Protective Security was followed. A risk assessment was carried out, in 2005, at the start of the ContactPoint project before any solution design or requirements were specified. It was updated in June 2006. Deloitte concluded that the approach followed was valid.

ContactPoint has been designed to be highly secure and has controls at different levels to protect against security breaches. This will be kept under continuous review.

Security is, and always has been, of paramount importance to the ContactPoint project and this was recognised in the Deloitte report.

ContactPoint will not be deployed until it has been subject to rigorous penetration testing by people who are experts in the IT security field and approved by the Communications and Electronics Security Group.

The Department's aim is to ensure that any potential risks from ContactPoint will be less than the risks from not having it.

In response to questions 190748 and 190749, the accreditation plans were under development at time of the Deloitte review and indicated that self-certification would be used where appropriate in order to minimise burdens.

Self-certification will be reviewed as part of the risk assessment scheduled to be completed by May 2008. Unacceptable risks to security will not be introduced by the use of self-certification.

Self-certification of local partner organisations will be subject to verification by a local authority sponsor who will assure compliance with procedures. Funds have been allocated to local authorities to support these roles.

In response to question 190751, there will be no access to the CAP itself, nor any of the details within it, from ContactPoint. If the ContactPoint user believes that they should contribute to, or see, the CAP assessment they would contact the practitioner whose details have been provided to ContactPoint as the person 'holding' the CAP.

Practitioners will only become involved in CAP assessment with the informed, explicit consent of the child or young person (or their parent/carer where appropriate).

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179944]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department uses a range of indices in order to uprate the grant payments it makes to its wide range of delivery partners. Decisions on the

appropriate indices to apply to the different types of grant expenditure are devolved to the individual business units within the Department and this information can be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168482]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176025]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department collects and holds personal data. This data is used for a variety of purposes, including funding and for school accountability. Some of this data is stored overseas.

### Departmental Email

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails being printed unnecessarily by officials in his Department. [179471]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has already taken steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails being printed. We provide:

Flexible and robustly maintained systems for electronic reading, production, transfer and filing of all documents to reduce the volume and need for hardcopy prints; and

Information and best practice techniques on how staff can help the Department reduce waste through careful use of scarce resources and new ways of working.

To ensure sound environmental management systems are maintained we require policy leads to:

Keep reviewing the Department's waste management policy to ensure it aligns with Government intent and adopt any new initiatives relating to waste, where appropriate;

Encourage the generation of new ideas by staff to improve our waste handling;

Learn from our peers in the public sector and benchmark our progress against public and private sector organisations; and

Work with our recycling suppliers to develop more sustainable methods and reward innovation.

### Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190761]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's most recent conclusions can be found in our Single Equality Scheme which was published online in December 2007. The scheme can be found at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/des

with the disability update available at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/des/disability.shtml

### Departmental Finance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many agencies, organisations and non-departmental bodies receive funding from his Department; and how much was spent on such bodies in each of the last three years. [191294]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created in the machinery of government change in June 2007. The following table sets out the grant in aid received by each of the Department's non-departmental public bodies for the last three years taken from the resource accounts together with the funding provided to local authorities and other expenditure for the predecessor body the Department for Education and Skills. The 'other expenditure' may include expenditure not relating to organisations. To provide the detail requested for relating to just DCSF would involve disproportionate cost. The Department has no Agencies.

*Analysis spending body*

| | | | *Outturn £* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
| Spending body: | | | |
| Grant in aid to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs): | | | |
| British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) | 11,100 | 13,547 | 11,600 |
| Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services (CAFCASS) | 104,373 | 100,865 | 102,543 |
| National College for School Leadership (NCSL) | 89,072 | 80,419 | 114,687 |
| Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) | 3,362 | 2,061 | — |
| Partnerships for Schools (PfS) | 5,168 | 4,483 | 3,477 |
| Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) | 144,046 | 133,894 | 118,271 |
| School Food Trust (SFT)[1] | 5,737 | — | — |
| Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) | 729,175 | 667,510 | 564,093 |
| Local Authorities[2] | 34,798,741 | 7,545,316 | 6,483,866 |
| Other DfES | 3,739,520 | 3,426,279 | 4,095,686 |
| Net spending | 39,630,294 | 11,974,374 | 11,494,223 |

[1] SFT became operational on 1 April 2006.
[2] The amount paid to local authorities has risen significantly in 2006-07 because from 1 April 2006 the Department became responsible for paying dedicated schools grants. These grants were previously issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Departmental Homeworking

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189787]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. Home working is available to all staff as part of my Department's flexible working arrangements and currently 50 per cent. of staff can access the Department's IT infrastructure from home.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185281]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the last five years four personal digital assistants (PDA) were reported as lost or stolen as follows:

| | *Number* | *Valued at (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1 | 180 |
| 2004-05 | 3 | 116 |

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191276]

**Kevin Brennan:** Regulatory impact assessments were replaced with impact assessments in May 2007. The new requirement was that any new policies would be assessed using the new framework from the beginning of the parliamentary Session in November 2007. Details of the regulatory impact assessments that were published by my Department are available from the House Library.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179911]

**Kevin Brennan:** To provide a comprehensive answer would incur disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [164509]

**Kevin Brennan:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the House Libraries.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188806]

**Kevin Brennan:** The salary range for each pay band in my Department is set out as follows.

£

| | *London* | | *National* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Min* | *Max* | *Min* | *Max* |
| *Grade group 1* | | | | |
| Support grade band 2 | 16,308 | 17,227 | 13,223 | 13,986 |
| *Grade group 2* | | | | |
| Executive assistant | 18,415 | 19,906 | 15,260 | 16,485 |
| Support grade band 1 | 18,611 | 19,906 | 15,360 | 16,485 |
| Support manager 3 | 21,287 | 22,999 | 17,875 | 19,374 |
| *Modern apprentice grades* | | | | |
| Advanced modern apprentice | 18,415 | 19,906 | 15,260 | 16,485 |
| *Grade group 3* | | | | |
| Executive officer (EO) | 22,390 | 25,533 | 19,387 | 22,336 |
| EO (accountant) | 27,218 | 31,367 | 22,805 | 26,286 |
| Typing manager | 22,989 | 26,180 | 19,374 | 22,347 |
| EO (specialist) | 25,824 | 30,188 | 22,995 | 26,886 |
| *Grade group 4* | | | | |
| Higher executive officer (HEO) | 27,360 | 31,367 | 24,226 | 27,940 |
| HEO (accountant/auditor) | 33,566 | 38,664 | 30,300 | 34,947 |
| HEO (specialist) | 30,042 | 34,938 | 26,917 | 31,458 |
| *Grade group 5* | | | | |
| Senior executive officer (SEO) | 32,940 | 37,932 | 29,711 | 34,241 |
| SEO (accountant/auditor) | 38,345 | 44,233 | 34,966 | 40,296 |
| SEO (specialist) | 36,689 | 42,870 | 34,089 | 40,601 |
| Senior professional and technical officer | 39,527 | 46,181 | — | — |
| *Grade group 6* | | | | |
| Grade 7 | 45,123 | 54,624 | 41,486 | 50,187 |
| Grade 7 (accountant/auditor) | 46,000 | 54,626 | 42,200 | 50,188 |
| *Grade group 7* | | | | |
| Grade 6 | 54,630 | 66,247 | 50,200 | 61,661 |
| Children services adviser | 65,013 | 76,425 | [1]— | [1]— |
| *Fast stream* | | | | |
| AT/HEO(D) | 27,360 | 37,932 | 24,226 | 34,241 |
| *Senior civil service* | | | | |
| Pay band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Pay band 1A | 65,280 | 127,000 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Pay band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Pay band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] As London

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the publicity budget was for the Time to Talk consultation. [178938]

**Kevin Brennan:** The total publicity costs for the Time to Talk consultation were £308,270.24.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187885]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, so departmental information on retirements is only available from then. There have been no stress-related medical retirements in my Department in the period since that date.

The Department has policies in place to reduce work related stress including a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues. These include the provision of professional counselling and support from the Department's Employee Assistance Provider, Right Corecare. My Department has piloted a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Stress Questionnaire and conducted Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them. It will shortly be launching a comprehensive Stress Prevention Policy, based on recognised HSE Management Standards.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on translation services by his Department and its predecessor, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* in 2007-08 to date. [187985]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of expenditure on translation services incurred by the Department over the last five years are set out as follows;

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | [1]5,309.26 |
| 2006-07 | 3,169.14 |
| 2005-06 | 1,152.11 |
| 2004-05 | 9,878.45 |
| 2003-04 | 15,462.62 |

[1] Up to and including February

The figures relate to actual translation work as recorded on the Department's Integrated Financial Information System. The figures exclude publishing costs, on-line or off-line, associated with the translated material.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change and the expenditure recorded above includes that of its predecessor department, the Department for Education and Skills.

The expenditure will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

The Department does not have any Executive agencies.

The Department currently has eight NDPBs. They are independent organisations and records are not held centrally by the Department about their translation fees. To extract those costs would involve disproportionate cost.

### Educational Visits: Negligence

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Compensation Act 2006 on *(a)* the number of school educational visits and *(b)* the number of (i) claims and (ii) successful claims of negligence or breach of statutory duty brought against teachers as a result of accidents on educational visits; [191795]

(2) how many *(a)* claims and *(b)* successful claims of negligence or breach of statutory duty were brought against teachers as a result of accidents on educational visits in each year since 1997. [191794]

**Jim Knight:** We have made no formal estimate of the effect of the Compensation Act 2006 on offsite educational visits and have received no representations on this issue. We do not anticipate successful claims under this Act against teachers who act in accordance with their school's health and safety procedures, and we believe that most teachers do so. While the Government do not hold records of awards against school staff, we are unaware of any claims, successful or unsuccessful, against school staff under this Act.

### Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187652]

**Kevin Brennan:** The spend for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its agencies for travel on Eurostar for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 on first class travel was £20,567 and for other class travel was £15,944.

### Foster Care: Separation

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster family arrangements *(a)* remained as a stable family unit for longer than 12 months and *(b)* broke down with the children returning to care facilities within 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available. [183549]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of children looked after at 31 March 2007 who had been in the same foster placement for longer than 12 months was 23,900. In the 12 months up to that date, 1,400 children were in a foster placement for less than 12 months and then moved to a care placement which was not based in a family[1].

[1] The following placements have been counted: Secure units, homes and hostels, residential care homes, NHS trust providing medical/nursing care, family centre or mother and baby unit, young offenders' institution or prison, residential schools.

### Mineral Waters

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191246]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of litres of bottled water for the Department for Children, Schools and Families is:

| | *Number of litres* |
|---|---|
| December 2005 to November 2006 | 128,704 |
| December 2006 to November 2007 | 110,075 |

### Plastic Bags

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many branded plastic bags his Department and its predecessor purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [184657]

**Kevin Brennan:** Neither this Department, nor the former Department for Education and Skills, has purchased branded plastic bags in the last 24 months.

### Schools: Entertainments

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department issues guidance to schools on the *(a)* holding and *(b)* funding of staff parties. [189106]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not issue such guidance. Funding is delegated for the 'purpose of the school'. The definition does not go into detail further than this, however we would expect local authorities as part of their financial management policies to provide guidance on the use of funds for these types of purposes.

### Schools: Sports

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to improve sports programmes within secondary schools in 2006-07; and what funding has been allocated for that purpose for 2007-08. [168418]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to improve sports programmes within secondary schools in 2006-07; and what funding has been allocated for that purpose for 2007-08. [169235]

**Kevin Brennan:** Through the National School Sport Strategy, a number of programmes are in place to raise the quality and quantity of PE and school sport in secondary schools. These include:

School Sport Partnerships

Sports Colleges

PE and school sport Professional Development programme

Step into Sport volunteering and leadership programme

Establishing School-sport club Links

Support and provision for gifted and talented pupils in PE and sport

Bringing professional coaches into schools

Competition Managers

The Department's support for these programmes totalled £179.2 million in 2007-08.

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding was allocated to sports facilities in schools in *(a)* Stockton South constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [188933]

**Jim Knight:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1549W.

### Special Educational Needs: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with special educational needs, resident in Suffolk, were educated outside the county in each year since 1997; and what the financial cost of this provision was to Suffolk County Council in each year. [187608]

**Kevin Brennan:** Available figures for the number of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) resident in Suffolk, who attended schools maintained by other local authorities are given as follows:

*Number of pupils with special educational needs*

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resident in Suffolk LA | 15,536 | 16,248 | 16,681 | 17,312 | 17,549 |
| Attending schools maintained by Suffolk LA | 15,193 | 16,061 | 16,474 | 17,120 | 17,312 |
| Attending schools maintained by other LAs | 343 | 187 | 207 | 192 | 237 |

*Note:*
SEN includes: School action; School action plus and statement of SEN
*Source:*
School Census

We are unable to provide equivalent information on the number of children with Special Educational Needs attending independent or non-maintained special schools.

Details of the planned expenditure by Suffolk local authority for pupils with special educational needs can be found on the following tables. The data are drawn from Suffolk local authority's Section 52 budget statements submitted to the DCSF and the figures relate to all planned out of authority expenditure not just the expenditure on pupils attending schools maintained by other local authorities.

*The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations. Budgeted gross[1] expenditure by Suffolk local authority on inter-authority recoupment[2]: 1999-2000 to 2007-08[3]. Cash terms figures[4] as reported by Suffolk local authority as at 28 February 2008*

| | *Cash terms figures[4]* *Budgeted gross[1] expenditure on inter-authority recoupment[2] (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000[3] | 100,000 |
| 2000-01 | 100,000 |
| 2001-02 | 100,000 |
| 2002-03 | 100,000 |
| 2003-04 | 100,000 |
| 2004-05 | 100,000 |
| 2005-06 | 103,000 |
| 2006-07 | 108,000 |
| 2007-08 | 110,000 |

[1] As one authority's expenditure on inter-authority recoupment will be another authority's income, in order to show the amount of money budgeted by Suffolk local authority for the education of pupils with special educational needs outside of Suffolk LA the figures for inter-authority recoupment have been shown gross (i.e. any income which Suffolk LA receive from other authorities for educating their pupils with SEN within Suffolk has not been netted off from the expenditure).

[2] Inter authority recoupment includes any estimated expenditure in relation to transactions between authorities in accordance with regulations made under sections 493 or 494 of the 1996 Act or section 207 of the 2002 Act (recoupment between authorities) for the education of pupils with special educational needs.

[3] Figures are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

*The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations. Budgeted net expenditure by Suffolk local authority on fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad[1]: 1999-2000 to 2007-08[1,2]. Cash terms figures[3] as reported by Suffolk local authority as at 7 January 2008*

| | *Cash terms figures[3]* *Budgeted net expenditure on fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad[1] (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000[2] | 3,776,000 |
| 2000-01 | 3,794,000 |
| 2001-02 | 3,993,000 |
| 2002-03 | 4,051,000 |
| 2003-04 | 5,711,000 |
| 2004-05 | 6,078,000 |
| 2005-06 | 6,161,000 |
| 2006-07 | 6,390,000 |
| 2007-08[3] | 6,551,000 |

[1] Includes estimatec expenditure on the payment of fees in respect of pupils with special educational needs at independent schools or non-maintained special schools. The figures for 2007-08 also include any SEN payments to Academies for pupils with statements.

[2] Figures are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

## Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what special educational provision is available for adolescents with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder after their release from a penal establishment. [172350]

**Kevin Brennan:** Schools and local authorities are statutorily required to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice for children and young people whose attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) entails special educational needs (SEN). The Code says that local authorities should have effective arrangements in place to ensure the needs of children and young people with SEN are assessed quickly and matched by appropriate provision, and that schools must do their best to ensure necessary provision is made for pupils with SEN.

For young people in the youth justice system, Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) operate in each local area. Their role includes working with young offenders, including those preparing to leave custody, to develop appropriate resettlement plans to meet their needs—this includes co-ordinating access to education, training and health services.

The Children Act 2004 provides a statutory framework for co-operation between local authorities, partner agencies and other relevant organisations to improve outcomes for all children including those who have been diagnosed with ADHD.

## Teachers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of teachers who qualified within the last two years are not employed as teachers in state maintained schools. [189140]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of trainees who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses in 2004/05 and 2005/06 and were not employed in state maintained schools six months after gaining QTS.

A minimum of 71 per cent. of trainees who gained QTS in 2004/05 and 2005/06 entered a teaching post in a maintained school within six months of gaining QTS. These are minimums as there are a proportion of trainees where the sector of the schools they enter is unknown or their destination after gaining QTS is unknown.

| | | *Proportion of trainees gaining QTS* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Known not to be teaching in a maintained school* | | *Working in a school where the sector is unknown* | | *With an unknown destination* | |
| *Year of gaining QTS* | *Total number of mainstream trainees gaining QTS* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2004/05 | 27,150 | 3,300 | 12 | 1,470 | 5 | 3,050 | 11 |
| 2005/06 | 27,040 | 3,790 | 14 | 1,560 | 6 | 2,510 | 9 |

*Notes:*
1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
3. Trainees taking the assessment only for secondary courses are not included in the table above.
4. Those known not to be teaching in a maintained school include those who are working in independent schools, those who are seeking a teaching post and those who are not seeking a teaching post.
5. The destination of trainees through Employment Based ITT (EBITT) is not collected.
6. The destination of trainees gaining QTS is collected through the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey 7. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles

### Teachers: Pensions

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he charges independent schools whose employees are members of the teachers' pension scheme a share of *(a)* the Capita Business Services management fee and *(b)* his Department's costs for (i) medical and (ii) actuarial services charged to the scheme. [191606]

**Jim Knight:** No employers, including independent schools, meet any of the direct pension administration costs of the teachers' pension scheme. These costs, which include medical and actuarial services, are not charged to the scheme but met separately from the Department's programme budgets.

### Young People: Contact Centres

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library the findings of the mystery shopping and user survey research to monitor the performance of contact centres. [173128]

**Beverley Hughes:** A mystery shopping exercise was undertaken in April 2006 to monitor the performance of the Teenage Pregnancy Helpline, Sexwise. At the time, the Sexwise line had been in operation since 1995, offering information and advice to young people about sex, relationships and contraception.

In order for the mystery shopping process to be credible, and to provide an understanding from a young person's perspective, it was important to include young people. Therefore 12 young people, 6 girls and 6 boys, between the ages of 14 and 17, were recruited to undertake the mystery calls. Given the highly sensitive nature of the project and the subject matter of the calls, all parents were provided with a detailed background to the project and its objectives, and with detailed examples of the kinds of calls we would be asking their children to make. All provided written consent for their children to participate. MRS approval was gained for the proposed method prior to the project start.

It should be borne in mind that the young people calling the line were provided with a considerable amount of background information, which would probably not ordinarily be available to genuine callers. And while we tried to provide some quantification, the analysis was based on only 60 calls, and is qualitative rather than quantitative in nature. For this reason, the results of the report were not felt to warrant submission to the House of Commons Library but copies are available on request.

### Young People: Crime Prevention

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the pathfinder projects to deliver integrated targeted support to parents of children and young people at risk of offending; and if he will make a statement. [173853]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not fund any pathfinder projects that solely focus on parents of children and young people at risk of offending. Since 2006, DCSF has been running the Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinder (PEIP) which aims to increase support for the parents of children and young people at risk of negative outcomes and ensure that they receive an earlier, more effective, coordinated package of relevant support. Findings from an independent evaluation will be published in spring 2008.

Targeted programmes to prevent youth offending are the responsibility of Youth Offending Teams and the Youth Justice Board. The Youth Crime Action Plan—to be published in summer 2008—will bring together action across Government, setting an overall strategy for youth crime reduction and concrete ways to tackle it.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 5 March 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### British Airports Authority

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department have had with BAA on the potential disposal by BAA of one of its airports; and if he will make a statement. [190329]

**Mr. Thomas:** Competition issues are a matter for the independent competition authorities. The Competition Commission is currently investigating the supply of airport services by BAA in the UK following a reference by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

### Business: Stress

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average annual *(a)* days lost per employee and *(b)* cost to business due to stress and stress related business. [187627]

**Mr. Thomas:** The average number of working days lost per employee by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, (formerly the Department of Trade and Industry), including UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Office of Manpower Economics (OME), attributed to stress-related conditions for the period January 2007 to December 2007 is 0.72.

The Department does not routinely calculate the average annual cost of stress. As this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

### Civil Service

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidelines his Department issues to its senior civil servants on the receipt of hospitality during public consultations run by his Department. [190267]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Department provides the following guidance to all of its staff on its HR intranet:

*Acceptance and registration of hospitality*

You must not accept offers of gifts or hospitality without considering whether it would be both legal and proper to do so.



*The Principles of Propriety*

The guiding principles governing the acceptance of gifts and hospitality are:

Your conduct should not create suspicion of a conflict between your official duty and your private interest;

You should not give the impression that you may have been influenced by a gift or hospitality;

If in doubt about whether you should accept a gift or hospitality, you should refuse it.

These principles are not intended to stop you accepting occasional trivial gifts or working lunches during the course of an official visit. However no offer of a more substantial gift or hospitality should be lightly accepted.

You should consult your line manager when deciding whether or not to accept a gift or hospitality.

*Procedures for declaring hospitality received*

You must not accept hospitality that might be seen to compromise your personal judgement or integrity.

It is up to you to judge whether an offer of hospitality should be accepted. Before accepting, you should be satisfied that the hospitality is normal and reasonable in the circumstances. If in doubt, you should consult a senior manager.

The following guidelines are intended to help you and them come to a decision:

Is it in the Department's interest? For hospitality to be in the Department's interests there will normally need to be an opportunity to discuss official business. However, it may be that the Department nonetheless needs to be represented at an event. In this case you should check with a senior manager, to make sure that the Department is not over-represented.

The value - Is it great enough to give rise to criticism? You should consider the perceived value rather than the actual cost.

The frequency: Is it more frequent or regular than would be regarded as normal or reasonable, taking into account the nature of the event?

The potential for embarrassment: Is the person or organisation offering the hospitality under investigation or have they been criticised by the Government or anyone acting on its behalf?

The nature of any relationship with the Department: Even if you are not involved in financial, contractual or regulatory matters connected with the person or body concerned, the acceptance of an invitation by a member of BERR would be open to misconstruction or misrepresentation.

You need to bear in mind that the guidelines are not just intended to safeguard the Department's position; they are framed to help you to avoid personal embarrassment and criticism, however misplaced.

Strict rules apply to those responsible for procurement and the placing or management of contracts (see the Procurement Manual for further guidance); and those involved in regulatory activity. These are issued separately to the relevant staff. Nevertheless, they have the same force and authority as though they were included in The Guide.

*Records of gifts and hospitality*

All material hospitality that you accept while on duty (other than of an incidental kind like tea or coffee) must be registered in the HMU's Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

The only exceptions to this rule are hospitality in relation to diplomatic activity overseas or in the UK (e.g. reception hosted by a foreign government or international institution) and attendance at an event hosted by Her Majesty's Government (e.g. an official dinner to mark a particular occasion).

Any failure to register hospitality is a disciplinary offence. Staff concerned with procurement, including contract management, should note that the CUP Guide NO 16 makes the recording of offers of hospitality and gifts, whether or not accepted, mandatory.

*Legal Position in Respect of Corruption*

It is an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 for any civil servant in his or her official capacity corruptly to accept any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing, or refraining from doing, anything; or showing favour or disfavour to any person.

Moreover, under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1916, any money, gift or consideration received by a member of staff from a person or organisation holding or seeking to obtain a Government contract will be deemed by the courts to have been received corruptly, unless the officer proves the contrary.

### Consumer Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects on consumer representation of the Consumer Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007; what response he has made to paragraph 5.66 of the House of Lords Regulators Committee's report on economic regulators; and if he will make a statement. [175737]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government assessment of the changes to consumer representation made by the Consumer Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 was set out in the response to the House of Lords Regulators Committee's report on economic regulators, published on Thursday 21 February. Paragraph 1.16 states:

> "The Government believes that the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act will strengthen consumer representation in key sectors. The new National Consumer Council will be established from 1 October 2008. The Government are working with industry, regulators and the existing bodies to ensure that the current consumer representative framework is maintained and wherever possible enhanced during the transition.
>
> The Government are confident that the overall framework established by the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act will provide full support to Energy and Postal Consumers."

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what IT contracts his Department holds; and what the *(a)* length and *(b)* cost of each contract is. [187639]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The core Department has one main information technology contract which provides desk top services and a variety of additional extended services. This is a private finance initiative (PFI) agreement awarded to Fujitsu Services in 1998 and the agreement commenced in April 1999 and runs for 15 years. The spend up until March 2008 will be £370 million and it is estimated that a further £163 million will be spent up to the end of the agreement.

In 2005 the Department awarded a Competed Services Framework Arrangement to six suppliers to enable an element of competition for IT projects and a small number of IT contracts have been awarded through this arrangement and other framework arrangements available to government. The current contracts are as follows:

| | *Years* | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| HR Replacement System | 5 | [1]— |
| Export Licensing (Infrastructure) | 3 | 2 |
| Export Licensing (Development) | 2 | 1 |
| Correspondence Handling | 3 | 2.5 |

[1] Amount under review

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188794]

**Mr. Thomas:** Four employees of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have been suspended/dismissed in the past five years. To give further details of the cases may contravene the Data Protection Act, as it may facilitate the identification of an individual.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187532]

**Mr. Thomas:** Expenses claimed by BERR staff are not recorded separately by grade. To obtain the requested information would entail a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what property has been lost or stolen from his Department and its predecessor since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187473]

**Mr. Thomas:** From 1997 to date, the total number of items reported lost or stolen from my Department and its predecessor's HQ Estate amounted to 375. The total value of these items amounted to £145,500.

The figure does not include small, low value, personal items reported lost or stolen by staff.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of sickness pay to staff in his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187514]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department does not routinely calculate the average annual cost of stress. As this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

The Department's sickness, and long term sickness absence rates have consistently been lower than the Whitehall average over the past three years. The average number of working days lost due to sick leave for the period January 2007 to December 2007 is 4.9.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of his Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced under framework agreements with commercial providers; and if he will make a statement. [189161]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department has a service level agreement with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from whom individual directorates purchase translation services.

Individual directorates make their own arrangements for purchase of interpreting services from external suppliers. Information is not available centrally about such purchases or arrangements with individual suppliers and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Energy: Complaints

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking on the effective disclosure by gas and electricity suppliers of complaints handling data to the National Consumer Council; and if he will make a statement. [190481]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 confers, on the New National Consumer Council a power to require the disclosure to it by gas and electricity suppliers of such information as it requires for the purpose of exercising its functions.

Precise disclosure arrangements are a matter for the new council, in discussion with suppliers.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the forthcoming complaint handling standards set by Ofgem contain provision for energy companies' complaints data will be subject to regular independent verification; and if he will make a statement; [190482]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the gas and electricity complaint handling standards being formulated by Ofgem set levels of performance that will improve protection for consumers; and if he will make a statement. [190483]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 provides that setting of complaint handling standards for gas and electricity is a matter for the regulator, Ofgem (GEMA).

Ofgem consulted on its proposals for complaint handling standards in November last year and will be publishing its decision at the end of March. Ofgem is working closely with consumer groups on these standards to ensure that consumers remain protected.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of the Senior Civil Service have been awarded an honour while working in his Department. [187134]

**Mr. Thomas:** There are currently 16 BERR Senior Civil Servants with an honours award. The breakdown is as follows: KCB (1), CMG (2), CB (5), CBE (5), QBE (3).

### Industry Regulators: Fines

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements there are for the allocation to spending areas of revenue from fines imposed by those industry regulators for which his Department is responsible. [190511]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fines by regulators would be treated as Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts (CFERs), which go directly to the Treasury, unless specified otherwise in legislation.

### INTO University Partnerships Limited

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the last accounts were *(a)* due from and *(b)* filed at Companies House by INTO University Partnerships Limited and its subsidiaries. [190859]

**Mr. Thomas:** INTO University Partnerships Ltd. was incorporated on 13 July 2005, their first set of accounts were therefore due to be filed at Companies House no later than 13 May 2007. I have been advised by the Registrar of Companies that Companies House has written to the company to advise them that the accounts are overdue and requesting they be filed.

Companies House does not keep a register of subsidiary companies, however a company's subsidiaries are often listed on its accounts. As they have not filed any accounts the Registrar of Companies is unable to provide any information of its subsidiary companies.

### Investments: Companies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to businesses from the Isle of Man wishing to *(a)* invest in the United Kingdom and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [190788]

**Mr. Thomas:** In line with its guidelines for eligibility to services, UKTI does not provide services for companies from, or based in Crown Dependencies (Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and the Overseas Territories (Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Islands, Turks and Caicos etc.). However, where a request is made for assistance in liaising with a foreign government, the case is examined on its merits.

### Kelda: Yorkshire

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to evaluate the effects on the Yorkshire economy of the takeover of Kelda by a private equity group; [189612]

**Mr. McFadden:** The acquisition of Kelda Group by Saltaire Water is a commercial matter for the enterprises concerned and their shareholders.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letters of *(a)* 9 November 2007 and *(b)* 14 December 2007 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean on firework regulations, reference FD4276. [189868]

**Mr. Thomas:** I apologise for my delay in responding to the hon. Member. I have been considering the issues raised and am now in a position to respond. A reply will issue from my office shortly.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 21 December 2007, transferred from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (CMS 85948), about the withdrawal of CapTel. [191156]

**Mr. Thomas:** I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. The letter was originally sent to the wrong Department, a reply will be issued shortly.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 23 January, on mobile telephone dealers. [191224]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member, a reply will be issued shortly.

### Origin Marking

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what UK and European legislation governs whether goods may be labelled as made in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* the UK. [190249]

**Mr. Thomas:** Generally speaking, there is no UK or European Union legal requirement for goods to bear marks indicating their origin, nor is there anything to prevent voluntary origin marking where traders wish to do so. Where such marks are applied to goods, the law requires this information to be accurate.

### Overseas Investment: Taiwan

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of *(a)* UK investment in Taiwan and *(b)* Taiwan's investment in the UK was in each year since 1997; what steps he (i) has taken and (ii) plans to take to increase (A) trade and (B) joint ventures between the UK and Taiwan; and if he will make a statement. [190789]

**Mr. Thomas:** The following table shows the UK's foreign direct investment (FDI) net flows to and from Taiwan for the period 1997-2005, the latest year available.

*UK net foreign direct investment flows with Taiwan 1997-2006*

£ million

| | UK outward FDI in Taiwan | UK inward FDI from Taiwan |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | -32 | [1] |
| 1998 | 39 | [1] |
| 1999 | 28 | 2 |
| 2000 | 122 | 24 |
| 2001 | 357 | 14 |
| 2002 | 118 | 12 |
| 2003 | 37 | -7 |
| 2004 | 161 | -8 |
| 2005 | 150 | 10 |
| 2006 | -37 | [1] |

[1] Not disclosed by companies for commercial reasons

*Note:*
A minus sign indicates net disinvestment

*Source:*
BERR analysis of data from the Office for National Statistics

However, there are many ways to invest. Net FDI flows do not provide the full picture of investment. The following table records the project wins and job numbers of which we are aware.

*Taiwanese investment in the UK 2001-08*

| | Project numbers | Jobs created |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 4 | 230 |
| 2002-03 | 6 | 302 |
| 2003-04 | 8 | 214 |
| 2004-05 | 7 | 221 |
| 2005-06 | 5 | 120 |
| 2006-07 | 12 | 318 |
| 2007-08 | [1]9 | 928 |

[1] Up to February 2008

UK Trade and Investment offers a range of services to UK companies. For Taiwan, we have identified the following priority areas: Construction (specifically Urban regeneration), Creative Industries, Healthcare, Information Communications Technology (ICT), Infrastructure (specifically Rail), Nanotechnology, Environment and Renewable Energy.

In the coming year UK Trade and Investment will host the Taiwan British Business Council (TBBC) and the UK Taiwan Trade Talks with the aim of further building up the business relationship and addressing barriers to trade.

### Overseas Trade: Israel

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials last met the Chairman of the Israel Britain Chamber of Commerce to discuss trade between Great Britain and Israel; for what dates the next such meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [189036]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have not yet had the opportunity to meet Len Judes, Chairman of the Israel-British Chamber of Commerce. My right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield, as Minister for Trade, met Len Judes when he addressed a meeting of the Israel Britain Business Council in London in May 2006.

Contacts in Tel Aviv are regular and ongoing. UKTI officials based in London who are responsible for business with Israel meet representatives of the Israel-British Chamber of Commerce when they travel to Israel. The last two such contacts were in June 2007 and February 2008.

UKTI officials in London will next meet Len Judes, at the time of the Israel-Britain Business Council meeting, in the UK in May 2008.

### Private Sector: Redundancy

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 656W, on private sector: redundancy, whether his Department is currently considering provision of funding under the selective finance for investment in England scheme. [191496]

**Mr. McFadden:** Funding can be provided under the selective finance for investment in England (SFIE) scheme to support new capital investment that will safeguard employment. Under EC state aid law, the allocation of public sector funds to private sector companies simply to prevent redundancies, i.e. in the absence of new capital investment, would be considered as operating aid. SFIE cannot be used to provide operating aid. However, SFIE may be granted to an independent investor to support the acquisition of assets directly linked to an establishment that would have closed had it not been purchased, therefore preventing redundancy.

### Seas and Oceans: Legislation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last discussed the Marine Bill with his Cabinet colleagues; and if he will make a statement. [188708]

**Mr. Thomas:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions on a range of issues with Cabinet colleagues. However, any discussions concerning the Marine Bill would be led by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### Service Industries: Pay

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will bring forward measures to ensure that service staff receive income in full from any tips earned in the course of their duties in addition to a contracted rate of pay which is at or above the minimum wage; [187417]

(2) what measures his Department is taking to ensure that earnings received in tips above contracted rates of pay are always passed on to service staff. [187418]

**Mr. McFadden:** Current legislation already requires that workers should receive the national minimum wage. Under the present minimum wage regulations, cash tips, service charges, gratuities or cover charges that are paid by the employer through the pay roll can count towards the NMW. Many restaurants operate systems known as "troncs" where cash tips are gathered centrally and then allocated out by the head waiter. In some cases the tronc is shared out between the workers without the employer being involved. In these cases the tips would not count towards the minimum wage. However in some cases the tips or tronc money is passed to the restaurant and paid out through the payroll and therefore can count towards the national minimum wage.

### Supermarkets: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to take steps to prevent supermarkets from engaging in loss-leading alcohol promotions. [189541]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Competition Commission considered the issue of 'below cost selling' of alcohol in the context of its current inquiry into the groceries market. It concluded that the practice did not raise competition concerns. Separately, the Government have commissioned independent research examining what relationships may exist between the pricing and availability of alcohol and harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

### Tour Operators: Regulation

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the extent to which tour operators in the activity holiday market comply with the Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations in terms of financial protection for their customers; and what powers he has to take action against companies which do not comply with the regulations. [188018]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department has made no assessment of the extent to which businesses offering activity holidays comply with the requirement in the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3288) that they should be able to provide sufficient evidence of security for the refund of money paid over and for the repatriation of the consumer in

the event of insolvency. Non-compliance by the activity holidays sector with this element of the Regulations is not the subject of any significant number of complaints to my Department, notwithstanding the hon. Member's recent correspondence on behalf of a business within his constituency.

Local authority trading standards officers have powers to enforce the Regulations and, where necessary, prosecute in the criminal courts.

### UK Trade and Investment: Greater London

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment posts there are in *(a)* London and *(b)* Glasgow; and how many there are planned to be at each location in January 2009. [180264]

**Mr. Thomas:** There are approximately 475 trade and investment posts in London and Glasgow. Of these approximately 45 posts are in Glasgow. By January 2009 the trade and investment posts in London will have increased by approximately 170 posts which are being transferred from MOD to BERR under the machinery of government change announced on 11 December 2007.

### Unemployment

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the rate of unemployment was in each of the English regions in each year for which figures are available. [191356]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the rate of unemployment in each English region in each year for which figures are available. (191356)

The attached table gives estimates of those aged 16+ who are unemployed as a percentage of all economically active people in the three months ending June from 1992 to 2007, from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Seasonally adjusted estimates of national and regional unemployment levels and rates are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release. Please visit the following link for further information:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS7WebTable18SA.xls

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Unemployment rate[1] by English regions—three months ending June each year, seasonally adjusted*

*Percentage*

| | *England* | *North East* | *North West* | *Yorkshire and Humber* | *East Midlands* | *West Midlands* | *East* | *London* | *South East* | *South West* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1992 | 9.8 | 12.3 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 8.4 | 11.0 | 8.2 | 12.4 | 8.1 | 9.0 |
| 1993 | 10.4 | 12.6 | 10.5 | 10.1 | 9.0 | 11.7 | 9.3 | 13.5 | 8.2 | 9.2 |
| 1994 | 9.6 | 12.7 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 10.1 | 8.1 | 13.1 | 7.4 | 7.7 |
| 1995 | 8.6 | 11.5 | 9.0 | 8.2 | 7.2 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 12.1 | 6.5 | 7.8 |
| 1996 | 8.1 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 7.3 | 9.4 | 6.4 | 11.6 | 6.1 | 6.2 |
| 1997 | 6.9 | 9.8 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 5.9 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 9.3 | 5.3 | 5.8 |
| 1998 | 6.1 | 8.3 | 6.9 | 7.3 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 4.9 | 8.6 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| 1999 | 5.8 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 7.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| 2000 | 5.3 | 8.9 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 4.8 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 7.4 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| 2001 | 4.8 | 7.4 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 3.6 | 6.2 | 3.2 | 3.6 |
| 2002 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 3.7 | 6.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| 2003 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 7.2 | 3.9 | 3.4 |
| 2004 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 3.8 | 7.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| 2005 | 4.7 | 6.8 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 7.1 | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| 2006 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 7.8 | 4.7 | 3.7 |
| 2007 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 6.8 | 4.6 | 7.4 | 4.2 | 4.0 |

[1] Aged 16+ unemployed persons as a percentage of all economically active persons aged 16 and over.

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Air Passengers

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what specifications have been set for information requirements to be entered into the system for monitoring air passengers that her Department is putting out to tender. [190889]

**Mr. Byrne:** The e-Borders contract was awarded to the Trusted Borders consortium led by Raytheon Systems Ltd. on 14 November 2007.

There are two types of information which need to be collected for the e-Borders system. These are travel document information and other passenger information. e-Borders will require commercial carriers and owner/operators of all vessels scheduled to arrive in or depart the UK to submit detailed passenger, service and crew data to the e-Borders system prior to their departure to and from the UK.

Travel document information (TDI) refers to specified biographical information (name, date of birth, nationality, gender, travel document type, state of issue number and expiry date) relating to a passenger.

Other passenger information (OPI) relates to any other data relating to a passenger held by a carrier in its reservations system and may include, for example, the date on which a reservation was made and payment method. Passenger name records (PNR) are an industry term used by scheduled air carriers to describe the reservation details held by them.

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations within the Animal Procedures Committee's (APC) 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, if she will make a statement on her Department's response to the APC's recommendation 4. [190050]

**Meg Hillier:** We will shortly be reviewing our response to all of the recommendations in this Animal Procedures Committee report, including recommendation 4, and will aim to publish our further conclusions when we publish the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2007.

### Association of University Chief Security Officers

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings Ministers from her Department and officials from the Home Office Counter Terrorism Department have had with the Association of University Chief Security Officers; what the purposes were of such meetings; and if she will make a statement. [188010]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The Association of University Chief Security Officers (AUCSO) falls within the area of responsibility for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Neither my right. hon. Friend the Home Secretary nor I or officials at the Home Office have met directly with AUCSO representatives. Government interaction with AUCSO is carried forward by DIUS who engage with them on counter-terrorism issues as well as other matters.

### British Crime Survey

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the results of the British Crime Survey, in relation to the perception of antisocial behaviour in the South Wales police force area in 2006-07. [187100]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a nationally representative survey of adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England and Wales. The survey includes questions on perceived problems with antisocial behaviour. In the 2006-07 BCS, 20 per cent. of people in South Wales perceived there to be high levels of antisocial behaviour in their local area. Figures for South Wales are similar to the average for England and Wales.

Annual assessments of Police Forces in England and Wales are published jointly by the Home Office and HMIC. As part of the 'Police Performance Assessments 2006-07', South Wales police were assessed as 'poor' and 'stable' for perceptions of antisocial behaviour. Details of the assessments are available on the Home Office website:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment

### Citizens' Juries

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of each document prepared for each of her Department's citizens' juries. [164859]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office held a Citizens' Jury on Crime which took place on 12 September 2007. The Home Office will place a copy of the final report in the Library when it is published.

### Control Orders

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are subject to control orders; for how long each has been subject to the order; and on what date the prospect of prosecution was most recently considered in each case. [187253]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are currently 11 individuals subject to control orders. The following dates reflect when these individuals were first served with a control order (since that point their original control order may have been renewed, quashed and/or revoked and replaced with a new one).

Two individuals were served with control orders in March 2005.

One individual was served with a control order in September 2005.

One individual was served with a control order in November 2005.

One individual was served with a control order in December 2005.

One individual was served with a control order in July 2006.

One individual was served with a control order in August 2006.

One individual was served with control order in September 2006.

One individual was served with a control order in June 2007.

One individual was served with a control order in July 2007.

One individual was served with a control order in January 2008.

A decision on whether to prosecute a particular individual is an operational matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. The police are under a duty to keep under review the possibility of prosecution of individuals subject to a control order for offences relating to terrorism, and to consult with the Crown Prosecution Service as appropriate. The possibility of prosecution is considered on an ongoing basis and this is formally captured on a quarterly basis via the Control Order Review Group (CORG). The last round of CORGs was held on 3 to 6 December 2007.

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her office received the annual report on control orders from the independent reviewer in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007. [187407]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Home Office received a draft of the third annual report on control orders on Sunday 10 February 2008. The report was finalised by Lord Carlile on 14 February 2008 and published on 18 February 2008.

*(b)* The Home Office received a draft of the second annual report on control orders on 25 January 2007. The report was finalised by Lord Carlile on 2 February 2007 and published on 19 February 2007.

### Crimes of Violence: Ports

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks have been made on UK lorry drivers returning through the Channel ports by potential illegal immigrants since 1 January 2008. [191190]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify such offences from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

### Crimes of Violence: Young People

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle knife crime amongst young people. [187000]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government published their Tackling Violence Action Plan 'Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public.' on 18 February 2008. This addresses a broad range of serious violence offences, and has a particular focus on knife crime.

The Action Plan recognises the public concern and addresses the dangers of youngsters who carry knives and are at risk of committing serious violence. It sets out a range of actions to tackle serious violence including knife crime over the next three years.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in her Department. [188808]

**Mr. Byrne:** The salary ranges for each pay band of civil servants are as follows:

*Home Office HQs and Border and Immigration Agency pay range 2007-08*

| | Salary | |
|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Minimum (£)* | *Maximum (£)* |
| AA - National | 12,950 | 14,333 |
| London | 13,763 | 15,233 |
| AO - National | 14,627 | 16,860 |
| London | 15,704 | 18,101 |
| EO - National | 19,237 | 23,093 |
| London | 20,034 | 24,050 |
| HEO - National | 24,050 | 28,870 |
| London | 25,046 | 30,066 |
| SEO - National | 30,995 | 36,831 |
| London | 32,279 | 38,357 |
| G7 - National | 41,601 | 53,615 |
| London | 43,325 | 55,837 |
| G6 - National | 50,963 | 65,681 |

*Home Office HQs and Border and Immigration Agency pay range 2007-08*

| | Salary | |
|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Minimum (£)* | *Maximum (£)* |
| London | 53,074 | 68,402 |
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS Pay Band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 |

*Identity and Passport Service (IPS) pay range August 2006*[1]

| | Salary | |
|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Minimum (£)* | *Maximum (£)* |
| PO1 - National | 12,605 | 12,995 |
| London | 13,438 | 13,869 |
| PO2 - National | 13,236 | 14,872 |
| London | 14,110 | 15,885 |
| P03 - National | 14,631 | 17,459 |
| London | 15,612 | 18,678 |
| EO - National | 17,959 | 23,076 |
| London | 18,706 | 24,037 |
| HEO - National | 23,432 | 28,865 |
| London | 24,404 | 30,063 |
| HEO Acct - National | 29,149 | 35,395 |
| London | 30,344 | 36,846 |
| SEO - National | 29,132 | 35,375 |
| London | 30,344 | 36,846 |
| SEO Acct - National | 34,292 | 41,650 |
| London | 35,705 | 43,357 |
| Grade seven - National | 42,765 | 54,556 |
| London | 44,688 | 57,012 |
| Grade six - National | 50,545 | 66,647 |
| London | 52,820 | 69,645 |

[1] Please note, the 2007 award is pending.

*Notes:*
1. 'Acct': accountancy pay scales.
2. London Pay scales differ to National pay scales and are shown on separate lines.

*Criminal Records Bureau pay range October 2007 to August 2008*

| | Salary | |
|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Minimum (£)* | *Maximum (£)* |
| AA | 12,883 | 15,002 |
| AO | 14,551 | 18,377 |
| EO | 19,333 | 24,416 |
| SPS | 19,730 | 24,416 |
| HEO | 24,170 | 31,468 |
| SEO | 31,150 | 38,160 |
| SEO ACC | 34,478 | 43,101 |
| G7 | 41,387 | 56,688 |
| G6 | 50,700 | 70,153 |

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187503]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office is unable to provide information on how many staff have retired on grounds of stress-related illness. Our database records any retirement that is as a result of sickness as a 'medical retirement'. The Home Office is committed to reducing work related stress and ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all employees. The Home Office policy is concerned with managing the risk factors of stress in the workplace for the reduction or elimination (so far as is reasonably practicable) of the causes of work-related stress, together with the provision of support for staff who may experience stress from any cause.

### Deportation

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice in decisions on deportation. [191405]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice is for British nationals. There is often a difference between the risks a British citizen would face when travelling to a foreign country and those for someone returning to what is their home country. Travel advice aimed at British travellers cannot therefore be assumed to apply in the same way to nationals of the country concerned. Instead, decisions about whether it would be safe to return an individual to their country of origin are taken in the light of all the available information about conditions as they relate to nationals of that country.

### Deportation: Cameroon

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she has taken of recent events in Cameroon in plans to review her policy on deportations to that country; and what recent discussions she has had with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this matter. [191560]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* Officials from the Border and Immigration Agency continue to closely monitor the situation in Cameroon and are in regular contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in order to obtain accurate and up-to-date information on recent events there. Asylum and human rights applications made from Cameroonian nationals continue to be considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of the latest available information about the conditions in Cameroon as they impact on the individual applicant. The Border and Immigration Agency only enforces the removal of Cameroonian nationals who we are satisfied are not in need of protection.

### Dogs

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to deal with attacks by dogs on *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [191009]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government take all violent crime extremely seriously. A person who uses a dog to attack another person, provided they have the requisite intent, could be committing one of a range of offences of violence against the person such as grievous bodily harm. Any such offence will be investigated and prosecuted in the same way as any other violent crime.

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended in 1997) makes it an offence to breed, or breed from, four types of dog identified as bred specifically for fighting: the pit bull terrier; the Japanese Tosa; the Dogo Argentino; and the Fila Braziliero. It is also an offence to sell or exchange, or advertise or offer for sale or exchange, any of these dogs.

The legislation also provides protection to the public from a dog of any type or breed which is dangerously out of control in a public place, or in a private place where it has no right to be.

Following the tragic dog attacks on children last year and earlier this year, we are currently undertaking a review of the dangerous dogs legislation.

### Drugs: Misuse

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal *(a)* cannabis and *(b)* methamphetamine factories were detected in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area. [191379]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

### Emergency Calls

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost was of each of the four pilot schemes piloting the non-emergency 101 number; what assessment has been made of the pilot schemes; and if she will place a copy of the final report in the Library; [188366]

(2) what the cost was of each of the four pilot schemes for the non-emergency 101 number; what assessment has been made of the pilot schemes; and if she place a copy of the final report on the schemes in the Library. [188869]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 254W and on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 580W.

### Entry Clearances

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on entry clearances, what estimate her Department has made of the number of foreign nationals resident in the UK who the Government are permitted to require to possess a biometric information document under the UK Borders Act 2007; what estimate her Department has made of the percentage such individuals constitute of the total number of foreign nationals resident in the United Kingdom; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of biometric information documents the Government plans to issue to such nationals by *(a)* January 2009, *(b)* January 2010 and *(c)* January 2011; and if she will make a statement. [184425]

**Mr. Byrne:** The roll out strategy for biometric immigration documents will be published shortly.

### Foreign Workers: Iraq

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plan to provide accommodation in the UK to Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence and their families who are granted indefinite leave to enter. [190411]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency is currently in the process of putting in place a reception, orientation and integration package for Iraqi citizens who enter the UK as part of the direct entry scheme. This package will include the provision of accommodation.

### Frontiers: Personal Records

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of Project Semaphore since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [176720]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Project Semaphore was launched in November 2004 and was commissioned to run for 39 months to provide an operational prototype to trial e-Borders concepts and technology in order to inform and de-risk the e-Borders solution.

Up to November 2007 the cost of Project Semaphore was £38 million.

To date, there have been over 19,000 alerts issued resulting in more than 1500 arrests for crimes which include murder, kidnap, rape, assault, firearms and fraud. These include:

Significant number of registered sex offenders identified leaving UK.

Significant counter-terrorist interventions.

### Genetics: Databases

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of new DNA profiles added to the National DNA database in each month since September 2007 relate to individuals aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 20, *(d)* 21 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 40, *(f)* 41 to 50, *(g)* 51 to 60 and *(h)* over 60 years, broken down by police force; and if she will make a statement. [179093]

**Meg Hillier:** The figures given in the tables are the number of subject sample profiles taken by police forces in England and Wales and loaded to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) between 1 October 2007 and 18 January 2008. The data was obtained on 18 January 2008 and is based on the current age of the subjects as at 18 January 2008. Copies have been placed in the Library.

A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). During 2007, the replication rate was calculated to be 13.7 per cent. It was re-calculated as at 31 December 2007 and it is now estimated that 13.3 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. Therefore, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is now approximately 13.3 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. None the less, a long-term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of all such redundant replicate profiles.

### Homicide

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many honour killings were recorded by each police force in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [185349]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information cannot be provided as, currently, circumstances around so-called honour killings are not identifiable from centrally-held homicide data. However, over the coming months we will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers to develop an honour-based violence action plan that will seek to ensure that all reports of honour-based violence are investigated and to increase awareness of this appalling crime. We will be reporting on the progress of this work on a regular basis.

More broadly, we are currently developing a national black and minority ethnic (BME) working group of Government, statutory agencies and the third sector that will promote a partnership approach to issues such as domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, so-called honour crimes and female genital mutilation. The group will identify and develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims.

We are also aware that we need to understand more about the help-seeking behaviours of women from BME communities with a view to informing national policy and practice development. We have commissioned research from Bristol university to undertake a study of this and expect interim findings in September 2008.

### Illegal Immigrants: Crime

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people residing in the UK illegally were convicted of a criminal offence in each year since 2002. [183035]

**Jacqui Smith:** In order to provide the information requested the detailed examination of individual case files would be required and for this to be cross referenced with information held on the Police National Computer.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee and provided the most robust and accurate information available on foreign national prisoners. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

### Immigrants: Police Custody

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Immigration Service used police cells to hold immigrants in each year since 1997; and what the average cost was in each police force area in each year. [190827]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records and could therefore be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government seeks to deport *(a)* foreign national offenders sentenced to imprisonment for a period of less than one year and *(b)* foreign national offenders sentenced to non-custodial community punishments. [180681]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised in her appearance before the Home Affairs committee on 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the United Kingdom in 2007. Our policy was set out very clearly during the passage of the UK Borders Act.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government seeks to deport foreign national offenders sentenced to *(a)* less than a year's custody and *(b)* non-custodial community punishments for (i) possession of a firearm and (ii) possession of class B or C drugs with intent to supply. [180682]

**Mr. Byrne:** Our policy was set out very clearly during the passage of the UK Borders Act.

### Offensive Weapons: Crime

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research has been undertaken by her Department on *(a)* areas and *(b)* communities with high levels of knife-related crime. [180309]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office regularly collects information on knives and violent incidents via the British Crime Survey. The findings are published each year at national level. Data from the 2006-07 survey can be found on the Home Office web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pdf

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) also includes questions on young people carrying and using knives. These findings are also published at national level. The latest published information from the 2005 survey can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1706.pdf

Historically, homicide has been the only offence category for which police recorded knife crime is collected by the Home Office. Figures are published each year for method of killing, and 'sharp instrument' is one of these methods. National findings for 2006-07 can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf

Data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences have been collected centrally since April 2007. Figures for 2007-08 will be published in July 2008 in the next annual 'Crime in England and Wales' volume.

### Police Custody

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the development of police investigation and detainee handling centres. [176300]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provision of Police Investigation and Detainee Handling Centres in each force area is an operational matter for the chief officer of the force concerned.

### Police National Computer

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have access to the police national computer. [188453]

**Mr. McNulty:** The following organisations have access to the police national computer:

All Police Forces in England and Wales
All Police Forces in Scotland
Police Service of Northern Ireland
Isle of Man Constabulary
States of Jersey Police
Guernsey Police
British Transport Police
Security Service
Secret Intelligence Service
The Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Serious and Organised Crime Agency
Ministry of Defence Police
Service Police Crime Bureau
Disclosure Scotland
Access Northern Ireland
National Identification Service
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Royal Mail Consignia Security and Investigation Service
Home Office Departmental Security Unit
Home Office Immigration Managed Migration Directorate
Department for Transport
Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
H.M. Prison Service
Defence Vetting Agency
Criminal Cases Review Commission
National Air Traffic Services
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Ministry of Justice Department for Constitutional Affairs—Crown Court
Jury Service
Ministry of Justice Department for Constitutional Affairs—Warrants
The Office of Fair Trading
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Border and Immigration Agency
Department of Works and Pensions Solicitors
Office for Civil Nuclear Security
Financial Services Authority
Health and Safety Executive

Scottish Police Services Authority
Scottish Crime Drug Enforcement Agency
Charity Commission for England and Wales
Assets Recovery Agency
NHS Counter Fraud Services
The Pensions Regulator
Mersey Tunnels Police
H.M. Inspectorate of Constabulary
The Environment Agency
Independent Police Complaints Commission
The Highways Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
NPIA National DNA Database Custodian
NPIA Bramshill Police College

### Police Stations

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 389W, on police stations, how many police buildings have been *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority area. [189368]

**Mr. McNulty:** The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 389W, on police stations, what changes in the use of police buildings have taken place in the last five years. [189369]

**Mr. McNulty:** The use of police stations has changed in recent years to reflect more modern policing. Many forces have now devised innovative ways of increasing their accessibility to members of the public by using other more modern methods of interaction, such as police shops in high streets, police kiosks and by use of mobile police stations—particularly in rural areas.

The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 389W, on police stations, how many police buildings there were in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [189370]

**Mr. McNulty:** The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

### Police: Ethnic Groups

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the participants at the review of policing event on 31 July 2007 were *(a)* Afro-Caribbean, *(b)* Muslim, *(c)* Sikh and *(d)* Jewish. [190824]

**Mr. McNulty:** The event, held on 31 July 2007, sought the views of an invited audience on a number of key issues relating to Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing, but specifically with regards to equality and diversity issues. The groups and organisations represented at the event included:

1990 Trust—Promotes the interests of Britain's black communities
Action Aid—Global anti-poverty agency
a: gender—Transgender group
British Association of Women in Policing
Calderdale Race Equality Council
Carisma—Black and Minority Ethnic group
Commission for Racial Equality
Committee for Protection of Turkish Rights
Galop—Transgender group
Gay Police Association
GIRES—Transgender group
Henna Foundation—Asian Women's Group
Latin Front
Metropolitan Police Service Independent Advisory Group
National Association of Muslim Police
National Black Police Association
National Travellers Action Group
Peace Alliance
Police Superintendents Association
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
Stonewall

and a number of independent community members representing the black and minority ethnic community.

Individual participants were not monitored by religion or ethnicity on the day.

### Police: Eyesight

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a cost-benefit analysis of offering corrective laser eye surgery to firearms officers. [185241]

**Mr. McNulty:** The consideration of privately funding corrective laser eye surgery is a matter for individual Chief Officers of Police.

### Police: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much central Government funding is being provided to each police authority in the 2007-08 financial year; how much each authority is raising through local precepts; and how much the combined figure for both funding streams represents per head of population in each authority area. [189604]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information is set out in the following table.

We do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

*Police authority total Government grant allocations 2006-07 and 200708*

| | 2007-08 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Government grant*[1, 2, 3] | *Council tax requirement* | *Resident population* |
| Avon and Somerset | 184.21 | 80.39 | 1.55 |
| Bedfordshire | 76.21 | 24.75 | 0.59 |
| Cambridgeshire | 85.58 | 39.40 | 0.76 |
| Cheshire | 136.12 | 42.56 | 1.00 |
| Cleveland | 105.29 | 26.50 | 0.55 |
| Cumbria | 72 29 | 29.89 | 0.49 |
| Derbyshire | 119.81 | 45.63 | 0.99 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 199.38 | 78.64 | 1.65 |
| Dorset | 82.66 | 45.35 | 0.71 |
| Durham | 97.68 | 25.11 | 0.5$ |
| Dyfed-Powys | 34.17 | 31.80 | 0.51 |
| Essex | 187.91 | 73.23 | 1.66 |
| Gloucestershire | 71.35 | 38.92 | 0.58 |
| Greater Manchester | 484.16 | 90.79 | 3.55 |
| Gwent | 45.70 | 32.00 | 0.56 |
| Hampshire | 221.75 | 84.04 | 1.83 |
| Hertfordshire | 127.33 | 56.62 | 1.06 |
| Humberside | 134.90 | 42.23 | 0.89 |
| Kent | 219.23 | 75.16 | 1.65 |
| Lancashire | 215.90 | 58.56 | 1.44 |
| Leicestershire | 126.03 | 42.95 | 0.96 |
| Lincolnshire | 72.47 | 29.71 | 0.70 |
| Merseyside | 287.30 | 54.15 | 1.36 |
| Metropolitan[4] | 2,115.40 | 648.96 | 7.56 |
| Norfolk | 102.25 | 47.44 | 0.84 |
| North Wales | 50.28 | 48.49 | 0.68 |
| North Yorkshire | 79.39 | 54.18 | 0.77 |
| Northamptonshire | 78.53 | 38.23 | 0.66 |
| Northumbria | 260.01 | 31.90 | 1.39 |
| Nottinghamshire | 145.55 | 45.00 | 1.04 |
| South Wales | 94.82 | 59.93 | 1.23 |
| South Yorkshire | 211.15 | 44.71 | 1.28 |
| Staffordshire | 126.77 | 56.40 | 1.05 |
| Suffolk | 75.57 | 34.08 | 0.70 |
| Surrey | 110.12 | 83.21 | 1.08 |
| Sussex | 189.14 | 75.64 | 1.54 |
| Thames Valley | 261.98 | 117.82 | 2.15 |
| Warwickshire | 56.91 | 28.59 | 0.53 |
| West Mercia | 131.49 | 67.95 | 1.19 |
| West Midlands | 487.88 | 71.58 | 2.59 |
| West Yorkshire | 348.95 | 77.82 | 2.13 |
| Wiltshire | 73.03 | 33.64 | 0.64 |
| England and Wales Total | 6,271.23 | 2,813.97 | 53.68 |

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office Police Grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh Police Authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English Authorities.
[3] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-01 onwards is not available from DCLG as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA. Data used is compiled from Home Office data for allocated grants.
[4] 2007-08 Government grant figures are budget figures.
*Source:*
Government grant and council tax requirement figures: DCLG - from English police authorities/WAG - from Welsh police authorities. Population data supplied by DCLG from ONS.

**Police: Information and Communications Technology**

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to the Police Portal; why the Police Portal was withdrawn; what plans she has to introduce a secure online crime reporting system for use by police forces; and if she will make a statement. [190342]

**Mr. McNulty:** This matter is subject to ongoing legal proceedings and it would, therefore, not be appropriate to provide the requested information at this stage.

**Police: Retirement**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of retired police officers in North Yorkshire and the impact of the cost of their pensions on the operational budget of North Yorkshire Police. [189093]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of retired police officers in individual police forces is not held centrally as the administration of the police pension schemes is the responsibility of each individual police authority.

Under the new system of pensions financing introduced on 1 April 2006 police authorities now have a separate pensions account out of which retired officers' pensions are paid. Where the cost of pensions in payment exceeds the level of employer and officer contributions paid into the pension account in any year the account is topped up with a grant from central Government; any surplus is recouped. A key benefit of this change is that it takes away from police authorities the burden of the rising cost of pensions, as the number of pensioners increases, from the operational budget. Instead, the operational budget now only has to provide for the employers' contributions in respect of serving officers.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many senior police officers were permitted to retire while under disciplinary investigation in each of the last five years. [189159]

**Mr. McNulty:** The retirement of senior police officers is primarily a matter for the officer concerned, and his or her police authority. The Home Office does not collate information on those who retire while subject to disciplinary investigation.

**Resettlement: Iraq**

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the Gateway Programme the UK Government has received from Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence. [189855]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Gateway programme policy states that an individual cannot make an application for resettlement directly to the Border and Immigration Agency. Applications can only be made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the UK following an individual assessment by them

in a third country. As of 27 February, one formal application for the Gateway programme had been made by UNHCR to the UK on behalf of Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens formerly employed by *(a)* the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(c)* the Department for International Development have been screened by the Border and Immigration Agency since 8 October 2007. [189942]

**Mr. Byrne:** Since 8 October 2007 the Border and Immigration Agency has screened the following number of Iraqi citizens who were formerly employed by the three main employing Departments:

74 Iraqi citizens who were formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have been or are being screened by the Border and Immigration Agency.

Eight Iraqi citizens who were formerly employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been or are being screened by the Border and Immigration Agency.

Three Iraqi citizens who were formerly employed by the Department for International Development have been or are being screened by the Border and Immigration Agency.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disclosure notices have been obtained by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to date. [187276]

**Jacqui Smith:** SOCA's annual report for 2006-07 reported the use of 22 disclosure notices. Comparable figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 confers powers on the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions and the Lord Advocate in relation to the giving of disclosure notices. Detailed cross-matching and validation of data between SOCA and its partners is carried out at the end of each financial year.

As required under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will publish a report on the exercise of its functions during 2007-08 as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. Comparable figures for 2007-08 will be available when this report is published.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people employed by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency have been trained in powers of arrest since 1 April 2006. [187277]

**Jacqui Smith:** Further to my response of 8 March 2007, 182 SOCA staff are undergoing the SOCA investigators course, which incorporates training in powers of arrest.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases relating to *(a)* drugs, *(b)* firearms and *(c)* counterfeit currency have been referred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) by HM Revenue and Customs; and how many of those cases have been investigated by SOCA. [187278]

**Jacqui Smith:** Between 1 April 2006 and 31 August 2006, 444 notifications relating to drugs seizures were referred to SOCA by HM Revenue and Customs. Four of these cases were investigated by SOCA.

In order to align these notifications with the UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy a refined framework was introduced on 1 September 2006. Since then 101 notifications relating to drugs seizures have been received and SOCA has undertaken investigations in 30 of these cases.

No notifications have been received relating to firearms or counterfeit currency.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted as a result of operations by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [187280]

**Jacqui Smith:** The SOCA annual report for 2006-07 reported that SOCA casework in the UK had led to 749 arrests; 283 cases reached court and 271 resulted in convictions.

Detailed cross-matching and validation of data between SOCA and its partners is carried out at the end of each financial year. SOCA will publish a report on the exercise of all their functions during 2007-08 as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Firearms

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms have been seized by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [187284]

**Jacqui Smith:** The SOCA Annual Report for 2006-07 reported that SOCA activity had contributed to the seizure of 151 firearms in the UK.

Detailed cross-matching and validation of data between SOCA and its partners is carried out at the end of each financial year. As required under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will publish a report on the exercise of all its functions during 2007-08 as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [187283]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of full-time equivalent staff directly employed by SOCA at 31 January 2008 was 4,008.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Resignations

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff resigned from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each quarter since 1 April 2006. [187279]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of resignations from SOCA over the past seven quarters, since 1 April 2006, are: seven, 10, 28, 30, 36, 46, 29 and three staff have resigned during the current quarter.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Secondment

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are seconded to partner agencies overseas. [187282]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are 32 officers from the Serious Organised Crime Agency embedded with partner agencies overseas.

### Shoplifting: Wales

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for shoplifting in the South Wales police force area in each of the last two years. [187096]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on how many people were *(a)* arrested for shoplifting cannot be separately identified from the main offence group of 'other theft offences' of which it is a part.

The number of people who were *(b)* convicted for shoplifting in the South Wales police area was 1,704 in 2005 and 1,187 in 2006.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the incidence of shoplifting in the South Wales Police Division H area. [187097]

**Mr. Coaker:** It is not possible to accurately assess the prevalence of shoplifting. For a variety of reasons many offences are not reported to the police and many offences do not come to the attention of the victim. The available information is contained in the Home Office recorded crime statistics.

South Wales police Division H equates to the Swansea basic command unit (BCU). At BCU level, the Home Office collects statistics on the numbers of offences recorded by the police for that area.

The following table shows that when comparing 2005-06 with 2006-07, shoplifting offences recorded for Swansea BCU have increased by 19 per cent., from 1,449 to 1,726 offences. In 2006-07, shoplifting accounted for 8 per cent. of all crime recorded by the police in the Swansea BCU.

Overall in 2006-07 there was a fall of 6 per cent. in total recorded crime in Swansea. There were also significant decreases in some of the high volume crimes with theft of a motor vehicle down 22 per cent., theft from a vehicle down 11 per cent. and violence against the person down 15 per cent.

*Shoplifting offences recorded and detected in Swansea basic command unit (BCU)*

| | *Number of offences recorded* | *Number of sanction detections* | *Sanction detection rate (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,492 | 741 | 50 |
| 200304 | 1,553 | 710 | 46 |
| 2004-05 | 1,451 | 869 | 60 |
| 2005-06 | 1,449 | 907 | 63 |
| 2006-07 | 1,726 | 1,166 | 68 |

### Special Constables: Travel

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend free travel on mainline railways in London to volunteer special police constables within the Metropolitan Police Service; and if she will make a statement. [190160]

**Mr. McNulty:** I understand that the Metropolitan Police Service has no plans to extend free travel on mainline railways for special constables.

### Task Force on Child Protection: Internet

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operating budget was of the Task Force on Child Protection on the Internet in each year since its inception; and how many dedicated staff were employed by the Task Force in each year. [190814]

**Mr. Coaker:** All groups and organisations in the Home Secretary's taskforce on Online Child Protection contribute to resources and products which have been produced on an 'as needed' basis. There is no dedicated budget or resource.

### Terrorism

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to create offences of *(a)* grooming and *(b)* radicalisation of children and vulnerable people by terrorists and extremist organisations. [188303]

**Mr. McNulty:** There are no current plans for additional legislation to create specific offences of 'grooming' and 'radicalising' children and vulnerable people. The Terrorism Act 2006 introduced offences regarding the encouragement of terrorism which we believe are sufficient in this regard. Government continue to monitor the effectiveness of current terrorism legislation, and we are committed to working with communities and young people to build resilience to the threat from violent extremists who seek to undermine our shared values.

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from the Scottish Executive on the judicial processes to apply to those to be charged with terrorist offences where those offences are planned in England but carried out in Scotland. [190852]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The Counter-Terrorism Bill introduced on 24 January 2008 includes a proposal to enable specific terrorist offences committed in any part of the UK to be dealt with in

any part of the UK. This provision updates the law and enables police forces and prosecuting authorities to handle terrorist cases in the most effective way. The Scottish Executive was fully consulted on this proposal before the Counter-Terrorism Bill was introduced.

### Terrorism: Arrests

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been (i) arrested, (ii) charged with and (iii) convicted of terrorist-related offences since the introduction of the Terrorism Act 2000; [184744]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted of terrorist-related offences under (i) the Terrorism Act 2000, (ii) the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, (iii) the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and (iv) the Terrorism Act 2006; [184745]

(3) how many people arrested under *(a)* the Terrorism Act 2000, *(b)* the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, *(c)* the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and *(d)* the Terrorism Act 2006 have been (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of a non-terrorism related offence since each Act came into force. [184746]

**Mr. McNulty:** Statistics on the number of arrests, charges and convictions under the Terrorism Act 2000 and under other legislation are available on the Home Office website. The figures are not broken down in the format requested as a power of arrest only exists under S41 of TACT 2000. There is no power of arrest under any of the other Acts mentioned.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/

Since 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007, there have been 1,228 arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 or under other legislation, where the investigation was conducted as a Terrorist investigation. Of the total 1,228 arrested, 1,165 were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 63 arrests under other legislation, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation; 132 were charged with terrorism legislation offences only, and 109 charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty. So far in 2008,18 people have been convicted of significant terrorist related offences of which seven individuals pleaded guilty.

### Terrorism: Children

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of children by terrorist organisations; and if she will make a statement. [188264]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Assessment on the tactics used by terrorist organisations and trends are produced by the appropriate parts of the national security machinery. The Director General of the Security Service has said that terrorist organisations are attempting to radicalise young people. As a country we all have a shared duty to resist violent extremism and to protect young people from extremist messages. The Government are committed to working with communities and young people to build resilience to the threat from violent extremist groups who seek to undermine our shared values. While acknowledging the seriousness of the threat we currently face, the vast majority of people in Britain reject violent extremism.

### Terrorism: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to improve counter terrorism efforts in the West Midlands in the last 10 years. [167514]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Since early 2003, the United Kingdom has had a long-term strategy for countering international terrorism (known within Government as CONTEST). Its aim is to reduce the risk from international terrorism, so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is divided into four principal strands: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The polices and activities which flow from that cover the whole of the United Kingdom.

As part of this strategy the Government have developed a national structure for counter terrorism policing which includes a Counter Terrorism Unit based in the West Midlands. The unit was established in April 2007 and will reach full capacity in 2008. The national structure has significantly increased the ability of the police to gather intelligence and evidence against terrorists and to disrupt them and their activities.

### Theft: Children

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were charged or cautioned for robbery in Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. [189979]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

Information covering persons aged under 18 cautioned or proceeded against at magistrates courts for robbery in the Cambridgeshire police force area from 1997-2006 are provided in the following table.

The court proceedings database held by my Department does not contain information on charging. Also, data are not available below police force area level.

*Number of offenders aged 10-17 cautioned and defendants aged 10-17 proceeded against for Robbery in the Cambridgeshire police force area, 1997-2006*[1,2]

| | *Offenders cautioned* | *Defendants proceeded against* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 6 | 38 |
| 1998 | 2 | 30 |
| 1999 | — | 49 |
| 2000 | 3 | 40 |
| 2001 | 2 | 28 |
| 2002 | 1 | 37 |
| 2003 | — | 34 |
| 2004 | 6 | 28 |
| 2005 | 6 | 38 |
| 2006 | — | 34 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 6 March 2008*

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Office of the Third Sector

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what responsibilities the Office of the Third Sector has in relation to the Charity Commission. [191374]

**Phil Hope:** The Charity Commission (the Commission) is a non-ministerial Government Department and is the independent regulator of Charities in England and Wales. In the exercise of its functions it is not subject to the direction or control of any Minister of the Crown or other Government Department. The Minister for the Cabinet Office appoints the members of the Commission's board and conducts parliamentary business on the Commission's behalf. He has policy responsibility for the law in relation to charities in England and Wales, including making Regulations and Orders under the Charities Acts. The Office of the Third Sector works closely with the Commission on matters of mutual interest, such as the implementation of the Charities Act 2006, while recognising and respecting the Commission's independence.

## PRIME MINISTER

### China

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 747-48W, on China, what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on *(a)* the selection of business leaders to accompany him on his trip to China, *(b)* the basis on which such business leaders were invited and *(c)* any bilateral business agreements made during the visit; and if he will make a statement. [190950]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

### Departmental Reviews

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Prime Minister what reviews he has commissioned since June 2007; on what date each review commenced; what progress has been made on each to date; and when each is expected to report. [191048]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) at Prime Minister's Questions on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 949.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister what the evidential basis was for the statement in the 2002 Iraq dossier that Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes of an order to use them; and if he will make a statement. [190871]

**The Prime Minister:** These matters have been examined during the course of the Butler Review and other inquiries, and covered during debates and statements on Iraq and in briefings by my predecessor's official spokesman. All relevant information has been placed in the public domain in as far as that could be done without prejudicing national security.

### Legal Opinion: Armed Forces

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to publish legal advice provided to the Cabinet on proposals to go to war or otherwise commit the military to action. [190528]

**The Prime Minister:** Advice from the Law Officers is handled in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code.

### Sudan

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit Darfur. [192079]

**The Prime Minister:** For Security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Age: Discrimination

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research she has commissioned on the incidence of discrimination in the supply of goods and services to people on the basis of age; and if she will make a statement. [190506]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government Equalities Office has worked with the Department of Health to commission two literature reviews and two research studies to assess the costs and benefits of eliminating age discrimination in the provision of health and social care.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by the Government Equalities Office. [185428]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government Equalities Office has two Microsoft Access databases that hold a register of its staff and its stakeholders respectively. These databases are maintained by GEO and hold no sensitive data. Access to these databases is restricted to GEO staff.

### Gender Responsive Budgeting

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will evaluate the merits of the application of gender responsive budgeting in the Government's public expenditure process; and if she will make a statement. [190477]

**Barbara Follett:** Gender responsive budgeting is one of a range of tools which the Government are using to tackle gender inequality.

We will be working with women's non-government organisations to improve gender analysis of tax and spending policies over the forthcoming year.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191264]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7297/7297.pdf

For the Department for International Development, no regulatory impact assessments have been listed. Departments are in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007. The Department for International Development did not conduct any regulatory impact assessments within this period.

From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188797]

**Gillian Merron:** The salary range for each pay band of civil servant in the Department for International Development is shown in the following table:

£

| | London | | National | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* |
| *DFID grade* | | | | |
| SCS pay band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 | 99,960 | 205,000 |
| SCS pay band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS pay band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| A1 | 53,490 | 64,925 | 50,850 | 62,130 |
| A2 | 43,298 | 53,583 | 39,842 | 49,925 |
| A2(L) | 37,500 | 42,342 | 35,000 | 39,842 |
| B1(D) | 29,000 | 34,925 | 29,000 | 34,925 |
| B1 | 27,814 | 31,815 | 24,069 | 27,840 |
| B2 | 22,825 | 25,775 | 19,093 | 21,845 |
| C1 | 18,394 | 21,285 | 14,713 | 17,365 |
| C2 | 16,817 | 17,923 | 13,137 | 14,005 |
| *Civil service grade* | | | | |
| SCS pay band 3 | 99,960 | 205,000 | 99,960 | 205,000 |
| SCS pay band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| SCS pay band 1 | 56,100 | 116,000 | 56,100 | 116,000 |
| G6 | 53,490 | 64,925 | 50,850 | 62,130 |
| G7 | 43,298 | 53,583 | 39,842 | 49,925 |
| SEO/G7 | 37,500 | 42,342 | 35,000 | 39,842 |
| HEO(D) | 29,000 | 34,925 | 29,000 | 34,925 |
| HEO | 27,814 | 31,815 | 24,069 | 27,840 |
| EO | 22,825 | 25,775 | 19,093 | 21,845 |
| AO | 18,394 | 21,285 | 14,713 | 17,365 |
| AA | 16,817 | 17,923 | 13,137 | 14,005 |

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Bingo

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people belonging to bingo clubs in England. [191565]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Information on the number of people belonging to bingo clubs in England is not collected or held centrally.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential of bingo clubs to contribute to the delivery of his Department's leisure policies; and if he will make a statement. [191570]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Gambling Act was prepared by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in April 2005. This contained a competition assessment for the bingo market. The RIA can be accessed on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Gambling_racing/

The Department has a close working relationship with the Bingo Association, the main trade body representing the interests of the industry. This enables the Department to have a good understanding of the issues of importance to the bingo industry. The Government recognise that bingo provides a very popular leisure pursuit for the millions of people who play the game each year. Bingo halls provide an important source of employment and play a significant social role in their local communities.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the level of value added tax payable by bingo clubs; and if he will make a statement. [191571]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Ministers and officials have had discussions with Treasury about a range of gambling issues.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress she has made in the zero-based budget review of expenditure for which she is responsible under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191483]

**Tessa Jowell:** On 10 December 2007 the Government announced the result of work undertaken to ensure that the budget for the Games is fully aligned with scope, programme and risks; and confirmed that the findings of this work validated the ODA Budget, and the overall funding package of £9.325 billion that was announced in March 2007, which is consistent with the CSR settlement.

Details of progress across the Olympic programme, and funding for the Games, can be found in the first Annual Report on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, published on 22 January 2008. I will make further reports to Parliament on a six monthly basis.

### Ministerial Duties: Paymaster General

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what functions she has carried out in her capacity as Paymaster General. [191662]

**Tessa Jowell:** My ministerial functions are set out in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities, which is available for reference in the Libraries of the House.

## WALES

### A55: Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many personal injury accidents there were on the A55 in Wales in each of the last five years; and how many involved at least one heavy goods vehicle in each year. [190565]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The data regarding personal injury accidents on the A55 in Wales are contained in the table. Although these figures encouragingly show a downward trend, the number of accidents in 2006 is still very regrettable.

*Personal injury accidents on A55 between Holyhead and Wales/England boundary*

| | Total | 3.5t + |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 140 | 12 |
| 2003 | 125 | 7 |
| 2004 | 131 | 6 |
| 2005 | 101 | 7 |
| 2006 | 89 | 5 |

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191523]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** In line with anti-age discrimination legislation and good practice, the Wales Office does not ask candidates to provide their age or date of birth when applying for jobs, because of this it is not possible to separate those staff from the others recruited.

### Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department was informed of *(a)* the dumping of toxic waste and *(b)* the leaching of toxins into groundwater at Brofiscin Quarry; what steps have been taken to (i) remove the waste and (ii) prevent further leaching; and if he will make a statement. [191180]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** All records relating to the former Welsh Office on this issue have been transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government. However, I understand the Welsh Office was aware of the contamination in 1975 from a report prepared by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory on behalf of the then Department for the Environment. The Welsh Office was also referred to in earlier publications concerning Brofiscin. In addition, the Welsh Office carried out a survey into contaminated land in Wales, including Brofiscin quarry in 1988.

The Environment Agency has been liaising with the Welsh Assembly Government and local authority in respect of Brofiscin Quarry since the implementation of Part 2A Contaminated Land legislation in 2001 in Wales. The site was determined as contaminated land in March 2005 by the local authority. The Environment Agency is currently conducting a remedial options appraisal in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Elections: Proof of Identity

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what representations he has received from electors who have been refused a ballot paper at an election in Northern Ireland since 2002 because of their inability to provide a required form of identification [199072]

**Mr. Woodward:** I have received no representations to this effect. The hon. Member may wish to be aware that the Government will shortly lay draft regulations before the House which will extend the types of photographic ID accepted at polling stations in Northern Ireland to include the Translink Blind Person and War Disabled SmartPasses; and remove the requirement that ID must be current. We hope that this will reduce the number of people who find they are unable to exercise their vote on polling day as a result of bringing to the polling station ID which has recently expired or is not acceptable as proof of identity.

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect on voter turnout of the need for electors to provide a proof of identification at polling stations in Northern Ireland since 2002. [190071]

**Mr. Woodward:** I have considered the information available on this subject in various reports prepared by the Electoral Commission and have been pleased to note that this important counter-fraud measure appears not to have had a significant adverse effect on the numbers voting in Northern Ireland.

### Departmental Plants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192064]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office does not hold a budget for expenditure exclusive to pot plants. To produce this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Any expenditure that is incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on translation services by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* to date in 2007-08. [187993][1]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following amounts were spent by the Northern Ireland Office, its associated agencies and non-departmental bodies including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Prison Service on translation services:

*(a)* 2003-04: £415,024.17

*(b)* 2004-05: £484,535.29

*(c)* 2005-06: £1,214,706.93

*(d)* 2006-07: £912,123.00

*(e)* to date in 2007-08: the return has not been completed for this period yet but as soon as the figures become available we shall provide the hon. Member with this information.

1. *[Official Report, 30 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 5MC.]*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the Prime Minister's comments on tackling binge drinking at her press conference on 28 January 2008, what additional powers are planned for local authorities to tackle excessive drinking in town centres. [183778]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* In her speech of 6 February 2008, the Home Secretary made it clear that the Home Office will consider whether the existing laws on the confiscation of alcohol from young people are adequate. The Home Secretary also said that she will consider changing the law if necessary, to make it clear that drinking in public by those people under the age of 18 is unacceptable.

Additionally, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said in his statement of 4 March 2008, that the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children would be changed from 'three strikes' to 'two strikes' in three months. The Government will legislate to increase the maximum fine for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place from £500 to £2500. Other issues which may not require legislation include making it easier for the Police to disperse antisocial drinkers and we will extend the alcohol arrest referral pilots so that under 18s may also benefit from a brief intervention from a trained worker.

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her response is to recommendation 17 of the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals". [191166]

**Meg Hillier:** We will shortly be reviewing our response to all of the recommendations in this Animal Procedures Committee report, including recommendation 17, and will aim to publish our further conclusions when we publish the "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2007".

### Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions access to Canvey Island via the *(a)* A130 and *(b)* Fleet Road was temporarily closed by the police in each of the last 10 years. [191789]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* The Information is not collected centrally or recorded by Essex police. Essex police recognise the impact of any closure to strategic roads and will always seek to divert traffic and/or re-open the road as quickly as possible. They need, however, to balance this against the priorities of dealing with incidents and any resulting criminal investigation.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average time taken for the police to respond to an emergency call on Canvey Island when the A130 access road is blocked. [191799]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* This information is not collected centrally and is not recorded by Essex police.

### Domestic Violence: Homicide

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were killed by their partner or ex-partner in each of the last 10 years; how many of these victims had previously contacted the police regarding their partner or ex-partner; how many of the perpetrators had previously been charged with an offence relating to domestic violence; and how many of the perpetrators were on bail when the offence took place. [187894]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales as at 12 November 2007. Latest analysis is published in "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08), which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf

The number and percentage of homicide victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect are shown in table 1.05.

The additional requested information cannot be provided as it has not been collected by the Home Office.

### Identity Cards: Contracts

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which external companies and agencies her Department has awarded contracts for the identity cards programme. [180254]

**Meg Hillier:** Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service in April 2006, projects to deliver enhancements to passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. Consequently it is not possible to identify which external companies and agencies have been awarded contracts solely for the identity cards programme.

### Offensive Weapons: Children

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the numbers of children who carry knives. [180121]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office funded the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice survey, which was a household survey of people aged between 10 and 25 years. National level findings of this survey, which included questions on the carrying and use of knives, are published. The latest published figures indicate that 4 per cent. of young people aged between 10 and 17 years had carried a knife in the previous 12 months. The results from the 2005 survey can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1706.pdf

### Passports: Glasgow

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport requests were received by mail at the Glasgow Passport Office *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years. [187572]

**Meg Hillier:** The requested information is given in the table.

| *Glasgow* | *Postal applications received* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 567,369 |
| 2004 | 568,186 |
| 2005 | 591,048 |
| 2006 | 652,619 |
| 2007 | 554,784 |

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage change there has been in the Glasgow Passport Office's workload in the last 12 months. [187577]

**Meg Hillier:** The requested information is given in the table.

*Glasgow Passport Office*

| | *Intake* |
|---|---|
| January 2007 | 46,981 |
| January 2008 | 43,306 |
| Percentage change | 8.5 |

### Passports: Personation

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the procedure for returning expired passports to their holders in order to reduce the risk of identity theft. [189031]

**Meg Hillier:** The Secure Delivery service, which is used by the Identity and Passport Service to send out new passports, is available for passport applicants to have their expired passports returned to them. Applicants are encouraged to opt for this service, for which a fee of £3 is charged. Where this service is not chosen, expired passports are returned by second class post, the cost of which is included in the application fee. All expired passports are cancelled before being returned. These arrangements are kept under review.

### Theft: Metals

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made in reducing crime by the national task force on metal thefts; and if she will make a statement; [192133]

(2) what assistance she is planning to give to Operation Saruman in Cambridgeshire on the reduction of metal theft; and if she will make a statement. [192134]

**Mr. Coaker:** The national task force on metal theft set up by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is currently developing its plan for co-ordinated preventative and enforcement action on metal theft.

The plan will be the focus of a national conference on metal thefts on 25 March 2008 which will be attended by representatives from the public and private sectors. The conference follows a national day of action on 28 January 2008, the results of which are currently being collated.

We are aware of police operations against metal thieves in several different force areas including Operation Saruman in Cambridgeshire. A significant part of the developing action plan will outline how local operations can be supported by national and regional partners including the provision of good practice advice and examination of the effectiveness of current legislation.

### Vehicle Number Plates: Police

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent guidance she has issued to police on illegal vehicle number plates; and if she will make a statement. [191227]

**Mr. Coaker:** Enforcement of the law on illegal vehicle number plates is an operational matter for the police. At the end of January this year police forces across the country joined together in "Operation Larch". The operation was intended to provide evidence on links between illegal number plates and wider criminality, inform debate on changes that might be proposed and maximise disruption to criminal activity. I look forward to the police collation and analysis of data from this operation.

### Youth Taskforce

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on setting the priorities for the Youth Taskforce. [167108]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government's response to youth crime is cross-cutting.

The Youth Task Force's forthcoming action plan will be agreed by Ministers across Government, and Ministers and officials from both Home Office and Department for Children Schools and Families have been involved in discussions on the priorities of the Youth Taskforce.

## JUSTICE

### Immigration: Deportation

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the 359 appeals against a notice of intent to deport between 1 August and 31 October 2006 were successful; on what grounds they were successful; and how many of those that were successful cited breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights as a ground for appeal. [191896]

**Mr. Straw:** Of the 359 oral appeal hearings against a notice of intent to deport held at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal between 1 August and 31 October 2006, 70 were successful.

The grounds, and any specific articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, cited in any appeal which was successful could not be determined without examination of the individual files. This would incur disproportionate cost to the Tribunal.

### Licensed Premises: Closures

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many closure notices have been given to premises licence holders for persistently selling alcohol to children since the coming into force of section 23 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. [191310]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not currently held centrally.

The latest DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, which shows a breakdown of licensing data between April 2006 and March 2007, was published on 8 November 2007. The most recent data therefore covers the period prior to section 23 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 coming into effect in April 2007.

### Matrimonial Proceedings

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid certificates have been issued *(a)* in total and *(b)* in relation to ancillary relief within matrimonial proceedings in (i) south region, (ii) London region, (iii) midlands region, (iv) Wales region and (v) north region since 2004. [191436]

**Maria Eagle:** Ancillary relief related cases are not separately recorded by the Legal Services Commission, but are classified under 'financial provision proceedings'. Also included under this heading are: property adjustment/ lump sum orders, periodical payments orders and transfers of tenancy. The table outlines the total number of civil legal aid certificates issued and the number of legal aid certificates issued for 'financial provision proceedings' in each financial year since 2004.

The number of certificates issued for financial provision has shown a steady decline since 2004-05. This is partly due to changes made to eligibility for legal aid for ancillary relief, introduced in October 2005, which tightened the criteria where alternative sources of funding may be available.

| | *London* | *Midlands* | *North* | *South* | *Wales* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total certificates* | | | | | | |
| 2006-07 | 26,513 | 35,814 | 52,184 | 28,638 | 8,656 | 151,805 |
| 2005-06 | 26,711 | 36,854 | 51,748 | 30,750 | 8,921 | 154,984 |

| | London | Midlands | North | South | Wales | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 27,176 | 36,310 | 50,970 | 30,751 | 9,304 | 154,511 |
| *Certificates for financial provision proceedings* | | | | | | |
| 2006-07 | 1,616 | 5,564 | 6,277 | 4,323 | 1,301 | 19,081 |
| 2005-06 | 1,673 | 6,828 | 7,019 | 5,587 | 1,440 | 22,547 |
| 2004-05 | 1,937 | 7,091 | 7,173 | 6,179 | 1,601 | 23,981 |

*Notes:*
1. Certificates are classified according to the location of the lead supplier.
2. These totals have been revised to include back-dated certificates issued after year-end.
3. Certificates are classified according to the first or main proceedings.
4. Further information has led to the reclassification of a few certificates previously reported under financial provision proceedings.

### Proceeds of Crime Acts 2002: Prosecutions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions under the Proceeds of Crime Acts 2002 and 2005 there have been; how much has been recovered under these Acts; and what the cost of recovery was. [190754]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested covering defendants found guilty at all courts and unsuccessful prosecutions under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002[1] for money laundering offences for the years 2003-06 have been provided in the table.

[1] The proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was amended by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Proceeds of Crime act 2002, and the number of 'unsuccessful prosecutions', England and Wales 2003-06*[1,2,3]

| | Found guilty | Unsuccessful prosecutions |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 15 | 25 |
| 2004 | 129 | 101 |
| 2005 | 564 | 379 |
| 2006 | 1,262 | 618 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those date are used.
[3] Includes defendants acquitted at crown courts, cases dismissed and 'left on file', juries discharged and cases where there is 'no case to answer' or no evidence offered.

Information provided by the Home Office shows that the total amounts of criminal assets recovered in England Wales and Northern Ireland in the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 are as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 54.5 |
| 2004-05 | 84.4 |
| 2005-06 | 96.6 |
| 2006-07 | 125 |

Information on the cost of recovery is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

### Public Protection

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many critical public protection cases there were at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what mechanisms are in place for public protection in relation to those cases. [191908]

**Maria Eagle:** As at 4 March, there are 153 critical public protection cases registered with the Public Protection Unit (PPU) in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Each critical public protection case is managed under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Within MAPPA, the Police, Probation and Prison Services collaborate to assess and manage the risks presented by offenders, with co-operation from a number of other agencies. The NOMS PPU may provide additional funds to support local risk management arrangements for critical public protection cases.

### Youth Opportunities Fund: Finance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was allocated to the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund in the City of Newcastle *(a)* in total and *(b)* for administrative overheads and recharges in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08. [191627]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF and YCF) were established in April 2006 as complementary, universal funds operating under a single management framework. In 2006-07, £179,521 was allocated to the city of Newcastle for YOF and £155,271 was allocated for YCF. The same amounts were allocated to the city of Newcastle in 2007-08. In each of these years, up to £15,000 of the YOF allocation could be used for administrative overheads.

In 2006-07, the city of Newcastle spent both its YOF and YCF allocations in full. Details of 2007-08 expenditure are due to be submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families by the end of June.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179462]

**Kevin Brennan:** In the five years to 2006/07 my Department's predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, reported the following volumes of paper recycled:

| | *Recycled paper (metric tonnes)* |
|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 377.3 |
| 2003/04 | 416.52 |
| 2004/05 | 367 |
| 2005/06 | [1]1,082.62 |
| 2006/07 | 868.88 |

[1] Information on office paper waste was not separately identified for this year but information on a project to recycle Departmental publications was.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189808]

**Kevin Brennan:** The total spend on bottled water for the Department for Children, Schools and Families' predecessor Department DFES for 2006-07 was £53,000 per annum.

### Educational Visits: Negligence

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received on the impact of the provisions of the Compensation Act 2006 on school visits; and if he will make a statement; [191899]

(2) how many awards have been made under the Compensation Act 2006 for claims of negligence or breaches of statutory duties by teachers on school visits. [191900]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2644W.

### English Language

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177431]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not provide or fund English language classes for staff.

The Department has signed and is committed to the Government Skills Pledge to encourage and support all staff to achieve at least a full level 2 qualification. Some element of this support may in a few cases include supporting the attainment of basic literacy. This is provided via local colleges and incurs no direct cost to the Department

### Ministerial Visits

**Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his visit to Liverpool, West Derby constituency on Friday 1 February 2008; at whose invitation he attended; where he visited; and whom he met. [192153]

**Ed Balls:** I did not visit Liverpool, West Derby constituency on 1 February 2008.

### Physical Education: Teachers

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 927W, on physical education: teachers, if he will breakdown the figure of 1,570 physical education initial teacher training (ITT) places between those which are *(a)* school-centred and *(b)* employer-based. [190433]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) has allocated 1,130[1] of the 1,570 places available for physical educational Initial Teacher Training in 2008/09 to mainstream training providers. The remaining 440[1] places will be for Employment Based Routes which have yet to be allocated to specific providers.

[1] *Source:*

TDA

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Pupils: English Language

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in schools in Lincolnshire speak English as a second language. [175792]

**Jim Knight:** The information is available in the following table. This can be found in tables 34 and 35 of Statistical First Release 'Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)', which is available on the Department's website:

http:/www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

*Maintained schools [1]: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2007*

| | | *Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English* | *Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2]* | *Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English* | *Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English[2]* | *Unclassified[3]* | *Percentage unclassified* | *Total[4,5]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Primary Schools* | | | | | | | |
| | England[5] | 447,480 | 13.5 | 2,855,830 | 86.4 | 1,070 | 0.0 | 3,304,370 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 1,230 | 2.8 | 42,480 | 97.2 | [6]— | [6]— | 43,710 |

*Maintained schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, January 2007*

| | | Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English | Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2] | Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English | Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English[2] | Unclassified[3] | Percentage unclassified | Total[4,5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Secondary Schools* | | | | | | | |
| | England[5] | 342,240 | 10.5 | 2,924,050 | 89.5 | 1,860 | 0.1 | 3,268,160 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 1,170 | 2.4 | 47,310 | 97.6 | [6]— | [6]— | 48,480 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[3] Information was not sought or refused.
[4] Total number of pupils of compulsory school age and above. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[5] National and regional totals, and totals across each local authority have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[6] 1 or 2 pupils, or a rate based on 1 or 2 pupils.

## Schools: Community Relations

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to assist schools with the promotion of community cohesion since 1997. [191892]

**Beverley Hughes:** Good schools, through improvements to their teaching and learning; and through work to narrow achievement gaps and engagement with the community, have been developing an understanding and appreciation of others among their pupils and preparing them for active participation in a diverse society,

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a new duty to promote community cohesion on the governing body of maintained schools in England, which came into effect from 1 September 2007. Guidance to schools on the new duty was issued in July 2007. Ofsted plan to inspect schools against this duty from September 2008 as part of school inspections.

Furthermore, we launched the Schools Linking Network on 3 October 2007 to support schools in linking with other schools and encourage interaction between pupils from different backgrounds A national conference and nine regional conferences were held to raise awareness of the duty. Currently, we are developing a resource pack to provide further practical support for schools in meeting the duty.

## Schools: Offensive Weapons

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were convicted for possession of a blade or offensive weapon on school premises in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [187877]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Data on convictions for possession of knives and offensive weapons on school premises for 2005 and 2006 are provided in the following table.

Data for 2007 will be available in autumn of this year.

*Number of persons found guilty for having an article with a blade or point or an offensive weapon on school premises, England and Wales, 2005 and 2006[1, 2, 3]*

| | Article with a blade or point[4] | Offensive weapons |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 44 | 29 |
| 2006 | 45 | 36 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Offences under Criminal Justice Act 1988 SS.139 and 139(2) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)
[4] Figures for this offence for 2005 exclude convictions in West Mercia PFA due to an issue with the data.

## Teenage Pregnancy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to reduce teenage pregnancy rates since 1997. [191905]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched in 1999 and included:

the establishment of a media campaign aimed at 13 to 17-year-olds;

measures to improve the quality of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools;

measures to improve sexually active young people's access to contraceptive and sexual health services;

support for parents to talk to their children about sex and relationship issues; and

additional support to help teenage parents and their children achieve better outcomes.

Between 1998 (the baseline year for the Strategy) and 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 13.3 per cent. to its lowest level for over 20 years. The under-16 rate has fallen by 13.0 per cent. over the same period.

As well as giving young people the 'means' to avoid teenage pregnancies, we are also tackling the underlying factors that increase their risk of teenage pregnancy—low attainment, poverty, early disengagement from learning and low aspirations—through the Every Child Matters reforms.

## Written Questions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he will answer questions *(a)* 163291, *(b)* 163205, *(c)* 163194, *(d)* 163314, *(e)* 163318, *(f)* 163211, *(g)* 163320, *(h)* 163319, *(i)* 163310, *(j)* 163386, *(k)* 163193, *(l)* 163102, *(m)* 163455, *(n)* 163548, *(o)* 163554, *(p)* 163534, *(q)* 163759, *(r)* 163564, *(s)* 163557, *(t)* 164018, *(u)* 163821, *(v)* 164017, *(w)* 163765, *(x)* 163766, *(y)* 163762, *(z)* 173767, *(aa)* 163764, *(ab)* 163311 and *(ac)* 163209 tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil; [175151]

(2) when he will answer questions *(a)* 164444, *(b)* 164421, *(c)* 164420, *(d)* 166028, *(e)* 166037, *(f)* 164423, *(g)* 166105, *(h)* 166107, *(i)* 166030, *(j)* 165755, *(k)* 166686, *(l)* 166106, *(m)* 168199, *(n)* 168191, *(o)* 166731, *(p)* 169801, *(q)* 167782, *(r)* 168194, *(s)* 169834, *(t)* 169839, *(u)* 169832, *(v)* 169838, *(w)* 169800, *(x)* 169833, *(y)* 169837, *(z)* 170196, *(aa)* 170790 and *(ab)* 170786 tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [175149]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has responded to all of the above parliamentary questions. PQ 173767 was not allocated to this Department but a check with the official report indicates that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has issued a response. We were informed that PQ 165755 had been withdrawn as the text of the PQ was identical to PQ163222 which has received a full reply.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Citizenship: Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has undertaken in consequence of the Resolution of the Council of the European Union of 14 November 2006 on participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active citizenship; and if he will make a statement. [184058]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply;

The Resolution of the November 2006 European Council is consistent with the considerable work we are doing in this country under 'Aiming High' the Government's 10-year strategy for young people published in July 2007. This strategy has the objective of improving the life chances of young people and their relations with the communities in which they live through participation in positive leisure-time opportunities, activities and improved support services.

### Music: Internet

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many prosecutions there have been for the illegal *(a)* copying and *(b)* downloading from the internet of music under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [190854]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government keep no central records of specific prosecutions for illegal copying and downloading from the internet of music under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

### Near Earth Objects Task Force

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of the recommendations of the Near Earth Objects Task Group's report *(a)* have been implemented, *(b)* are in the process of being implemented, *(c)* have not been commenced and *(d)* will not be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [174285]

**Ian Pearson:** The last update to the Government response to the task force recommendations was issued in January 2005. At that time, it was decided that many of the issues had moved on significantly from 2000 when the recommendations were made and that there was limited value in revisiting them in their original form. The UK Government remain committed however to their original policy, namely to address this global issue at an international level. The recent establishment of a working group on NEOs within the United Nations, chaired by the UK, and emerging opportunities such as ESA's plan for a space situational awareness programme; encompassing NEOs, demonstrates that the UK remains effective in delivering on this commitment.

### Science and Technology Facilities Council: Finance

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he had with Scottish academic institutions before deciding upon the budget for the Science and Technology Facilities Council. [190546]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Department holds regular discussions with Scottish academics and their institutions on issues across the research funding agenda.

### Training: Young People

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 year-olds in 2006 are in (i) jobs without training, (ii) other education and training and (iii) employer funded training; and how many are in (A) full-time and (B) part-time jobs for each category. [189266]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a statistical first release (SFR) each June. The most recent estimates of the number and proportion of academic age 16, 17, and 18 year-olds in England in (i) jobs without training, (ii) other education and training and (iii) employer funded training, along with full-time education and work based learning at end 2006 are shown in the Tables 1 and 2 provided with this answer.

The Department does not publish breakdowns of these estimates by full-time/part-time employment. However, it is possible to produce estimates of this from the Labour Force survey (LFS), applying survey estimates of proportions in full/part-time employment in each group to the official figures above. Estimates for England, thus calculated, are shown in the Tables 3 and 4 provided with this answer. It is important to note that the LFS will produce estimates that will be subject to

sampling error and respondent error. Estimates from Quarter 4 2006 and Quarter 1 2007 have been combined to improve accuracy.

*Table 1: Participation in Education and Training by 16-18 year olds in England, end 2006*

Rates

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16* | *17* | *18* | *16-18* |
| Full-time education[1] (Percentage) | 78.1 | 65.0 | 40.8 | 61.1 |
| Work Based Learning (Percentage) | 5.7 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 6.9 |
| Employer Funded Training (Percentage) | 2.3 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 4.6 |
| Other Education and Training (Percentage) | 3.9 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 4.9 |
| Jobs Without Training (Percentage) | 3.9 | 9.0 | 24.1 | 12.4 |
| Not in any education, employment or training (Percentage) | 6.5 | 9.5 | 14.8 | 10.3 |
| Population (Number) | 662,300 | 659,500 | 679,800 | 2,001,600 |

*Table 2: Participation in Education and Training by 16-18 year olds in England, end 2006*

Number

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16* | *17* | *18* | *16-18* |
| Full-time education[1] | 516,900 | 428,600 | 277,500 | 1,223,000 |
| Work Based Learning | 37,700 | 51,600 | 49,300 | 138,500 |
| Employer Funded Training | 15,000 | 26,700 | 50,100 | 91,700 |
| Other Education and Training | 25,600 | 32,000 | 39,700 | 97,300 |
| Jobs Without Training | 25,600 | 59,300 | 163,500 | 248,400 |
| Not in any education, employment or training | 42,800 | 62,700 | 100,700 | 206,200 |
| Population | 662,300 | 659,500 | 679,800 | 2,001,600 |

*Table 3 - Participation in Education and Training by employment type for 16-18 year olds in England, end 2006*

Rates

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16* | *17* | *18* | *16-18* |
| Full time education[1] (Percentage) | 78.1 | 65.0 | 40.8 | 61.1 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Part-time Job | 23.9 | 29.6 | 14.0 | 22.4 |
| Not in employment | 53.8 | 34.8 | 26.1 | 38.1 |
| Work Based Learning[1] (Percentage) | 5.7 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 6.9 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 2.0 | 4.1 | 5.4 | 3.4 |
| Part-time Job | 3.7 | 3.7 | 1.8 | 3.5 |
| Employer Funded Training (Percentage) | 2.3 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 4.6 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 1.9 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 3.8 |
| Part-time Job | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Other Education and Training[2] (Percentage) | 3.9 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 4.9 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 1.9 | 5.5 | 16.7 | 8.1 |
| Part-time Job | 2.0 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 4.3 |
| Not in any education, employment or training (Percentage) | 6.5 | 9.5 | 14.8 | 10.3 |
| Population (Number) | 662,300 | 659,500 | 679,800 | 2,001,600 |

*Table 4: Participation in Education and Training by employment type for 16-18 year olds in England, end 2006*

Number

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16* | *17* | *18* | *16-18* |
| Full time education[1] | 516,900 | 428,600 | 277,500 | 1,223,000 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 2,300 | 3,900 | 4,700 | 10,900 |
| Part-time Job | 158,300 | 195,100 | 95,200 | 449,300 |
| Not in employment | 356,400 | 229,600 | 177,600 | 762,800 |
| Work Based Learning[1] | 37,700 | 51,600 | 49,300 | 138,500 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 13,100 | 26,900 | 36,700 | 69,000 |
| Part-time Job | 24,600 | 24,700 | 12,600 | 69,500 |
| Employer Funded Training | 15,000 | 26,700 | 50,100 | 91,700 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 12,500 | 22,600 | 41,800 | 76,900 |
| Part-time Job | 2,500 | 4,100 | 8,200 | 14,700 |
| Other Education and Training[2] | 25,600 | 32,000 | 39,700 | 97,300 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 700 | 2,600 | 9,200 | 13,400 |
| Part-time Job | 4,800 | 8,500 | 8,300 | 21,200 |
| Not in employment | 20,100 | 20,900 | 22,200 | 62,700 |
| Jobs Without Training | 25,600 | 59,300 | 163,500 | 248,400 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Full-time Job | 12,400 | 36,200 | 113,600 | 161,700 |
| Part-time Job | 13,200 | 23,100 | 49,900 | 86,700 |
| Not in any education, employment or training | 42,800 | 62,700 | 100,700 | 206,200 |
| Population | 662,300 | 659,500 | 679,800 | 2,001,600 |

[1] Due to rounding and a very small overlap between the Full-time education and WBL figures, columns may not add up to 100 per cent.
[2] Includes part-time education not funded by employers or through WBL; also full- or part-time education in independent FE and HE institutions.

### UK Astronomy Technology Centre

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what representations he has received on the funding of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre; [190544]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that the UK Astronomy Technology Centre remains operational prior to the publication of the Wakeham review. [190545]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I have received a number of representations from the general public about the funding of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UKATC). UKATC, which is owned by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), is a world leader in the design and construction of instruments to many of the world's major telescopes. However, STFC's demand for its services has declined since the UK joined the European Southern Observatory in 2002.

The STFC is looking at the future of the Astronomy Technology Centre in relation to the potential demand for its services and the council's science budget allocation. STFC is exploring the possibility of a partnership that makes use of the unique skills in the ATC and applies them to a wider portfolio, and it will look to work with the local universities and local funding agencies in taking that forward. It is too early to say what the outcome of these discussions will be.

STFC issued a notice on 2 January calling for voluntary redundancies across all its activities. In line with previous announcements, the SRS (Synchrotron Radiation Source) at Daresbury will close on 31 December 2008 but STFC has not taken a decision on whether any compulsory redundancies (other than those relating to SRS) will be needed.

The cross-council review led by Bill Wakeham, Vice-Chancellor of Southampton university, and commissioned by Research Councils UK, will examine the health of physics research and I expect the review panel to report to RCUK over summer 2008.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security situation in the Afghan provinces of *(a)* Nimruz, *(b)* Farah and *(c)* Herat. [190668]

**Des Browne:** The Taliban have launched opportunistic raids on district centres in the western provinces of Nimruz, Herat and particularly Farah. Both ISAF and the Afghan National Army have conducted surge operations in these provinces to counter the threat and ensure that security is maintained.

Compared to many areas of eastern and southern Afghanistan these provinces experience less violence, the majority of which is the result of low-level criminality and clashes among local power brokers. Herat in particular has benefited from a sustained period of relative stability, reconstruction and growth.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security situation in *(a)* Kunduz and *(b)* Badakhshan province. [190692]

**Des Browne:** The security situation in both Kunduz and Badakhshan is steady. Compared to many areas of eastern and southern Afghanistan these provinces experience fewer incidents of violence, the majority of which is the result of low-level criminality linked to drug smuggling and local criminal gangs.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security situation in Helmand province. [190723]

**Des Browne:** ISAF and the Afghan armed forces continue to engage in successful operations against the Taliban in Helmand, pushing them back from populated areas and bringing more of the province under the control of the Government of Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, the insurgents continue to pose a threat through improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and opportunistic attacks.

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment is available to British forces in Afghanistan for jamming Taleban communications. [191129]

**Des Browne:** I am withholding information on equipment capability as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Armed Forces

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* operational control, *(b)* administrative control, *(c)* technical control and (d) other command relationship there is between British and non-British forces (i) operating in Helmand Province and (ii) deployed on ESDP military operations by unit down to the battalion level; and what the nationality is of each unit. [190875]

**Des Browne:** The only permanent non-UK battalion-sized unit from the International Stabilisation Force (ISAF) based in Helmand province is provided by Denmark. It is under the Operational Control of the UK Commander of Task Force Helmand.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) currently deploys five units of battalion size or greater in Helmand province. Their operations are closely coordinated with ISAF operations, including through the use of Operational Mentoring, Liaison and Training Teams, although there is no formal command relationship between ISAF and ANA units.

Other non-UK units may, on occasion, temporarily deploy into Helmand province for specific missions: the precise command relationships with these units will vary dependent on the precise nature of their operational taskings. The UK does not have any battalion level units conducting ESDP operations.

### Armed Forces: Publications

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 717, *(b)* JSP 745, *(c)* JSP 745 and *(d)* JSP 766. [175453]

**Derek Twigg:** I have arranged for copies of JSP 717 Using the MOD Metadata Standard and JSP 766 The Defence Directive on Employer Support, to be placed in the Library of the House.

JSP 745—MOD Web Publishing Policy is still in draft and is not yet available for publication.

### Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what data are retained by his Department on people who applied to join the armed forces but did not sign up; and if he will make a statement. [190448]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225.

The extent of the details retained on any individual depends upon what stage of the recruit selection process an applicant either opted out or was found to be not suitable. In all cases this would include all personal details as requested on the armed forces application form (AFCO form 4). For those whose applications are progressed, details of medical and selection process results and possibly security clearance results, may also be retained.

### Armed Forces: Shipping

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels make up the Amphibious Fleet; and where they are base-ported. [192150]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Amphibious Fleet consists of HM Ships Ocean (landing platform helicopter), Albion and Bulwark (landing ship dock), which are base ported at Devonport as well as the four Bay Class landing ship dock (auxiliary) vessels—Largs Bay, Lyme Bay, Mounts Bay and Cardigan Bay—which are not base ported at a specific location.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what level in his Department decisions are taken to remove ships or submarines from their port and base-port them elsewhere. [192152]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Recommendations to make changes to the base ports of ships and submarines are generally considered by the Navy Board. Depending on the nature and scale of these recommendations, Ministers will usually be consulted before a final decision is taken.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the possible development of a European research and development programme for technical and industrial capabilities related to the US missile defence system. [191062]

**Des Browne:** The UK continues to work with European allies, through NATO, on a number of research and development programmes related to missile defence.

### BOWMAN Combat Radio System

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of UK *(a)* Regular and *(b)* Territorial Army personnel are trained to use the Bowman communications system; [191618]

(2) what the recommended minimum time period for pre-deployment training is for use of the Bowman communications system; [191619]

(3) what the average time taken for pre-deployment training is for use of the Bowman communications system. [191620]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** 95 per cent. of Regular Army units have been trained to use the Bowman Communications System. In addition a limited number of Territorial Army (TA) units and those TA personnel deployed on operations as augmentees, amounting to about 5 per cent. of the TA, have also received Bowman training; this figure will increase significantly during the next two years as Bowman training rolls out to the Territorial Army as a whole.

There is no specific pre-deployment training (PDT) on the Bowman Communications System. The utilisation of Bowman, the primary means of tactical command and control, is a theme which runs continuously throughout PDT.

The use of Bowman is just one of a series of basic soldiering skills that are continuously employed, and an established programme is already in place to ensure that Army personnel who require Bowman training will receive it. The minimum time required for a soldier to be trained in the 'basic' use of Bowman is three days. If required, remedial training is also provided during PDT.

### Challenger Tanks: Repairs and Maintenance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what system is used to ensure that there is sufficient spare track in theatre for Challenger 2 main battle tanks; [191343]

(2) how much track for Challenger 2 main battle tanks is kept in storage by his Department. [191345]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The British Army uses the GLOBAL computer system which predicts the usage of spare tracks and subsequently orders as required through the joint supply chain to maintain a pre-determined level of stock. In the case of Challenger 2, the data from which GLOBAL predicts the demand has been built up over a significant period of time, ensuring this item does not run out. Demands from operational theatres take precedence over those supporting training activity.

A total of 95 full vehicle sets of track for Challenger 2 are currently held in storage.

### Clyde Submarine Base

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships or submarines are base-ported at Faslane. [192151]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are 15 Royal Navy vessels currently base ported at HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane), as shown in the following table:

| *Class of vessel* | *Name of vessel* |
|---|---|
| Nuclear submarines | HMS Vanguard |
| | HMS Victorious |
| | HMS Vigilant |
| | HMS Vengeance |
| | HMS Superb |
| | HMS Sceptre |
| Mine Countermeasures Vessels | HMS Walney |
| | HMS Penzance |
| | HMS Pembroke |
| | HMS Grimsby |
| | HMS Bangor |
| | HMS Ramsay |
| | HMS Blyth |
| | HMS Shoreham |
| P2000 | HMS Smiter |

### Defence Equipment

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of *(a)* weapons mounted installation kits, *(b)* Warrior vehicles, *(c)* Saxon vehicles, *(d)* Scimitar vehicles, *(e)* combat vehicle reconnaissance tracked vehicles and *(f)* .5 inch heavy machine guns have been fit for service in each year since 2003; [191444]

(2) how many *(a)* weapons mounted installation kits, *(b)* Warrior vehicles, *(c)* Saxon vehicles, *(d)* Scimitar vehicles and *(e)* combat vehicle reconnaissance tracked vehicles were available for army training in each year since 1997. [191446]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Officials are currently compiling information from a range of sources which will take some time to complete. I will therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188787]

**Derek Twigg:** Since April 2007, one civilian has been suspended and dismissed for an offence relating to misuse of IT facilities, including accessing inappropriate material. Information for previous years is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department's rules make clear that deliberate abuse of IT facilities to access inappropriate material is a serious disciplinary offence for which dismissal is likely to be the appropriate penalty.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191500]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the intake of UK Regular Forces and Civilian personnel aged 55 and above for each of the last three years.

*Headcount*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK Regular Forces[1, 2] personnel intake aged 55 and above | [3] | [3] | [3, 4] |
| Civilian[5] personnel intake aged 55 and above | 900 | 570 | 570 |
| Combined UK Regular Forces[1, 2] and Civilian[5] personnel intake aged 55 and above | 900 | 570 | [4]570 |

[1] UK Regular Forces includes nursing services and excluded Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
[2] Due to ongoing validation of data from the new joint personnel administration system, UK Regular Forces statistics from 1 October 2006 are provisional and subject to review.
[3] Denotes less than 10.
[4] Denotes provisional.
[5] Civilian intake data for the top level budgets and trading funds, but excludes data for locally engaged civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for whom intake data by age is not known.
*Note:*
All numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
DASA Quad-Service.

### Drinking Water

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187675]

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189802]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Iraq: Helicopters

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fleets of helicopters are available to UK armed forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what future (i) enhancements and (ii) changes to the number of helicopters are planned by his Department. [191610]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* As of February 2008, the UK routinely deployed Chinook, Sea King, Lynx and Apache helicopters in Afghanistan and Merlin, Puma and Lynx helicopters in support of operations in Iraq.

The Ministry of Defence keeps helicopter numbers and capability under constant review and the nature and scale of the assets we deploy can and does vary over time. I am withholding further details of our helicopter deployments as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As a result of experience on operations, we are taking steps to increase the robustness of our existing helicopter fleets, such as the purchase of the six Danish Merlin helicopters and the conversion of the eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters to a support helicopter role. We have carried out extensive modifications to improve the operational capability of our helicopters in response to urgent operational requirements, including fitting new rotor blades to a number of our Sea Kings to improve their performance in hot and high conditions, enabling their deployment to Afghanistan. We are also increasing the number of flying hours we will deliver each month to commanders on the ground in Afghanistan from our Chinook and Apache fleets.

As we have made clear previously, UK forces in Afghanistan make use of civil helicopters provided through a NATO contract and our forces also routinely draw upon helicopters provided by other ISAF nations.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have not been provided with Osprey body armour on deployments in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [191466]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* A range of personal protective equipment is available to troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and commanders on the ground are able to choose the correct equipment appropriate for any particular set of operational circumstances. Enhanced combat body armour is provided as standard to all personnel in both theatres. Osprey body armour provides additional protection but at the expense of reduced mobility and increased heat retention. Osprey is not therefore issued as standard to all deploying forces but it is made available wherever and whenever commanders on the ground believe it to be the most appropriate protective equipment.

We do not hold records centrally of which individuals have and have not been issued with Osprey body armour at any particular time. But sufficient sets of Osprey body armour are available in both Iraq and Afghanistan for all those personnel who require it.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department is spending in 2007-08 on new helicopters for the armed forces. [191608]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* The in-year budget for 2007-08 for all helicopter procurement projects is £317 million. By the end of March 2008, we forecast that we will spend almost all of the budget. Support and capability upgrade costs are not included in this figure.

### Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times a *(a)* C17A Globemaster, *(b)* Hercules C-130K, *(c)* Hercules C-130J, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* Nimrod MR2 was cannibalised for spare parts in each year since 2001; [190639]

(2) how many times a *(a)* C17A Globemaster, *(b)* Hercules C-130K, *(c)* Hercules C130J, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* Nimrod MR2 were cannibalised for spare parts in each month in 2007. [190651]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The removal of serviceable parts from one aircraft for use on another is a routine and temporary measure to ensure that the maximum numbers of aircraft are available to the front line.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 29W, and 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 772W.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the capability of the UK armed forces to *(a)* participate and *(b)* assist in the African Union/United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [192636]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is a hybrid mission, which succeeded the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). As such it was agreed on creation that the majority of its units would be from the African Union. Furthermore, due to our heavy commitments elsewhere, the MOD is not in a position to offer, or contribute, force elements or enablers to a United Nations mission in Sudan.

However, the UK has provided several staff officers who are holding key positions in the UNAMID HQ in Sudan in order to increase the mission's capacity to deploy and operate effectively in Darfur. The UK Government are also working to support this Mission by helping troop contributing countries with the provision of equipment and training packages.

### Warships

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships he expects to enter a period of extended readiness in 2008. [190645]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As explained in my predecessor's letter to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 6 March 2007, 'extended' readiness is not a term currently used by the MOD, in regard to the fleet. The normal operating cycle of every ship includes periods of low readiness, and in the course of 2008 a number of ships will enter periods of 'low' or 'very low' readiness depending on their programmes and departmental planning requirements.

As outlined in the aforementioned letter, with the exception of HMS Invincible and ships in, or preparing for, refit, it remains MOD policy not to publish details of the readiness states of individual Royal Navy vessels or types for reasons of national security.

In line with this policy, I can confirm that the following RN surface ships are currently at low or very low readiness: the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible; and the amphibious assault ship HMS Ocean, and three destroyers and frigates, HMS York, HMS Sutherland and HMS St. Albans, all of which are in refit.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments were made late in each of the last five years. [187565]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The single payment scheme was introduced in 2005. The regulatory payment window for each scheme year commences on 1 December in the year of claim and ends on 30 June in the following year.

For the 2005 scheme year, 25,690 claimants received either a full payment or the balancing sum, following an earlier manual or partial payment, after the payment window had closed. Nine claims are yet to be paid. For the 2006 scheme year, the equivalent figure is 2,533 claimants, with 69 claims yet to be fully processed. These figures exclude cases where top up payments have been made following corrections to entitlements or where other changes have been made to claim values following representations by claimants.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of interest payments made to claimants who received their full Single Payment scheme payment after the regulatory payment window in the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 scheme years. [188450]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The value of interest payments made to claimants who received their full Single Payment scheme (SPS) payment after the closing of the regulatory payment window are £2.4 million for SPS 2005 and £400,000 for SPS 2006.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of overpayments made to Single Payment scheme (SPS) claimants was in the (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 SPS; and what the amount recovered was in each case. [188451]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Overpayments are currently estimated to total some £20.0 million to 10,299 applicants under the 2005 Single Payment scheme (SPS) and £17.6 million to 6,925 applicants under the 2006 SPS.

Some £2.7 million as been recovered thus far.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of underpayments made to Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claimants was in the (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 SPS; and what amount is still owed in each case. [188452]

**Jonathan Shaw:** RPA does not keep separate data on cases where a top up payment was required after a single payment scheme claim has been corrected. Nor can such data now be readily identified. RPA does retain data on changes in claim values but there is no automatic relationship between those data and underpayments because manual or partial payments may have been made to the claimant. The latest available data shows that claim values in respect of 2005 were increased by £28.6 million for 12,611 claimants.

### Agriculture: Trade Competitiveness

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure that UK pig farmers are not operating at a competitive disadvantage to those in other EU member states. [190661]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 4 March 2008]*: DEFRA is very aware of the challenges currently facing the pig livestock sector and their efforts to maintain competitiveness. The leading concern of the industry is the increase in feed costs, which is a global phenomenon affecting producers across the EU.

UK producers have also been affected by last year's animal disease outbreaks. DEFRA put together an aid package last October for all livestock sectors, which included £2 million to promote red meat, including pork.

Regulation in the pig and other livestock sectors is essential to protect public health, animal health and welfare, and the environment. Many UK regulations follow common EU standards and requirements and it has been a priority for the UK in negotiating these to ensure that controls are proportionate and avoid placing unnecessary burdens on producers and others.

One area in which we are ahead of the EU is our unilateral ban, agreed in 1991 for good welfare reasons, on close-confinement sow stalls and tethers from 1999. Tethers have now also been banned in the EU and the UK pressed for and succeeded in obtaining an EU ban on sow stalls, which will take effect from 2013 onwards and have a levelling effect. We have encouraged the pig industry to take advantage of high UK welfare standards to promote the attributes of UK pigmeat in the market place.

### Biofuels

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reclassify the glycerol by-product from bio-diesel production from used cooking oil as fuel rather than waste; and if he will make a statement. [191349]

**Joan Ruddock:** Whether or not a substance is "waste" within the meaning of Article 1(1)(a) of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) is a matter that must be determined on the facts of the case and the interpretation of the law is a matter for the Courts. It is not a function of the Government to classify or to declassify any particular substance as waste or non-waste.

The Environment Agency is designated as a "competent authority" for the purpose of implementing the WFD in England and Wales and is required to give effect to the directive's definition of waste, as interpreted by the European Court of Justice and our national Courts.

In April 2007, the Environment Agency issued a regulatory position statement on glycerol produced during the manufacture of biodiesel. It is available on the Agency's website and states that used vegetable oil is waste and that wastes which are processed for use as a fuel normally remain waste until they are burned. However, in July 2007 the Court of Appeal ruled that a waste substance may cease to be waste before being burned if it has been converted into a distinct marketable product which can be used in exactly the same way as an ordinary fuel and with no worse environmental effects.

In light of this, organisations are free to present to the Environment Agency any information they consider relevant to satisfy the Agency that the substance has ceased to be waste before being used as a fuel.

### Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there have been changes to the funding allocated to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science for the next five years since the answer given on 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1089W, on the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture: finance; and if he will make a statement. [190941]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The only formal change to the response provided in December 2007 is for the year 2008-09; in this year committed funding has been reduced to £29.7 million. Subsequent years are still subject to approval.

### Coastal Areas: Access

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that the implementation of proposals on coastal access do not lead to any capital or income financial loss for landowners and rural businesses. [191429]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are in the process of developing the detail of coastal access legislation and are seeking to identify an appropriate opportunity to introduce such legislation. Implementation will be undertaken in line with an approved statutory methodology and in discussion with local interests, including landowners and managers. We will ensure that any proposals strike a fair balance between the interests of the public in accessing the coast and the interests of landowners and rural businesses.

### Departmental Eurostar

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187750]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For the period January 2007 to December 2007 inclusive, from information held centrally, the core-Department spent £394,735 on first class travel, and £254,124 on second class travel, by Eurostar. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental travel policy.

### Departmental ICT

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184345]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following figures show the reported number of thefts/losses of mobile telephones, personal digital assistants and laptops from 2001.

| | *Mobile phones* | *Personal digital assistants including Blackberry and palm top devices* | *Laptops* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 2002-03 | 0 | 12 | 23 |
| 2003-04 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004-05[1] | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2005-06[1] | 4 | 1 | 18 |
| 2006-07[1] | 4 | 8 | 22 |
| 2007-08 (to date[1]) | 0 | 1 | 13 |

[1] Following the outsourcing of IT services to IBM in October 2004, computers/laptops are no longer classed as departmental assets as they form part of the overall contract for the provision of IT services. All IT equipment therefore belongs to IBM. However, in an effort to reduce the losses of laptops, advice and guidance on the security of portable computer equipment is regularly issued to users.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185526]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It would not be possible to obtain this information without incurring disproportionate cost; DEFRA staff access internet sites via a single Government secure intranet (GSI) gateway, and IP addresses within DEFRA's network are allocated dynamically to individuals' computers.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what private finance initiative projects have been approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years, broken down by *(a)* value and *(b)* start date. [190884]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public information booklets were published by his Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185794]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is set out in the following table.

| *Title* | *Cost (£)* | *Copies* |
|---|---|---|
| Crop Inspector Report for Cereal Crops | 355.00 | 10,000 |
| Crop Inspector Report for Crucifereous fodder | 99.00 | 1,000 |
| Pramorum Key research findings | 725.00 | 5,000 |
| Agricultural Wages PPRC | 887.90 | 46,000 |
| CSF Leaflet | 1,750.00 | 15,000 |
| WIPD Leaflet | 940.00 | 1,000 |
| Sheep Tagging Leaflet | 415.00 | 15,000 |
| Have a Go Leaflets - | 910.00 | 12,700 |
| Tail Docking Leaflet | 910.00 | 200 |
| Bluetongue How to Spot The Disease Booklet | 254.00 | 2,000 |
| Animal Disease Fact Sheet - 4pp | 190.00 | 1,000 |
| Animal Disease Factsheets - 8pp | 152.00 | 1,000 |
| Information Note – Elstead Residents | 1,085.00 | 1,700 |
| FMD Flyers | 4,220.00 | 550,000 |
| FMD Factsheet 1 | 700.00 | 10,000 |
| Joint Environmental Prospectus | 1,175.00 | 1,560 |
| Joint Environmental Prospectus: reprint | 600.00 | 2,000 |
| Use the OCDS Booking System now leaflet | 445.00 | 40,000 |
| Use the OCDS Booking System now leaflet | 810.00 | 83,000 |
| Bluetongue - How to spot the disease leaflet | 1,820.00 | 26,000 |
| Bluetongue Vector Leaflet | 1,160.00 | 26,000 |
| Avoiding The Risk.... | 185.00 | 1,000 |
| Avoiding The Risk.... | 357.00 | 2,000 |
| Bluetongue Leaflets | 4,660.00 | 47,750 |
| Bluetongue Vectors Leaflet | 3,250.00 | 77,000 |
| Protecting Whales Insert | 538.00 | 500 |
| Saltfleet NNR Event Leaflet | 255.00 | 2,000 |
| Farming Link Insert reprint | 370.00 | 5,000 |
| Bluetongue Flyer Reprint | 187.00 | 3,000 |
| UK DNA Brochure | 576.00 | 1,000 |
| Fishing Focus | 1,560.00 | 17,420 |
| Marine Fisheries Science Supplement reprint | 235.00 | 2,000 |
| Fishing Focus reprint | 675.00 | 2,000 |
| Marine Fisheries Leaflets | 2,045.00 | 40,000 |
| FMD Movement Restriction Leaflet | 3,120.00 | 500,000 |
| Barley and Malt Link Factsheet-AMF194 | 735.00 | 516 |

DEFRA's approach to the production of leaflets is to do so only where they are the most effective means of communication with particular audiences. In all other instances we publish information through our website.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179879]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2207W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson).

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recycling scheme is in operation in each building used by his Department. [176553]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table details the recycling schemes which are available in DEFRA buildings in London, York and Alnwick.

| *Item* | *Disposed by* |
|---|---|
| Paper—general | Recycled |
| Paper—confidential | Shredded |
| Cardboard | Recycled |
| Electrical goods | Pre-WEEE collected by maintenance provider<br>Post-WEEE handled as instructed by manufacturer |
| Fridges | In London recycled where possible. York and Alnwick recycled by maintenance provider. Degassed first in all instances |
| Batteries | Recycled where possible |
| M and E Plant | Local contractor sorts and recycled where possible |
| Light tubes | Recycled locally |
| Metal | In York all metal waste from the major project is separated out and recycled. In other locations collected and recycled where possible or disposed of via local scrap recycling company |
| Cans, bottles, plastics | Recycled |
| Toner cartridges—printers, mobile phones, CDs | Collected and recycled where possible |
| Computer hardware | Managed by IBM |
| Food waste, catering oils, wet waste | In London handled by catering contractors and catering oils part recycled and filtered for use in contractor's vehicle. Wet waste scheme starting in January 2008 |

| Item | Disposed by |
|---|---|
| Waste water, rain water | Harvesting plant being installed in York and Alnwick re-build for rainwater |
| Furniture | In London handled in-house via Green Works. York recycled locally—offered to local charities, small businesses etc. In Alnwick surplus furniture will be recycled |

## Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181609]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the period April 2006 to December 2007 inclusive for core DEFRA, the Animal Health Agency, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aqua-Cultural Science, the Government Decontamination Service, and the Rural Payment Agency the information held centrally on overseas visits by officials is:

| Travel type | Country | Spend (£) | Number of tickets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Air | Australia | 59,124 | 32 |
| | Austria | 29,308 | 88 |
| | Barbados | 618 | 2 |
| | Belgium | 59,889 | 230 |
| | Brazil | 90,620 | 32 |
| | Canada | 67,618 | 53 |
| | Cayman Islands | 787 | 1 |
| | China | 115,579 | 57 |
| | Croatia | 82 | 1 |
| | Cyprus | 1,787 | 4 |
| | Czech Republic | 4,168 | 18 |
| | Denmark | 22,220 | 73 |
| | Estonia | 1,794 | 11 |
| | Ethiopia | 9,578 | 9 |
| | Faroe Islands | 1,244 | 3 |
| | Finland | 46,203 | 97 |
| | France | 21,395 | 59 |
| | Germany | 82,411 | 247 |
| | Ghana | 3,597 | 1 |
| | Greece | 1,972 | 6 |
| | Hong Kong | 26,770 | 16 |
| | Hungary | 3,237 | 10 |
| | Iceland | 1,666 | 5 |
| | India | 109,694 | 71 |
| | Indonesia | 104,045 | 41 |
| | Ireland | 7,146 | 62 |
| | Italy | 27,831 | 88 |
| | Jamaica | 3,631 | 2 |
| | Japan | 71,898 | 36 |
| | Kenya | 127,938 | 73 |
| | Korea Republic | 1,694 | 4 |
| | Latvia | 1,004 | 4 |
| | Lithuania | 1,842 | 4 |
| | Luxembourg | 30,090 | 123 |
| | Malaysia | 10,649 | 3 |
| | Malta | 308 | 2 |
| | Mexico | 92,301 | 37 |
| | Morocco | 2,555 | 2 |
| | Mozambique | 5,356 | 1 |
| | Netherlands | 20,224 | 94 |
| | New Zealand | 766 | 1 |
| | Norway | 16,661 | 52 |
| | Poland | 5,112 | 14 |
| | Portugal | 23,175 | 74 |
| | Romania | 3,083 | 8 |
| | Russia | 8,556 | 10 |
| | Saudi Arabia | 1,235 | 1 |
| | Senegal | 7,444 | 4 |
| | Serbia | 2,003 | 5 |
| | Seychelles | 2,107 | 2 |
| | Singapore | 17,762 | 14 |
| | Slovenia | 768 | 8 |
| | South Africa | 32,182 | 17 |
| | Spain | 26,790 | 83 |
| | St. Christopher (St. Kitts) NE | 7,068 | 2 |
| | Sweden | 14,549 | 47 |
| | Switzerland | 34,456 | 118 |
| | Thailand | 39,160 | 13 |
| | Turkey | 1,186 | 5 |
| | Ukraine | 1,700 | 1 |
| | United States | 316,751 | 180 |
| Air total spend (£) | | 1,832,386 | |
| Air total number of tickets | | | 2,361 |
| *Rail* | Belgium | 427,536 | 3,183 |
| | Canada | 151 | 2 |
| | France | 40,720 | 333 |
| | Germany | 1,869 | 34 |
| | Italy | 12 | 1 |
| | Luxembourg | 505 | 9 |
| | Netherlands | 1,429 | 20 |
| | Spain | 429 | 1 |
| | Sweden | 48 | 2 |
| | Switzerland | 241 | 8 |
| | United States | 442 | 8 |
| Rail total spend (£) | | 473,081 | |
| Rail total number of tickets | | | 3,601 |

## Drinking Water

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of bottled water was consumed in his Department in the last 12 months. [187971]

**Mr. Woolas:** From information held centrally, the core-Department consumed 1,969 litres of bottled water in 2007.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [188265]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* From information held centrally the core-Department has purchased the following amounts of bottled water in each of the last three years:

| | *Litres* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 9,848 |
| 2006 | 12,948 |
| 2007 | 1,969 |

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189790]

**Jonathan Shaw:** From information held centrally, £3,392 was spent by the core-Department on bottled water in 2007.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187665]

**Jonathan Shaw:** From information held centrally, the core-Department has spent the following sums on mineral water in each of the last three years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 18,699 |
| 2006 | 24,744 |
| 2007 | 3,392 |

## Energy-using Products Directive

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the Energy-using Products Directive's provisions on supply system bundles on levels of waste from 2013. [190932]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of the implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive, based on the Commission's current proposals.

## Environment Protection

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1101W, on environmental protection, how much of the funding received by the Environment Agency has been spent on purposes related to the detection and prosecution of environmental offences, including fly-tipping in each of these years; and what the projected allocation is of future business resource efficiency and waste funding to the Environment Agency *(a)* in total and *(b)* for these purposes in the next three years. [189804]

**Joan Ruddock:** From April 2008, the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme will be amalgamated into a single, more focused approach of allocating DEFRA funding to increase resource efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Funding to delivery bodies working on business resource efficiency will continue in the next spending period, beginning in 2008-09. The following table shows the allocation of BREW funding to the Environment Agency between 2005 and 2008 and the comparable amount of funding allocated to similar projects in 2008-09.

The table also shows how much of the money that was received by the Environment Agency under the BREW Programme was allocated to the detection and prosecution of environmental crime, with the comparable amount of funding allocated to similar projects in 2008-09 shown alongside.

| | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| *Budget* | *Funding allocated to the Environment Agency (EA)* | *Funding allocated by EA to tackling environmental waste crime* |
| 2005-06 | [1]2.0 | 2.0 |
| 2006-07 | [1]4.454 | 2.0 |
| 2007-08 | [1]4.454 | 2.0 |
| 2008-09 | [2]2.75 | [3]1.5 |
| 2009-10 | [4]__ | [5]__ |
| 2010-11 | [4]__ | [5]__ |

[1] BREW.
[2] Former BREW.
[3] Indicative only.
[4] Indicative budget to be confirmed.
[5] To be confirmed.

DEFRA is still in discussion with the Environment Agency to finalise the use of funding that it is receiving in 2008-09 for activities formerly funded by the BREW Programme. The full indicative allocations for 2008-09 are as follows:

£1.5 million: Waste crime (includes £ 0.5 million capital expenditure)

£0.75 million: NetRegs—an internet based service providing free environmental guidance for small businesses in the UK to help them comply with environmental legislation.

£0.5 million: Waste protocols.

In recent years, the Environment Agency has typically spent approximately £14 million per annum on the enforcement and prosecution of illegal waste activity. This figure represents the full costs incurred by the Environment Agency and does not take into account any costs they may recover through the courts.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183853]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Guidance on the use of fairtrade goods is set out on the "fairtrade" page of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) website at:

http://www.defra.gsi.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/trade.htm

Departmental policy is to promote fairtrade goods through voluntary non-contractual means. From information held centrally, 100 per cent. of the tea, coffee and chocolate provided for hospitality functions is free trade. Members of staff have the option of buying fairtrade products in staff catering facilities and have been encouraged to purchase fairtrade products through awareness raising campaigns.

DEFRA's 'Catering Services Food Procurement Toolkit'

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/procurement/toolkit.htm

covers fairtrade products at pages 6, 16, 37, 38, 79, 93 and 123.

### Fishing Vessels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1624W, what the number of vessels he has identified for decommissioning is; and if he will make a statement; [191734]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost of decommissioning; and if he will make a statement; [191735]

(3) if he will use European Fisheries Fund monies to fund the decommissioning of 10 metre and under vessels; and if he will make a statement. [191736]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA officials are currently working on the form of a potential decommissioning scheme for under 10 metre vessels. If I decide that a decommissioning scheme is appropriate, I would expect to be in a position to formally consult on the details of such a scheme in the summer of this year. Until then, it is not possible to say whether vessels will be "identified for decommissioning". Previous schemes have not identified vessels, but set parameters within which certain vessels would be eligible.

The final cost of any decommissioning scheme is related to the scheme design, the monies available, and the number of vessel owners that apply to decommission their vessels. For planning purposes, I have set aside up to £5 million and would draw on funds both from the EU and national sources.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the number of vulnerable households that will receive new central heating as a result of the 20 per cent. reduction in the Warm Front budget. [188598]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Warm Front budget has not been reduced by 20 per cent.

### Import Controls: Expenditure

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186424]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A number of DEFRA agencies undertake a range of activities at the border, including the Environment Agency, Animal Health and the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate. However, disaggregated costs for security and enforcement are not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Rural Areas: Housing

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that funding will be available for *(a)* rural community council and *(b)* local measures to aid the supply of affordable rural housing to continue when Rural Social and Community Programme funding ends in March. [191430]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Rural Social and Community Programme (RSCP) was always intended to be a time-limited, two-year programme. It also included a specific requirement that beneficiaries' plans should include preparations for the closure of the scheme in March 2008. The Government recently recognised the importance of the rural community councils (RCCs) by announcing new funding worth over £10 million to the network over the next three years.

In addition, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1869-70W.

| Sea | |
|---|---|
| Possible reefs in the mid-Irish Sea | Spring 2007 |
| Possible reefs in the central and western English Channel | Summer 2006 |
| Possible reefs in the eastern Irish Sea | Summer 2005 |
| Sandbank in the northern Irish Sea | Winter 2005, summer 2005 |
| Reefs west of the Hebrides | Summer and autumn 2004 |
| Submarine canyons in the south-west Approaches | Summer 2007 |

Further areas of search for "reefs" and "submarine structures made by leaking gases" will be surveyed by JNCC in 2008, 2009 and 2010 on the Scottish Continental Shelf, the offshore area in the North West of Scotland and the Irish Sea.

### Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the loss of marine biodiversity to be halted; what progress is being made to achieve this; and if he will make a statement. [191615]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are committed to halting the decline of marine biodiversity by 2010.

The establishment of an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas will help us to meet this goal. Currently we have 151 protected sites with marine features in the UK. This includes 76 Special Protections Areas with marine habitats for birds, 72 Special Areas of Conservation with marine habitats or species, and three statutory marine nature reserves.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been consulting on seven initial offshore sites since December 2007. The consultation is due to close on 14 March 2008.

The forthcoming Marine Bill will give us the powers to designate Marine Conservation Zones for nationally rare, threatened and representative marine features.

To help us to understand the state of our marine biodiversity, we are currently developing indicators to report on 'marine ecosystem integrity'. This will contribute to the UK's reporting on the progress being made towards the commitment made under the Convention on Biological Diversity to

'halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010'.

Trends from the indicator will help us to understand what changes are occurring in the marine environment and where management should be focussed most to prevent further decline.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has identified any potential multi-purpose marine protected areas; and if he will make a statement. [191733]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We will be considering multi-purpose sites as part of the development of a network of marine protected areas. No such sites have yet been formally identified.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to the Marine Strategy Directive since the original draft was published; whether any of these changes reflect the Government's position as stated in the European Standing Committee on the Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment on 14 February 2006; what representations his Department made to the European Commission and EU counterparts following that European Standing Committee meeting; what the Government's current policy on the Directive is; and if he will make a statement. [191738]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Agreement has been reached on the terms of a draft Marine Strategy Directive following its Second Reading at the European Parliament in December 2007. The draft directive is due to be presented to council shortly for adoption.

The outcome fully reflects the Government's priorities, and incorporates important changes from the first draft in relation to cost effectiveness and risk-based management (Article 14), co-operation through the regional seas conventions, and the role of the European Commission. The UK was also closely involved in drafting an acceptable definition of 'good environmental status' (GES) and ensuring that the descriptors of GES in Annex I are based on the status of the environment rather than the reduction in certain human pressures. The UK Government made substantive representations on the draft directive in the normal way, through council working groups and at council.

The directive will require member states to take the necessary measures to achieve and maintain good environmental status of their waters by 2020 at the latest. This is challenging, but achievable, with sensible safeguards on cost effectiveness and will help member states deliver better protection for their waters. We are already establishing the measures necessary to assess our waters. The Marine Bill will enable the UK to take a leading role in implementing the directive in a way which reflects UK needs and priorities.

### Television

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191084]

**Jonathan Shaw:** From information held centrally, the core-Department plus the Marine Fisheries Agency and Natural England have purchased one LCD and four plasma television screens in the last 24 months at a total cost of £4,149. Further information on expenditure on plasma television screens by all other executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to define the core purpose of each specific unscheduled care service with reference to the British Association for Emergency Medicine's guidelines. [189966]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that they provide urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs.

Decisions about the shape and type of urgent and emergency care services should be taken locally so that services reflect the needs of the local population.

### Administrative Delays

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS foundation trusts on the measurement in March of the 18 week referral to treatment waiting time target. [191456]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has not issued any guidance directly to foundation trusts on measurement of the March referral to treatment milestone.

### Ambulance Services: Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions ambulances responding to emergency calls on Canvey Island have been diverted due to temporary road closures resulting from road traffic accidents in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [191790]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally. It is for the local national health service to decide how best to provide services to the communities they serve, including ambulance services.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this issue with the chief executive of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

### Carbon Monoxide: Health Hazards

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by his Department to increase awareness of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning amongst healthcare professionals. [191886]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt) on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 457W.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is given to trainee doctors to enable them to recognise the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. [191887]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training. However, we do share a commitment with statutory and professional bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal, whatever their condition.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds on levels of non-fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. [191901]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Information Centre for health and social care hold records on Hospital Episode Statistics which cover those admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning recorded in any primary or secondary diagnosis field.

These do not contain data which would allow determination of whether the admission to hospital proved fatal or non-fatal, because information about a patient, once they are discharged from hospital, is not captured.

### Dental Services

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children, *(b)* adults and *(c)* all people in (i) England and (ii) each English region were registered with a dentist in each of the last three years. [191508]

**Ann Keen:** The proportion of the population registered with an national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006." The information is provided by children/adults, and by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report was published on 23 August 2006 and is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collection/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The proportion of the population seen by an NHS dentist is available in Table C2 of Annex 3 of "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, and 30 September 2007. The information is provided by children/adults, and by PCT and SHA.

This report was published on 28 February 2008 and a copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england:-quarter-2:-30-september-2007

Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices have had to suspend NHS dentistry before the end of the current financial year due to budgetary constraints; and if he will make a statement. [190678]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) in England agree with dental providers the level of services to be delivered over the course of the year, and their annual contract values. These service levels, once agreed, cannot be changed, unless the provider and PCT agree.

It is for the provider to ensure that the annual service level agreed is delivered in a way that maintains services for patients through the year. The Department does not assess the performance of individual providers. PCTs, as commissioning bodies, are responsible for monitoring the services carried out by their local dental providers.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of NHS dentistry provision in Hertfordshire; [190679]

(2) what plans he has to extend provision of NHS dentistry in Hertfordshire. [190680]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission health services including dentistry for their local populations. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executives of West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs.

More generally, increasing the number of patients seen within National Health Service dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09. This has been supported by a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

### Dental Services: Children

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental *(a)* fillings and *(b)* extractions were carried out on children in (i) England and (ii) each English region in each of the last three years. [191509]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member for Upper Bann to the answer I gave him on 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1383-84W.

### Dental Services: Finance

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of *(a)* dental fees for items of service and *(b)* dental treatments in each of the last three years; and how much of the cost was borne by patients (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the overall cost in *(A)* England and *(B)* each English region in each of those years. [191510]

**Ann Keen:** Prior to April 2006, primary dental services were provided under either former general dental services (GDS) or former personal dental services (PDS) pilot arrangements. Most services were provided under GDS. Under this system dentists were remunerated on a fee per item of service basis.

In a number of areas, PDS pilots were also established, where dentists were remunerated not on fee per item but on locally commissioned arrangements. The number of GDS practices converting to PDS pilots increased significantly over the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

The information held by the Information Centre for health and social care on the expenditure by local area for national health service primary dental care under the former GDS and PDS arrangements in 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been placed in the Library.

Equivalent information is not available for 2006-07. Under the new contract arrangements for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, primary care trusts agree an annual contract value with dental contractors in return for delivery of an agreed level of dental activity. The former item of service fees were discontinued and payments can no longer be itemised by individual treatments.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's expenditure was allocated to Government growth areas in the last year for which figures are available. [190957]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows the revenue allocations made by the Department to primary care trusts (PCTs) in the growth areas in 2008-09. The PCT revenue allocations for 2008-09 totalled £74.2 billion. The £12.9 billion allocated to PCTs in growth areas represents 17 per cent. of the 2008-09 PCT revenue allocations. This is 13 per cent. of the total national health service budget for 2008-09.

| *PCT name* | *2008-09 recurrent allocation (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 861,887 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 510,388 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 723,346 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 704,199 |
| Luton PCT | 261,233 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 427,883 |
| Peterborough PCT | 238,393 |
| South East Essex PCT | 465,904 |
| South West Essex PCT | 554,331 |
| West Essex PCT | 358,991 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 281,607 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 297,301 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 439,429 |
| Enfield PCT | 405,175 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 392,719 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 395,698 |
| Havering PCT | 349,109 |
| Lewisham PCT | 453,100 |
| Newham PCT | 478,846 |
| Redbridge PCT | 334,848 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 417,125 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 366,306 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 1,068,679 |
| Medway PCT | 359,310 |
| West Kent PCT | 854,576 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 604,814 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 293,098 |
| 2008-09 revenue allocation to PCTs in growth areas | 12,898,297 |

### Diabetes: Health Education

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in his Department's support for self-management of, and education on, the treatment of diabetes since 2007. [190460]

**Ann Keen:** The Department continues to promote support for self-management and education as key elements of care for people with diabetes.

Since the publication of two departmental and diabetes UK joint reports: Structured Patient Education in Diabetes in June 2005 and Care Planning in Diabetes in November 2006, a support for self-management working group has been set up. The group is looking at ways that local services can develop support for self management, including care planning,

structured education, psychological issues and self-monitoring. We expect that some outcomes of the group's work will be shared with the diabetes community later in the year.

### Diabetes: Standards

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in waiting times for appointments with specialist teams on service quality and the standard of care provided to patients with diabetes. [190260]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is not aware that any such assessment has been made. It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to commission specialist diabetes services, and to ensure that those services meet all the needs of local people with diabetes. We would expect these services to be of good quality and to meet national waiting time targets.

### Doctors: EU Nationals

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether compliance with the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals requires a tiered system grouping applicants for positions in the NHS into categories during selection. [186644]

**Ann Keen:** No. Selection for posts in the national health service is a matter for local employers.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to consult the Royal Colleges on *(a)* the effects and *(b)* the implementation of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive for Health Professionals. [186645]

**Ann Keen:** The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Royal Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery were consulted in summer 2007 on regulations to implement the European Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications, 2005/36/EC. Now that United Kingdom legislation to implement this directive is in force, the Department has sought feedback from health and social care regulatory bodies on the effects and implementation of the directive, which concerns the recognition of professional qualifications by regulatory bodies.

### Fluoride: Finance

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* feasibility and *(b)* cost of engineering and water management work required to introduce fluoridated water to areas; and if he will make a statement. [190534]

**Ann Keen:** Feasibility varies between localities depending upon the coverage of the water distribution system and any technical constraints it imposes. For a strategic health authority with an average population of 5 million we estimate the capital costs of the water plant would be in the range of £15 million to £25 million and the recurrent costs of the operation of the plant and the fluoride chemicals around 80 pence per head of population per year. This compares to some £40 per person currently spent each year on national health service primary care dental services.

### General Practitioners

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of general practitioner practices in *(a)* England and *(b)* each English region with at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away in each of the last three years. [191582]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not hold this information centrally.

### General Practitioners: Baby Clinics

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries within each primary care trust area ran weekly baby clinics in each of the last 10 years. [191885]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners covered out-of-office hours in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [192260]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to approach the chief executive of Torbay Care Trust for information on numbers of general practitioners covering out of hours.

Primary care trusts now have a legal responsibility to ensure that they provide, or secure provision of out of hours services for their local population.

### Health Services: Greater London

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions in Leyton and Wanstead. [190616]

**Ann Keen:** It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF)". The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs.

## Health Services: Pre-School Education

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits were made by health professionals to pre-school settings in each of the last five years; and how many children were referred for additional assessment in each year. [191884]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not available centrally.

## Health Visitors

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department gives to primary care trusts on the recruitment and retention of health visitors. [188821]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of local organisations to commission and develop services to respond to local needs. The Operating Framework for 2008-09 highlights the importance of maternity and children's services' work force, and the need for local organisations to commission and provide the necessary work force. Health visitors are well placed to deliver significant parts of this service.

## Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time for assessment for digital hearing aids was in each primary care trust in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [188885]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The data are not collected in the format requested. However, average waiting times for all audiological assessments as at December 2007, including assessment for digital hearing aids, are shown in the following table.

*Average (median) waiting times for audiological assessments: position at end December 2007: commissioner based*

| *Primary care trust* | *Median waiting times (weeks)* |
|---|---|
| Newcastle PCT | 4.4 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 4.3 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 2.5 |
| North Tees PCT | 4.4 |
| Darlington PCT | 45.1 |
| Gateshead PCT | 3.3 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 2.9 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 2.7 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 2.6 |
| County Durham | 39.6 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3.3 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 5.0 |
| Blackburn With Darwen PCT | 2.9 |
| Salford PCT | 1.9 |
| Stockport PCT | ‡ |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 5.7 |
| Blackpool PCT | 7.8 |
| Bolton PCT | 1.5 |
| Warrington PCT | 6.0 |
| Knowsley PCT | 7.9 |
| Oldham PCT | 1.8 |
| Bury PCT | 1.5 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 1.7 |
| Cumbria | 4.4 |
| North Lancashire | 3.9 |
| Central Lancashire | 19.1 |
| East Lancashire | 3.0 |
| Sefton | 2.6 |
| Wirral | 4.3 |
| Liverpool | 8.6 |
| Halton and St. Helens | 7.8 |
| West Cheshire | ‡ |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 3.8 |
| Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton | 0.7 |
| Trafford | 2.9 |
| Manchester | 0.6 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 6.6 |
| Rotherham PCT | 1.2 |
| Calderdale PCT | 3.4 |
| Barnsley PCT | 3.0 |
| Leeds | 9.2 |
| Kirklees | 3.5 |
| Wakefield | 3.5 |
| Sheffield | 4.3 |
| Doncaster | 2.8 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 4.5 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | ‡ |
| Hull Teaching | 43.8 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching | 6.3 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 6.3 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 2.7 |
| Bassetlaw PCT | 2.8 |
| Derbyshire County | 3.4 |
| Derby City | 4.9 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching | 2.7 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching | 5.7 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 4.3 |
| Leicester City Teaching | 4.3 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching | 4.4 |
| Herefordshire PCT | ‡ |
| South Birmingham PCT | 4.3 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 5.4 |
| Walsall PCT | 3.4 |
| Coventry PCT | 4.7 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 5.3 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 3.9 |
| Heart of Birmingham PCT | 4.4 |
| Dudley | 3.2 |
| Sandwell | 3.7 |
| Birmingham East and North | 3.8 |
| North Staffordshire | 48.3 |
| Stoke on Trent Teaching | ‡ |
| South Staffordshire | 3.3 |
| Worcestershire | 3.1 |
| Warwickshire | 4.7 |
| Solihull PCT | 3.4 |
| Luton PCT | 5.8 |
| South East Essex | 4.0 |
| Bedfordshire | 6.0 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 3.5 |
| West Hertfordshire | 3.4 |

*Average (median) waiting times for audiological assessments: position at end December 2007: commissioner based*

| *Primary care trust* | *Median waiting times (weeks)* |
|---|---|
| Peterborough | 2.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3.3 |
| Norfolk | 3.9 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching | 3.5 |
| Suffolk | 3.1 |
| West Essex | 3.8 |
| North East Essex | 4.6 |
| Mid Essex | 3.3 |
| South West Essex Teaching | 3.5 |
| Havering PCT | 20.0 |
| Kingston PCT | 27.0 |
| Bromley PCT | 4.6 |
| Greenwich PCT | 4.1 |
| Barnet PCT | 3.3 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 3.0 |
| Enfield PCT | 7.4 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 10.3 |
| City and Hackney PCT | 4.1 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 2.8 |
| Newham PCT | 3.6 |
| Haringey PCT | 8.0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 6.6 |
| Ealing PCT | 31.8 |
| Hounslow PCT | 14.0 |
| Brent PCT | 6.4 |
| Harrow PCT | 4.4 |
| Camden PCT | 4.3 |
| Islington PCT | 5.0 |
| Croydon PCT | 3.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 6.4 |
| Westminster PCT | 6.1 |
| Lambeth PCT | 4.6 |
| Southwark PCT | 5.0 |
| Lewisham PCT | 4.3 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 3.7 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 13.4 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 3.9 |
| Redbridge PCT | 3.8 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 6.2 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 4.1 |
| Medway PCT | 5.2 |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 12.8 |
| Surrey | 5.5 |
| West Sussex Teaching | 15.9 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 19.2 |
| Hastings and Rother | 2.7 |
| West Kent | 21.0 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching | 51.7 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 3.2 |
| Portsmouth City PCT | 13.1 |
| Southampton City PCT | 2.8 |
| Hampshire | 6.7 |
| Buckinghamshire | 4.5 |
| Oxfordshire | 4.4 |
| Berkshire West | 4.7 |
| Berkshire East Teaching | 6.5 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare | 11.2 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 4.0 |
| Plymouth PCT | 2.7 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 8.8 |
| Swindon PCT | 2.4 |
| North Somerset PCT | 12.8 |
| Gloucestershire | 27.4 |
| Bristol Teaching | 3.7 |
| Wiltshire | 6.4 |
| Somerset | 5.2 |
| Dorset | 4.5 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching | 4.3 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 2.8 |
| Devon | 3.2 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 1.1 |

[1] Over 52 weeks.

*Notes:*
1. PCT data will be affected by estimates made for Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust that may not reflect their true position.
2. Median waits are calculated from aggregate returns, and are therefore only an estimate of the average wait.
3. PCTs where the median falls in the 52+ week timeband are shown as 'over 52 weeks'.

*Source:*
Dept of Health form DM01

## Hospitals: Screening

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the disparity between the regions in the figures for the percentage of stroke victims who receive brain scans within 24 hours of their admission to hospital. [190732]

**Ann Keen:** The new National Stroke Strategy, announced in December, will modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke across England. The strategy emphasises the need to improve access to scans and stipulates that brain imaging should be performed in the next scan slot, or within 60 minutes of request out of hours. We are asking all local stroke networks to ensure that any patient who could benefit from urgent care should be transferred to an acute stroke centre that provides 24-hour access to scans and other specialist stroke care.

The national health service is funded to implement the strategy. We have fully costed the proposals in the strategy, and this will be reflected in the allocation which goes to primary care trusts for next year. In addition, we have committed new central funds totalling £105 million over the next three years. Some of that new funding will be used to develop demonstration sites for acute services which will enable us to not only show a step change in service provision in those areas, but to provide lessons that can be shared. The £105 million is central funding—on top of money going into the NHS to support this change.

## Local Involvement Networks

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish guidance on local involvement networks for local authorities; and by when he plans to require that guidance to be implemented. [191298]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) has been contracted by the Department to promote more effective patient and public involvement and consultation and to provide support, advice and guidance to stakeholders in this respect. The NCI will be producing a detailed compendium of guidance from 1 April, when local involvement networks (LINks) will come into force.

Since the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 was enacted in October last year, a great deal of support work has been done to ensure that a LINk is established in each local authority (LA) area. This has included £10,000 being allocated to each LA and the monthly issuing of newsletters designed to help local authorities plan for LINks.

In addition, in August 2007, the Department published its "Getting Ready for LINks" guidance, which set out the activities that local authorities should be undertaking in order to successfully contract with a host organisation to run its local LINk.

## NHS: ICT

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which strategic health authorities have trusts with Cerner Millennium systems *(a)* installed and *(b)* proposed for installation; who in NHS headquarters has the responsibility for collating the experience of trusts with Cerner; what assessment he has made of levels of satisfaction with Cerner in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [191290]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on existing deployments for each strategic health authority (SHA) area are shown in the following table.

| *SHA* | *Trust* |
|---|---|
| NHS London | Homerton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust |
| | Newham Healthcare NHS Trust |
| | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust |
| | Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust |
| South Central | Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust |
| | Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust |
| | Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust |
| | Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust |
| South East Coast | Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust |
| | Worthing and Southlands Hospitals |
| South West | Weston Area Health NHS Trust |
| | Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust |

Other trusts in these SHA areas, and one further trust in the North West SHA, will in due course go live with the Cerner Millennium system on dates to be determined by local agreement with the national health service bodies concerned.

While many users who have become familiar with the Cerner Millennium software over time have expressed satisfaction with the system, we are aware that initial concerns have been expressed by some users about the level and quality of functionality provided following some recent deployments of the system. These concerns are being investigated.

Since April 2007, deployment of systems is the responsibility of the SHAs. However, at a national level, NHS Connecting for Health collates information about the performance of suppliers and handles commercial issues. NHS Connecting for Health and SHAs are working closely with the relevant local service providers, and their sub-contractor Cerner to address the user's concerns about the product and its ease of use. The continuous process of applying lessons learned from each deployment aims to ensure the system achieves its potential to serve the needs of the NHS.

## NHS: Manpower

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what forecasts he has made of the future requirements for additional *(a)* radiographers, *(b)* radiologists and *(c)* bowel screening colonoscopists over the next five years (i) in England and (ii) in Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [189064]

**Ann Keen:** Work force planning is a matter for local determination, as local work force planners are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to support this.

The number of qualified radiographers employed in the national health service has increased by 2,793 (23.72 per cent.) since September 1997.

The number of diagnostic radiographers has increased by 2,171 (20.9 per cent.) since 1997.

The number of therapeutic radiographers has increased by 622 (44.2 per cent.) since 1997.

*NHS hospital and community health service (HCHS): scientific, therapeutic and technical staff by type, England as at 30 September each year*

*Headcount*

| *Qualified allied health profession* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All radiographers | 11,771 | 12,118 | 12,330 | 10,478 | 10,655 | 13,031 | 13,344 | 13,900 | 14,539 | 14,564 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diagnostic radiography[2] | 10,364 | 10,645 | 10,839 | 9,169 | 9,264 | 11,489 | 11,687 | 12,147 | 12,700 | 12,535 |

*NHS hospital and community health service (HCHS): scientific, therapeutic and technical staff by type, England as at 30 September each year*

*Headcount*

| *Qualified allied health profession* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Therapeutic radiography | 1,407 | 1,473 | 1,491 | 1,309 | 1,391 | 1,542 | 1,657 | 1,753 | 1,839 | 2,029 |

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. Although this represents less than 1 per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons.
These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 368 support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 21 in other areas.
[2] New occupation codes for health care scientists were introduced in 2003. As a result, a small number of staff previously included under diagnostic radiography are now classified within medical physics.
*Note:*
The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent has been minimal with the removal of 507.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census

The number of consultant radiologists has increased by 632 (42.9 per cent.) since 1997.

*HCHS medical and dental consultants (including directors of public health) by specialty group, England at 30 September*

*Number*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Radiology | 1,473 | 1,514 | 1,540 | 1,616 | 1,683 | 1,745 | 1,860 | 1,928 | 2,058 | 2,105 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care.

The annual NHS work force census does not separately identify the number of bowel screening colonoscopists as they are not a registered specialty or profession and consist of people from a number of different work force groups.

**Nurses: Cancer Treatment**

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialist clinical nurses there are for *(a)* each cancer specialism and *(b)* each cancer network; and what assessment he has made of the efficacy of clinical nurse specialist provision; [190571]

(2) how many lung cancer patients there were per lung cancer clinical nurse specialist in each cancer network in the latest period for which figures are available; [190572]

(3) if he will make it his policy to retain current numbers of lung cancer clinical nurse specialists; [190573]

(4) what steps he is taking to improve the access of lung cancer patients to clinical nurse specialists. [190574]

**Ann Keen:** Data on the number of clinical nurse specialists are not collected centrally. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of the multidisciplinary cancer team in their 'Improving Outcomes' series of guidance.

Since 1997 there are over 79,000 (25 per cent.) more nurses in the national health service. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, primary care trusts, NHS trusts and postgraduate deaneries to make the best use of these staff and to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their workforce needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer including the implementation of NICE Improving Outcomes Guidance.

**Nursing and Midwifery Council: Management**

**Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has for oversight of the governance and management practices of the Nursing and Midwifery Council. [190570]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is an independent regulatory body and as such is responsible for its own internal management practices.

The Government have reviewed the governance of all the health care regulatory bodies and published their proposals in the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety— The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century". These include a number of reforms to the governance of the regulatory bodies, such as the introduction of appointment only councils that are smaller and more board-like.

The Government established the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) in April 2003 with functions that include promoting best practice and consistency in the regulation of health care professionals and reporting on the performance of regulators' various functions. As part of its responsibilities, CHRE undertakes an annual performance review, of which governance is a key factor, of all of the health care regulators.

**Ophthalmic Services: Expenditure**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of ophthalmic services in *(a)* England and *(b)* each English region was in each of the last two years. [191504]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 568-69W.

### Organs

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organs for transplantation were *(a)* stolen and *(b)* lost from NHS premises in each of the last five years. [188840]

**Ann Keen:** Under the Human Tissue Act 2004 (Ethical Approval, Exceptions from Licensing and Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2006, practitioners must be able to account for every organ procured, transplanted or in any case where the organ is not transplanted, the manner of disposal. There is no evidence to show that any organs for transplant have been either lost or stolen from national health service premises.

### Organs: Donors

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will seek discussions with his Spanish counterpart to discuss policy on organ donation. [189204]

**Ann Keen:** As part of its work to examine how donation rates might be improved, the organ donation taskforce looked at successful models of organ donation from across the world. As part of that process, Dr. Rafael Matesanz, of the Organizacion Nacional de Trasplantes in Spain, and architect of the successful Spanish model, gave a presentation to Taskforce on the system in operation in Spain. The former Minister of State (Ms Winterton) attended this Taskforce meeting.

Both the Taskforce, and officials within the Department will continue to work closely with officials in Spain during the implementation phase of the Taskforce report.

### Patients: Surveys

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the GP patient survey is; and how much has been spent on translation services for the survey. [191006]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has budgeted around £10 million for this year's general practitioner patient survey. This includes costs to conduct both the access and choice parts of the survey. It is not possible to give a more detailed breakdown of costs as this would require disclosure of commercially sensitive and confidential information provided by our suppliers.

### Peterborough Primary Care Trust: Screening

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women were screened for *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* cervical cancer in the Peterborough primary care trust and predecessor trusts in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [190699]

**Ann Keen:** Screening for cancer saves lives. The earlier that cancer can be diagnosed the greater the chance of it being cured and screening is vital to diagnosing some cancers early. It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts (PCTs), local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate screening services for their local populations.

Women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for free breast screening every three years. The numbers of women screened for breast cancer in the Peterborough PCT and its predecessor trusts in each year since 2001 are shown in the following table.

For ease of interpretation, the proportion of eligible women that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years has also been provided. Information has been provided for the 53-64 age group, because coverage is dependant on the three year screening round. As the breast screening programme was not extended to women aged 65-70 until April 2006, three year coverage will not be fully available for this age group until 2008-09.

*Number of women aged 53-64 screened for breast cancer in Peterborough PCT and its predecessor trusts and the proportion of the eligible population that this represents in each year since 2001*

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North Peterborough:* | | | | | | |
| Eligible population[1] | 6,583 | 6,710 | 6,707 | 6,743 | 6,848 | [3] |
| Women screened (less than three years since last test) | 5,114 | 4,669 | 5,336 | 4,992 | 5,464 | [3] |
| Coverage (less than three years since last test) (percentage) | 77.7 | 69.6 | 79.6 | 74.0 | 79.8 | [3] |
| *South Peterborough:* | | | | | | |
| Eligible population[1] | 6,182 | 6,462 | 6,796 | 6,889 | 7,176 | [3] |
| Women screened (less than three years since last test) | 4,861 | 5,139 | 5,532 | 5,648 | 5,933 | [3] |
| Coverage (less than three years since last test) (percentage) | 78.6 | 79.5 | 81.4 | 82.0 | 82.7 | [3] |
| *Peterborough*[2] | | | | | | |
| Eligible population[1] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 10,198 |
| Women screened (less than three years since last test) | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 8,006 |
| Coverage (less than three years since last test) (percentage) | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 78.5 |

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
[2] Following the restructuring of PCTs in October 2006, Peterborough PCT comprised North Peterborough PCT and a proportion of South Peterborough PCT (other proportions went to make up Northamptonshire PCT and Cambridgeshire PCT). Consequently, data for 2001-02 to 2005-06 are not directly comparable with 2006-07.
[3] Data are not applicable.
*Source:*
KC63, The Information Centre for health and social care

Women aged between 25 and 64 are invited to participate in the national cervical screening programme. The numbers of women screened for cervical cancer in Peterborough PCT and its predecessor trusts in each year since 2001 are in the following table. For ease of interpretation, the proportion of eligible women that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous five years has also been provided.

*Number of women screened for cervical cancer in Peterborough PCT and its predecessor trusts and the proportion of the eligible population that this represents in each year since 2001*

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North Peterborough:* | | | | | | |
| Eligible population[1] | 25,363 | 25,586 | 25,852 | 26,191 | 26,683 | [3] |
| Number of women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) | 20,588 | 20,574 | 20,620 | 20,446 | 20,510 | [3] |
| Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (percentage) | 81.2 | 80.4 | 79.8 | 78.1 | 76.9 | [3] |
| *South Peterborough:* | | | | | | |
| Eligible Population[1] | 22,640 | 23,106 | 23,684 | 24,342 | 25,258 | [3] |
| Number of women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) | 19,177 | 19,456 | 19,848 | 20,232 | 20,853 | [3] |
| Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (percentage) | 84.7 | 84.2 | 83.8 | 83.1 | 82.6 | [3] |
| *Peterborough*[2] | | | | | | |
| Eligible population[1] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 39,748 |
| Number of women screened (less than five years since last test) | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 30,851 |
| Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (percentage) | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 77.6 |

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
[2] Following the restructuring of PCTs in October 2006, Peterborough PCT comprised North Peterborough PCT and a proportion of South Peterborough PCT (other proportions went to make up Northamptonshire PCT and Cambridgeshire PCT). Consequently, data for 2001-02 to 2005-06 are not directly comparable with 2006-07.
[3] Data are not applicable.
*Source:*
KC53, Parts A2 and A3 The Information Centre for health and social care.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the take-up of bowel cancer screening among men aged over 60 years of age in the Peterborough primary care trust area from April; and if he will make a statement. [190700]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service bowel cancer screening programme is the first cancer screening programme in England to invite men as well as women.

National roll out of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme began in April 2006, with the first invitations sent out in July 2006, and is expected to be complete by December 2009.

This is an ambitious project and when the programme is fully rolled out, it is expected to detect around 3,000 cancers per year in England.

### Strokes: East of England

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the time taken for the East of England region stroke patients to receive a brain scan; and if he will make a statement. [191353]

**Ann Keen:** A national sentinel audit for stroke has been carried out by the Royal College of Physicians since 1998. The latest audit in 2006 was funded by the Healthcare Commission. The aims of the audit include enabling national health service trusts, including those in the East of England region, to evaluate the quality of their stroke services by comparison with national standards. The audits results cover facilities for and access to brain scans. A further audit will be undertaken in 2008. The 2006 audit is available on the Royal College of Physicians website at:

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/books/strokeaudit/

## TRANSPORT

### A1079: Accidents

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of road safety on the A1079 road between Hull and York; and if she will make a statement. [192432]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Transport has not undertaken an assessment of road safety on the A1079. As part of the local authority's Primary Route Network, this road is the responsibility of the East Riding of Yorkshire council. It is for the council to assess the needs and priorities of all the roads within its control and decide how best to target its resources.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in road traffic incidents on the A1079 road in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [192568]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents that were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured on the A1079 in 2002 to 2006 are shown in the table.

| | Number of casualties | |
|---|---|---|
| | Killed | Injured[1] |
| 2002 | 3 | 246 |
| 2003 | 4 | 255 |
| 2004 | 5 | 198 |
| 2005 | 11 | 184 |
| 2006 | 2 | 154 |

[1] Seriously or slightly injured

## A12

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions the A12 has been closed between the M25 and Ipswich in the last three years; and what the location and the duration of each closure was. [190228]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table provides details of the information requested.

*A12 closure, location and duration 1 January 2005 to 31 January 2008*

| Date | Location | Duration |
|---|---|---|
| 5 January 2005 | A12 Boreham southbound due to accident | 05:30:00 |
| 7 February 2005 | A12 northbound between the junctions with the A1 30 and the A1 20 due to accident | 01:21:00 |
| 7 February 2005 | A1 2 Eight Ash Green - Police closure request | 00:20:00 |
| 18 February 2005 | A12 southbound between the junctions with the A1 30 and the A41 4 due to an accident | 00:43:00 |
| 9 March 2005 | A12 northbound closed between the junctions with the A120 and the A14 due to an accident | 01:50:00 |
| 10 March 2005 | A12-A120 Crown Interchange, southbound entry slip - Pedestrian Fatality | 04:28:00 |
| 24 March 2005 | A12 Stratford St Mary, northbound - Incident involving a car fire | 01:30:00 |
| 17 April 2005 | A12 Marks Tey, just prior to A120 exit slip, southbound - fatality | 04:30:00 |
| 22 April 2005 | A12 southbound between the junctions with the A1023 and the A41 4 due to an accident | 00:52:00 |
| 25 April 2005 | A12 Hatfield Peverel southbound HGV overturned | 06:55:00 |
| 10 May 2005 | A12 Mountnessing Interchange - southbound exit slip road due to an accident | 02:05:00 |
| 10 May 2005 | A1 2 Capel St Mary - southbound carriageway closed following incident | 00:42:00 |
| 8 June 2005 | A12 Rivenhall Northbound closed due to accident | 01:10:00 |
| 9 June 2005 | A12 northbound exit slip to A120 due to an accident | 01:12:00 |
| 14 June 2005 | A12 southbound between A130 and A120 due to an accident | 03:16:00 |
| 15 June 2005 | A12 Kelvedon Bypass northbound due to an accident resulting in fatality | 04:10:00 |
| 23 June 2005 | A12 northbound between A130 and A120 due to vehicle fire | 03:18:00 |
| 27 June 2005 | A12 northbound between M25 and A1023 due to chemical spill | 01:04:00 |
| 3 July 2005 | A12 Crown Interchange northbound exit slip due to accident | 04:00:00 |
| 6 July 2005 | A12 Kelvedon Bypass northbound due to an accident | 01:55:00 |
| 25 August 2005 | A12 Stratford St Mary northbound due to lorry overturning | 01:35:00 |
| 31 August 2005 | A12 Hatfield Peverel southbound due to accident | 01:20:00 |
| 4 September 2005 | A12 Kelvedon BP southbound due to motorcyclist fatality (northbound also closed during southbound closure to aid investigation) | 03:10:00 |
| 5 September 2005 | A12 Kelvedon BP northbound due to accident | 02:37:00 |
| 5 September 2005 | A1 2 Witham BP due to accident | 01:30:00 |
| 17 September 2005 | A12 Colchester Northern BP at Spring Lane northbound due to accident | 01:20:00 |
| 20 September 2005 | A12 Colchester Northern BP north and southbound due to suspect package at service station | 01:30:00 |
| 21 September 2005 | A12 Brook St Interchange exit slip southbound due to fatality | 05:00:00 |
| 1 October 2005 | A12 Holton St Mary northbound involving two fatalities | 05:00:00 |
| 9 November 2005 | A12 Marks Tey northbound entry slip closed due to accident fatality | 04:05:00 |
| 9 November 2005 | A12 northbound between A120 and A1124 due to accident | 03:32:00 |
| 30 November 2005 | A12 between A14 and B1070 East Bergholt due to accident | 01:25:00 |
| 2 December 2005 | A12 southbound between Rivenhall End and Witham - Carriageway blocked by 5 No. Vehicle RTA | 01:40:00 |
| 2 December 2005 | A12 southbound between B1 389 junctions, Witham Bypass due to accident | 01:25:00 |
| 13 December 2005 | A12 northbound between A1 124 and A133 (Colchester) - Road closed due to a broken down vehicle | 01:44:00 |
| 19 January 2006 | A12 Kelvedon BP southbound due to accident | 01:50:00 |
| 31 January 2006 | A12 Rivenhall north and southbound due to crossover accident | 04:40:00 |
| 31 January 2006 | A12 Kelvedon BP southbound between B1024 junctions due to accident | 05:00:00 |
| 17 February 2006 | A12 Colchester Northern BP southbound due to diesel tank falling off back of lorry | 01:45:00 |
| 21 February 2006 | A12 between A120 and A133 due to accident | 00:09:00 |
| 21 April 2006 | A12 Howe Green northbound exit slip road due to accident on local network | 07:20:00 |
| 27 April 2006 | A12 Crown Interchange northbound slip road closed due to pedestrian fatality | 03:05:00 |
| 13 May 2006 | A12 Crown Interchange northbound due to accident | 02:55:00 |
| 13 June 2006 | A12 Chelmsford BP northbound nr Jen 16 due to lorry overturning | 01:45:00 |
| 1 July 2006 | A12 northbound at Lynfields Interchange, Witham due to an accident fatality | 05:45:00 |
| 31 July 2006 | A12 Chelmsford BP southbound at Galleywood due to accident | 03:10:00 |
| 31 July 2006 | A12 southbound entry slip from A130 due to accident | 01:06:00 |
| 31 July 2006 | A12 southbound between A138-A130 and A414 Chelmsford due to accident | 02:19:00 |
| 31 July 2006 | A12 Margaretting BP northbound following accident fatalty | 04:15:00 |
| 29 August 2006 | A12 southbound between Howe Green Interchange and Webbs Farm Interchange due to accident | 06:30:00 |
| 7 September2006 | A12 Crown Interchange northbound exit slip due to accident | 02:45:00 |
| 21 October 2006 | A12 southbound between Mountnessing Interchange and Brentwood due to accident fatality | 03:10:00 |

*A12 closure, location and duration 1 January 2005 to 31 January 2008*

| *Date* | *Location* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|
| 10 November 2006 | A12 southbound between Webbs Farm Interchange and M25 (J28) due to accident | 01:55:00 |
| 23 November 2006 | A12 northbound nr A414 at Chelmsford due to accident . . | 02:28:00 |
| 11 January 2007 | A12 northbound between A414 and A138-A130 due to an accident | 01:40:00 |
| 15 January 2007 | A12 northbound nr Howe Green Interchange due to accident | 02:10:00 |
| 18 January 2007 | A12 southbound between B1007 and A414 due to accident | 06:39:00 |
| 18 January 2007 | A12 northbound at A414 at Chelmsford due to accident | 04:41:00 |
| 15 March 2007 | A12 eastbound exit for A120 due to unplanned incident | 01:49:00 |
| 20 March 2007 | A12 southbound at Stratford St Mary due to accident | 01:15:00 |
| 22 May 2007 | A12 northbound exit slip to A133 due to overturned HGV | 10:45:00 |
| 23 May 2007 | A12 northbound Ingatestone BP due to accident fatality | 03:50:00 |
| 5 June 2007 | A12 northbound at Brook Street Interchange due to accident | 01:10:00 |
| 2 July 2007 | A12 southbound Mountnessing and Brook Street Interchanges due to accident fatality | 05:05:00 |
| 16 August 2007 | A12 southbound near Howe Green Interchange due to accident fatality | 02:35:00 |
| 5 October 2007 | A12 north and southbound closure due to vehicle fire-danger of oxyacetylene explosion | 26:00:00 |
| 7 December 2007 | A12 north and southbound due to jacknifed lorry-central reserve crossover | 10:47:00 |
| 21 December 2007 | A12 Hatfield Pevferel southbound at Jen 20A due to accident | 00:40:00 |
| 5 January 2008 | A12 Kelvedon Bypass northbound between Kelvedoh South and Kelvedon North Interchanges due to accident | 01:46:00 |
| 6 January 2008 | A12 northbound between Crown Interchange and B1029 due to accident | 00:35:00 |
| 12 January 2008 | A12 northbound between A120 and B1029 Stratford St Mary due to an accident | 02:15:00 |
| 13 January 2008 | A12 northbound Chelmsford Bypass between Sandon Interchange and Boreham Interchange due to accident | 05:20:00 |
| 25 January 2008 | A12 northbound between Kelvedon North and South Interchange due to HGV hire | 03:02:00 |
| 27 January 2008 | A12 northbound between Dedham and Stratford St Mary due to accident fatality | 03:15:00 |
| 27 January 2008 | A1 2 northbound between B1 389 junctions due to an accident | 02:25:00 |
| 29 January 2008 | A12 southbound between Four Sisters and Stratford St Mary Interchanges due to fatality | 06:00:00 |

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which five locations *(a)* on the A12 in Essex and *(b)* in Essex had the highest number of traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [191320]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table shows the locations on the A12 in Essex which had the highest number of traffic accidents in each of the last five years. The table does not include statistics for local roads in Essex which are the responsibility of the local highway authority, Essex county council.

| | *Location* | *Grid reference* | *Route* | *Accidents* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Near: Slip road with Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester | 597130/225461 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 northern slips to A1023 Mountnessing | 562574/196774 | A12 | 4 |
| | Near: A12 northern slips to Eight Ash Green, Stanway | 595012/225141 | A12 | 4 |
| | Near: A12 approach to northern slips to Eight Ash Green | 594723/225050 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 1/4 mile north of M25, Brentwood | 556990/192643 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon north slip roads | 587882/220320 | A12 | 3 |
| 2004 | Near: A12 Witham south slip roads (Lynfields) | 580388/212526 | A12 | 9 |
| | Near: A12 slip roads to A414, Sandon | 574686/205413 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 Stratford Road, Stratford St. Mary | 604268/233254 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 under A1023 Mountnessing roundabout | 562270/196743 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon south slip roads | 585097/217507 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: Slip road with Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester | 597120/225526 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 600 m north of Boreham interchange, Chelmsford | 575010/210073 | A12 | 3 |
| 2005 | Near: Slip road with Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester | 597167/225505 | A12 | 10 |
| | Near A12 Witham south slip roads (Lynfields) | 580401/212539 | A12 | 8 |
| | Near: A12 northern slips to Eight Ash Green, Stanway | 594724/225062 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon north slip roads | 585006/217422 | A12 | 4 |
| | Near: A12/A120 Ardleigh interchange | 601910/228934 | A12 | 4 |
| 2006 | Near: A12 Witham south slip roads (Lynfields) | 580412/212559 | A12 | 6 |
| | Near: Slip road with Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester | 597151/225527 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon north slip roads | 587795/220187 | A12 | 3 |

| | Location | Grid reference | Route | Accidents |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Near: A12 Hatfield Peverel southern slips | 578126/211470 | A13 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 200 m south of Boreham interchange | 584066/208782 | A14 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 southern slips to Eight Ash Green, Stanway | 594338/225053 | A15 | 3 |
| 2007 | Near: Slip road with Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester | 597153/225527 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 Witham south slip roads (Lynfields) | 580399/212536 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 Hatfield Peverel northern slips | 579623/212090 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon south slip roads | 585032/217431 | A12 | 5 |
| | Near: A12/A120 Ardleigh interchange | 601866/228929 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 Hatfield Peverel southern slips | 578132/211438 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 northern slip roads to M25 Brook Street | 556955/192601 | A12 | 3 |
| | Near: A12 Kelvedon bypass near B1023 bridge | 587560/218890 | A12 | 3 |

### A13: Sadlers Farm

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received from archaeological groups on investigations to determine the extent of historical workings or artefacts prior to the commencement of works on the A13 Sadlers Farm junction. [190492]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** To date, the Secretary of State for Transport has received no representations from archaeological groups in connection with A13/A130 Sadlers Farm junction.

### A130: Safety Barriers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission a central safety barrier for the A130 between Sadlers Farm, Benfleet and Waterside Farm, Canvey Island. [191797]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* The commissioning of safety measures on the A130 rests not with the Secretary of State for Transport but with the local highway authority, in this case Essex county council.

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy that the initial allowances for the aviation sector within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme be subject to auction. [191824]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Decisions on the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme require international agreement. Under the agreement at the December 2007 Environment Council meeting, 10 per cent. of the initial allocation of carbon allowances to the aviation sector would be auctioned. The December agreement also made a provision for the level of auctioning to be reviewed.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy that the cap for the aviation sector within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme be set at 90 per cent. of 2004 to 2006 average emissions. [191825]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Decisions on the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme require international agreement. Under the agreement at the December 2007 Environment Council meeting, the emissions cap for aviation would be set at 100 per cent. of the average historical emissions in 2004 to 2006. The December agreement also made provision for there to be a review of the emissions cap.

### Bus Services: Grants

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much bus service operators grant was paid to community transport organisations in each year since 2002. [191806]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The amount of Bus Operators Grant (BSOG) paid by the Department to community transport organisations operating services under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985 has been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 663,724 |
| 2003-04 | 2,807,432 |
| 2004-05 | 4,518,738 |
| 2005-06 | 4,343,320 |
| 2006-07 | 5,240,332 |

In addition a number of community transport bodies receive BSOG for the operation of local bus services under section 22 of the Transport Act 1985 but a separate record is not kept of the payments to these services.

### Bus Services: Subsidies

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average public subsidy to a bus operating on the non-tendered network in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* England in 2006-07. [190457]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* We estimate that in 2006-07 the average subsidy (defined as reimbursement of the costs of

concessionary fares and payments of Bus Service Operators Grant) per bus operating non-tendered mileage was:

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Greater Manchester | 35,272 |
| Rest of England[1] | 35,282 |

[1] Excluding London which is essentially a tendered network.

For the purposes of this calculation we have used the assumption, derived from statistical surveys of the proportion of bus operated mileage which is on non-tendered routes, that 80 per cent. of buses are engaged in non-tendered work and that 80 per cent. of subsidy (as defined in the table) is with respect to non-tendered routes.

### Cars: Exhaust Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars were sold in 2007 with tailpipe carbon emissions below 110g/km in the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU. [186954]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Statistics regarding vehicles newly registered in 2007 are not yet available.

However, the number of cars newly registered in Great Britain in 2006 were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of cars newly registered in 2006 | 2,340,043 |
| *Of which:* | |
| Number where $CO_2$ emissions less than 110 g/km | 42,192 |
| *Of which:* | |
| Number where $CO_2$ emissions greater than or equal to 110 g/km | 2,253,222 |
| *Of which:* | |
| Number where $CO_2$ emissions not available | 44,629 |

These data include all cars that have been newly registered in 2006 and will, therefore, include vehicles that have been imported into Great Britain during this time.

### Concessionary Bus Travel

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has had discussions with National Express on bringing them wholly or partially into the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [190874]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have had no discussions with National Express regarding the extension of concessionary travel to their coaches. There are no proposals at present to extend statutory concessionary fares to forms of transport other than local bus services.

Since 2003, there has been a half-fare concessionary travel scheme for older and eligible disabled people on long distance coaches. It is a voluntary scheme but the major providers of long distance coach services, including National Express, take part. The scheme will continue following the introduction of the England-wide free off-peak local bus travel concession in April.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of implementation of the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [191330]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our assessment of the likely cost impact of the new concession is based on generous assumptions about pass take-up, fares and increased patronage. On this basis we have allocated an additional £212 million to travel concession authorities from 1 April, enough to fund around an extra £200 million bus journeys across England. We are confident that this funding is sufficient to cover the additional cost of the new concession.

The money will be distributed by a special grant, in line with the wishes of local government itself, using a formula to direct funding to areas likely to experience increased costs such as urban and tourist centres and coastal towns. The formula used is based on the most popular option with local authorities, as determined from our recent consultation on the issue.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1414W, on concessionary bus travel, what funding has been provided for bus concession travel through the formula grant process in each year for which figures are available; and how much and what percentage of that funding was allocated to Taunton Deane local authority area in each of those years. [187901]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Between 2000 and 31 March 2006 the statutory minimum bus concession was half fare off-peak local bus travel within an eligible resident's local authority area. During this period funding to local authorities for the statutory minimum concession through formula grant was not separately identified.

From 1 April 2006, with the improvement to the statutory minimum concession to free off-peak local bus travel within a resident's local authority area, the Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million in 2007-08. The Revenue Support Grant formula does not allow us to identify how much of that formula grant funding for concessionary travel was allocated to individual local authorities such as Taunton Deane borough council in those years.

### Concessionary Travel: Mentally Ill People

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make people with mental health illnesses eligible for the national concessionary fares scheme; and if she will make a statement. [190049]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Transport Act 2000 (or for those resident in London, the Greater London Authority Act 1999) makes provision for concessionary travel for a wide range of disabled people including people with severe learning disabilities. We have no plans at present to change the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus travel to include people with mental health illnesses. Local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions over and above the statutory minimum at their own expense. This can include offering concessionary travel to other categories of people, such as those with mental health problems.

Our current focus is on the successful implementation of the new all-England off-peak bus travel concession

from April this year. Any changes to the scope of the statutory minimum concession, such as extending the eligibility criteria, would significantly increase the number of people eligible for concessionary travel at any time and would have to be fully funded. The impacts would need to be considered carefully following consultation with all the interested parties.

### Cycleways

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her plans are for increasing the length of the UK cycle network in each region over the next five years. [192443]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department announced in January a £140 million investment for cycling in England over the next three years to complement local authority spend. This has a number of programmes including new routes to around 500 schools, building on the successful Links to Schools programme where £18.4 million of Government funding since 2005 has provided 295 links to over 600 schools and forms part of the National Cycle Network (NCN).

£47 million has also been allocated for extending the Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDT) programme to up to 17 towns including a large city. The outcome of the bidding process for new CDTs is due to be announced later this year. Until the new CDTs and six existing ones develop their future programmes, I am unable to say what the precise plans are for increasing the cycle network in the CDTs.

Local authorities provide on and off road cycle facilities such as cycle tracks and cycle lanes, using their Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Block grant from the DfT (which covers schemes costing less than £5 million and includes such cycle schemes) plus their own funding. The Department has encouraged local authorities to develop a cycling strategy as part of the LTP process from 2006 to 2011. It is for local authorities to determine the development of the local cycle networks as part of that strategy. Sustrans, who have developed the NCN, then work with local authorities to link the local networks to it.

The aforementioned covers England only (excluding London) as that is the Department's responsibility. Responsibility for cycling in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the administrations there. The Mayor of London is responsible for the development of the cycle network in London.

### Cycling England

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the £17 million Cycling England programme has been reflected in Barnett consequentials in the Welsh block grant. [190619]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Wales departmental expenditure limits for the CSR period were published in the comprehensive spending review last October. They were determined in the normal way through the published Barnett formula. The block grant for the Welsh Assembly Government for 2008-09 will be published in the Wales Office annual report later in the year. For the SR04 period, the Welsh DEL were published in the 2004 Spending Review based on the Statement of Funding Policy published in that year. The block grant for 2007-08 was published in the 2007 Wales Office annual report. The published Barnett formula comparability factor for the Department for Transport used in the CSR is 68.3 per cent. while that for SR04 was 63.8 per cent.

### Cycling: Environment Protection

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice she has offered to partners in local strategic partnerships and local area agreements on cycling as a form of sustainable transport. [188587]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Specific advice related to transport (including cycling) and local area agreements Was published in December 2007 by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport entitled 'Local Transport Services: the Crucial Role of the New Local Performance Framework' and can be viewed at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/transport

Earlier this year the Secretary of State set out our approach to cycling in "A Sustainable Approach for Cycling", the same time announcing a six fold increase in the budget for Cycling England, which will complement local authority spend. Their budget will double to £20 million next year and then rise to £60 million in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

This investment will enable an extra 500,000 children to have access to the new Bikeability cycle training by 2012, create additional safer walking and cycling routes to at least 500 schools and allow the expansion of the Cycling Demonstration Town programme.

### Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many DART-Tag holders live in *(a)* DA11, *(b)* DA12, *(c)* DA13 and *(d)* ME3 postcode areas. [187078]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We do not hold data in the form requested. DART-Tags are registered against accounts and may be switched between users. The address held relates only to the account holder. In some cases there is more than one tag registered on an account.

The following figures show the number of accounts registered against addresses in these postcode areas. The account holder may not necessarily live at the address; in some cases the address will be that of a business.

| | *Number of accounts* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* DA11 | 550 |
| *(b)* DA12 | 622 |
| *(c)* DA13 | 288 |
| *(d)* ME3 | 401 |

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much pre-payment income was received from DART tag holders at the Dartford River crossing in each of the last 12 months; and how many crossings were made by such customers in the last 12 months. [187079]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Figures are shown in the following table for the last 12 months.

| *Month* | *Payments made by DART-Tag* | *Number of journeys paid by DART-Tag* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2007 | 1,524,951 | 953,081 |
| March 2007 | 1,743,635 | 1,086,697 |
| April 2007 | 1,573,164 | 973,733 |
| May 2007 | 1,712,556 | 1,061,490 |
| June 2007 | 1,679,862 | 1,040,529 |
| July 2007 | 1,707,228 | 1,057,714 |
| August 2007 | 1,644,092 | 1,010,793 |
| September 2007 | 1,613,375 | 996,365 |
| October 2007 | 1,760,293 | 1,088,126 |
| November 2007 | 1,718,358 | 1,063,974 |
| December 2007 | 1,374,864 | 854,054 |
| January 2008 | 1,688,562 | 1,049,550 |
| Total | 19,740,946 | 12,236,106 |

### Departmental Home Working

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in her Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189773]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years. [191528]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Tabled are the details of the number of DfT staff recruited throughout each of the last three years for each agency:

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT(c) | 31 | 8 | 8 | 47 |
| DSA | 34 | 23 | 23 | 80 |
| DVLA | 11 | 10 | 16 | 37 |
| HA | 72 | 52 | 21 | 145 |
| MCA | 8 | 8 | 13 | 29 |
| VCA | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| VOSA | 7 | 6 | 14 | 27 |
| GCDA | 3 | 6 | 3 | 12 |
| Total | 166 | 113 | 101 | 380 |

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect her Department's recruitment policy. [179886]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2205-06W.

### Departmental Retirement

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187680]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has a stress policy in place and also believes in early intervention by occupational health in response to reported stress absences. All staff have access to counselling services.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average hourly rate her Department and its predecessors paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187907]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within her Department; and if she will make a statement. [189513]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Within our main London HQ building a number of Fairtrade products are already available in the staff restaurant. These, and other products that become available from our suppliers, will be promoted during Fairtrade fortnight.

Fairtrade fortnight is promoted at regional Department for Transport sites. Promotions reflect local building management arrangement but include the display of Fair Trade posters, leaflets and catalogues, free samples, products for purchase and awareness sessions.

### Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, how many carriages First Great Western is running; how many the franchise requires them to run from April 2008; and how many they will run from April 2008. [190609]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written statement made by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State, on 26 February 2008. This statement confirmed that additional carriages will be added to trains operating the First Great Western Portsmouth to Cardiff route from this summer.

The franchise agreement will be changed specifically to commit First Great Western to implementing the passenger benefits package, including the additional carriages for the Cardiff to Portsmouth route. These will comprise 10 extra carriages.

With regard to other rolling stock in its fleet, First Great Western has in the past increased the size of its fleet in response to operational needs, but details of the extra rolling stock are matters for First Great Western itself.

### Heathrow Airport: Security

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet the British Airports Authority to discuss a review of security arrangements following the incident at Heathrow airport on 25 February. [190766]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The airport operator is investigating the incident and keeping the Department informed. We will ensure prompt action is taken where necessary.

### Housing: Infrastructure

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on improvements to infrastructure in relation to large scale new housing development. [190769]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Department for Transport is a co-signatory of the Government's PSA Target to "Increase Long Term Housing Supply and Affordability". To support its delivery, the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government have together developed a work programme that evaluates the need for infrastructure improvements to support housing growth. Progress on the work programme is reviewed by both Departments on a regular basis.

### Intercity Express

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects a prototype of the new Intercity Express to be available for testing on the network. [190558]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Prototypes for the new trains are scheduled for on-track testing in 2012. The first of the trains will enter operational service in 2013.

### Intercity Express: Consultants

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent to date on consultants on the specification for the new Intercity Express programme; and for what reason this matter was not deemed to be one for the rolling stock companies. [190557]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport has spent £7.9 million on the project since 2005. The Department has taken the lead in developing the specification to ensure we achieve maximum benefits for passengers and value for money for taxpayers for what is expected to be one of the largest rolling stock orders ever placed in the UK.

The procurement process for the new train was open to all interested parties within the industry, including rolling stock companies. Tenders are due to be returned in May.

### M6: Lancashire

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Government funding has been allocated for the Heysham/M6 link road. [192593]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Lancashire county council have informed the Department for Transport that the latest outturn total cost for the Heysham to M6 link scheme is now estimated to be £140 million. The next steps are for the North West region to confirm that it continues to support the scheme at the higher cost, and for DfT to conclude our assessment and appraisal of Lancashire's major scheme business case. This will allow DfT to take a decision on whether to grant programme entry.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Pay

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received from *(a)* management, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* others on pay levels for staff in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [188742]

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions she has met representatives of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to discuss the pay dispute in that organisation. [189747]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Ministers have regular meetings with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's chief executive to discuss a range of important issues, including levels of pay. I have also met trade unions to listen to their concerns about MCA pay levels and have corresponded with union representatives and Members of this House who have raised similar concerns on behalf of constituents.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars were registered in each vehicle excise duty band in each region in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [190564]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Oil: Prices

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what price of oil has been used by her Department when making forecasts of congestion on the road network; and if she will make a statement. [190456]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Department for Transport uses oil price projections from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to produce a fuel price forecast. This is then used in the Department's National Transport Model (NTM) for forecasting congestion on the road network. Their

latest projections are for oil (in 2006 prices) to fall gradually to $50 by 2015 before then rising to $52.5 in 2020 (approximately $75 in nominal prices).

BERR also produce a high and low projection around this central price which we have also used in our forecasts. These are for prices of $25 and $80 (about $115 nominal) in 2020. The Department forecasts congestion in different scenarios including ones where high prices are assumed. This is to check the robustness of estimates were high oil prices, such as those observed currently in crude oil markets, to continue.

BERR are currently revising their oil price projections in light of a consultation on them that has recently ended. We will use this revised information to determine new traffic and congestion forecasts.

### Parking Offences: Cameras

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what legislation CCTV cameras may be used to enforce parking restrictions; what guidance she has *(a)* issued and *(b)* plans to issue in the next 12 months to local authorities on the use of such cameras, with particular reference to the impact on (i) disabled drivers and (ii) drivers collecting passengers or unloading goods; what discussions she has had with motoring groups about the use of such cameras; and if she will make a statement. [190881]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The London Local Authorities Act 2000 empowers traffic authorities in London to use CCTV to enforce parking. The civil enforcement of parking provisions in part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 will be applied from 31 March 2008, replacing the London legislation and giving all English traffic authorities the option of using CCTV to detect parking contraventions. The new legislation requires CCTV cameras and associated evidence recording equipment to be certified by the Secretary of State for Transport.

On 28 February this year, the Secretary of State published statutory guidance on civil parking enforcement in accordance with section 87 of the Traffic Management Act. That guidance makes it clear that CCTV should be considered only where enforcement is difficult or sensitive, and it should not be used where exemptions, such as those for loading and unloading and for 'blue-badge' holders, are not visible to the equipment. Guidance on the procedures for obtaining certification of CCTV equipment was also published on 28 February. Further and more detailed operational guidance will be published later in March.

The AA and the RAC were members of the working group that advised the Department on the regulations and guidance to implement part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

### Public Transport: Concessions

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* feasibility and *(b)* cost of giving people eligible for free bus passes free local travel on all modes of public transport available in their local area. [191387]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** While there are no plans at present to extend statutory concessionary travel, local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions. This includes concessionary travel on other modes of transport in their area, over and above the statutory minimum, at their own expense.

Our current focus is on the successful implementation of the new all-England bus concession from 1 April. However, although we have not conducted a detailed consideration of the feasibility or cost of further extensions, we have developed some outline cost estimates based on broad assumptions. These suggested that the annual cost of extending statutory concessionary travel nationally to rail could be at least £250 million; to trams and light rail systems about £15 million, and to demand responsive community transport services at least a further £25 million.

Given the large number of inquiries we receive about the cost of extensions we have recently commissioned some research to provide a more robust estimate of various costs. This will allow us to give more detailed response to similar inquiries in the future. We expect this work to be completed in the next few months.

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects her Department's review of the operation of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation to report. [190222]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Renewables Fuels Agency (RFA) will have a duty to report to Ministers on a quarterly basis on the implementation of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). These reports will cover matters such as the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that the policy has saved, the types of biofuel that different transport fuel suppliers have chosen to source, and the origin and sustainability impacts of those biofuels. The first of these reports is due to be submitted in September 2008, by which time the RFA will have gathered data from the first three months of the RTFO'S operation.

In addition, the Government have recently asked the RFA to lead a review of the indirect impacts of biofuel production. The terms of reference for this review are being finalised. Initial analysis is due to be provided to Ministers by the early summer.

### Roads: Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the inquiry into an additional access road for Canvey Island; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* cost of the inquiry is expected to be. [191160]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The question of an additional access road to Canvey Island is a matter for Essex county council as local highway authority. I understand that at present they have no proposals which are at or approaching the stage of a public inquiry.

## Roads: Finance

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road schemes in Gravesham have been paid for by funds raised from the Dartford River Crossing; and how much such funding was spent on these schemes in each of the last five years. [187077]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Transport Act 2000 requires that all net revenues from the charging scheme at Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing are spent on transport. Revenues therefore increase the funding available for investment by the Department of Transport. This has helped to ensure delivery, for example, of schemes benefiting users of the Crossing, such as major improvements to the A2.

Since 2003, when the charging scheme was introduced, the Department has made available £1 million per year to Kent county council, and between £0.75 million and £1 million per year to Thurrock council, to help deliver local transport projects. This is in recognition of the impact of the Crossing on local residents. This funding is in addition to the regular local transport block allocations for Kent county council (which in 2007-08 totalled £36.7 million) and support for local authority major schemes, such as Kent Fastrack.

Kent county council's financial returns to the Department do not include a full breakdown of its actual expenditure between district areas, so it is not possible to provide figures for Kent's actual expenditure on roads in Gravesham district.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest ministerially-approved costs are of road schemes in the Highways Agency's Major Roads programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by individual scheme. [188495]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table lists all schemes in the Highways Agency's programme of Major schemes which were not opened to traffic as of 21 February 2008.

| *Scheme name* | *Latest ministerial approved estimates (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| A2 Bean-Cobham Widening Phase 2 | 122 |
| A11 Fiveways to Thetford | 60 |
| M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill | 175 |
| A14 Haughley New St to Stowmarket Improvement | 32 |
| A3 Hindhead Improvement | 371 |
| A38 Dobwalls Bypass | 42 |
| A595 Parton - Lillyhall Improvement | 35 |
| A1 Peterborough Blyth (North and South) | 83 |
| M62 J6 Improvement | 38 |
| A46 Newark - Widmerpool Improvement | 317 |
| A5117/A550 Deeside Park Junctions Improvement | 43 |
| A419 Blunsdon | 65 |
| A66 Temple Sowerby | 40 |
| A1 Dishforth to Barton | 325 |
| A1 Bramham - Wetherby (including Wetherby Bypass) | 61 |
| M40/A404 Handy Cross Junction Imp | 13 |
| A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling | 15 |
| A66 Long Newton GSJ | 12 |
| A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass | 26 |
| M1 J19/M6 | 123 |
| A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton | 944 |
| A57/A628 Mottram - Hollingworth - Tintwhistle | 184 |
| A45/A46 Tollbar End | 57 |
| M1 J6A to J10 Widening | 289 |
| M1 J10 to J1 3 Widening | 601 |
| A19/A1067 Seaton Burn | 29 |
| A19/A184 Testos Roundabout | 21 |
| A5 - M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass) | 124 |
| A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13 | 171 |
| A21 Tonbridge to Pembury | 65 |
| M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge Roundabout) | 71 |
| A590 High and Low Newton Bypass | 35 |
| M20 Junction 10a | 46 |
| A27 Southerham-Beddingham Improvement | 32 |
| M1 J21 to J30 Widening (ECI) Contract 1 | 1915 |
| M1 J21 to J30 Widening (ECI) Contract 2 | [redacted] |
| M25 J1b to J3 Widening ECI | 66 |
| M25 J5 to J6/7 Widening DBFO | 214 |
| M25 J16 to J23 Widening DBFO | 697 |
| M25 J23 to J27 Widening DBFO | 419 |
| M25 J27 to J30 Widening DBFO | 583 |
| A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Bypass | 68 |
| A23 Handcross to Warhinglid | 41 |
| A453 Widening (M1 J24 to A52 Nottingham) | 90 |
| M25 J28/A12 Brook Street Interchange ECI | 12 |
| M27 J11 to J1 2 Climbing Lanes | 27 |
| M27 J3 To J4 Widening | 52 |
| M1 J30 to 31 Widening | 135 |
| M1 J32 to J34S P4L | 139 |
| M1 J34 to J37 P4L | 246 |
| M1 J37 to J39 P4L | 224 |
| M1 J39 to J42 Widening | 202 |
| M1 J31 to J32 Northbound C/D | 29 |
| M62 J25 to J27 P4L | 215 |
| M62 J27 to J28 ATM (Hard Shoulder running) | 83 |
| Totals | 10126 |

## Roads: Lighting

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on the safety implications of switching streetlights off early to reduce carbon emissions. [189141]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* The Department for Transport endorses "Invest to Save", which is published by the UK Lighting Board in conjunction with the Institution of Lighting Engineers. This provides guidance to local authorities considering adopting energy saving measures such as dimming or switching off lights. The document can be found at Institution of Lighting Engineers website:

www.ile.org.uk

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities in England *(a)* have undertaken and *(b)* are planning to undertake trials of part-night street lighting. [190767]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* This information is not held centrally.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road works on the strategic road network took place in *(a)* the last 10 years and *(b)* 2007; under what mechanism and how frequently road markings are reviewed; how many road markings were (i) made and (ii) altered after accidents occurred in the vicinity in the last 12 months; and what the average length of time taken to remark a road after an initial decision to do so had been made was in the last 12 months. [191787]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table shows the number of road works on the strategic road network undertaken and recorded in the years for which data are available. The increase year-by-year is not an indication of an increased number of road works but reflects improved record keeping.

Road markings are reviewed as part of an inspection programme carried out in line with TD 26/04 Inspection and Maintenance of Road Markings and Road Studs on Motorways and All purpose Trunk Roads. Inspections take place either every 7 or 28 days, depending on the inspection category of the route. The number of road markings renewed following accidents is not immediately available and the time taken between identifying a need to renew road markings and carrying out the work will depend on the category of the defect.

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Schemes | 232 | 871 | 438 |
| Smaller Schemes and Renewals | 2,654 | 2,535 | 2,710 |
| Routine Works | 4,138 | 6,721 | 9,672 |
| Technology Works | 7 | 20 | 1,506 |
| All urgent works | 732 | 1,390 | 2,454 |
| Others | 1,665 | 3,810 | 1,534 |
| Total | 11,433 | 17,353 | 20,321 |

### Rolling Stock: East Coast Railway Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process is being followed to determine the specifications for the new rolling stock planned for deployment on the east coast mainline; and if she will make a statement. [190562]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The next major new rolling stock deployment on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) will be the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). The specification for IEP was set out in the Department for Transport's Invitation to Tender, published in November. This is to achieve maximum benefits for passenger and value for money for taxpayers. It incorporates 'best-in-class' features of modern trains plus targets for improving these.

The Thameslink Programme will also see the introduction of a new fleet of suburban vehicles, operating to commuter destinations on the East Coast Main Line. The Department will be initiating the procurement process later this year.

### Shipping: Paint

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of UK registered vessels with tributyltin paint in each year since 1997; and what information her Department holds on the number of vessels with such paint with a foreign country of origin using UK waters. [191931]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government do not maintain estimates of numbers of vessels, UK registered or otherwise, operating with tributyltin paints.

### Taxis: Crime

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many multi-agency taxi and minicabs 'STOP' operations have been organised in *(a)* London and *(b)* Cheshire in 2007-08; how many drivers have been found to be owing outstanding fines; how much has been collected in fines; how many STOP notices have been issued; and for what types of vehicle. [187011]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Responsibility for enforcement of taxi and PHV legislation is a matter for the relevant licensing authority; other agencies have their own responsibilities for other enforcement activity which might be included in a multi-agency approach. While recognising that effective enforcement is important, we do not keep a central record of enforcement activity dedicated to taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV, that is, minicab) drivers.

### Transport: Carbon Emissions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 792W, on transport: carbon emissions, if she will estimate the percentage of carbon dioxide emission reductions by 2020 likely to come from *(a)* policy measures and *(b)* technological developments independent of Government policy. [186836]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not possible to separate the impacts of policy measures from technological developments that have occurred independently of Government policy. This is because many policy measures to reduce $CO_2$ (for example, graduated VED or standards for new car $CO_2$) will affect both the production and consumption of fuels and vehicles, and these processes interact.

However, in our modelling of the impacts of policies to improve new car fuel efficiency (including the EU voluntary agreements, graduated vehicle excise duty, company car tax, vehicle labelling) we assume that there would have been no improvements in new car fuel efficiency in the absence of these policy measures. This is because analysis of historic trends suggests that any 'natural' improvement in fuel efficiency would have been balanced by worsening fuel efficiency from a trend towards heavier vehicles.

### Transport: Finance

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the local transport authority in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk received (i) in total, (ii) per mile of road and (iii) per head of population in each year since 1997. [187618]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, provided this information up to and including 2006-07 in her reply of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1048-50W. Table 1 contains the equivalent figures for 2007-08. The final amount of some funding is dependent on how much is actually claimed and the figures include the current estimate of what will be claimed for the rest of 2007-08.

Table 1 also includes final figures for 2006-07 for Cambridgeshire, which have been revised from the previous answer in the light of further information, in particular in respect of their Guided Bus Scheme.

Total local transport funding, as included in table 1, comprises:

capital for the delivery of local transport plans, including for major local authority schemes, (which can vary substantially from year to year and between authorities);

specific grants to local authorities for bus services;

the specific road safety grant (which started in 2007-08);

the Community Infrastructure Fund; and

the Transport Innovation Fund

*Table 1*

| *Local authority* | *2007-08 funding (£000)* | *2007-08 funding (£/mile)* | *2007-08 funding (£/head)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suffolk County Council | 25,839 | 6.09 | 37.79 |
| Bedfordshire County | 19,553 | 11.49 | 33.93 |
| Cambridgeshire County Council | 62,214 | 21.53 | 107.49 |
| Essex County Council | 51,112 | 10.10 | 38.42 |
| Hertfordshire County Council | 27,038 | 8.93 | 25.97 |
| Norfolk County Council | 37,490 | 6.01 | 45.92 |

*Table 1*

| *Local authority* | *2007-08 funding (£000)* | *2007-08 funding (£/mile)* | *2007-08 funding (£/head)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07: Cambridgeshire | 43,467 | 15.04 | 75.10 |

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget was for transport for the South West in 2006-07; and who is responsible for the timescale within which these funds were spent. [190770]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* In addition to investment on the strategic road network and support for passenger rail services through franchise contracts and grants to Network Rail for operating the network, the South West benefits from transport funding allocated at the regional and local level.

At the regional level, an indicative £86 million in respect of transport was included in the South West Regional Funding Allocation for 2006-07.

Local authorities, and the Highways Agency in the case of trunk road schemes, are responsible for developing and delivering major schemes. The exact timing of implementation and funding of each scheme is subject to advice from the region on prioritisation, to satisfactory appraisal, and to securing all necessary statutory powers and Government approvals.

At the local level, £173.7 million of capital funding was allocated in 2006-07 to upper and single tier local authorities in the South West for integrated transport improvements and highways capital maintenance. In addition revenue funding is allocated to local authorities through the revenue support grant system, and there are a few specific grants supporting transport services, for example Rural Bus Grant. In general, the funding provided is not ring-fenced, and local authorities are responsible for decisions on its use including the timing of this investment funding.

### Transport: Lancashire

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government funding has been provided to Lancashire county council in 2007-08 to provide rural public transport. [192547]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Most Government funding support for Lancashire county council for transport, including tendered bus services, is provided within the revenue support grant, administered by CLG. The revenue support grant is not service-specific and it is for the county council to decide on its use.

In addition the Department provided specific grants for Lancashire county council in 2007-08 for:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| (a) rural bus subsidy | 1,349,677 |
| (b) rural bus challenge | 156,778 |
| (c) 'Kickstart' (for bus services) | 162,610 |

It has also allocated Lancashire capital funding of £11.961 million for 2007-08 for integrated transport

projects. It is for the county council to decide how to invest this funding according to its policies and priorities.

### Vehicle Number Plates: Revenue

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in each year since 1997 by the sale of vehicle number plates; what plate raised the largest sum in each year; and how much was raised from that plate. [190520]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Revenue raised by the sale of vehicle number plates for each financial year since 1997 is as follows:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 36,242 |
| 1998-99 | 47,089 |
| 1999-2000 | 48,008 |
| 2000-01 | 56,671 |
| 2001-02 | 65,921 |
| 2002-03 | 74,936 |
| 2003-04 | 78,427 |
| 2004-05 | 83,438 |
| 2005-06 | 83,986 |
| 2006-07 | 87,427 |

We do not hold information on the plate that raised the most revenue for each year.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Coal Fired Power Stations

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on investigations to determine the nature and extent of existing land or waterway contamination prior to the *(a)* construction and *(b)* operational phases of the proposed coal power station development at Kingsnorth in Medway; [189631]

(2) what representations he has received from industry groups on loading and unloading facilities for construction vehicles during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [189634]

(3) what representations he has received from local *(a)* stakeholders and *(b)* residents on schemes for the transportation of construction staff to and from the site during the construction phase of the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [189635]

(4) what representations he has received from industry groups on the creation of an environmental mitigation area during the *(a)* construction and *(b)* operational phases of the proposed new coal power station development at Kingsnorth in Medway; [189636]

(5) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on loading and unloading facilities for construction vehicles during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [189639]

(6) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on site access during the construction phase of the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189641]

(7) what representations he has received from trades unions on turning facilities for large vehicles and the effect these facilities will have on local transport during the construction phase of any new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189644]

(8) what representations he has received from *(a)* industry groups and *(b)* environmental non-governmental organisations on schemes for the implementation of an on-site programme of archaeological work in accordance with recommended mitigation measures and strategies during the construction and operational phases of the proposed coal power station development at Kingsnorth; [189646]

(9) what representations he has received from *(a)* local stakeholders and *(b)* environmental non-governmental organisations on the financial contribution of £140,500 from E.On for safety improvements on Roper's Lane and Stoke Road in relation to the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Medway; [189647]

(10) what representations he has received from industry groups on identifying measures for the reduction of motor vehicle traffic generation during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189660]

(11) what representations he has received from trades unions on vehicular circulation roads during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189674]

(12) what representations he has received from local *(a)* stakeholders and *(b)* residents on the provision of hard standings during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189678]

(13) what representations he has received from archaeological non-governmental organisations on schemes for the implementation of an on-site programme of archaeological work in accordance with the recommended mitigation measures and strategies during the *(a)* construction and *(b)* operational phases of (i) the proposed coal-fired power station development at Kingsnorth and (ii) other new coal-fired power station development in the UK; [189680]

(14) what representations he has received from non-governmental environmental organisations on the effective transmission range of heat captured through combined heat and power technology at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189681]

(15) what representations he has had from the shipping and ports industries on the effect of coal shipments to the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth on ship freight traffic to the container depot at Thamesport; [189692]

(16) what representations he has had from natural gas distribution companies on the effects on foreign natural gas imports of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189695]

(17) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the effects of groundwater contamination from the fuel oil supply for the two 50MW gas turbines at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [189699]

(18) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on provision for on-site overspill parking during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [189702]

(19) what representations he has had from local stakeholders and residents on provision for overspill parking on site during the construction phase of any potential new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189704]

(20) what representations he has had from local stakeholders and residents on the layout and size of the parking area of any new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189705]

(21) what representations he has had from environmental non-governmental organisations on vehicular circulation roads during the construction phase of any new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189706]

(22) what representations he has received from trades unions on identifying measures for the minimisation of motor vehicle traffic generation during the construction phase of any new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189707]

(23) what representations he has received from industries associated with pulverised fuel ash on the production of fuel ash resulting from the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189710]

(24) what representations he has had from industry groups on the build-up of ammonium sulphates and bisulphates in the selective catalytic reduction process at the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189712]

(25) what representations he has received from industry groups on provision for overspill parking during the construction phase of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189714]

(26) what representations he has received from industry groups on the *(a)* use and *(b)* merits of combined heat and power technology at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189717]

(27) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the risks of ammonia slippage from the selective catalytic reduction process at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189759]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has received no such representations.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has received from Kent University on the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [190107]

(2) what representations he has received on the construction of *(a)* parking sites and *(b)* hard standings on and off-site for the (i) construction and (ii) operational phase of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent, broken down by category of organisation; and if he will make a statement; [190133]

(3) what representations he has received from *(a)* local housing developers and estate agents and *(b)* other groups on the effect on regeneration projects and housing developments, including the Maritime Residential Park on the Medway, of the construction of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent.; [190315]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has received no such representations.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* non-governmental bodies on the public safety issues associated with permanently sequestering carbon dioxide, with particular reference to the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent. [190223]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No such discussions have taken place.

### Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 626W, on departmental opinion polls, what payments his Department has made to polling organisations since 27 June 2007. [178342]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Fireworks: Noise

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of category 3 noise fireworks on animal welfare; and if he will make a statement. [180147]

**Mr. Thomas:** No formal assessment has been made.

### Investment: North West

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department has made available to attract inward investment to *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the North West in the last three years. [184355]

**Mr. Thomas:** Through the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has provided support to attract inward investment through a number of initiatives.

The main gateway for Business Support in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the North West, is via Business Link, a NWDA funded project. Business Link provides a range of support services to businesses including advice on Starting Up; Finance and Grants; Taxes, returns and payroll; Employing people; Health, Safety, property; Environment and Efficiency; Exploiting ideas; IT and E-Commerce; Sales and Marketing; International Trade; Growing your business; Buying or selling a business.

The NWDA provides focused business support to key companies that compliment the Business Link service, as well as administering the Selective Finance for Investment (SFI) grant scheme on behalf of BERR. SFI aims to support companies that want to invest/ create jobs. The level of grant that can be provided is determined on a company's location.

There is also a range of sector specialists that proactively manage key companies across the region. This business support is aimed at companies to grow and develop their businesses with a view to attracting further investment.

**Measurement**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the use of imperial weights and measures; and if he will make a statement. [190480]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

Since 1965 it has been the policy of successive UK Governments to adopt metric weights and measures by stages in recognition that the global trend towards metrication would be likely to place UK business at a competitive disadvantage in world markets where transactions are conducted primarily in metric units. Metric units of measurement are now used for most transactions regulated by the Weights and Measures Act 1985. There are clear advantages in having a single system of units of measurement in place to allow consumers to compare quantities and prices, but we also recognise that a proportion of the public still prefers or is more familiar with imperial units, and so imperial units may continue to be used alongside metric in dual labelling.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on *(a)* EU directives and *(b)* domestic legislation on imperial measures and imperial measuring equipment; and if he will make a statement. [190708]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply;

The Department has received a number of representations from companies, trade associations, other organisations and individuals over the last year representing a range of viewpoints on the issue of units of measurement.

**Overseas Trade: Consultants**

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role his Department's recently appointed emerging markets consultants will perform; and what size firms they will advise. [180263]

**Mr. Thomas:** The consultants (HGMP specialists) have been appointed on UKTI's behalf to deliver influence on a broader range of business activity in high growth markets. Targeted companies are experienced UK based mid corporate exporters, or established companies with the potential for success in these markets. In the process of assistance specialists will also capture intelligence on barriers to trade and the reasons for mid-corporate inaction in high growth markets.

**Reconstruction: Iraq**

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the percentage of contracts awarded to non-Iraqi companies for reconstruction in Iraq which have been awarded to UK companies since 2003. [187728]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I provided to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie) on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W.

**Super-complainer Procedures**

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions each of the designated representative bodies under the Enterprise Act 2002 has declined to act upon a consumer request to invoke super-complainer powers in cases of alleged consumer detriment. [181201]

**Mr. Thomas:** This is a matter for the individual designated super-complainants.

**Telephone Services**

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which public bodies for which his Department is responsible use non-geographical telephone numbers for lines intended for use by members of the public. [179563]

**Mr. Thomas:** From the central records that are available the public bodies for which the department is responsible using non-geographical telephone numbers for public access are as follows:

ACAS
The Insolvency Service
Companies House
BERR Publications Orderline
Personal Training Services Consortium
Low Pay Commission
Employment Agency Standards
The Queens Award Office
Envirowise
Business Link

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Arson: Cambridgeshire**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of arson in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire; and if she will make a statement. [190934]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The Department awarded Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service £89,043 as part of the Fire Prevention Grant (2006-08). It is for the Fire and Rescue Service, working

in partnership with other agencies, to decide how the grant is allocated to reduce the incidence of arson in the local area.

### Community Relations

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to convene a panel of experts to consider recommendation 25 in Our Shared Future, on guidelines for local authorities on awarding public sector contracts to faith-based bodies; how many people will sit on the panel; and who will be invited to sit on it. [190157]

**Mr. Dhanda:** No date has been set to convene a panel of experts nor has any terms of reference or panel been decided.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions have taken place with secular organisations on her Department's consultation, Face to Face and Side by Side: A framework for inter faith dialogue and social action; and if she will undertake a similar consultation on a secular dialogue on social action. [192154]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Discussions have taken place with a wide range of organisations, including the British Humanist Association and the National Secular Society. The formal consultation process is open to all organisations. In accordance with standard criteria for Government consultations, a list of all organisations responding to the consultation will be made public. There are no plans to undertake a consultation specifically on secular dialogue and social action.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) her Department and (y) its predecessor since August 2005. [185534]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally within the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1525W, on departmental marketing, what the size is of each of the display boards in the Department's two main central London buildings. [184793]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There is a single display board in Eland House with the following dimensions: 1615 mm x 717 mm. There is a single ministerial display board in Ashdown House with the following dimensions: 900 mm x 610 mm. These are currently being updated to reflect the recent ministerial changes.

### Departmental Offices

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has office facilities outside the United Kingdom. [191647]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has no office facilities outside the United Kingdom

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect her Department's recruitment policy. [179873]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2206-07W, by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson).

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of sickness pay to staff in her Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187511]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department monitors the sickness absence of its staff through analysis of working days lost rather than the actual cost for each individual absence. Consequently, it is not possible to give an exact cost of sickness pay in the most recent year.

### Departmental Waste Disposal

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how frequently the residual waste bins of her Department's buildings in Eland House are emptied. [191653]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government's waste bins at Eland House are collected and emptied with the following frequencies:

| *Waste type* | *Number of collections per week* |
|---|---|
| General waste | 2 |
| Paper | 3 |
| Cardboard | 3 |
| Glass | 1 |
| Cans | 1 |
| Plastics | 1 |
| Food waste | 1 |

### Disabled People: Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conclusions her Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190763]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The actions taken by the Department to fulfil its disability equality duty are described in the Disability Equality Scheme Annual Report which we published on 28 February 2008. This is available on our website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/disabilityequalityscheme2008

### Departmental Divisions

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what divisions there are in her Department. [191633]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department of Communities and Local Government has six Groups each led by a Director General. The Groups are "Housing and Planning, Cohesion and Resilience, Local Government and Regeneration, Regions and Communities, Finance and Corporate Services" and "HR and Transformational Change".

### Dorset Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained fire stations have been closed in Dorset since 1997. [191235]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

### Dorset Fire and Rescue Service: Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility Dorset Fire and Rescue Service is planned to have in relation to aquatic events hosted at Weymouth as part of the 2012 Olympic Games; and how many marine craft Dorset Fire and Rescue Service has. [191233]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Dorset fire and rescue authority participates in two groups responsible for co-ordinating security at the Olympic events in Weymouth. These are: the Dorset Strategic Partnership, the overarching body that is co-ordinating wider games planning within Dorset; and the Dorset Emergency Services Strategic Group chaired by Dorset police.

The authority does not own any marine craft. Responsibility for search and rescue at sea lies with HM Coastguard. The degree of support afforded to HM Coastguard by costal fire and rescue authorities is a matter for local risk assessment by the individual authorities.

### Empty Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public requests ordering disposal were received in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how many of these requests resulted in a direction being issued. [189516]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Under section 98 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 the following public requests to order disposal were received:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 12 |
| 2007 | 12 |

One direction was issued in 2007.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next intends to publish an updated version of the full business case in respect of the Fire Control Project; and if she will make a statement. [186876]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We are planning to publish an updated full business case in the summer of 2008 and we will ensure that a copy is placed in the Library of the House.

### Fire Services: Buildings

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on Fire Service's buildings, what *(a)* primary and *(b)* other considerations were taken into account in determining the size of regional control centres. [192162]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following factors were taken into account in determining the size of Regional Control Centres.

Each Regional Control Centre is part of a resilient network. It has been designed to deal with both its own workload, whilst also providing extra capacity to take on the work of other Regional Control Centres should they, for whatever reason, become overloaded or unavailable. Each building will contain a large control room, operations room, emergency planning room, and space to accommodate other staff or agencies as required for large scale incidents.

Each facility is designed to be self-supporting for seven days, and has been designed to incorporate uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), generators and fuel storage, with the ability to replenish fuel supplies from outside the secure area. Each also has significant water and effluent storage capacity.

Regional Control Centres will provide space for training new personnel, meeting rooms and provide adequate staff facilities, such as, canteen and locker rooms. Each building will also contain space for building services machinery and the main IT equipment room.

The Regional Control Centres have also been designed so there is capacity in the network to accommodate future growth in demand for call handling.

### Food: Standards

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure that local authorities act upon guidance offered by the Food Standards Agency in respect of *(a)* food provision for older people and *(b)* food served to adults in institutions in the provision of (i) meals on wheels, (ii) luncheon clubs, (iii) sheltered accommodation, (iv) staff catering and (v) other civic catering services. [191362]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has no responsibility for ensuring local authorities act upon guidance offered by the Food Standards Agency.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 904W, on Government Offices for the Regions: Finance, what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of managing centrally each Government Office's estates budget. [192097]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total central cost of managing the GO estate is estimated at £1.2 million, which covers the annual pay costs of the property asset management team.

The Government offices are funded by contributions from 10 sponsor Departments and the above costs are therefore not solely provided by CLG. The proportion of total spending provided by CLG is c.40 per cent. of the total, thus the CLG contribution to the cost of managing the network estates budget is £480,000.

### Department Offices: Central London

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff are based in her Department's central London offices. [187330]

**Mr. Dhanda:** On 31 January 2008 66 per cent. of the staff in Communities and Local Government were based in central London offices. This figure includes Communities staff who work in the Government Office network. Information for our Executive Agencies is not held centrally.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running costs for her Department's central London offices were in 2007-08; and what they are budgeted to be in each of the next four years. [187332]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The running costs for Communities and Local Government's central London offices in 2007-08 are forecast to be £47,520,156. At present the planned expenditure for 2008-09 is £41,836,460, however this is under active review since we are looking at options for further rationalisation of our estate. In addition we have a rent review pending which will impact the operating costs in later years.

The figures given represent gross expenditure and do not reflect receipts from other building occupants.

The answer does not include IT and telephony costs or costs for the Government Office for London.

### Hospices: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding each local authority has made to children's hospices in each of the last five years. [163712]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Housing: Disabled People

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent by Castle Point Borough Council on improving homes for disabled people in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [190705]

(2) how many home improvement grants for disabled people were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded in Castle Point constituency in each of the last three years. [190706]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and the number of recipients of Disabled Facilities Grant through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. The 2006-07 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix report will be published shortly. The 2003-04 to 2005-06 expenditure is provided in the following table. Communities and Local Government provide 60 per cent. of the value of the Disabled Facilities Grant to local authorities. Local authorities fund the remaining 40 per cent. from other sources. In addition to Disabled Facilities Grant local authorities may improve the homes of disabled people with other funding streams not reported as part of the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. Communities and Local Government do not hold this information or information on how many people have applied for home improvement grants. The following table sets out Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure for Castle Point borough council:

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total expenditure (£) | 243,000 | 214,000 | 319,000 |
| CLG contribution (£) | 145,000 | 90,000 | 116,000 |
| Number receiving DFG | 36 | 31 | 55 |

### Housing: Thames Gateway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely number of residential properties to be built on the tidal or fluvial floodplain

in the Thames Gateway area over the next eight years; and if she will make a statement. [191322]

**Caroline Flint:** Because much of the new housing expected in the Thames Gateway has yet to be planned, it is not possible to determine accurately the amount that will be built within the floodplain. However, only some 35 per cent. of the entire Thames Gateway area itself is at risk from tidal or fluvial flooding.

Under PPS25—"Development and Flood Risk"—all local planning authorities (LPAs) are required to notify the Environment Agency when they become aware of an application for house building in the functional floodplain. The LPA will then make a judgment as to the acceptability of the risk, and also of the likely effect of the development on floodwater run-off rates. Flood-risk mitigation measures (such as land-raising, improvements to flood defences or porous paving) can then be devised and, if these will render the risk acceptable, make these a condition of planning consent.

The tidal flood defences in the Thames Gateway are of among the highest standards anywhere in the UK (exceeding a 1 in 2000 year event standard in the development areas) and, through its Thames estuary 2100 project, the Environment Agency is devising a detailed programme for maintaining those standards into the future.

### Local Authorities: Publications

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Lifting the Burdens Task Force has made of the cost to local authorities of publishing statutory notices. [191655]

**John Healey:** The 2006 Cabinet Office report 'Informing the Public in the multimedia age' approximated that the annual cost of publishing statutory notices could be up to £30 million.

The Lifting the Burdens Task Force have not made any estimate of the cost of publishing statutory notices.

### Local Government Ombudsman: Complaints

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints were *(a)* received, *(b)* investigated and *(c)* upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman for England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the council or agency for which the complaint was filed. [189151]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This information has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Local Government: Occupational Pensions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to make a decision on extending protection of the Rule of 85 for the Local Government Pension Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [191891]

**John Healey:** My statement to the House on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 49WS, announced that the Local Government Pension Scheme Policy Review Group, with the assistance of the Government Actuary's Department, had been asked to undertake a fresh costings exercise of extending the current levels of protection in the scheme, following the removal of the Rule of 85, using 2007 actuarial valuation data. An announcement will be made as soon as the current work is completed.

As Ministers have consistently made clear, to maintain the scheme's viability and to meet the Government's policy of ensuring no adverse effects on taxpayers, the costs of any amendments to improve the level of protections would need to be provided from within the scheme, and be affordable and legal.

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many litres of bottled water were purchased by her Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [191247]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government purchased the following quantities of bottled water in each of the last three years.

| | *Central Department* | *Executive agencies* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 12,735 | 12,408 |
| 2006 | 12,735 | 13,378 |
| 2007 | 14,150 | 17,724 |

*Note:*
Figures for 2005 and 2006 are approximate.

### Minister for London: Domestic Visits

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits the Minister for London has made to each constituency in London since appointment. [190526]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the Olympics and London, in her capacity as Minister for London, has visited or attended meetings in the following constituencies since June 2007.

Cities of London and Westminster
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hendon
Hornsey and Wood Green
North Southwark and Bermondsey
West Ham

### National Community Forum: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provided to the National Community Forum in each of the last three years; what funding it plans to provide in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [190111]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The funding allocated to the National Community Forum (NCF) in each of the last three financial years is laid out in the following table:

| Financial year | Funding allocated (£) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 200,000 |
| 2006-07 | 200,000 |
| 2007-08 | 200,000 |

Decisions on future funding have not yet been made.

### Regional Ministers: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1228-29W, what *(a)* non-cash allocations and *(b)* funds for a voluntary early release scheme Government Offices for the Regions have received in financial year 2007-08; and what the purpose of such funding was in each instance. [192096]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total non-cash allocation received by the Government offices is £3.2 million. This is principally to cover the cost of dilapidation provisions, depreciation and cost of capital incurred by the Government office network. It also however includes the non-cash funding of the release schemes—which is a net allocation of £702,000.

The Government offices have received £5 million from sponsor Departments for the 2007 release scheme, which includes the £702,000 non-cash referred to in *(a)* above. This pays for the in-year costs of the staff who have volunteered to take early release from the Government offices as well as setting up a provision for the future costs of those staff who will receive payments in future years.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on regional Ministers: finance, which programme budgets are administered by the Government Offices for the Regions, broken down by sponsoring Department. [192098]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information from 2006-07, which is the most recent year the data were collected, is as follows:

| Sponsor Department | Programme funding (£) |
|---|---|
| Department for Transport | 2,389,000,000 |
| Communities and Local Government | 2,180,046,041 |
| Department for Works and Pensions | 1,150,845,613 |
| Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform | 947,214,000 |
| Department for Education and Skills | 811,379,686 |
| Home Office | 233,313,878 |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 16,155,346 |
| Total | 7,727,954,564 |

### Regional Planning and Development

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations each regional Minister has received on *(a)* regional spatial strategies and *(b)* other Government policies relating to the regions for which they have responsibility; what steps each regional Minister has taken as a result of those representations; and if she will make a statement. [187836]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Regional Ministers exercise no decision making powers in relation to the revision of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). While they may receive representations on them when, for example, the Secretary of State publishes their Proposed Changes for consultation, Regional Ministers would re-direct these to the relevant Government Office dealing with the specific RSS on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Regional Ministers receive representations on a variety of policies affecting the region from a range of stakeholders. Generally they refer representations received to the Government Office on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State, or directly to the relevant Department of State. Details of these representations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Television Screens

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many plasma television screens have been purchased by her Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191026]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government purchased two 63 in plasma screen TVs in December 2006 for AV provision in conference rooms at a total cost of £16,167.34. In relation to CLG agencies, the Fire Service College purchased one 42 in plasma screen TV in January 2008 for AV provision in the video suite costing £800.00.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Police

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of EU work to train Afghan police; what arrangements there are to co-ordinate the work of the EU and *(a)* individual EU member states and *(b)* the US on such training; what the (i) short, (ii) medium and (iii) long-term objectives of the EU's work are; and what the (A) criteria and (B) timescale are for ending the work in the future. [191069]

**Dr. Howells:** EU support for training the Afghan police is co-ordinated through the EU Police Mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL). EUPOL brings together contributions from EU member states, various non-EU states, and the EU Secretariat and Commission. The aim of this co-ordinated support is to establish an effective and self-sustaining civilian police force in Afghanistan. As EUPOL works to reach full strength, progress has been made on planning its programme and in developing an international consensus on a policing strategy for Afghanistan.

EUPOL co-ordinates its work with the Combined Security and Transition Command—Afghanistan, which is responsible for delivering the US programme of police training, through the International Police Co-ordination Board.

The objectives of the EUPOL mission are set out in its Concept of Operations (CONOPS), dated 30 October 2007:

> "To assist the Afghan police in training, institutional reform and capacity building; to support the institutional development of the Ministry of the Interior; to work towards a joint overall strategy for the international community in police reform in Afghanistan; and to improve cohesion and co-ordination amongst international actors in the area of police training in Afghanistan".

Detailed milestones are contained in the mission's internal action plan.

The head of the EUPOL mission reports formally every six months to the EU Political and Security Committee on the mission's progress.

The CONOPS states that EUPOL's mission will conclude:

> "When there is sufficient local capacity in the Afghan police to continue self-sustaining progress towards building and maintaining a civilian police service that is both transparent and accountable, operating within a sound legal framework in accordance with international standards and the rule of law and which is trusted by Afghan citizens and is responsive to the needs of society".

The EUPOL mission has a mandate until June 2010.

### British Council

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department plays in *(a)* scrutinising and *(b)* approving the activities of the British Council. [191037]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is accountable to Parliament for the activities and the performance of the British Council. As such, he approves the British Council's strategic objectives and agrees the amount of grant-in-aid the British Council receives.

The Permanent Under-Secretary (PUS) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), as the principal accounting officer, is accountable to Parliament for the British Council's grant-in-aid. The PUS designates the chief executive of the British Council as the British Council's accounting officer.

The British Council Board and the FCO determine the British Council's performance framework in the light of the FCO's wider strategic aims. In carrying out its objectives the British Council sets its own professional standards and devises its own programmes.

### British Overseas Territories: Remembrance Day

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking on the representation of UK overseas territories at the wreath laying ceremony on Remembrance Sunday 2008. [192270]

**Meg Munn:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 148. I will however meet my hon. Friend to discuss his proposal.

### Caribbean

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's responsibilities are regarding the Caribbean and Central America; when he last visited *(a)* the Caribbean and *(b)* Central America; what the purpose was of each visit; and what plans there are for such visits in the future. [192269]

**Meg Munn:** I am responsible for promoting and protecting British interests in the Caribbean and Central America through our network of overseas posts and through our interaction with stakeholders.

My last two visits covered the Dominican Republic and the Cayman Islands in December 2007; and Panama, Jamaica and Mexico in September 2007. The purpose of the visits was to meet my counterparts in the region (including members of Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly in the Cayman Islands) and to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Foreign engagements, for Government Ministers, are kept under constant review. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not taken until shortly before travel. It is not our normal practice to announce visits until they are firm.

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191267]

**Meg Munn:** Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp.

For the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, one regulatory impact assessment has been listed.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007.

From April 2008, all final impact assessment will be published on a central website.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* overseas for officials in the last year for which figures are available. [191170]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to him on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1700-01W.

Departmental travel arrangements are made in the most efficient and cost effective way, and all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the 'Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.'

### Diego Garcia: Rendition

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the recent

discovery that facilities on Diego Garcia had been used for the rendition of two individuals was preceded by a specific request by the UK to the US authorities to review their records in this respect. [189527]

**David Miliband:** As set out in my statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, new information was passed to UK officials by the US regarding rendition flights through Diego Garcia on 15 February. This was not preceded by a specific UK request to the US authorities to review their records in this respect. However, it follows regular dialogue on these issues, including assurances provided by the US in September 2007 at annual political-military talks in relation to the US Naval Support Facility at Diego Garcia.

### EC Defence Policy

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the EU's policy is on responding to a threat of an attack against Europe using missiles and weapons of mass destruction. [191054]

**Dr. Howells:** We consider the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation the forum to develop a collective defence policy on how to respond to the threat of attack against Europe using missiles and weapons of mass destruction. The EU Lisbon Treaty states

"commitments and co-operation in this area (European defence) shall be consistent with commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which, for those states which are members of it, remains the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation".

### European Union: Intelligence Services

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on whether the EU should *(a)* establish a European intelligence agency and *(b)* fund an EU intelligence-gathering capability. [191063]

**David Miliband:** The Government do not believe there is any need for a European intelligence agency. It is our belief that the interests of the UK are best served by the national intelligence agencies, sharing information on threats and capabilities on a bilateral or multilateral basis with our European partners as appropriate. British intelligence agencies are a major contributor to this process and continue to help build our partners' capabilities.

### Immigration: Forced Marriage

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the guidance given to staff in UK overseas posts on handling immigration cases involving suspected forced marriage. [191183]

**Meg Munn:** It would not be appropriate to publish detailed guidance on handling immigration cases involving suspected forced marriage, as it would serve the agenda of those perpetrating forced marriage, not help the victims. However I will gladly send copies of the current guidance to the hon. Member in confidence.

However, general guidance on Forced Marriage is treated in the Entry Clearance Guidance, which is accessible on the UKvisas website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Islamabad, which handles 75 per cent. of the recorded reluctant sponsor cases, has a dedicated 'Consular-Immigration Link' team to handle these cases, with their own internal guidelines.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of suspected forced marriage were identified by British officials in each UK overseas post in immigration cases in each of the last five years. [191184]

**Meg Munn:** The Forced Marriage Unit has been treating immigration cases separately to general consular assistance cases since 2006. Since 2006 we have handled the following numbers of forced-marriage-related immigration cases:

2006—92 cases (69 Pakistan, 12 India, 10 Bangladesh, 1 Sudan)

2007—95 cases (63 Pakistan, 15 Bangladesh, 11 India, 1 United Arab Emirates, 1 Albania, 2 Yemen, 1 Jordan, 1 Turkey)

2008—38 cases up to 29 February 2008 (36 Pakistan, 2 Bangladesh)

It is not possible to access statistics for cases handled prior to 2005.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to inform the Home Office when suspected cases of forced marriage in immigration cases are identified by British officials in overseas posts. [191185]

**Meg Munn:** The Forced Marriage Unit is the central contact point for overseas posts that identify immigration cases involving forced marriage. The Forced Marriage Unit is a joint Home Office-Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit and is staffed by officials from both departments.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in immigration cases who had been identified by officials in UK overseas posts as taking part in activities surrounding potential forced marriage were reported to the authorities in the country concerned in each of the last five years. [191186]

**Meg Munn:** The vast majority of forced marriage cases, dealt with by our overseas posts involve the victim wanting to extract themselves from the situation without risking further repercussions, either in the UK or in the country of their marriage. We would not report forced marriage incidents that come to our attention to local authorities as a matter of course as this could often place the victim, and parties sympathetic to the victim, at greater risk.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 175W, on Iraq: asylum, how many former locally-engaged Iraqi staff *(a)* have applied for (i) resettlement in the UK

and (ii) independent leave to enter, *(b)* have moved to third countries in order to register for resettlement and *(c)* have been assessed as eligible but have not yet declared a preference. [189438]

**David Miliband:** We have received over 970 applications for assistance from Iraqi locally-engaged staff under the scheme I announced in written ministerial statements on 9 and 30 October 2007 respectively.

Almost 400 of those have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the scheme. 447 applications have not met the eligibility criteria. Of those assessed as eligible, over 130 applicants have chosen resettlement in the UK under the Gateway programme and ten have chosen indefinite leave to enter.

We have ten applicants who have already moved to third countries and would like resettlement in the UK under the Gateway programme.

76 staff have been assessed as eligible under the scheme but have yet to declare a preference of which type of assistance they would like.

### Kosovo: Organised Crime

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the recent EU rule of law mission in Kosovo on relations between the EU and the UN; and what work the mission will undertake to combat organised crime. [191053]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU's police and rule of law mission to Kosovo (EULEX) will work closely and in coordination with the UN and other relevant international actors to uphold the rule of law. EULEX will ensure that organised crime, corruption, inter-ethnic crimes, financial/economic crimes and other serious crimes are properly investigated, prosecuted, adjudicated and enforced, according to the applicable law.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of *(a)* Qassam rocket, *(b)* Katyusha rocket and *(c)* mortar bomb attacks from Gaza into Israel in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [191132]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK condemns all rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and is concerned at the recent rise in rocket attacks over the last two days. On 28 February, I made the following statement in response to the barrage of rockets that hit south Israel:

"Palestinian militants must halt immediately the bombardment of southern Israel and should stop trying to undermine the peace process. We recognise Israel's right to protect itself and its citizens, but call on the government to exercise maximum restraint and do everything possible to avoid the deaths of civilians—especially children."

871 Qassam rockets landed in Israel from Gaza in 2007; 962 in 2006; and 296 in 2005. 1,511 mortar shells landed in Israel from Gaza in 2007; 55 in 2006; and 854 in 2005. In January 2008, 267 Qassam rockets and 256 mortar shells were fired into Israel from the Gaza strip. We are aware that several Katyusha rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israel, but we do not have an exact breakdown.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Palestinians on rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza into Israel. [191133]

**Dr. Howells:** I issued statements on 27 and 28 February condemning unreservedly the barrage of rockets on southern Israel that left one man dead and several others injured that day. There can be no justification for the almost daily rocket and mortar attacks on Sderot and the surrounding area. The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions to stop attacks, including rocket attacks, which target civilians and only escalate an already tense situation. At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm, stopping the reciprocal attacks, for the sake of the populations on both sides.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak conveying his deep concerns and condolences on 28 February.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on the impact on *(a)* commercial, *(b)* social and *(c)* educational life in Israeli towns of rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza; [191135]

(2) what reports he has received of the number of Israeli residents *(a)* killed, *(b)* injured and *(c)* diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza in each year since August 2005; [191134]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to Israel of physical damage to buildings and structures caused by rockets and mortars fired from Gaza in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [191138]

(4) what reports he has received of the impact on the economy of Israeli towns which have been subject to rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [191139]

**Dr. Howells:** Our embassy in Tel Aviv continues to report on the impact these rockets have on the day to day lives of Israelis living in southern Israel. The barrage of rockets reportedly has a huge psychological effect on the communities of Sderot, Ashkelon and other nearby Israeli areas. While we do not have any reports on the impact to the local economy, the rocket attacks have caused damage to infrastructure. Rocket fire has caused damage to homes, schools and offices resulting in large disruption to resident's lives. As a direct consequence of these rocket attacks, the local economy has suffered.

Five Israelis have been killed by rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel since August 2005. Several hundred people have been injured. We do not have figures available on how many people have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of these rocket attacks.

I issued a statement on 27 February condemning unreservedly the barrage of rockets on southern Israel that left one man dead and several others injured that day. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Israeli Defence Secretary Ehud Barak on 28 February expressing his concerns and condolences about the situation in southern Israel and Gaza. There can be no justification for the almost daily rocket and mortar attacks on Sderot and the surrounding area. The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions to stop attacks, including rocket attacks, that can only escalate an already tense situation. At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm for the sake of the populations on both sides.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he plans to provide to Israel to protect its citizens from rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza; and what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on ways for it to protect its citizens from such attacks. [191136]

**Dr. Howells:** I issued a statement on 27 February condemning unreservedly the barrage of rockets on southern Israel that left one man dead and several others injured that day. There can be no justification for the almost daily rocket and mortar attacks on Sderot and the surrounding area. The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions to stop attacks, including rocket attacks, which target civilians and only escalate an already tense situation. At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm, stopping the reciprocal attacks, for the sake of the populations on both sides.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, conveying his deep concerns and condolences on 28 February. Their discussions focused on southern Israel and Gaza.

### Middle East: Jordan Valley

**David Lepper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Israel about the demolition of Palestinian homes in the village of Hadidiya in the Jordan Valley by the Israeli army on 6 February. [190940]

**Dr. Howells:** We raised the alleged issue with the Israeli embassy in London on 29 February. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate-General in Jerusalem continue to monitor the situation in the Jordan Valley and raise our concerns when appropriate.

The demolition of Palestinian homes and property is an issue over which we are greatly concerned. While the UK recognises Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist attack, the Israeli Government must act within international law. The demolition of homes harms innocent civilians. It only fuels anger among Palestinians and consequently risks undermining prospects for peace in the longer term. We have called on the Israeli authorities to end house demolitions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

### Middle East: EUBAM

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on restoring the EU monitoring force, EUBAM, on the Rafah border between Egypt and Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [191140]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is deeply concerned about recent events at the crossing between Gaza and Egypt. The 28 January EU General Affairs and External Relations Council made clear that

> "the EU is ready to consider resuming its monitoring mission at Rafah under the provisions of the relevant international agreements related to Access and Movement concluded in November 2005".

We support the efforts of our EU and UN colleagues to promote an effective Palestinian security force and the reopening of the Gaza crossings.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation at Rafah with his Egyptian counterpart, Aboul Gheit, on 19 February. We support the efforts by the Government of Egypt to find a peaceful and orderly solution to the current situation.

### Nuclear Fuels

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing international agreement to an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) administered mechanism for reliable access to nuclear fuel since it was presented to the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting, 12 to 15 June 2006; and if he will make a statement. [185079]

**David Miliband:** Detailed proposals comprising nuclear fuel assurances, enriched uranium reserves and new multinational enrichment facilities have been put forward by Germany, Russia, the United States, the UK and others. Many are complementary and compatible. The UK Enrichment Bond is an assurance of supply initiative. The UK, Germany and the Netherlands will host a conference on 17-18 April to bring together potential customer and supplier States to exchange views and inform further development of these proposals. We expect at least two proposals to be discussed at the June 2008 International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors.

### Russia: Foreign Policy

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the EU of recent developments in Russian foreign policy; and whether the Government supports the development of an EU common policy toward the Russian Federation. [191068]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU and the Russian Federation have a substantive dialogue on foreign policy issues, as provided for by the EU-Russia Common Space on External Security. Where Russian foreign policy impacts on the EU, the EU seeks a common EU response.

The Government support the commencement of negotiations between the EU and the Russian Federation on an agreement to replace the current EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. A new agreement should provide a comprehensive and robust framework for relations between the EU and Russia.

### Television Screens

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191083]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) delegates budgets for such equipment to individual internal departments and does not hold a centralised record of such purchases. The information could therefore only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Standard FCO guidance applies to the purchase of plasma television screens. This is based on achieving value for money.

## TREASURY

### Northern Rock

11. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on Northern Rock's relationship with Granite. [191853]

13. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Northern Rock's relationship with Granite is. [191855]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave on the Floor of the House to the hon. Member for Isle of Wight (Mr. Turner) earlier today, *Official Report*, column 1898.

20. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's financial exposure to Northern Rock and its associated financial entities is. [191862]

**Yvette Cooper:** Parliament has been notified of all contingent liabilities relating to Northern Rock.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Northern Rock's relationship with Granite is; and if he will make a statement. [191842]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on the Floor of the House to the hon. Member for Isle of Wight (Mr. Turner) earlier today.

### Gold Sales

12. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice he received from the Bank of England and his Department's officials prior to the sale of gold in 1999 and 2000. [191854]

**Angela Eagle:** Full details of the rationale for the gold sales is set out in the Treasury publication, Review of the Sale of part of the UK Reserves, which was published in October 2002. We have no plans to publish officials' advice.

### Climate Change

14. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with international finance ministers on the economic impact of climate change. [R] [191856]

**Angela Eagle:** The UK is working to ensure that the economic impacts of climate change, highlighted by the Stern Review, are a central topic for Finance Ministers. Recently, the Chancellor has discussed these issues with colleagues from the G20, the G7 and other EU member states. The UK is working closely with our partners to develop a new suite of strategic climate funds to support developing countries in adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change.

16. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of climate change. [191858]

**Angela Eagle:** The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change assessed a wide range of evidence on the impacts of climate change and the economic costs, and concluded that the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the economic costs of inaction. The Government are committed to creating the conditions necessary for cost-effective emissions reductions in the UK, and encouraging multi-lateral effort and international trading to reduce the costs to the UK and the world.

### Health Expenditure

15. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of expenditure on health care. [191857]

**Yvette Cooper:** Health care investment supports the health of the working population and so UK productivity. The NHS's £11 billion spend on drugs also supports an innovative pharmaceutical sector. Recognising the importance of health care to the economy, Dame Carol Black will this year publish the first ever review into the health of Britain's working age population. This will look at what more the NHS, working with employers, can do to improve productivity in the wider economy.

### Interest Rates

17. **Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the current level of interest rates on the economy. [191859]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor will update his economic forecasts in the Budget on March 12 in the normal way, taking into account all relevant factors.

### Energy Prices

18. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect that energy prices will have on consumer price inflation over the next year. [191860]

**Angela Eagle:** Overall, CPI inflation has remained very close to its 2 per cent. target over the last seven months. The Government will publish their latest assessment of recent economic developments and prospects in the financial statement and Budget report on 12 March, in the normal way.

### Child Poverty

19. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on child poverty during preparations for the 2008 Budget. [191861]

**Jane Kennedy:** Ministers have a wide variety of meetings as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to make award notices easier to understand for tax credit claimants. [191851]

**Jane Kennedy:** A revised version of the award notice, reflecting comments from the voluntary and community sector, has been in use since April 2006. Additionally, claimants now receive a two-page summary that explains the most important aspects of their award and tells them what information on their award notice they need to check. At the end of the year, a customer's renewal notice provides a full history of the changes made in the period of the award.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that Mr. Goult of Littlehampton near Totnes can continue to repay the lump sum child benefit payment erroneously paid to him and his wife in July 2006 by the Child Support Agency in weekly instalments. [[2159]]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for the payment of child benefit. Information relating to child benefit is strictly confidential and may only be disclosed to or discussed with the applicant. Correspondence regarding an individual's child benefit payments should therefore be sent directly to the Child Benefit Office, Waterview Park, Washington, Tyne and Wear NE38 8QG.

### Child Benefit: EU Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving UK child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of December 2007; and at what cost to the public purse; [183706]

(2) in respect of how many Czech children living in the Czech Republic UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183707]

(3) in respect of how many Hungarian children living in Hungary UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183708]

(4) in respect of how many Estonian children living in Estonia UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183709]

(5) in respect of how many Latvian children living in Latvia UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183710]

(6) in respect of how many Lithuanian children living in Lithuania UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183711]

(7) in respect how many Slovakian children living in Slovakia UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available; [183712]

(8) in respect of how many Slovenian children living in Slovenia UK child benefit is paid; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available. [183713]

**Jane Kennedy:** Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children.

At the end of December 2007, there were around 21,000 ongoing awards to A8 nationals recorded as receiving child benefit for around 34,000 children living in another EEA member state. This equates to around a quarter of a per cent. of all child benefit awards.

The breakdown by nationality is as follows but these disaggregated numbers are only estimates and should be used with caution.

| *Country* | *Number of awards at 31 December 2007* | *Number of children included in awards* |
|---|---|---|
| Czech Republic | 102 | 160 |
| Estonia | 9 | 15 |
| Hungary | 38 | 64 |
| Latvia | 192 | 255 |
| Lithuania | 482 | 714 |
| Poland | 19,054 | 31,399 |

| Country | Number of awards at 31 December 2007 | Number of children included in awards |
|---|---|---|
| Slovakia | 951 | 1,667 |
| Slovenia | 2 | 2 |

The other information requested is not available in the format requested or is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many children in *(a)* Romania, *(b)* Bulgaria, *(c)* Poland, *(d)* the Czech Republic and *(e)* Slovakia UK child benefit was being paid on 31 December 2007. [191197]

**Jane Kennedy:** For information relating to claims from nationals of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia for children resident in another EEA country, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) earlier today (183706). At the end of December 2007, there were 13 ongoing awards to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for 14 children living in another EEA country broken down by nationality as follows:

| Country | Number of awards at 31 December 2007 | Number of children included in awards |
|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 9 | 9 |
| Romania | 4 | 5 |

### Crosby Public-Private Forum

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on the Crosby Public-Private Forum on identity management to date. [169862]

**Yvette Cooper:** The total costs of Sir James Crosby's report of the Public-Private Forum on identity management, copies of which are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office, were £702,870.39, including research, secretariat and sundry expenses.

### Departmental Visits

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions members of the public undertook tours of his Department in each of the last five years. [192014]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road is a regular participant in London Open House weekend. Details of other tours undertaken by members of the public are not held centrally.

### Employment: Bingo

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed in the bingo industry; what forecast he has made of the size of that workforce in February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [191569]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many people are employed in the bingo industry; and what forecast has been made of the size of the workforce in February 2009. (191569)

Employment figures classified according to industry are routinely provided using the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). The figure provided below, using SIC03 is compiled from the industry classified as "Gambling and betting activities" (SIC03 code 92.71). Bingo is not separately identified.

In 2006 the ABI records that there were 96,644 people employed in "Gambling and betting activities". Forecasts relevant to this question are not compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

As with any sample survey estimates from the Annual Business Inquiry are subject to margins of uncertainty.

### Healthy Start Scheme

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that people whose tax credit claims are being dealt with clerically receive promptly the Healthy Start vouchers to which they are entitled. [191572]

**Jane Kennedy:** A process is in place to ensure that applications for Healthy Start from clerically paid child tax credit claimants can be processed by the Healthy Start Issuing Unit (HSIU), with case by case assistance from HMRC.

In addition, where a tax credits recipient first appears to satisfy the Healthy Start eligibility criteria TCO staff are instructed to refer the recipient's details to the HSIU who prompt the individual to apply for Healthy Start if they have not done so already. Periodic ongoing checks with HMRC staff ensure that they continue to be supported for as long as they remain entitled.

Work is under way to develop an automated mechanism which will speed up this process and provide a safety net for individuals who have not previously made an application for Healthy Start.

### Iraq Conflict: Costs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has made to the US Administration on the repayment of costs incurred in assisting the US in the Iraq war; and if he will make a statement. [191161]

**Yvette Cooper:** The UK seeks repayments from partner nations for their use of the MOD's life support facilities in theatre such as catering and medical facilities. The UK in turn pays for any services provided to them. Beyond that, no representations have been made to the US Administration for the repayment of costs incurred as a consequence of the UK's contribution to the current military operations in Iraq.

### Minimum Wage

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs investigations

into employers alleged to be paying less than the minimum wage *(a)* have been undertaken since 1999 and *(b)* were undertaken in each year since 1999; and how many criminal prosecutions followed such investigations in each year. [191629]

**Jane Kennedy:** The total number of investigations into employers paying less than the minimum wage in each year since 1999 and overall, can be found in the following table. There were no criminal prosecutions until 2007 when two employers were successfully prosecuted.

| | *Investigations* | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-00 | 6,041 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | 7,256 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 5,368 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 6,238 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 5,541 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 5,155 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 4,904 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 4,235 | 0 |
| 2007-08 (to 31 January 2008) | 3,300 | 2 |
| Total | 48,038 | 2 |

In the great majority of cases where minimum wage arrears are identified the employer pays any minimum wage arrears without the need for any formal enforcement action. Where arrears are not paid, an Enforcement Notice will be issued setting out the arrears that are considered to be due. An employer will then have 28 days to lodge an appeal and subsequently have his case heard before an Employment Tribunal. If the appeal is not upheld or the Enforcement Notice is not appealed against, the arrears become due.

### Pensions: Private Sector

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average value of the fund at retirement for people retiring with a private sector pension on the latest dates for which figures are available. [192075]

**Angela Eagle:** No estimates are available. HMRC administrative data cover funds held by individuals in personal pension schemes only, and do not distinguish individuals at retirement.

### Revenue and Customs: Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments have been made to employment agencies by HM Revenue and Customs on each day since 1 October 2007. [179069]

**Jane Kennedy:** Listed in the table are the payments made by HMRC on each day since 1 October 2007 to employment agencies.

| *Date* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2 October 2007 | 93.00 |
| 3 October 2007 | 7,436.00 |
| 5 October 2007 | 85.00 |
| 9 October 2007 | 9,547.00 |
| 10 October 2007 | 23,000.00 |
| 17 October 2007 | 20,180.00 |
| 19 October 2007 | 5.00 |
| 22 October 2007 | 65.00 |
| 23 October 2007 | 13,715.00 |
| 24 October 2007 | 5.00 |
| 29 October 2007 | 13,558.00 |
| 30 October 2007 | 4,514.00 |
| 1 November 2007 | 736.00 |
| 5 November 2007 | 4,854.00 |
| 6 November 2007 | 180.00 |
| 7 November 2007 | 11,486.00 |
| 8 November 2007 | 5,080.00 |
| 13 November 2007 | 400.00 |
| 14 November 2007 | 25,000.00 |
| 21 November 2007 | 885.00 |
| 22 November 2007 | 2,500.00 |
| 23 November 2007 | 10,878.00 |
| 26 November 2007 | 925.00 |
| 27 November 2007 | 12,334.00 |
| 28 November 2007 | 6,651.00 |
| 29 November 2007 | 2,417.00 |
| 5 December 2007 | 34,880.00 |
| 7 December 2007 | 350.00 |
| 10 December 2007 | 4,028.00 |
| 11 December 2007 | 12,837.00 |
| 12 December 2007 | 24,102.00 |
| 13 December 2007 | 9,750.00 |
| 17 December 2007 | 9,000.00 |
| 18 December 2007 | 2,800.00 |
| 19 December 2007 | 4,000.00 |
| 20 December 2007 | 667.00 |
| 21 December 2007 | 34,914.00 |
| 27 December 2007 | 9,193.00 |
| 28 December 2007 | 540.00 |
| 4 January 2008 | 1,000.00 |
| 7 January 2008 | 17,176.00 |
| 8 January 2008 | 11,285.00 |
| 9 January 2008 | 17,515.00 |
| 10 January 2008 | 1,375.00 |
| 11 January 2008 | 2,000.00 |
| 14 January 2008 | 30,414.00 |
| 15 January 2008 | 7,792.00 |
| 16 January 2008 | 70.00 |
| 18 January 2008 | 670.00 |
| 21 January 2008 | 125.00 |
| 22 January 2008 | 24,502.00 |
| 28 January 2008 | 4,075.00 |
| 31 January 2008 | 1,498.00 |
| 31 January 2008 | 2,300.00 |
| 1 February 2008 | 831.00 |
| 1 February 2008 | 15,662.00 |
| 4 February 2008 | 6,233.00 |
| 5 February 2008 | 8,000.00 |
| 6 February 2008 | 22,630.00 |
| 6 February 2008 | 4,603.00 |
| 7 February 2008 | 9,376.00 |
| 7 February 2008 | 6,000.00 |
| 12 February 2008 | 1,779.00 |
| 13 February 2008 | 11,797.00 |
| 14 February 2008 | 240.00 |

| Date | £ |
|---|---|
| 14 February 2008 | 4,400.00 |
| 14 February 2008 | 53,648.00 |
| 15 February 2008 | 623.00 |
| 18 February 2008 | 5,099.00 |
| 19 February 2008 | 3,110.00 |
| 19 February 2008 | 400.00 |
| 19 February 2008 | 11,000.00 |
| 19 February 2008 | 325.00 |
| 20 February 2008 | 1,419.00 |
| 22 February 2008 | 15 |
| 25 February 2008 | 1,247.00 |
| 25 February 2008 | 130.00 |
| 27 February 2008 | 4,710.00 |
| 29 February 2008 | 6,554.00 |

### Tax Yields: East Sussex

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Government raised in tax in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [192126]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on the total amount of tax raised in Eastbourne and East Sussex is not available.

### Taxation: Exports

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Exchequer of value added tax export relief was in each of the last three years. [191785]

**Jane Kennedy:** No estimate has been made of the cost of the zero rate for the export of goods. The relief implements basic VAT principles that goods consumed outside the EU are not subject to EU VAT, so there is no actual exchequer cost.

### Taxation: Landlords

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases have been brought by HM Revenue and Customs against buy-to-let landlords alleged to have *(a)* claimed too much tax relief on mortgage payments and *(b)* under-stated rental income or capital gains in 2007-08. [191628]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Tonnage Tax: Ferries

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what changes he plans to introduce to the tonnage tax regime for passenger ferry services operating in UK waters; and which *(a)* vessels and *(b)* ferry services will be affected; [191822]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects of the withdrawal of the tonnage tax regime on the costs of ferry operators operating *(a)* Isle of Wight and *(b)* other internal UK ferry services. [191883]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* The Government have been engaged in discussions with the European Commission to ensure that the UK's tonnage tax regime is compliant with EU state aid guidelines. Those discussions are still ongoing. Apart from any changes which may be required as a result of those discussions, the Government have no plans to change the tonnage tax rules.

Ferries operating across harbours, rivers or estuaries have always been specifically excluded from tonnage tax and since 1 July 2005 ferries have had to be operating at sea to qualify for tonnage tax. HMRC has published guidance on the interpretation of "sea" for tonnage tax purposes.

We cannot provide data relating to the impact of this change on shipping companies because it is under review and because of the need to protect taxpayer confidentiality.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with dependent children, where those children were classified as being in poverty, were eligible for tax credits in the latest period for which figures are available. [192158]

**Jane Kennedy:** Latest available data, consistent with DWP's "Households Below Average Income" publication, shows that there were 1.5 million households with children in relative low income poverty in 2005-06 (household income less than 60 per cent. of median on a before housing costs basis). Nearly all these 1.5 million households have positive entitlements to tax credits.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Administration

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people in receipt of tax credits are being dealt with clerically. [191573]

**Jane Kennedy:** Out of the six million households in receipt of tax credits, around 22,700 are being dealt with clerically. This represents around 0.3 per cent. of households currently benefiting from tax credits.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**John Barrett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on funding for the winter fuel allowance as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review process. [191847]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Chancellor has discussions with his Cabinet colleagues on a wide range of issues on a regular basis.

Tax rates and benefit payments are kept under review as part of the annual Budget process. However, the pre-Budget report 2005 announced that winter fuel payments will be paid at their current levels for the rest of this Parliament.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the longest repayment schedule agreed by the Child Support Agency is. [185879]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual debts written off by the Child Support Agency were worth *(a)* over £1 million, *(b)* between £500,000 and £999,999, *(c)* between £250,000 and £499,999, *(d)* between £100,000 and £249,999, *(e)* between £50,000 and £99,999, *(f)* between £20,000 and £49,999, *(g)* between £10,000 and £19,999, *(h)* between £5,000 and £9,999 and *(i)* between £1,000 and £4,999. [185880]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individual debts written off by the Child Support Agency have been worth (a) over £1 million (b) between £500,000 and £999,999 (c) between £250,000 and £499,999 (d) between £100,000 and £249,999 (e) between £50,000 and £99,999 (f) between £20,000 and £49,999 (g) between £10,000 and £19,999 (h) between £5,000 and £9,999 and (i) between £1,000 and £4,999. [185880]

The Agency does not have the power to write off debt and has never done so. The Agency does, however, undertake an annual Debt Analysis Exercise which consists of a random, statistically valid sample of new and old rules cases, to distinguish between debt which is deemed collectable, and that which is deemed possibly uncollectable and probably uncollectable. The results of this sample exercise are applied to the total Agency debt balance and are subject to review by the National Audit Office as part of their audit of the Agency's accounts. Classing a debt as possibly or probably uncollectable does not mean the Agency has waived its discretion to take action in the future to collect any outstanding money. The Agency may reassess the status of a debt if it receives new information about the case to which it relates.

Figures concerning collectable and uncollectable debt can be found in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. In the most recent debt analysis exercise in March 2007, 49% of debt was classed as collectable.

The Agency takes the collection of outstanding debt very seriously. The focus of the current year of the Operational Improvement Plan is enforcement and compliance, as the Agency strives to increase its debt collection and get more money for more children. Every effort is made to ensure the non-resident parents fulfill their financial responsibility to their children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Support Agency: Bolton

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Vertex-contracted Child Support Agency (CSA) office in Bolton in *(a)* communicating with (i) hon. and right hon. Members, (ii) Ministers and (iii) other CSA offices and *(b)* operating efficiency. [184447]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Vertex-contracted Child Support Agency (CSA) office in Bolton in *(a)* communication with (i) hon. and right hon. Members (ii) Ministers and (iii) other CSA offices and *(b)* operating efficiently. [184447]

Vertex Data Science Ltd. manages the CSA Bolton site, a unit we have established to deal with those cases which for technical reasons can not be progressed on the computer system and therefore need to be administered clerically. By moving all the clerical work undertaken by the Agency to this one site from September 2006, the Agency was able to release people to focus on other improvement work outlined in the Operational Improvement Plan, including reducing the number of uncleared applications and strengthening enforcement.

While the arrangement has been generally beneficial, we have experienced some operational issues including expressions of concern from some clients, MPs and the Independent Case Examiner about how the Agency has managed its service to clients and delays in resolving complaints. The Agency has now taken steps to ensure that our service to clients improves in the future. In October 2007 the Agency renegotiated the contract to allow Vertex to focus on keeping maintenance flowing to children, and increased the resource dedicated to progressing clerical cases by retaining responsibility for new clerical cases until first payment stage.

In addition, all complaints with MP or Independent Case Examiner involvement as well as those cases that require a review are now also being dealt with by specialist caseworkers within the Agency. Clerical cases represent less than three per cent of all assessed cases. The administration of these cases will continue to present a challenge, however the Agency is continually working with its contractors to improve the service to these clients.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Support Agency: Finance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the staffing cost of each staff grade of the Child Support Agency was in each of the last 10 years. [185123]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the staffing cost of each staff grade of the Child Support Agency was in each of the last 10 years. [185123]

The Child Support Agency is a part of the Department for Work and Pensions. The Agency uses the Department's payroll and accounting system to record and report expenditure.

Whilst the payroll system does have the functionality to report employee costs by grade, in order to fully respond to this and capture all elements of employee costs, a number of scans would

need to be commissioned. This would be at disproportionate cost in terms of both IT development and employee time.

However, the table below provides the total Agency spend on employees for the last ten financial years as recorded in the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts.

| *Financial year* | *Total employee spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 145.5 |
| 1998-99 | 141.2 |
| 1999-2000 | 154.0 |
| 2000-01 | 157.7 |
| 2001-02 | 181.5 |
| 2002-03 | 210.0 |
| 2003-04 | 215.6 |
| 2004-05 | 218.9 |
| 2005-06 | 240.1 |
| 2006-07 | 271.2 |

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Child Support Agency

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Child Support Agency cases remain suspended pending the opening of new clerical team centres; [180770]

(2) how many Child Support Agency (CSA) cases were dealt with by the CSA's clerical team in each month since January 2007; [180771]

(3) how many Child Support Agency (CSA) cases were transferred to the CSA clerical team in each month since January 2007. [180772]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases remain suspended pending the opening of new clerical team centres. [180770]; and

How many Child Support Agency cases were dealt with by the CSA's clerical team in each month since January 2007. [180771]; and

How many Child Support Agency cases were transferred to the CSA clerical team in each month since January 2007. [180772]

The Agency contracted out the management of its clerical cases to Vertex Data Science Ltd in September 2006. They initially managed all aspects of the clerical case-load at the Bolton site on our behalf and to date have administered more than £30m to parents with care. In October 2007 the Agency renegotiated the contract to allow Vertex to focus on keeping maintenance flowing to children, and increased the resource dedicated to progressing clerical cases by retaining responsibility for new clerical cases until first payment stage.

Child maintenance applications are processed clerically where, due to technical issues, they cannot be advanced on our computer system. Unfortunately the process of identifying, transferring and assessing these cases can add significant delays. In addition the Agency's success in reducing the number of outstanding applications uncovered a larger than expected number of cases needing to be processed clerically.

New clerical cases are now progressed to first payment stage at our Stockport and Cumnock sites, with new clerical cases being referred to these sites to be assessed before referral to Bolton to be maintained. All cases identified as being appropriate for clerical handling have been moved, or are currently in the process of being moved to the dedicated clerical teams for progression, with the transfer due to be completed by 15 February 2008.

Clerical cases represent less than three per cent of all assessed cases. The Agency is continually working with its contractors to improve the service to these clients. In addition an upgrade to the computer system (CS2) due to be completed by the end of March 2008, will reduce the need for the Agency's clerical teams.

Information on the number of new clerical cases and the total number of clerical cases being dealt with each month is set out in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Child Support Agency: Clerical cases*

| *Month (2007)* | *Number of new clerical cases* | *Number of clerical cases* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 703 | 27,654 |
| February | 910 | 28,509 |
| March | 871 | 29,256 |
| April | 1,347 | 30,568 |
| May | 950 | 30,914 |
| June | 769 | 31,665 |
| July | 1,477 | 33,094 |
| August | 1,093 | 33,783 |
| September | 601 | 33,600 |
| October | 532 | 34,049 |
| November | 620 | 33,294 |
| December | 500 | 33,265 |

*Note:*
Each month the number of clerical cases increases to reflect new cases that are referred for clerical progression. Similarly, each month a number of existing clerical cases are closed and so are removed from the total number of clerical cases.

### Child Support: Private Sector

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of collection of unpaid child support maintenance by private companies to which the work has been outsourced. [190028]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* Since August 2006, the Agency has referred over 63,000 cases to debt collection agencies with a total debt of £335.9 million. By the end of December 2007, £9.3 million had been collected from 15,619 cases, of which 3,092 had paid in full. Additionally, in the same period, the seven-day warning letter sent by the Agency to inform clients that their debt is being transferred to the debt collection agencies has resulted in an additional £4.7 million being collected by the Agency.

This additional child maintenance collected is contributing to the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan commitment of collecting over £200 million in additional arrears by March 2009.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to assist those children living in the severest poverty in Scotland. [187313]

**Mr. Timms:** The joint Department for Children, Schools and Families/Department for Work and Pensions Child Poverty Unit is working closely with the devolved administrations to take forward common priorities, co-ordinate approaches and share best practice in developing policy on child poverty.

Our policies are not designed only for those who fall 'just below the poverty threshold'. We have pledged to eradicate child poverty by 2020; this requires us to tackle child poverty, whatever its depth, in all countries of the UK.

The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure relative poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom including the number of children living in households with income below 50 per cent. of the median, is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06". The figures in this publication show that children in Scotland are no more at risk of being in poverty than they are in England.

In fact, the Public Service Agreement target to reduce child poverty by a quarter by 2004-05 was more than met in Scotland. Between 1998-99 and 2004-05, the number of children living in relative low income households in Scotland reduced by 90,000 (from 300,000 to 210,000).

Work, for those who can, remains the most sustainable route out of poverty. The Government are supporting families to escape poverty by increasing employment and raising incomes for those who can work. But we recognise that we need to do more to help those who are out of work or in low paid work. And we are looking again at what more the Government could do to ensure that children in these families are not at a disadvantage.

## Correspondence: Child Support Agency

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the chief executive of the Child Support Agency to reply to the letter dated 21 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Hyndburn on Miss Angela Feeley. [187322]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to reply to the letter dated 21st September 2007 from the Hon. Member for Hyndburn on Miss Angela Feeley. [187322]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Departmental Equality

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190764]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The conclusions reached by DWP in fulfilment of the duty can be found in the "Department for Work and Pensions Disability, Gender and Race Equality Schemes Annual Progress Report 2007" which includes an update on its disability equality scheme action plan. This was published on both its internal and external websites on 30 November 2007.

## Departmental Fraud

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of his Department were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for fraud against the Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the value of such fraud was in each year. [185964]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information is not available in the exact format requested and can be provided only from January 2004.

The figures shown in the following table relate to all types of identified fraud against DWP committed by staff. It includes fraud relating to all the benefits administered by DWP, theft of assets and financial irregularities.

| | *Number of staff convicted* | *Value of fraud (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| January to March 2004 | 4 | 46,230.37 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 11 | 24,081.01 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 10 | 65,748.21 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 14 | 207,412.62 |
| April 2007 to December 2007 | 14 | 159,204.80 |

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (X) special advisers, (Y) Ministers and (Z) communications officials in (aa) his Department and (bb) its agencies since August 2005. [183936]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a policy of creating, monitoring or amending Wikipedia entries and no records exist of any entries being created and/ or amended by special advisers, Ministers and communications officials.

The Department for Work and Pensions accesses the world wide web via the Government Secure Intranet. The internal IP address is changed on the route out.

This means that when someone logs in to their PC, they are given an IP address from a central pool, which means, in practice, it is not possible to trace back to the individual who accessed the web. Sites such as Wikipedia see a centralised GSI gateway address rather than the address for a specific individual.

**Departmental Manpower**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189075]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The civil service statistics are collected by the Office for National Statistics from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (formerly Mandate) and the latest published figures are for 30 September 2006.

On the 30 September 2006, the Department for Work and Pensions employed a total of *(a)* 160 staff and *(b)* 150 full-time equivalent staff under the age of 18-years-old.

**Departmental Private Initiative**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190811]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

**Departmental Retirement**

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187681]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not separately record information about the type of illness or illnesses that result in retirement on grounds of ill health.

**Departmental Sick Leave**

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187882]

**Mrs. McGuire:** DWP, in common with other Government Departments, records sickness absences against a list of standard definitions. Stress-related conditions would fall under the category "depression, anxiety and other mental health issues". The percentage of working days lost attributed to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues in 2007 was calculated as 26.4 per cent. of total absences.

**Fairtrade Initiative**

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189512]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department works very closely with its estate partner (Land Securities Trillium) and its catering service partner (Compass Group) as part of our commitment to the sustainable food procurement initiative. The Department is committed to supporting Fairtrade and over 60 per cent. of its tea and coffee purchases are Fairtrade certified products.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 is being promoted to staff on the Department's intranet site. In addition, Compass is highlighting Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 using posters, leaflets and other promotional material.

The Department is working with Compass to expand on the range of Fairtrade products purchased and recently met jointly with Compass and the Fairtrade Foundation to build on this work for Fairtrade Fortnight 2009.

**HM Revenue and Customs: Data Protection**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will allocate new national insurance numbers to those children whose data was included on the discs lost by HM Revenue and Customs in October 2007. [174850]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

National insurance numbers alone are not proof of identity and other checks would always be used to establish an individual's identity. There are no plans to allocate new national insurance numbers.

**Industrial Health and Safety: Compensation**

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received a consolatory payment from the Health and Safety Commission and Executive in each year since 1997; what the average value of payment was in each year; and how much was paid in total in consolatory payments in each year. [186113]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The reply is provided in the following tables. The Health and Safety Commission made no payments containing a consolatory element. The figures for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) exclude all forms of compensatory payment that were made in the normal course of litigation. The figures up to and including 2006-07 relate to compensation/ex-gratia payments to individuals which may have included an element for consolatory payment but which was not recorded separately. The figure for 2007-08 relates to consolatory payments only and reflects the latest position at 20 February 2008.

| | Number of individuals who received compensation/ex-gratia payments from HSE which may have contained a consolatory element | Average value of such payments[1] (£) | Total value of such payments (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-08 to 2001-02 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 4 | 424 | 1,694 |
| 2003-04 to 2004-05 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 1 | n/a | 600 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest pound.

| | Number of individuals who received a consolatory payment from HSE | Average value of such payments (£) | Total value of such payments (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08[1] | 1 | n/a | 2,000 |

[1] Latest position.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances a consolatory payment would be made by the Health and Safety Commission and Executive; and what guidance is provided by his Department on the payment of a conciliatory payment to a customer of the Health and Safety Commission and Executive; and if he will place a copy of that guidance in the Library. [186114]

**Mrs. McGuire:** A consolatory payment is made by the Health and Safety Commission/Executive (HSC/E) where, in very exceptional circumstances, maladministration has had an adverse effect on a person's life, irrespective of whether a measurable financial loss has occurred. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provides guidance on conciliatory (special) payments in its Departmental Losses Framework document which HSC/E follows in relation to all those with whom it has dealings. Additionally, HSC/E's Framework Management Statement and its Financial Memorandum, together, set out the broad policy, governance/risk-management arrangements and financial framework within which HSC/E and its sponsoring Department, DWP, operate, including delegated financial authorities for such conciliatory payments.

For accounting purposes, HSC/E reports all categories of compensation payments to DWP. A summary is shown in the losses and special payments note to HSC/E's resource accounts.

The HSC/E Framework Management Statement etc. can already be accessed in the Library. A copy of DWP's Departmental Losses Framework document will be available in due course.

### Industrial Training: Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department for people (i) over 55 years old and (ii) in retirement to learn new job skills. [190011]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** People who are claiming a benefit or receiving state pension may take up training and retain their benefit, although people on jobseeker's allowance may only take up training part-time. Currently people who are on incapacity benefit for less than 28 weeks, and who are in receipt of housing benefit and council tax benefit, are not entitled to take full-time training to learn new job skills without losing eligibility for that benefit. However, we are revising this situation following the announcement made in "Opportunity, Employment and Progression: making skills work" published jointly with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in November 2007. This announcement stated our intention to remove the 16 hour study rule in housing benefit completely for short-term recipients of incapacity benefit; so that they, like long term incapacity benefit claimants, will always be able to take up the training they need to enable them to return to work.

All people below state pension age and claiming relevant benefits can access Department for Work and Pensions training schemes depending on whether they meet other eligibility criteria: for example, someone could be referred to an Employability Skills training programme if they had been assessed as having low literacy, language and numeracy skills and wanted to combine improving these with employability skills.

New deal 50 plus is the only Jobcentre Plus programme directly focused on supporting people aged 50 and over into employment. The programme offers personal adviser support and access to a training grant, worth up to £1500.

The training grant is currently available when an individual aged 50 and over and claiming a qualifying benefit takes up employment after attending a new deal 50 plus interview after six months of benefit dependency. It offers in-work training support to help individuals update existing skills or gain new skills related to their work for up to two years after starting work. The grant can be used for training provided by an employer or through an external training provider or other educational establishment.

Up to £1,200 of the grant can be used for training relevant to the job and a further £300 can be used to pay for life-long learning or skills training that is not job related.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on jobseeker's allowance *(a)* were sanctioned and *(b)* had their claim terminated because they went abroad in each of the last 10 years. [185885]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** When jobseekers go abroad, they no longer fulfil the entitlement conditions required for jobseeker's allowance and the jobseeker's entitlement ends.

The number of people on jobseeker's allowance that have had their claim terminated because they went abroad in each of the last 10 years is in the table.

*Jobseeker's allowance claimants who have flowed-off benefit and gone abroad, Great Britain, December 1998 to December 2007*

| As at December each year | Claimants who have gone abroad |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 6,480 |
| 1999 | 6,405 |
| 2000 | 6,620 |
| 2001 | 6,225 |
| 2002 | 5,600 |
| 2003 | 5,285 |
| 2004 | 4,760 |
| 2005 | 4,565 |
| 2006 | 6,030 |
| 2007 | 5,585 |

*Note:*
Number of claimants rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance Jobcentre Plus gives to claimants of jobseekers allowance wishing to go on holiday; [185889]

(2) what guidance Jobcentre Plus gives to its staff on the provision for jobseeker's allowance claimants to go on holiday. [185890]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Jobcentre Plus training and guidance to staff supports and reinforces the advice given to jobseekers. The ES40 leaflet "Jobseeker's Allowance and getting back to work", given to all jobseekers at their new jobseeker interview, sets out the requirement that the jobseeker must tell Jobcentre Plus if they change their address or go away from home, even if it is for a day. This message is further reinforced in the forms that jobseekers are required to complete to notify such absences.

Jobcentre Plus provides advice and guidance to its staff to equip them to explain to jobseekers the impact going away from home may have on entitlement.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each year since 1997. [187455]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following table:

*Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants*

| As at January each year | UK | North East | Tees Valley | Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,907,755 | 107,320 | 31,875 | 3,960 |
| 1998 | 1,479,265 | 93,660 | 28,985 | 3,520 |
| 1999 | 1,386,410 | 88,595 | 26,735 | 3,175 |
| 2000 | 1,236,380 | 81,765 | 25,615 | 3,050 |
| 2001 | 1,077,770 | 72,230 | 22,145 | 2,785 |
| 2002 | 1,021,465 | 66,590 | 20,610 | 2,575 |
| 2003 | 998,035 | 60,275 | 18,375 | 2,280 |
| 2004 | 952,430 | 54,720 | 17,015 | 2,085 |
| 2005 | 872,070 | 48,175 | 14,340 | 1,705 |
| 2006 | 955,335 | 51,085 | 15,315 | 1,790 |
| 2007 | 965,095 | 54,700 | 16,705 | 1,985 |
| 2008 | 830,540 | 50,360 | 15,420 | 1,860 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Tees Valley consists of the local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton.
*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Eligibility

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people who leave employment for the purposes of obtaining jobseeker's allowance are not eligible for such allowance. [189102]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The reason that a person's job came to an end is ascertained from evidence provided by the person themselves and from their employer. When we have evidence that someone may have left employment voluntarily or was dismissed for misconduct we can impose a benefit sanction and prevent jobseeker's allowance being paid for up to 26 weeks. A sanction means that no jobseeker's allowance is payable for that period.

All sanction decisions are made by a decision maker on a case by case basis, taking all the available evidence into account. A jobseeker has the right of appeal against a sanction decision.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Learning Disability

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that young adults with learning difficulties in receipt of jobseekers allowance, who cannot read or understand forms or use telephones, are able to receive personal help from his Department. [190592]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 6 March 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what action is being taken to ensure that young adults with learning difficulties in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, who cannot read, understand forms or use telephones are able to receive personal help from the Department. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

If a customer cannot read, understand forms or use telephones then a face-to-face meeting at the customer's local Jobcentre can be arranged at which the customer will be helped to make their claim for benefit and, where appropriate, be offered support to seek work. Customers making use of this facility may also wish to involve their own advocate or support agency in this process.

All of our customers will meet a Financial Assessor when they attend their New Jobseeker Interview or Work-Focused Interview. This allows the Financial Assessor the opportunity to assess the individual needs of the customer and offer any further help they need in order to make a successful claim.

For those customers with a disability who are ready to start looking for work, we have a network of Disability Employment Advisers who offer help to those who need and want a more in-depth support to find and retain employment. Disability Employment Advisers have received specialist training to allow them to help people with more complex barriers to employment and can offer help with completing applications forms as well as acting as an advocate for the customer in approaches made to potential employers.

Disability Employment Advisers can also help customers apply for help through a range of disability programmes including Access to Work, which can fund the cost of an advocate to attend a job interview with someone with learning difficulties.

We provide more personal support for vulnerable people who genuinely need an increased level of support and we are constantly looking at ways of improving services to our vulnerable customers.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Mortgages

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid to homeowners in receipt of jobseekers allowance for the purpose of making mortgage repayments in the latest period for which figures are available. [189101]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

As at May 2007, the most recent available information, there were 8,700 jobseeker's allowance claimants in receipt of help with mortgage interest. The average weekly amount was £46.81.

### Local Housing Allowance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding has been made available to the Pathfinder authorities for the pilots of the local housing allowance. [190541]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 464W, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department plans to issue to local authorities on the up-take of bank accounts during the roll-out of local housing allowances; and whether such guidance will be issued by April 2008. [190777]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has already provided a guidance manual and other support and advice to help local authorities with the introduction of the local housing allowance in April 2008. This support has included the provision of advice to local authorities on how best they can support their customers in opening bank accounts.

DWP is leading a campaign to help financially excluded people access free money advice. The "Now Let's Talk Money" campaign will direct them to suitable bank accounts, local trusted sources of affordable credit and confidential advice.

We are also encouraging local authorities to ensure that payment facilities are available to the small number of customers who cannot open a bank account.

### Lone Parents: Advisory Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues to personal advisers helping lone parents. [190311]

**Mr. Timms:** The lone parent personal adviser role is one of a number of specialist adviser roles within Jobcentre Plus. Advisers are required to complete generic adviser training which includes e-learning, mentoring and workbooks. They also complete specialist modules of learning specific to the customer group they will be working with, for example lone parents. To support this training, departmental guidance is available on the departmental intranet site which covers all aspects of business process, regulations, procedures and best practice.

### Low Incomes

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children were members of families with income of less than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* 60 per cent. of median earnings in each year since 1997; [185946]

(2) how many families there were with incomes of less than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* 60 per cent. of median earnings in each year since 1997; [185947]

(3) how many pensioners there were with incomes of less than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* 60 per cent. of median earnings in each year since 1997. [185948]

**Mr. Timms:** The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure relative poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. We do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our Households Below Average Income series as it is not a sound measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Some people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

The sample size for the number of households having an income below 30 per cent. of median is too small to yield reliable results.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Available information is shown in the following tables.

*Table 1: Number of children living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before housing costs | | | After housing costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 4.3 |
| 1997-98 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 3.1 | 4.2 |
| 1998-99 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 4.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 3.0 | 4.3 |
| 2000-01 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 4.1 |
| 2001-02 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 4.0 |
| 2002-03 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 3.9 |
| 2003-04 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| 2004-05 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 3.6 |
| 2005-06 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 |

*Table 2: Number of families living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1995-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before housing costs | | | After housing costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 1.3 | 3.0 | 5.4 | 2.6 | 4.6 | 7.3 |
| 1997-98 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 7.0 |
| 1998-99 | 1.4 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 2.4 | 4.5 | 7.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 2.6 | 4.6 | 7.0 |
| 2000-01 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 5.5 | 2.6 | 4.4 | 6.8 |
| 2001-02 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 2.5 | 4.3 | 6.6 |
| 2002-03 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 5.6 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 6.8 |
| 2003-04 | 1.7 | 3.3 | 5.5 | 2.8 | 4.4 | 6.5 |
| 2004-05 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 6.2 |
| 2005-06 | 1.8 | 3.3 | 5.6 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 6.7 |

*Table 3: Number of pensioners living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before housing costs | | | After housing costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 2.9 |
| 1997-98 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.9 |
| 1998-99 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.9 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.8 |
| 2000-01 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| 2001-02 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| 2002-03 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 2.5 |
| 2003-04 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.2 |
| 2004-05 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| 2005-06 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.8 |

*Table 4: Proportion of children living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before housing costs | | | After housing costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 11 | 25 | 34 |
| 1997-98 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 11 | 25 | 33 |
| 1998-99 | 5 | 14 | 26 | 11 | 24 | 34 |
| 1999-2000 | 5 | 13 | 26 | 11 | 23 | 33 |
| 2000-01 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 10 | 21 | 31 |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 10 | 20 | 31 |
| 2002-03 | 6 | 11 | 23 | 10 | 20 | 30 |
| 2003-04 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 10 | 19 | 29 |
| 2004-05 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 10 | 18 | 28 |
| 2005-06 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 10 | 19 | 30 |

*Table 5: Proportion of families living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before Housing Costs | | | After Housing Costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 25 |
| 1997-98 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 24 |
| 1998-99 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 8 | 15 | 24 |
| 1999-2000 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 9 | 15 | 24 |
| 2000-01 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 23 |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| 2002-03 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 22 |
| 2003-04 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 9 | 13 | 20 |
| 2005-06 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 21 |

*Table 6: Proportion of pensioners living below 40 per cent., 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income in each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06*

£ millions

| | Before housing costs | | | After housing costs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40% | 50% | 60% | 40% | 50% | 60% |
| 1996-97 | 4 | 13 | 25 | 5 | 13 | 29 |
| 1997-98 | 5 | 13 | 25 | 5 | 13 | 29 |
| 1998-99 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 5 | 13 | 29 |
| 1999-2000 | 5 | 14 | 25 | 5 | 13 | 28 |
| 2000-01 | 5 | 13 | 25 | 5 | 11 | 26 |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 14 | 25 | 5 | 11 | 26 |
| 2002-03 | 5 | 13 | 24 | 5 | 11 | 24 |
| 2003-04 | 5 | 12 | 23 | 5 | 10 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 4 | 11 | 21 | 4 | 8 | 18 |
| 2005-06 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 4 | 8 | 17 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures in tables 1, 3, 4 and 6 correspond to Great Britain for 1996-97 and 1997-98 and correspond to the United Kingdom for other years. Estimates for Northern Ireland have been imputed for the years 1998-99 through to 2001-02.
2. Figures in table 2 and 5 correspond to Great Britain from 1996-97 to 2001-02, and correspond to the United Kingdom for later years. It is not possible to impute estimates for Northern Ireland for families for 1998-99 to 2001-02.
3. The reference period for Family Resources Survey (FRS) figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted/equivalised for household size and composition, as a proxy for standard of living. This uses the OECD equivalence scale for all years in the series.
5. The Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.
6. This response includes a lower income threshold of 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income. The data for families with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median is not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households while having very low incomes would not be considered poor, but who do genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run. These figures are not national statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
7. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
8. A family is defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children.
9. Numbers in the tables have been presented in millions, rounded to the nearest 100,000 people.

## New Deal

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the new deal has helped into work, training and work experience in each new deal category since its inception. [187300]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on the number of people helped into work through all the new deals is in the following table.

*Number of people into work through new deal*

| Programme | Number |
|---|---|
| New deal for young people | 764,630 |
| New deal 25 plus | 301,170 |
| New deal for lone parents | 521,850 |
| New deal for disabled people | 151,970 |
| New deal 50 plus | 175,320 |
| New deal for partners | 6,480 |

*Notes.*

1. Data are to May 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Programme start dates are: New deal for young people: April 1998 (piloted from January-March 1998); New deal 25 plus: July 1998; New deal for lone parents: October 1998; New deal for partners: April 1999; New deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate

Information on the number of people who have started training and work experience are only available through the options stage of the new deal for young people (NDYP) programme and the intensive activity period (IAP) of the new deal 25 plus (ND25 plus) programme.

The available requested information is in the following tables.

*New deal for young people (NDYP)*

| *Option* | *Numbers who have started* |
|---|---|
| Employment option | 68,450 |
| Education and training option | 141,610 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are to May 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data includes current participants on the employment and education and training options, as well as those who have left NDYP from these options.
3. Data includes those who have participated on these options but left NDYP from the follow through stage of the programme.
4. Data do not include those who have participated on these options but who are currently on the follow through stage of NDYP.
5. Data could include people on the voluntary new deals who have accessed training from the provision available through NDYP.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

*New deal 25 plus*

| *Option* | *Numbers who have started* |
|---|---|
| Employment and work experience/placements stage of the IAP | 92,770 |
| Education and training opportunities stage of the IAP | 51,710 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are to May 2007 and rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data include current participants on the employment/work experience/training elements of the IAP, as well as those who have left ND25 plus from these elements.
3. Data include those who have participated on these elements of the IAP but left ND25 plus from the follow through stage of the programme.
4. Data do not includes those who have participated on these elements of the IAP but who are currently on the follow through stage of ND25 plus.
5. Data could include people on the voluntary new deals who have accessed training from the provision available through new deal 25 plus.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

## New Deal Schemes: Aberavon

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the New Deal has assisted into work, training and work experience in Aberavon constituency since its inception, broken down by New Deal category. [190219]

**Mr. Timms:** The available information on the number of people helped into work through all the new deals in the Aberavon constituency is in the following table.

*Number of people into work through New Deal in Aberavon*

| *Programme* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| New Deal for Young People | 1,290 |
| New Deal 25 plus | 310 |
| New Deal for Lone Parents | 900 |
| New Deal for Disabled People | 630 |
| New Deal 50 plus | 90 |
| New Deal for Partners | 10 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are to May 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: April 1998 (piloted from January to March 1998); New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal for Partners: April 1999; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.
3. Constituency data for New Deal 50 plus are only available from April 2003 and for New Deal for Partners from April 2004.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

Information on the number of people who have started training and work experience is available only through the Options stage of the new deal for young people (NDYP) programme and the intensive activity period (IAP) of the new deal 25 plus (ND25 plus) programme.

The available requested information is in the following tables:

*New Deal for Young People (NDYP) Options in Aberavon*

| *Option* | *Numbers who have started* |
|---|---|
| Employment Option | 130 |
| Education and Training Option | 140 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are to May 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data include current participants on the Employment and Education and Training Options, as well as those who have left NDYP from these Options.
3. Data include those who have participated on these Options but left NDYP from the Follow Through stage of the programme.
4. Data do not include those who have participated on these Options but who are currently on the Follow Through stage of NDYP.
5. Data could include participants on the voluntary New Deals who have accessed training available through the mandatory New Deals.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

*New Deal 25 plus Intensive Activity Period (IAP) in Aberavon*

| *Option* | *Numbers who have started* |
|---|---|
| Employment and Work Experience/Placements stage of the IAP | 170 |
| Education and Training Opportunities stage of the IAP | 10 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are to May 2007 and rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data include current participants on the Employment/Work Experience/Training elements of the IAP, as well as those who have left ND25 plus from these elements.
3. Data include those who have participated on these elements of the IAP but left ND25 plus from the Follow Through stage of the programme.
4. Data do not includes those who have participated on these elements of the IAP but who are currently on the Follow Through stage of ND25 plus.
5. Data could include participants on the voluntary New Deals who have accessed training available through the mandatory New Deals.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

## Pensions

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England and Wales have been subject to means-testing in each year since 2000. [178617]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information that is available is in the following table.

Tackling pensioner poverty was one of the Government's first priorities. The introduction of pension credit in October 2003, which targeted substantial additional resources on those in the greatest need, was supported by an extensive campaign to raise awareness of the new benefit and to encourage every pensioner with an entitlement to take it up. The 2004 figures demonstrate that the campaign had a considerable immediate impact. And, since the introduction of pension credit, the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by around 700,000.

*Number of beneficiaries of means tested benefits, aged 60 and over*

| *Mid year* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 3,070,000 |
| 2001 | 3,060,000 |
| 2002 | 2,970,000 |
| 2003 | 2,950,000 |
| 2004 | 3,380,000 |
| 2005 | 3,440,000 |
| 2006 | 3,420,000 |
| 2007 | 3,490,000 |

*Notes:*

1. Means tested benefits are pension credit (PC), minimum income guarantee/income support for the over 60s (MIG/IS), jobseeker's allowance (income-based) (JSA(IB)), housing benefit (HB), council tax benefit (CTB). Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten thousand.
3. "Beneficiaries" is the sum of claimants aged 60 or over and claimants partners aged 60 or over.
4. Figures based on one per cent data samples (HB and CTB) and 5 per cent data samples (MIG/IS and JSA(IB) and PC) are subject to sampling variation. The 5 per cent. data sample has been rated in line with Work and Pension Longitudinal Study data.
5. CTB data excludes second adult rebate cases. HB data excludes any Extended Payment cases.
6. Estimates for 2000 to 2004 are based on past benefit data as at May of each year. Estimates for 2005-06 and 2006-07 use estimated annual average caseloads for HB and CTB and data as at May of each year for other benefits. 2007-08 is based on a forecast annual average caseload for HB and CTB and data for other benefits as at May of each year.

*Source:*

DWP, one per cent. data samples, five per cent. data samples and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Polygamy**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* research he has conducted and *(b)* representations he has received on the recognition of polygamous marriages. [190489]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W.

**Poverty: Children**

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children living in poverty are in households liable to pay full council tax measured *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs; and what the average council tax bill is for those households. [185913]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Just under a quarter of all children living in relative poverty measured before housing costs, live in households liable to pay full council tax. This equates to around 700,000 children.

Around two fifths of children living in relative poverty measured after housing costs, live in households liable to pay full council tax. This equates to around 1.4 million children.

The average weekly council tax bill for these households is around £20 and £21 respectively.

*Notes:*

1. Households are defined as being in poverty if their income is less than 60 per cent. of the national median equivalised income level.
2. These figures have been derived using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These are estimated indicative figures.
3. The PSM models the calculation of individual taxes and income-related benefit entitlement, by deriving detailed microdata from the latest available FRS.
4. The PSM models the current policy year (2007-08) using the latest FRS data (2005-06), by uprating the FRS to represent the appropriate policy year.
5. The analysis provided assumes full take-up of income-related benefits in the current policy year (2007-08).

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in London were living in households with an income below *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 40 per cent. of median household income (i) after housing cost and (ii) before housing cost in each of the last 10 years. [189298]

**Mr. Timms:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the number and proportion of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent of median income.

We do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our "Households Below Average Income" series as it is not a sound measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Some people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence, any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

Data for number of children below various income thresholds for London over the last 10 years are shown in the following table.

*Number of children below 40, 50 and 60 per cent. median income in London over the last 10 years*

*Million*

| *Time period* | *40 per cent.* | | *50 per cent* | | *60 per cent.* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| 1994-95 to 1996-97 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 |

*Number of children below 40, 50 and 60 per cent. median income in London over the last 10 years*

*Million*

| Time period | 40 per cent. | | 50 per cent. | | 60 per cent. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Before housing costs | After housing costs | Before housing costs | After housing costs | Before housing costs | After housing costs |
| 1995-96 to 1997-98 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| 1996-97 to 1998-99 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| 1997-98 to 1999-2000 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| 1998-99 to 2000-01 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 1999-2000 to 2001-02 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |

*Notes:*

1. Three survey year averages are given for regional low income statistics as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. The preferred measure of low income is based on a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure and is consistent with indicators that will be monitored as part of Public Service Agreement Delivery Agreement 9.
5. This response includes a lower income threshold of 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income. The data for families with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median is not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households while having very low incomes would not be considered poor, but who do genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
7. Numbers in the table have been presented in millions, rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

## Rented Housing

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* local reference rent is being applied and *(b)* the indicative local housing allowances rate is for each bedroom category within each locality/broad market rent area in each non-pathfinder local authority. [187944]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The requested information has been placed in the Library.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* current levels of the shared room rate and *(b)* indicative shared room rate for the same locality/broad rental market area is in each of the 18 pathfinder local pathfinders where local housing allowances is already in place. [187945]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following tables.

*Shared room rate in the local housing allowance pathfinder areas at February 2, 2008*

| Pathfinder area | Broad rental market areas | Shared room rate (£ per week) |
|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | Fylde | 55 |
| Coventry | Coventry | 50 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | 77 |
| Lewisham | London South East Inner | 95 |
| | London South East Central | 80 |
| North East Lincs | North East Lincs | 46 |
| Teignbridge | Devon South | 65 |
| | Exeter | 75 |
| Leeds | Leeds | 55 |
| | Bradford | 51 |
| Conway | North Coast | 55 |
| | North Rural | 50 |
| | Menai | 52 |
| Edinburgh | Outer (incl. N, E and S) | 66 |
| | Central | 76 |
| Argyll and Bute | Argyll and Bute | 65 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | York | 55 |
| | Bridlington | 47 |
| | Hull | 48 |
| | Doncaster | 44 |
| Guildford | Guildford | 85 |
| | Blackwater Valley | 80 |

*Shared room rate in the local housing allowance pathfinder areas at February 2, 2008*

| *Pathfinder area* | *Broad rental market areas* | *Shared room rate ( £ per week )* |
|---|---|---|
| | Crawley and Reigate | 85 |
| Norwich | Central Norfolk and Norwich | 65 |
| Pembrokeshire | Pembrokeshire | 50 |
| | Cardigan Coast | 53 |
| St Helens | St Helens | 61 |
| | Newton Le Willows/Earlestown | 72 |
| | Ashton | 51 |
| Salford | Central Greater Manchester | 55 |
| | Bolton and Bury | 52 |
| South Norfolk | Central Norfolk and Norwich | 65 |
| Wandsworth | London SW Inner | 90 |

*Note:*
Figures rounded to the nearest £1.

*Provisional shared room rate in the local housing allowance pathfinder areas from April 2008*

| *Pathfinder area* | *Broad rental market areas* | *Shared room rate ( £ per week )* |
|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | Fylde Coast | 60 |
| Coventry | Coventry | 50 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | 80 |
| Lewisham | Inner South East London | 95 |
| | Outer South East London | 81 |
| North East Lincs | Grimsby | 49 |
| Teignbridge | Devon South | 60 |
| | Exeter | 69 |
| Leeds | Leeds | 65 |
| | Bradford and South Dales | 64 |
| Conway | North Clwyd | 55 |
| | Tremadog Bay | 50 |
| | Menai | 53 |
| | Wrexham and South Clwyd | 55 |
| Edinburgh | Lothians | 69 |
| Argyll and Bute | Argyll and Bute | 65 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | York | 58 |
| | Bridlington | 50 |
| | Hull | 57 |
| | Doncaster | 57 |
| Guildford | Guildford | 83 |
| | Blackwater Valley | 82 |
| | Crawley and Reigate | 82 |
| Norwich | Central Norfolk and Norwich | 69 |
| Pembrokeshire | Pembrokeshire | 52 |
| | Carmarthenshire | 48 |
| St Helens | St Helens | 60 |
| | North Cheshire | 58 |
| | Wigan | 56 |
| Salford | Central Greater Manchester | 60 |
| | Bolton and Bury | 45 |
| South Norfolk | Central Norfolk and Norwich | 69 |
| Wandsworth | Inner SW London | 123 |
| | Outer SW London | 94 |

*Note:*
Figures rounded to the nearest 1.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many localities were in operation in relation to the local reference rent as at April 2007; and how many broad market rent areas will be in operation from April 2008. [188060]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** From April 2007 there were 440 local reference rent localities and from April 2008 there will be 188 broad rental market areas.

## Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i)

2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184097]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Details of the grants provided for Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council and Telford and Wrekin borough council by DWP in 2006-07, 2007-08 are recorded in the following table. Figures have also been supplied for those grants that have so far been allocated for 2008-09. The grants consist of housing benefit (HB) administration subsidy and discretionary housing payments which are based on a specific formula, local housing allowance roll out, HB performance standards funding and HB Data scan funding. The table excludes benefit expenditure.

We are unable to provide information on grants supplied by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. This information is not held centrally and is held by the bodies themselves. We are also unable to provide figures for Shropshire county council as they do not administer housing benefit therefore they receive no HB grants from DWP.

| *LA* | *Grant* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *£ 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | Administration grant | 723,701 | 729,352 | 684,103 |
| | DHP | 26,691 | 24,763 | 26,889 |
| | Performance standards | 35,010 | — | — |
| | LHA rollout | — | 101,010 | — |
| | Data scan funding | — | 13,569 | — |
| Telford and Wrekin | Administration grant | 1,711,278 | 1,589,663 | 1,529,850 |
| | DHP | 31,870 | 35,193 | 27,879 |
| | LHA rollout | — | 160,457 | — |
| | Data scan funding | — | 15,119 | — |

### Social Security Benefits: Employment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to allow people to move from unemployment to work without losing income. [187312]

**Mr. Timms:** The design of the tax and benefits system ensures that in the majority of circumstances individuals are financially better off in work. Our plans for building on our successful welfare to work policies are set out in Ready for work: full employment in our generation, which is available in the Library.

This includes the introduction of our new Better off in Work Credit which will allow us to assure qualifying customers that if they move into full-time employment their income from work, including in-work benefits, will be at least £25 a week more than the income they received from out of work benefits.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform about the role of employers in relation to Government policy to move benefit claimants into employment. [190334]

**Mr. Timms:** I talk regularly with my ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on subjects of mutual interest. Employers have an important role to play in opening up job opportunities to benefit claimants and influencing the design of employment and skills policies to ensure they accurately respond to the needs of the local labour market.

For example, Local Employment Partnerships aim to secure a stronger commitment from employers to recruit from those who face the greatest barriers to finding work.

### Social Security Benefits: Recipients

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received benefits meant for another person, excluding cases of fraud, in each of the last 10 years. [189310]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

### Social Security Benefits: Spain

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, what the evidential basis is for his statement that UK citizens retiring to Spain have the same access to social services as people from other parts of the EU retiring to the UK. [190596]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** As in the UK, when a person moves to live in another member state, access to social services will depend on what services are available in the member state of residence and national legislation.

European nationals who move to live in another member state, such as UK citizens retiring to Spain, can access the social security systems of their new state of residence on the basis of rights laid down in European legislation, such as the European social security coordinating regulations.

## State Retirement Pensions: Females

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women receive reduced pensions having paid the married woman's stamp; what steps he is taking to help women adversely affected as a result of reduced pension payments; and if he will make a statement. [181211]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Basic pension entitlements for women who paid national insurance contributions at the married women's reduced rate at some point in their working lives are shown in the following table.

Women who elected to pay reduced rate contributions were able to revoke their elections at any time. Leaflet NI 1 – "National Insurance for Married Women" went to great lengths to make it clear that married women who chose to pay reduced-rate contributions would not qualify for national insurance entitlements, including retirement pension. Married women opting to pay reduced-rate contributions were required to sign a declaration on a form attached to NI1 that they had read and understood the leaflet.

There are no current plans to take steps to alter the level of pensions which they acquired as a result of this choice.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Full Category A retirement pension or Category B retirement pension | 1,257,000 |
| Reduced Category A retirement pension or Category B retirement pension | 548,000 |
| Full Category B married women's pension | 1,228,000 |
| Total | 3,034,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are based upon a one per cent sample and are shown to the nearest thousand.
2. UK cases only.

*Source:*
One per cent. IFD Datasets

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 7 March 2008*

## WALES

### Departmental Property

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192993]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether there is a duty on each Equality and Human Rights Commission Commissioner to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people's rights. [189617]

**Barbara Follett:** There is a statutory duty on the Equality and Human Rights Commission to promote equality of opportunity, including the right of persons not to be discriminated against on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender re-assignment. Each Commissioner is subject to a code of practice which makes them collectively liable/responsible for the decisions of the Commission, including giving full effect to the statutory duties of the Commission.

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution she expects BAA to make towards Crossrail if permission *(a)* is and *(b)* is not given for a third runway at Heathrow. [192365]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department and BAA are negotiating the terms of a suitable contribution by BAA towards the construction of Crossrail. There is no linkage between this negotiation and the Department's consideration of the case for a proposed third runway at Heathrow.

### Departmental Sick Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of sickness pay to staff within her Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187512]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The notional cost of paid sickness absence in DfT for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was £15.5 million.

### Ministerial Car Fleet

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 154W, on the Ministerial car fleet, to whom the cars in bands F and G have been allocated. [188825]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Of the 30 cars in VED band F, 13 are allocated to Secretaries of State and the remaining 17 are allocated to other Ministers. The one car in VED band G is allocated to a Secretary of State.

### Network Rail: Fines

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that revenue from the fine imposed on Network Rail for delays in December 2007 and January 2008 is spent on the rail network. [192715]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is a matter for the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), whose investigation has concluded that the problems experienced over the new year were part of a continuing breach by Network Rail of its network licence. The ORR is now consulting on its response.

I understand that Network Rail is exploring urgently with passenger and freight operators and user representatives the option of funding a package of customer improvements worth £14 million. If agreement can be reached by the end of the month, the ORR could decide to endorse this rather than imposing its proposed penalty on Network Rail for breaching its licence.

### Parliament Square: Accidents

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents occurred in Parliament Square in each year since 2001; how many *(a)* involved and *(b)* were caused by persons taking part in public demonstrations opposite Carriage Gates; and if she will make a statement. [192438]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents in Parliament Square in 2001 to 2006 are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of accidents* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 24 |
| 2002 | 19 |
| 2003 | 27 |
| 2004 | 13 |
| 2005 | 13 |
| 2006 | 5 |

Information on the number of accidents involving or caused by persons taking part in public demonstrations opposite Carriage Gates is not collected.

## JUSTICE

### Chelmsford Prison

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the approved capacity for the number of prisoners to be held at Chelmsford Prison is; and how many prisoners were held there on *(a)* 1 January, *(b)* 1 February and *(c)* 1 March 2008. [192350]

**Maria Eagle:** The operational capacity at Chelmsford prison is 695. Prisoners unlocked were as follows *(a)* 684 *(b)* 692 *(c)* 692.

### Chelmsford Prison: Suicide

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners committed suicide in Chelmsford Prison in each of the last 10 years; and how many have committed suicide in 2008; [192347]

(2) how many safer cells there are at Chelmsford Prison; how many were installed in each of the last 10 years; and how many are planned to be installed in 2008; [192348]

(3) how many of those who committed suicide at Chelmsford Prison in the last 10 years were accommodated in safer cells. [192349]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of self-inflicted deaths at Chelmsford prison in each of the last 10 years, and to 4 March 2008, is provided in the following table:

*Chelmsford*

| | *Self-inflicted deaths* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 2 |
| 1999 | 1 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1 |
| 2006 | 1 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2008[1] | 3 |

[1] Year to date

*Note:*

The Prison Service/NOMS definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Of the 138 safer cells installed at Chelmsford prison (some of the older of which are on the maintenance database for refurbishment), 12 were installed in 1996 and 126 in 2006. There are no plans to install additional safer cells at Chelmsford prison during 2008.

None of the self-inflicted deaths at Chelmsford Prison since 1998 have occurred in safer cells.

### Freedom of Information

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to bring *(a)* London councils, *(b)* regional assemblies and *(c)* the Local Government Association within the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as public authorities. [192190]

**Mr. Wills:** London local authorities including the Common Council of the City of London are already covered by the Freedom of Information Act and listed in Part II of Schedule 1.

The Government announced last year that Regional Assemblies in their current form and function would not continue. Their regional planning functions will in due course be transferred to the Regional Development Agencies, which are already public authorities within the meaning of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Local Government Association is not currently subject to the Act. The Government have just concluded a consultation on whether to extend coverage to organisations that carry out public functions and are not currently subject to the Act. The Government aim to publish its response to this consultation in May 2008.

### Prisoners

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were resident in open prisons who were deemed unsuitable for release on temporary licence in each of the last 12 months. [191903]

**Mr. Hanson:** Release on temporary licence is the mechanism that enables prisoners to participate in necessary activities, outside of the prison establishment, that directly contribute to their resettlement into the community and their development of a purposeful law abiding life. The eligibility requirements are set out in Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence, which is available on the Prison Service website. Eligible prisoners must pass a rigorous risk assessment before temporary release is granted.

Information on those considered unsuitable for release under temporary licence is not centrally available, would require manual inspection of individual prisoners' records and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were resident in open prisons who had not completed relevant offender management or treatment programmes in the closed estate in each of the last 12 months. [191904]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prior to allocation to an open prison, prisoners are assessed to ensure that the level of risk that they present can be safely managed in open conditions. The assessment will take account of a range of factors including participation in activities such as offending behaviour and treatment programmes where appropriate. However, some programmes are also delivered in open prisons. This information is therefore currently not available.

### Prisoners Release

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released on end of custody licence from prisons in Essex on 1 January 2008. [191228]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners are not released on end of custody licence at weekends or public holidays. If the ECL eligibility date falls on a weekend or public holiday release is deferred to the next working day. Therefore, no prisoners were reported to have been released on ECL on 1 January 2008.

### Probation

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any probation areas have advised the relevant courts that *(a)* unpaid work, *(b)* domestic violence programmes, *(c)* alcohol programmes, *(d)* sex offender programmes and *(e)* accredited programmes are unavailable; [192721]

(2) in how many probation areas courts have been advised of restrictions on the availability of a community penalty; and what alternative sentences are available in those areas. [192722]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally. I will make inquiries of probation areas and write to the hon. Member.

### Probation Officers

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trainee probation officers who qualified in 2007 have not been offered permanent jobs as probation officers. [192723]

**Maria Eagle:** 464 trainee probation officers qualified in 2007 of which 60 (13 per cent.) have not been offered permanent jobs as probation officers. Of the 60 trainee posts, 35 have been offered a variety of roles including fixed term PO contracts, PSO roles pending a PO vacancy or other roles within the service and 25 have left the service (some by their own volition).

A further 10 TPOs who qualified were originally offered temporary PO contracts which have now been made permanent.

### Young Offenders

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to establish restorative peer panels in Essex. [191229]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are currently evaluating the Lancashire Peer Panel Pilot Scheme and no decision will be made on extending the scheme to other parts of the country, until that evaluation is complete.

## TREASURY

### Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has discussed his proposals on capital gains tax and second homes with the Government's rural affairs adviser Dr. Stuart Burgess. [192695]

**Jane Kennedy:** Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide variety of issues with numerous organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Debts: Developing Countries

**John Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further steps he plans to take to extend international debt relief. [191840]

**Angela Eagle:** The UK welcomes the recent agreements at the international finance institutions to finance Liberia's arrears clearance. This paves the way for Liberia to enter the HIPC initiative and receive debt relief. We will continue to support further eligible countries to achieve debt cancellation under the HIPC and multilateral debt relief initiatives. The UK also continues to provide debt relief to low-income countries not eligible for HIPC and that can use the savings for poverty reduction.

### Departmental Publicity

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on public awareness media advertising in the last 12 months. [190644]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 374W.

### Financial Institutions: Charity

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has encourage charitable trusts of financial institutions to contribute to good causes; [190063]

(2) which financial institutions have charitable trusts; what assets each such trust holds; and how much each contributed to good causes in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [190064]

**Angela Eagle:** It is the responsibility of the Charity Commission, as the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, to ensure that grant-giving charitable foundations, including those set up by financial institutions, operate according to their founding charitable purposes.

The FSA is responsible for the regulation of financial institutions in the UK. The Government do not hold data on individual institutions' charitable giving.

### Inward Migration

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 753, to the hon. Member for Peterborough, on inward migration, what the figure was for *(a)* inward migration and *(b)* net migration in each year since 1997. [190860]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 March 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning what the figure was for (a) inward migration and (b) net migration each year since 1997. (190860)

The estimates of immigration and net migration for the UK are presented in the table below.

*Total international migration, 1997 to 2006, United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | *Inflow* | *Net migration* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 327 | [1]48 |
| 1998 | 391 | [1]140 |
| 1999 | 454 | [1]163 |
| 2000 | 479 | [1]158 |
| 2001 | 479 | [1]173 |
| 2002 | 513 | [1]154 |
| 2003 | 508 | [1]147 |
| 2004 | 586 | [1]244 |
| 2005 | 563 | [1]204 |
| 2006 | 591 | [1]191 |

[1] Denotes a net inflow figure.

### Drinking Water

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on mineral water in each of the last three years. [187673]

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189798]

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191248]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar) by the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (Mr. John Healey) on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 302W. Total costs for meeting refreshments were £223,619 in 2006-07 and £243,129 in 2005-06.

### Unemployed: Housing

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of unemployed people live in *(a)* council properties, *(b)* housing association properties, *(c)* private rented accommodation and *(d)* owner-occupied properties; and if he will make a statement. [192697]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 7 March 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question what proportion of unemployed people live in (a) council properties, (b) housing association properties, (c) private rented accommodation and (d) owner-occupied properties; and if he will make a statement. I am replying in her absence. (192697)

The attached table gives the ILO unemployment number and percentage for the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007. People aged 16 and over are classed as unemployed by the Labour Force Survey if they are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who want a job, have been seeking a job in the last 4 weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Unemployed[1] people aged 16 and over, by housing tenure, three months ending December 2007*

| | *Percentage[2]* |
|---|---|
| Rented from a local authority | 23 |
| Rented from a housing association[3] | 13 |
| Privately rented[4] | 19 |
| Owner occupied[5] | 43 |
| Other[6] | 1 |
| Total | 100 |

[1] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International labour Organisation (ILO).
[2] Number of ILO unemployed people in each housing tenure as a percentage of all ILO unemployed people.
[3] Includes housing association, charitable trust or local housing company
[4] Includes rented accommodation where the landlord is an employer of a household member, a relative or friend of a household member or any other private landlord.
[5] Includes people who own their property outright, purchased their property with a mortgage or loan or pay part rent and part mortgage.
[6] Includes those who are squatting or living rent free.
*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made for underage drinking in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [191880]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences of consumption of alcohol by persons aged under 18 are not included within this category.

### Assets Recovery Agency

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual running costs were of *(a)* the Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each of the three years for which figures are available. [191397]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Net expenditure by the Assets Recovery Agency for the last three years for which figures are available is as follows:

| | *Net expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 14.0 |
| 2005-06 | 16.5 |
| 2006-07 | 13.5 |

SOCA's resource funding in 2006-07 was £391.6 million, its first year of operation.

### Drugs: Methamphetamine

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of the prevalence of crystal meth usage in England. [192600]

**Mr. Coaker:** Indications suggest that there is very low use of methamphetamine among the general population and also among drug misusing offenders who regularly come into contact with the criminal justice system. From April this year, questions on the use of methamphetamine will be included in the British Crime Survey to monitor trends in usage among the general population. My Department is also looking at ways in which different sources of data can be reviewed to ensure that any increase in the prevalence of methamphetamine use is identified early.

### Hooliganism: Football

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with UEFA officials on the violence during the Bolton Wanderers versus Atletico Madrid football match in Madrid on 21 February; [190042]

(2) what discussions were held between Greater Manchester Police and the Madrid Police on the prevention of violence at the Bolton Wanderers versus Atletico Madrid football match on 21 February. [190043]

**Mr. Coaker:** Greater Manchester police participated in the pre-match UEFA hosted security meeting for the match in Madrid. The Home Office is awaiting police and other reports on the incident. The outcome will be taken fully into account in taking forward the EU work programme on minimising safety and security risks at football matches with an international dimension. Home Office and other UK football safety and security experts have played a leading role in developing this work programme.

### Immigrants: Domestic Violence

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide funding for *(a)* legal aid and *(b)* safe accommodation for women with undecided immigration status who are victims of domestic violence or abuse while their immigration status is being assessed. [190052]

**Mr. Coaker:** Victims of domestic violence with undecided immigration status are eligible to apply for legal aid. All cases are judged on individual circumstances and are measured against the criteria set out in the Legal Services Commission Funding Code.

Victims of domestic violence with undecided immigration status can also access services funded by the Supporting People grant, which provides support to vulnerable people in refuges, hostels and supported accommodation, or in their own home.

In addition, the Home Office announced on 6 March a new scheme where victims of domestic violence who have made successful applications for indefinite leave to remain, may qualify for a contribution towards their housing and living costs.

We recognise the need to find a permanent solution to this issue and are working across Government to achieve this.

### Neighbourhood Watch Schemes: Finance

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much financial support was given to Neighbourhood Watch in each of the last 10 years, including 2007-08; and how much is proposed to be given in 2008-09. [187946]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The Neighbourhood Watch Movement has received no direct financial support from the Home Office in the past 10 years. Instead, the Home Office supports the Movement through provision of a dedicated liaison post, and by publishing materials and promotional literature for the Movement's use. Since 2004, the Home Office has chaired the National Strategy Group for Watch Issues, maintained a website and administered use of the Neighbourhood Watch logo. In 2005, the Home Office began funding annual public liability insurance for Movement members, and since 2007 has hosted quarterly national meetings of volunteers' representatives. The Home Office has committed to providing this range of support in 2008-09.

### Police: Expenditure

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much each police force in England and Wales spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years; [186421]

(2) how much the Metropolitan Police's Security Command spent on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years; [186423]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the amount spent by Ports Police on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186420]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not held centrally in the form requested. In general the Government allocate funding to police force areas as a whole rather than to specific locations or functions. The actual deployment of police officers at ports and their costs is an operational matter for individual Chief Officers. In the case of London, the Counter Terrorism Command is responsibie for the policing of the border within the Metropolitan police force area (especially Heathrow and London City airports).

Airport operators reimburse police authorities for the costs of uniformed police officers at airports designated under section 25 of the Aviation Security Act, such as Heathrow. At other ports, such as London City airport, police officers are funded wholly or partly by the police authority, or by other means, including voluntary contributions by airport operators. These amounts are determined locally.

Additional funding for Special Branch officers at ports is provided by the Home Office through Dedicated Security Post (DSP) grants which go towards the police costs of specific security functions. The grants paid to police forces towards the costs of funding their Special Branch officers at ports in financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were £70.6 million £71.4 million and £72.6 million respectively.

### Security: Licensed Premises

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what licensing conditions apply to door staff working after midnight at licensed premises. [191902]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 an individual who carries out manned guarding activities, such as guarding premises or property, in relation to licensed premises, requires a door supervisor's licence from the Security Industry Authority. Further, where the activities in question are undertaken in relation to licensed premises as defined in the Act and under certain conditions, the requirements are that the activity takes place at or in relation to times when the premises are open to the public, and alcohol is being supplied for consumption on the premises or regulated entertainment is being provided. The requirement for a door supervisor's licence is not affected by the time of day when the activity takes place. It applies whether the individual is employed on contract or "in-house".

### Shoplifting

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were for shoplifting in each of the last three years; and what proportion of those arrested tested positive for illicit drugs. [191382]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on arrests collected by the Ministry of Justice provide information on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), aggregated by main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences such as shoplifting do not form part of this collection. In the light of that, the data are not available in the requested format.

Since 2003, drug testing of offenders for specified class A drugs (heroin, cocaine/crack cocaine) in some police custody suites has operated as part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). Under DIP, offenders who are arrested/charged with a trigger offence (including 'theft' offences, which also includes shoplifting offences) in DIP intensive areas (those areas with high levels of drug-related crime) are required to undergo a drug test.

The proportion of individuals who tested positive for heroin and/or crack cocaine following arrest/charge for 'theft' offences (including shoplifting) as part of the DIP programme in the last three years for which we have data are shown as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 50 |
| 2005-06 | 48 |
| 2006-07 | 38 |

It should be noted that the reduction in the positive test rate reflects the introduction of the power to test on arrest rather than just at the charge stage. Data is not available for all illicit drugs as DIP only tests for specified CLASS A drugs (heroin, cocaine/crack cocaine) and that only some custody suites have drug testing.

Where individuals test positive for heroin and/or cocaine/crack cocaine, they are required to undergo an assessment of their drug use and treatment needs with a drug worker. Failure to attend can result in a criminal charge. Since 2003, more than 115,000 drug misusers have entered treatment through DIP.

Figures from a voluntary survey of police arrestees (the Arrestee Survey, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07 (2007)), show that 54 per cent. of those reporting regular (weekly) use of heroin or crack cocaine (HC) reported shoplifting in the four weeks prior to arrest. Among those arrested for shoplifting, 37 per cent. self-reported weekly use of HC.

### Theft: Computers

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to raise public awareness of the risk of theft of laptop computers from cars through the use of devices to detect laptop signals from outside the car. [191413]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office has produced a wide range of information for the public aimed at informing them what they can do to reduce the risk of being victims of crime. In relation to theft from vehicles, there is general advice on not leaving any item on display in vehicles, regardless of its value, in our "Steer Clear of Car Crime" leaflets. We would encourage local police and other agencies to make use of and add to these messages.

### Wildlife: Crime

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time wildlife crime officers there were in each police force in each year since 1997, broken down by rank; and if she will make a statement. [188574]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information on the number of full-time wildlife crime officer, is not collected centrally.

Decisions on how wildlife crime is addressed, including decisions on resources and staffing, are matters for the police service. These decisions will be made by the chief constable in the light of the competing demands on the force and the priorities of the local communities.

The work of wildlife crime officers in forces is supported by a National Wildlife Crime Unit, which covers both England and Scotland; and the Home Office has recently announced that it will be providing funding for each of the next three years to support the work of this unit.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Governance Review produced by Deloitte and Touche. [184428]

**Tessa Jowell:** The review of governance of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) was undertaken by Deloitte on behalf of the LVRPA. The authority is currently considering recommendations resulting from the review, and the policy options available to it. The Deloitte report and associated material are, therefore, still subject to LVRPA scrutiny and are not publicly available at this time.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps have been taken to ensure that objects of historic value identified during the construction process for the 2012 Olympics are protected. [189601]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since 2003 the Museum of London Archaeological Service and Pre-Construct Archaeology (MoLAS-PCA), has worked in partnership to provide archaeological services to the London Development Agency (LDA) regarding the Olympic Park, and now continue to do so for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

As a part of the planning application process it is incumbent upon the ODA to fund an archaeological assessment of the proposed development site, and to undertake measures to either preserve in situ or record any archaeological remains found within the designated footprint.

Furthermore MoLAS-PCA are in regular contact with English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), who also provide advice to the five host boroughs and the ODA Planning Decisions Team.

Interesting remains will either be photographed and recorded or removed to form part of the Museum of London's collection, and in the coming weeks the ODA will be announcing a programme of events involving schools and local communities that is based upon the artefacts excavated from the Olympic site to date.

### Olympic Games: Freedom of Speech

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with officials from the British Olympic Association on freedom of speech for British athletes participating in the Olympic Games in Beijing. [192072]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The rules governing British athletes participating in the Olympic Games in Beijing are a matter for the British Olympic Association (BOA), which is independent of Government.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Assets: Consultants

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consultancy firms the Cabinet Office has contracted to provide advice relating to property and estates in the last 12 months. [191023]

**Mr. Watson:** In the financial year 2006-07, the following consultancy firms were contracted by the Cabinet Office to provide advice relating to property and estates management.

Drivers Jonas
Feilden and Mawson
GVA Grimley
Macintyre Hudson
Stephenson and Son
Humberts

### Data Protection

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which recommendations of the 2005 report on data security by Dr. Mark Walport of the Council for Science and Technology the Government adopted; [191013]

(2) which recommendations of the Council for Science and Technology's 2005 report, entitled Better use of personal information: opportunities and risks, have been implemented by the Government. [191124]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply.

There was no formal Government response to the Council for Science and Technology's 2005 report and the Government have not specifically implemented the recommendations. However, the report has been a valuable source of information in developing its thinking on how information is used and protected.

On 25 October, the Prime Minister asked Dr. Mark Walport and the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, to carry out an independent review of the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors. The Ministry of Justice are currently considering how the programme should be structured to deliver service transformation.

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191275]

**Mr. Watson:** Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp

None are listed for the Cabinet Office.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007.

From April 2008, all final impact assessment will be published on a central website.

### Email: Data Protection

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2178W, on electronic mail, if he will place in the Library a copy of the sections of the Cabinet Office's protective security policy on the use of email. [191038]

**Mr. Watson:** For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to make public the precise internal security arrangements for Government Departments.

Security procedures for the use of electronic mail, along with other protective security measures, are based on the policy and procedures within the Government Manual of Protective Security (MPS).

### Magazine Press

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of the Cabinet Office staff magazine from the last 12 months. [191125]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. member to the answer given by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office my right hon. Friend the Member for North West Durham (Hilary Armstrong), on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1348W.

### Members: Telephone Tapping

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the inquiry into the covert recording of the hon. Member for Tooting, whether the Wilson Doctrine forbids surveillance or interception of hon. Members' use of *(a)* personal digital assistants, *(b)* mobile telephone texts, *(c)* voice over internet protocol systems, *(d)* internet browsers and *(e)* email. [191035]

**The Prime Minister:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor Mr. Blair to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 464W.

### Security: Greater London

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the scope and purpose of the Government Security Zone project is. [191126]

**Mr. Watson:** The Government Security Zone (GSZ) designates that area of central London containing major government and public buildings. The GSZ programme consists of a linked series of projects to enhance security within the zone. The main project is the "Whitehall Streetscape Improvement" project which is a partnership between Westminster city council and central Government. This project involves major renovation of Whitehall incorporating new security features.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times British forces have jammed mobile telephone networks in Afghanistan. [191130]

**Des Browne:** I am withholding detailed information on operational tactics and procedures as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance exists for compensation for armed forces personnel who are injured in armed combat; and if he will make a statement. [192157]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Upon the launch of the armed forces compensation scheme on 6 April 2005, every member of the armed forces (including reserve forces) was sent a copy of a booklet entitled 'Your Compensation Scheme Explained'; moreover, all service recruits who have joined since that date have received a copy. In addition, details of the compensation scheme are available to all members of the armed forces via the internet (www.veterans-uk.info), updates to the scheme are notified by way of Defence Internal Briefings which are available to all personnel via their chain of command and Intranet. Articles about the scheme have appeared in the in-house service periodicals (Navy News/ Soldier Magazine and the RAF News).

Detailed information is held in all Ship/Unit Administrative Offices in the form of booklets and tri fold leaflets. In addition, all personnel have access to the Joint Service Publication 765 'The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for Injury, Illness and Death Due to Service' either via the MoD Intranet or from their Administrative Offices. Staff at all Service Medical facilities (including the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak and the Medical Rehabilitation Unit at Headley Court) are aware of the scheme and able to advise patients of the process for making a claim. Finally, details of the scheme and how to make a claim are held by Ship/Unit welfare staff and ex-service charities.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency who administer the scheme have a Free phone helpline (0800 169 2277) which personnel can access to seek specialist assistance with making a claim.

### Armed Forces: Gliding

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the RAF's project evaluation in respect of the relocation of the Joint Service Gliding Centre and the RAF Gliding and Soaring Association Centre from RAF Bicester to RAF Halton. [191928]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Yes. I will place a copy in the Library.

### Armed Forces: Publications

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 463, *(b)* JSP 468, *(c)* JSP 469 and *(d)* JSP 471. [175422]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* JSP 463 (Procedures for Project Sponsorship of Staff Targets and Requirements (The Purple Book)) is not a current publication and no copy of it could be located.

I have placed *(b)* JSP 468 (Joint Service Manual for the Loan and Secondment of Personnel to Commonwealth and Foreign Forces) and *(c)* JSP 469 (Service Code of Practice for Custody and Detention) in the Library of the House.

*(d)* JSP 471 (Defence Nuclear Accident Response) is available on the MOD website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/JSP471/

### Armed Forces: Uniforms

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost of *(a)* service dress, *(b)* blues and *(c)* mess dress is for each regiment; and how much service personnel receive towards the costs of each. [191447]

**Derek Twigg:** The average cost, at public expense, for all three Services for parade wear (service dress) is £100 and blues is £190. Mess dress for the RN and RAF is £135. Army officers are given an allowance to purchase all of their uniform requirements and this varies from regiment to regiment. The majority of grants are around £2,100, but it is not possible to separate out the cost of each dress uniform from this.

### Defence Medical Service: Manpower

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made in recruitment to fill manning shortfalls in the Defence Medical Service. [183133]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We accept that manpower shortfalls remain in some key specialties, including some consultant cadres and specialist nurses. These shortfalls have never resulted in the Defence Medical Services being unable to meet operational commitments. We manage medical deployments on a tri-service basis, allowing the work load to be shared more evenly and maximising capabilities. In addition we make use of reserves and civilian agency contractors and work closely with allies to ensure appropriate medical support is in place.

To encourage the recruitment of certain specialities within the Defence Medical Services, where there are the most severe shortfalls, the Department pays "Golden Hellos". Golden Hellos are currently paid to General Medical Practitioners, and certain specialist consultants and nurses.

In addition the single services' medical directorates have their own locally driven policies to improve recruitment.

### Departmental Consultants

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants his Department employed in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and (c) 2007; and at what cost in each year. [192643]

**Derek Twigg:** Specific data on the number of consultants employed by the Ministry of Defence are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, MOD expenditure on external assistance, which includes management and other types of consultancy, has been reported to Ministers since 1995-96: summaries are available in the Library of the House.

Furthermore, information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the MOD in each financial year is published in the UK defence statistics. Copies are also placed in the Library.

### Departmental Plants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192056]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179880]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2206-07W.

### Harrier Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfall is in spares for the *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Typhoon aircraft. [190636]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information is not held in the format requested.

Aircraft spares for the Harrier aircraft fleet are partly provided direct from industry. Spares demands satisfied from MOD stocks average 90 per cent. Spare parts availability for the Harrier fleet has been sufficient to meet its operational commitments.

Aircraft spares for Typhoon are partly provided direct from industry and partly by the MOD through an international contract. These arrangements are being built up as the RAF fleet grows and demands satisfied from MOD stocks average 68 per cent. Spare parts availability for the Typhoon fleet has been sufficient to meet its operational commitments.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects UK troops deployed in Iraq to be reduced to 2,500; and if he will make a statement. [191331]

**Des Browne:** UK force levels in southern Iraq currently stand at around 4,100. In keeping with the plans my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out to Parliament on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 23W, we continue to plan to be able to reduce UK force levels in southern Iraq to around 2,500 from this spring. Final decisions however will, as always, be based on the advice of our military commanders and conditions on the ground at the time. Work continues on the details in consultation with our coalition partners and the Government of Iraq.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost is per capita per diem of feeding British troops on operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and what percentage of the total cost is attributable to (i) transport, (ii) storage, (iii) catering and (iv) food. [191342]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Based on actual food and storage and distribution costs, and forecast personnel numbers for March 2008, the average cost per capita, per diem, of food, and the storage and distribution of food, for troops and civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan is as follows:

| | *Cost (£)* | *Food (Percentage)* | *Storage and distribution (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Iraq | 6.47 | 51 | 49 |
| Afghanistan | 12.84 | 32 | 68 |

The ratio between fresh food and operational ration pack elements of the cost varies between the operational needs in each environment. Equally, the storage and distribution requirements for each operational theatre vary, and hence the proportion of overall cost attributable to each is different.

In Afghanistan, there are additional storage and distribution costs in meeting the demands of that operational environment, for example military charter flights and convoys to support the forward operating bases, and these cannot be broken down.

Catering costs in both theatres would include: capital costs of kitchens and dining rooms; maintenance of catering infrastructure; civilian contracts in support of catering. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### RAF Halton: Complaints

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the RAF received in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007 about flying activities at RAF Halton. [191929]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The number of complaints received is as follows:

*Complaints about flying activities at RAF Halton since 2003*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 67 |
| 2004 | 216 |
| 2005 | 132 |
| 2006 | 25 |
| 2007 | 38 |

The information comes from three sources—statistics held by RAF Halton; correspondence directed towards headquarters personnel and training command (before April 2007) and headquarters air command (after April 2007) and written complaints directed towards the Ministry of Defence. There is a possibility that there may be a small amount of duplication between these sources.

### Territorial Army

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to mark the role played in the defence of the UK by the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve in its centenary year. [190610]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces made on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 41WS, and the reply I gave, as current hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces, on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2176W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on the events that are planned to mark the role played by the Territorial Army in the very near future.

### USA: Nuclear Weapons

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with counterparts in NATO countries on the United States' plan to site nuclear missile bases in the Czech Republic and Poland. [192465]

**Des Browne:** The UK knows of no US plans to site nuclear missile bases in the Czech Republic and Poland. US plans to base conventional ballistic missile defence assets in these countries are discussed regularly in NATO.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Councillors: Surveillance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will extend the Wilson Doctrine to cover the communications of elected local councillors with their constituents. [191658]

**The Prime Minister:** I set out the position on the Wilson Doctrine on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

### Devolution: Scotland

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what recent consideration he has given to returning powers devolved to the Scottish Parliament to the United Kingdom Parliament. [190948]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord Hunt of Kings Heath the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice on 31 January 2008, *House of Lords Official Report*, column WA145. In addition, I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 18 February 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page14595.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Efficiency in Public Services Review: Written Questions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1343W, on efficiency in public services review: written questions, what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* the Home Office, *(b)* the Ministry of Defence and *(c)* other Government departments with the guidance to officials on drafting answers to parliamentary questions in responding to parliamentary questions on redundancies and related costs arising from the conclusions of the Gershon Review; and if he will make a statement. [191517]

**The Prime Minister:** All Departments, including the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office, publish performance against their Gershon targets in detail in their annual reports. Copies of these reports and further mid-year departmental reports are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Farnborough Air Show

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit the Farnborough Air Show. [192001]

**The Prime Minister:** I have no current plans to do so.

### British Food

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Prime Minister what proportion of food served in 10 Downing Street was of British origin in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by food type; and what proportion was sourced from countries outside the EU in each case. [192006]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor, the right hon. Tony Blair, on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 303W.

### Human Embryo Experiments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* postcards he has received since July from (i) members of the public, (ii) hon. Members and (iii) members of the House of Lords on (A) the creation of human/animal hybrids and (B) the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill; how many and what percentage (I) supported and (II) opposed each; and if he will make a statement. [190872]

**The Prime Minister:** Since July my Office has received approximately 5,800 letters about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. Given the volume of correspondence I receive, thousands of letters each week covering a broad spectrum of issues, my Office records letters by subject rather than by view expressed.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister how many special advisers he employs; and how much each of them is paid. [191973]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* reports and *(b)* studies on post-abortion syndrome have been considered by his Department since January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [190792]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department considered all of the information on the issue of the mental health risks of induced abortion which was submitted to the recent House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry on the scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967.

We have commissioned the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to review all evidence relating to induced abortion, to update its 2004 clinical guideline on "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion".

### Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments were subsequently admitted to hospital via A&E in each quarter since January 2003. [192421]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1878W.

### Blood: Donors

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legal advice his Department has received on the compatibility of the ban on gay men giving blood with anti-discrimination legislation; and if he will make a statement. [190213]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In April 2007, the Government introduced the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 (Statutory Instruments No. 1263). During the drafting of these regulations, consideration was given to the matter of blood donation from gay men. This led to specific provision being made in the regulations.

The aim of donor selection criteria is to protect the health of the population and current arrangements have proved to be an essential element in reducing transfusion-transmitted infections.

### Cannabis: Rehabilitation

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available to people who are trying to stop using cannabis. [191617]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In each local authority area, a commissioner with responsibility for specialist substance misuse will specify and commission a range of drug treatment services based on a needs assessment. Within any local drug treatment system, we would expect appropriate specialist treatment provision for people whose primary problem is cannabis, as well as for those people whose primary problem is with another drug who also experience problems with cannabis use.

The latest evidence-based approaches to treating problematic cannabis use in both adults and young people are outlined in the recently updated clinical guidelines, "Clinical Guidelines on drug misuse and dependence (2007)", and within the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines on psychosocial interventions in drug misuse[1]. There is an expectation that treatment provided will be in line with these guidelines.

Information for young people and their families/carers is also available through Frank, the Government's drugs information campaign launched in May 2003. Frank provides a 24-hour a day helpline staffed by a team of trained advisers who can provide information and advice on any issue relating to drugs, including cannabis, as well as making referrals to local agencies when a caller requires face-to-face help and support. Frank also provides a website, talktofrank.com, which is a comprehensive source of information and advice on drugs.

[1] NICE clinical guideline 51—drug misuse: psychosocial interventions.

### Chlamydia: Screening

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1377W, on Chlamydia: screening, what steps have been taken to work with the strategic health authorities which are not reaching the 15 per cent. screening target. [190862]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) is managed by the Health Protection Agency. The NCSP Team and regional facilitators are working with all programme areas to support them in reaching the target. The Department is working through performance management routes to increase screening volumes and the National Support Team for sexual health is supporting the areas finding it most challenging to meet their targets.

### Clear

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments his Department and its agencies have made to communications consultancy, Clear; and for what purpose.[1] [191086]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department paid invoices to Clear totalling £4,230.00 between May and June 2004. Records do not show the purpose of these invoices.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188784]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No civil servants have been dismissed or suspended for accessing obscene or other prohibited material in the two years since January 2006. Before that date, information is not available without recourse to individual personnel records and would entail disproportionate costs to collect.

To ensure acceptable use of information technology (IT) all permanent and temporary members of staff have to actively agree a reminder on the subject every time they log on to the Department's IT network. Frequent communications on IT security and acceptable use of IT are distributed to system users, notably on the departmental intranet.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on departmental standards, which financial control total each East of England trust listed in the document placed in the Library did not meet in 2006-07; and by how much the control total was not met by each trust. [188378]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The following table shows the 14 trusts (primary care trusts (PCTs) and national health service trusts) that failed to meet their financial plan target as agreed between the strategic health authority and themselves and by how much.

| *Name of PCT/NHS trust* | *Difference between planned and audited outturn (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire PCT | 9.6 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 34.7 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 6.8 |

1. *[Official Report, 2 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 7MC.]*

| Name of PCT/NHS trust | Difference between planned and audited outturn (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 4.1 |
| Luton PCT | 12.7 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 1.7 |
| Norfolk PCT | 24.0 |
| South East Essex Teaching PCT | 1.6 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 1.3 |
| Suffolk PCT | 12.1 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 9.4 |
| Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust | 1.0 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 15.1 |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 1.1 |

### Diseases

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases there were of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* rickets, *(c)* whooping cough, *(d)* scarlet fever, *(e)* cholera, *(f)* diphtheria, *(g)* leprosy, *(h)* botulism, *(i)* gout, *(j)* impetigo, *(k)* scurvy, *(l)* listeria, *(m)* tuberculosis, *(n)* polio, *(o)* typhus and *(p)* typhoid in England in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [187203]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on rickets, gout, impetigo and scurvy is not held centrally.

Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

### Food: Salt

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility his Department has for Government policy on the effects of salt intake on health. [190216]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) recommended that a reduction in the average population salt intake would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a decrease in the burden of cardiovascular disease. The Department prioritised salt reduction in its White Paper "Choosing Health—Making healthy choices easier", in which it committed to having discussions with industry to increase opportunities for people to make healthy choices in what they eat.

The Department and the Food Standards Agency have been working in partnership to deliver the SACN recommendation and reduce the average population salt intakes to six grams, as set out in the Department's "Food and Health Action Plan" and the agency's "Strategic Plan" up to 2010.

Reducing the rising burden of lifestyle diseases is also one of the high-level priorities that the Department will have a particular focus on for 2008-09, with the Department having a leading role working with partners across the public and private sectors, nationally and regionally.

### Health Services: Admissions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances at *(a)* walk-in centres, *(b)* minor injuries units and *(c)* type 1 accident and emergency departments there were in each quarter since January 2003. [192420]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1876-78W.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the policies of EU Member States in respect of reimbursement of patient expenditure on *(a)* biological treatments and *(b)* abatacept; and if he will make a statement. [189627]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has made no such assessment.

### Health: Climate Change

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research the Government has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of climate change on public health in the last 10 years. [189983]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1460W.

### Hepatitis

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new diagnoses of hepatitis C there were in each of the last 10 years. [191384]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is available in the Health Protection Agency's annual report, "Hepatitis C in England, the Health Protection Agency Annual Report 2007", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

### HIV Infection

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure the NHS incurred on average on the treatment and care of a patient with HIV in each of the first five years from diagnosis. [187862]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Costs of treating people with HIV vary depending on the severity of symptoms and level of immune suppression. Estimated annual costs of HIV treatment, including the costs of combination antiretroviral therapies range between £12,000-£19,000 per person. Total national health service expenditure on HIV treatment in 2006-07 was £497 million. This was the first year these data have been collected since HIV treatment and care budgets were placed into the NHS baselines in 2002-03.

## Human Embryo Experiments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* postcards he has received since July from (i) members of the public, (ii) hon. Members and (iii) members of the House of Lords about (A) the creation of human/animal hybrids and (B) the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill; how many and what percentage (1) supported and (2) opposed each; and if he will make a statement. [190790]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has received two relevant postcard campaigns since July 2007. We have received 6,093 postcards on a campaign organised by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, which we started receiving in September 2007, part of which expresses opposition to any Bill that could lead to admixed embryos. We have also received 1,461 postcards issued by the All Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group, which we started receiving in February 2008, asking hon. Members to vote against the creation of admixed embryos.

In addition to these campaigns, the Department has received a large volume of correspondence on issues surrounding embryos research, however due to the way in which correspondence is recorded the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## In Vitro Fertilisation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many human embryos were *(a)* lost, *(b)* damaged and *(c)* destroyed due to accidents at fertility clinics in each year since 2000; what steps he has (i) taken and (ii) plans to take to prevent such accidents; what guidance on the matter he has (A) issued and (B) plans to issue in the next 12 months to fertility clinics; and if he will make a statement. [190791]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has informed the Department that it does not require clinics to submit the information requested as part of its routine data collection. However, incidents involving loss, damage or accidental destruction of embryos should be notified to the HFEA in accordance with the requirement to report adverse incidents that occur in licensed establishments.

The HFEA uses the adverse incident reporting system to help clinics learn from mistakes and to develop control measures to reduce the risk of incidents reoccurring. Information about risk control measures is issued to clinics in the form of HFEA alerts and patient safety notices. Past alerts have included guidance on transportation of embryos and associated risks and risks involving power supply and critical equipment. The HFEA's Code of Practice also makes clear that where adverse incidents occur, clinics are expected to review relevant procedures to minimise the risk of any reoccurrence of the incident and inform the HFEA of the revised procedures.

The HFEA has advised the Department that it intends to continue the development of its systems for improving risk management in clinics and dissemination of critical information in response to individual incidents.

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births were the result of IVF or donor insemination between 2002 and 2007. [191285]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Total number of babies born in the UK as a result of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and donor insemination treatments 2002-05*[1]

| | *IVF*[2] | *Donor insemination*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 9,760 | 889 |
| 2003 | 10,076 | 821 |
| 2004 | 10,190 | 749 |
| 2005[1] | 11,268 | 645 |

*Notes:*
1. 2005 are the most recent year for which information is currently available.
2. Data include all IVF treatment cycles including use of donated eggs, frozen embryo transfers and treatment cycles involving the use of micromanipulation techniques.
3. Data include treatment cycles involving artificial insemination and Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer.

*Source:*
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). A long term analysis of the HFEA register data 1991-2006, revised February 2008.

## Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners aged 65 and over received free influenza inoculations in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London in each year since they became available. [191000]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Vaccination uptake (percentage) among the 65 years and over for Bexley and London for each year between 2000 and 2007 (cumulative data)*

| *Survey year* | *Strategic health authority (SHA)/primary care trust (PCT)* | *Total persons vaccinated* | *Total percentage uptake* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | Bexley and Greenwich PCT | 40,887 | 63 |
| | London SHA | 462,917 | 60 |
| 2001-02 | Bexley and Greenwich PCT | 74,257 | 65 |
| | London SHA | 538,935 | 62 |
| 2002-03 | Bexley PCT | 23,478 | 67 |
| | London SHA | 608,562 | 63 |
| 2003-04 | Bexley PCT | 24,825 | 71 |
| | London SHA | 636,146 | 66 |
| 2004-05 | Bexley PCT | 24,117 | 68 |
| | London SHA | 626,133 | 67 |

*Vaccination uptake (percentage) among the 65 years and over for Bexley and London for each year between 2000 and 2007 (cumulative data)*

| Survey year | Strategic health authority (SHA)/primary care trust (PCT) | Total persons vaccinated | Total percentage uptake |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Bexley PCT | 25,684 | 73 |
| | London SHA | 677,115 | 72 |
| 2006-07 | Bexley PCT | 14,105 | 71 |
| | London SHA | 620,801 | 70 |
| 2007-08[1] | Bexley PCT | 15,743 | 68.9 |
| | London SHA | 641,558 | 71.1 |

[1] Data for this year's survey (2007-08) should be taken as provisional until final figures are published.

*Note:*
Uptake figures include only those general practitioner (GP) practices which have returned confirmation to the survey and reflect data for individuals vaccinated at these premises.

*Source:*
GP practices.

### Meat Hygiene Service: Inspections

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* abattoirs and *(b)* meat processing plants are subject to inspection by the Meat Hygiene Service. [191202]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As at 28 February 2008, there were 393 abattoirs subject to audit and inspection by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) and 752 cutting plants subject to audit by the MHS.

### Meat Hygiene Service: Manpower

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* veterinarians and *(b)* technicians worked for the Meat Hygiene Service in each of the last three years. [191203]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In each of the last three years, the Meat Hygiene Service had an annual average full-time equivalent of staff as follows:

| | Number of staff (full-time equivalent) |
|---|---|
| *2006-07* | |
| Official Veterinary Surgeons | 354 |
| Meat Inspectors and Meat Technicians | 1,397 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Official Veterinary Surgeons | 382 |
| Meat Inspectors and Meat Technicians | 1,357 |
| *2004-05* | |
| Official Veterinary Surgeons | 386 |
| Meat Inspectors and Meat Technicians | 1,348 |

### Medicine: China

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the potential health effects of Chinese medicine techniques and *(b)* the effectiveness of the regulations governing the use of Chinese medicine techniques; and if he will make a statement. [186275]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government consider that decision making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, are a matter for local national health service service providers and practitioners. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the treatment, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

A working group, chaired by Professor Mike Pittilo of Robert Gordon University, has completed its work looking at proposals for regulation of herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture which were made in a report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology in 2000. Their report will be submitted to Ministers shortly, and a decision will then be taken about whether, and if so, how soon, legislation should be brought forward.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 23 January, about the painkiller drug Vioxx. [191157]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 26 February 2008.

### NHS: Questionnaires

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 310W, to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron), on NHS: questionnaires, what the cost to the public purse was of each questionnaire on which his Department has worked with Ipsos MORI in financial year 2007-08. [190139]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In 2007-08, the overall cost, to date, of the surveys conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department, is £10,432,843.

### West Suffolk Hospital: Clostridium

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients at *(a)* West Suffolk Hospital, *(b)* Addenbrookes Hospital and *(c)* Ipswich Hospital died from Clostridium difficile in each of the last five years. [191591]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 March 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients at (a) West Suffolk Hospital, (b) Addenbrookes Hospital and (c) Ipswich Hospital died from *Clostridium difficile* in each of the last five years. (191591)

Special analyses of deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* in England and Wales are undertaken annually by ONS. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. Information on the numbers of deaths between 1999 and 2006 involving *Clostridium difficile* was published in Health Statistics Quarterly in February 2008.[1] This publication is available in the House of Commons library.

ONS has not yet released any figures on deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* for individual hospitals. The possibility of producing figures for hospitals in the future is currently being investigated.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2006) Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 1999-2006. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 37, 52-56.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Disadvantaged

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to use the Building Schools for the Future programme to benefit deprived communities and rebuild schools that are most in need. [192482]

**Jim Knight:** To ensure that Building Schools for the Future reaches the schools that are in most need, prioritisation was based on the greatest educational and social need of geographically coherent groupings of schools proposed by local authorities, GCSE results and eligibility for free school meals were used as proxies for these needs. Once in the programme, authorities must demonstrate through their Strategy for Change submissions that they are addressing the educational and physical priorities in their estates.

### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has allocated any resources to be spent via the regional development agencies' single pot in 2007-08. [179812]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DfUS) has allocated £44.5 million to be spent via the regional development agencies single pot in 2007-08.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to answer question 173128, on user survey research, tabled on 6 December 2007 by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne. [190897]

**Beverley Hughes:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2649-50W.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support: Administration

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether employees at the Child Support Agency were given an indication of the timescale under which older cases would be put onto the new child support system. [188521]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 March 2008:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether employees at the Child Support Agency were given indication of the timescale in which older cases would be put onto the new child support system. [188521]

We have always made clear that the bulk migration and conversion of cases from the old scheme to the new scheme would only take place when the Agency and Ministers are satisfied that the arrangements are working well for new clients. Our people were informed of that position from the outset and it has been reiterated on a number of occasions.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Credit Unions

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which constituencies credit unions have received financial assistance from the public purse in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [188836]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information placed in the House of Commons Library provides details of constituencies, by Government office region, where Growth Fund contracted Credit Union or Community Development Finance Institutions, and their subcontractors, are located. It also provides details of the number of loans made and their value to date in those regions.

The affordable loans are being made to people on low income in areas of high financial exclusion with coverage extending beyond constituency boundaries.

The information will be updated and placed in the House of Commons Library on a quarterly basis.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188780]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department records information on the number of staff suspended and dismissed but does not break it down into the categories requested.

The Department's disciplinary policy is published on the Department's intranet and is accessible to all staff. The policy reflects the requirements in section 4.5 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Specific guidance on the use of the Department's IT, including consequences of misuse, is set out in the electronic media policy also published on the intranet.

### Departmental Impact Assessments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191273]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has published two final (regulatory) impact assessments ((R)IA) since March 2007. These relate to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, and the Pensions Bill which are currently before Parliament. A copy of each of these (R)IAs is available in the Library.

Information on published final (regulatory) impact assessments can be found in Command Papers available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp

From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187834]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The estimated spend on Hospitality for the Department for Work and Pensions for the period February 2007 to January 2008 (inclusive) is £57,000. This equates to 0.00094 per cent. of the total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) spend for 2006-07. Hospitality comprises expenditure on meals, drinks and snacks for non-civil servants.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not currently keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account. Expenditure on alcohol and entertaining fall within the classification "Hospitality" within Managing Public Money, the use of which is strictly prescribed, and in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188795]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The following tables show the salary ranges for pay bands in the Department for Work and Pensions.

*Pay ranges for administrative pay bands in DWP junior civil service from 1 July 2007*

£

| | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|
| *Pay band* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* |
| Band A/AA London Inner | 16,120 | 17,730 |
| Band A/AA London Outer | 14,860 | 16,590 |
| Band A/AA National | 12,590 | 14,270 |
| Band A/AA Specified Location Pay Zone | 14,380 | 16,090 |
| Band B/AO London Inner | 17,940 | 21,310 |
| Band B/AO London Outer | 16,670 | 20,170 |
| Band B/AO National | 14,270 | 17,600 |
| Band B/AO Specified Location Pay Zone | 16,170 | 19,670 |
| Band C/EO London Inner | 22,130 | 27,850 |
| Band C/EO London Outer | 20,860 | 26,680 |
| Band C/EO National | 18,710 | 23,990 |
| Band C/EO Specified Location Pay Zone | 20,590 | 26,210 |
| Band D/HEO London Inner | 27,970 | 33,190 |
| Band D/HEO London Outer | 26,800 | 32,020 |
| Band D/HEO National | 24,410 | 29,500 |
| Band D/HEO Specified Location Pay Zone | 26,280 | 31,550 |
| Band E/SEO London Inner | 34,040 | 40,030 |
| Band E/SEO London Outer | 32,780 | 38,860 |
| Band E/SEO National | 30,170 | 36,130 |
| Band E/SEO Specified Location Pay Zone | 32,280 | 38,400 |
| Band F/Grade 7 London Inner | 43,960 | 57,490 |
| Band F/Grade 7 London Outer | 42,940 | 56,410 |
| Band F/Grade 7 National | 39,930 | 52,950 |
| Band F/Grade 7 Specified Location Pay Zone | 42,430 | 55,940 |
| Band G/Grade 6 London Inner | 57,670 | 70,010 |
| Band G/Grade 6 London Outer | 56,400 | 69,050 |
| Band G/Grade 6 National | 52,830 | 64,790 |

*Pay ranges for administrative pay bands in DWP junior civil service from 1 July 2007*

£

| Pay band | 2007 Minimum | 2007 Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| Band G/Grade 6 Specified Location Pay Zone | 55,890 | 68,580 |
| Support Grade Band 2 London Inner | 16,270 | 17,630 |
| Support Grade Band 2 London Outer | 15,280 | 16,650 |
| Support Grade Band 2 National | 13,020 | 14,340 |
| Support Grade Band 1 London Inner | 18,050 | 19,360 |
| Support Grade Band 1 London Outer | 17,030 | 18,390 |
| Support Grade Band 1 National | 14,610 | 15,910 |
| Cleaner National | 12,980 | 12,980 |
| Senior Cleaner National | 13,160 | 13,160 |
| Support Manager 2 London Inner | 23,610 | 26,660 |
| Support Manager 2 London Outer | 22,610 | 25,700 |
| Support Manager 2 National | 20,430 | 23,400 |
| Support Manager 3 London Inner | 21,230 | 23,270 |
| Support Manager 3 London Outer | 20,240 | 22,300 |
| Support Manager 3 National | 17,620 | 19,590 |

*Amalgamated pay ranges for specialist pay bands in DWP junior civil service from 1 July 2007*[1]

£

| Specialist pay band | 2007 Minimum | 2007 Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| Band C/EO London Inner | 22,130 | 32,070 |
| Band C/EO London Outer | 20,860 | 31,100 |
| Band C/EO National | 18,710 | 28,780 |
| Band C/EO Specified Location Pay Zone | 20,590 | 31,000 |
| Band D/HEO London Inner | 27,970 | 39,480 |
| Band D/HEO London Outer | 26,800 | 38,500 |
| Band D/HEO National | 24,410 | 35,760 |
| Band D/HEO Specified Location Pay Zone | 26,280 | 38,090 |
| Band E/SEO London Inner | 34,040 | 48,510 |
| Band E/SEO London Outer | 32,780 | 47,040 |
| Band E/SEO National | 30,170 | 44,040 |
| Band E/SEO Specified Location Pay Zone | 32,280 | 46,570 |
| Band F/Grade 7 London Inner | 46,200 | 61,100 |
| Band F/Grade 7 London Outer | 45,180 | 59,940 |
| Band F/Grade 7 National | 41,950 | 56,250 |

*Amalgamated pay ranges for specialist pay bands in DWP junior civil service from 1 July 2007*[1]

£

| Specialist pay band | 2007 Minimum | 2007 Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| Band F/Grade 7 Specified Location Pay Zone | 44,650 | 59,400 |
| Band G/Grade 6 London Inner | 57,670 | 80,470 |
| Band G/Grade 6 London Outer | 56,400 | 79,510 |
| Band G/Grade 6 National | 52,830 | 74,600 |
| Band G/Grade 6 Specified Location Pay Zone | 55,890 | 78,970 |

[1] This shows the minimum and maximum salary which a specialist pay range demonstrates at this level.

*Pay ranges for senior civil service pay bands in DWP from 1 April 2007*

£

| Senior civil service pay band | Minimum | Progression target rate (PTR) | Recruitment and performance ceiling (RPC) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 56,100 | 78,540 | 116,000 |
| 1 (London) | 59,600 | 82,040 | 116,000 |
| 2 | 81,600 | — | 160,000 |
| 3 | 99,960 | — | 205,000 |
| Permanent Secretary | 139,740 | — | 273,250 |

## Departmental Plants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192063]

**Mrs. McGuire:** DWP occupies its properties under the terms of the PRIME PFI contract and pays an inclusive facilities unit price for the accommodation. The contract includes the provision of interior plants. The cost of those plants is not separately identifiable.

## Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183167]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. Information on costs prior to 2001 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. In addition numbers of contracts prior to 2005-06 were not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns to increase awareness of people's rights and responsibilities or changes to legislation. PR agencies are taken on where messages are most effectively promoted by supplementing 'paid-for' advertising (press/TV/radio) with public relations activity.

The following table details spend on PR campaigns and numbers of contracts and totals:

| April-March | Numbers of contracts | Cost (thousand) |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | — | 59 |
| 2002-03 | — | 698 |
| 2003-04 | — | 1,412 |
| 2004-05 | — | 1,435 |
| 2005-06 | 5 | 1,206 |
| 2006-07 | 7 | 1,061 |
| Total | 12 | 5,871 |

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184910]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. member to the reply given on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 224-25W.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of the senior Civil Service in his Department have received an honour. [187116]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There are 20 current members of the senior civil service in DWP who have received an honour.

### Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual cost of medical examinations for those on incapacity benefit is expected to be under his proposed system. [189094]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The medical assessment process for employment and support allowance (ESA) will be delivered under contract by Atos Healthcare. The net additional cost to deliver this part of ESA is estimated to be in the region of £200 million for the period up to August 2015. This covers the costs of the new medical assessments including the new work focused health-related assessment, gathering information from customers and health care professionals, investments in information technology and Estates infrastructure, overheads and set-up costs.

### Incapacity Benefit: Part-Time Employment

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government plans to take to stop incapacity benefits claimants from being discouraged to seek part-time work. [189640]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Incapacity benefits claimants are actively encouraged to do part-time work through the permitted work rules.

Any claimant is able to do some work providing their earnings do not exceed £20 a week.

People who are exempt from the personal capability assessment, or those who work as part of a hospital treatment programme, or those who work with supervision by a public or local authority or a voluntary organisation which finds or provides work for people with disabilities, can do permitted work for an unlimited period if their earnings do not exceed £88.50 a week.

People who may be able to return to full-time work are encouraged to attempt work by a further rule which allows people to work for up to 52 weeks providing earnings do not exceed £88.50 and the work lasts less than 16 hours weekly.

Jobcentre Plus provides a number of specialist programmes and services which support incapacity benefits claimants to move into paid work. These include Pathways to Work, New Deal for Disabled People, Access to Work, Work Preparation, Residential Training, Workstep (a programme of supported employment) and the Job Introduction Scheme. The Return to Work Credit offers eligible customers, in Pathways to Work areas, who find work of at least 16 hours a week, a weekly payment of £40 for up to 52 weeks if their gross annual earnings are below £15,000. Disability employment advisers and incapacity benefit personal advisers provide advice and support for people looking for work.

### Jobcentres: Telephone Services

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the telephone service in jobcentres; and if he will make a statement. [188525]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 7 March 2008:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the telephony service in Jobcentres. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The modernisation of our telephone service means it is easier for customers to call and speak to the right person or department without having to be transferred, and to receive a more efficient and professional service. Our service is now more flexible as it enables customers to access our services by telephone from their home over longer hours than was previously possible, and avoids them having to visit their local office to make a claim, enquire about benefits and/or seek access for job search support.

We deal with over 69,000 calls every weekday to our contact centres. We are currently answering 95.8% of calls to our new claims service. Similarly for customers seeking to access our job broking services we are achieving 94.4% of calls answered.

Following the introduction of the telephone service for Social Fund Crisis Loans we have experienced an increase of between 41-114% in call volumes (depending on the site) month on month compared to two years ago for applications to the Social Fund Crisis Loans service and as a result some offices have struggled to cope. To improve this service we are currently deploying an additional 700 staff based in our contact centres. This has enabled us to answer over 90% of calls and take nearly 40,000 applications per week.

Jobcentre Plus is continually looking for ways of improving its services and we are discussing with our telephone service providers what changes could be made to improve queue management. We are making a significant investment in the most up to date telephony infrastructure to upgrade both telephony and the available management information, to enable the effective handling of peaks and troughs of the calls we receive. The new management information system will also provide us with improved data to help monitor and develop our telephony service.

### Low Incomes

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department defines material deprivation; and whether this definition has changed since 1997. [185940]

**Mr. Timms:** Our material deprivation measure is designed to be a wider measure of families' living standards.

We define it as the number of children living in households suffering a combination of relative low income (70 per cent. of contemporary median) and material deprivation.

The available material deprivation figures and details of the methodology can be found in 'PSA Delivery Agreement 9: Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020', available on the HM Treasury website. The measure was first set out in detail in CSR 2007 and has not changed.

### New Deal for Lone Parents

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals under the New Deal for Lone Parents beyond its current level two in order to extend access to personal development opportunities. [189795]

**Mr. Timms:** New deal for lone parent funding for education and training is usually used for courses up to NVQ/SNVQ Level two or equivalent. However, where it is clear that a lone parent can achieve an NVQ/SNVQ Level three in 52 weeks, and the training can be completed within the 52 week period of entitlement (for example where the lone parent has the appropriate qualification levels in the subject), funding to NVQ/SNVQ Level three could be considered. In all cases consideration must be given to whether the training will lead to sustainable employment.

### Pensions Service: Telephone Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why the arrangement for free calls to the 0800 Pension Service number from mobile telephones was ended. [187712]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It has always been the case that customers making a call to a 0800 or 0845 Pension Service number from a mobile phone, non BT phone network or from abroad, will be charged at the specific operators' call rate.

This is a part of a broader policy, implemented by Ofcom who are the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries.

### Poverty

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets have been set for poverty reduction by 2010; and what progress has been made towards them. [185945]

**Mr. Timms:** We have set a target to halve the number of children in relative poverty by 2010-11 from a starting point of 3.4 million in 1999-99. In addition we have a further target to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Significant progress has been made so far, with 600,000 fewer children living in relative poverty in 2005-06 compared with 1998-99.

### Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on disability benefits (European Court of Justice) what progress has been made in discussions with the European Commission to clarify the extent of the Government's responsibilities following the judgment in the European Court of Justice of 18 October 2007. [186980]

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the payment of disability living allowance to UK citizens resident in other EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [187023]

**Mrs. McGuire:** We are continuing our discussions with the European Commission and expect to publish eligibility criteria for payment of the disability benefits within the European Economic Area and Switzerland on the Department's website, www.dwp.gov.uk, and the Directgov website, www.direct.gov.uk, by 5 April 2008.

A further statement will be made to Parliament in due course.

### Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government has spent on the Shop Benefit Fraudsters advertisements. [189833]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions runs public information campaigns about benefit fraud. These campaigns are not simply about encouraging people to 'shop benefit fraudsters', the campaigns are designed to positively reinforce honest behaviour, to create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability. The advertising expenditure for these campaigns is in the following table.

| | *Advertising spend (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 8,039 |
| 2002-03 | 35 |
| 2003-04 | 8,383 |
| 2004-05 | 6,017 |

| | *Advertising spend (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 7,042 |
| 2006-07 | 5,418 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are for the advertising spend on the Targeting Fraud (2001 to 2002), Targeting Benefit Fraud (2003 to 2006) and Targeting Benefit Thieves (2006 to 2007) campaigns.
2. All figures are exclusive of VAT.
3. The figures in these tables refer to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
4. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

### Widows: Bereavement Benefits

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the eligibility criteria are for who may receive widow's benefits on the death of a husband; and whether there is a cap on the number of wives who may do so. [188267]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Bereavement benefits are available to men and women determined by their deceased spouse or civil partner's national insurance contributions.

The bereavement payment is a tax-free lump sum payment of £2,000. It is payable if the surviving spouse or civil partner is under pension age when they are bereaved or if they are over state pension age and their late spouse or civil partner was not entitled to a category A state pension.

The bereavement allowance is payable for a maximum period of 52 weeks from the date of bereavement. It is a weekly benefit payable to widows, widowers and surviving civil partners who are aged between 45 and state pension age.

Widowed parent's allowance is payable to a widow, widower or surviving civil partner who has a dependent child or qualifying young person (aged from 16 to 20).

We do not recognise polygamous wives for the purpose of contributory benefits based on a husband's contributions, because the legislation provides that there can only be one spouse.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households *(a)* with more than £100,000 annual income and *(b)* in each household income decile have (i) one member and (ii) two members in receipt of (A) £100 a week, (B) £150.a week, (C) £200 a week and (D) £300 a week winter fuel payment. [189136]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested.

An annual winter fuel payment of £200 is paid to a person aged 60 or over living at home (£100 if they share a home with someone else eligible for a winter fuel payment—this may be a spouse, partner, sibling or friend). £300 is payable to a person payments are available to almost all people aged 60 or over. Eligibility is not based on income; they were designed to give older people reassurance that they could turn up their heating in winter.

In 2005-06, the latest year for which details are available, Winter Fuel Payments were made to around 100,000 households containing pensioners with equivalised total annual income above £100,000.

The available information on the distribution of winter fuel payment by income decile is given in the following table.

*£ million*

| *Equivalised income decile (after housing costs)* | *Number of households containing pensioners in receipt of winter fuel payments* |
|---|---|
| Decile 1 (lowest incomes) | 0.6 |
| Decile 2 | 0.8 |
| Decile 3 | 1.4 |
| Decile 4 | 1.2 |
| Decile 5 | 1.1 |
| Decile 6 | 0.9 |
| Decile 7 | 0.8 |
| Decile 8 | 0.8 |
| Decile 9 | 0.7 |
| Decile 10 (highest incomes) | 0.6 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are provided on an after housing costs basis, which is our preferred measure for Pensioners.
2. These statistics employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. These figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
3. The figures are survey based and based in part on imputed information. In 2005-06, WFPs were made to 8.2 million households.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey 2005-06.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Eltham

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a winter fuel payment in *(a)* Eltham constituency and *(b)* Greenwich borough in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192696]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In winter 2006-07, 14,360 people in Eltham constituency and 32,070 people in the borough of Greenwich received a winter fuel payment. We expect the numbers to be similar for winter 2007-08.

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned, by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Drinking Water

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191255]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the Northern Ireland Office's (excluding its agencies) expenditure the last three financial years on the provision of bottled water and ancillary services related to the provision, for example the supply of dispensers and cups.

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 29,915 |
| 2005-06 | 33,114 |
| 2006-07 | 33,655 |

Information on the number of litres acquired is not held and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The Department is now committed to progressively reducing the usage of bottled water.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Basra Development Commission: Standards

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 730W, on Basra Development Commission: standards, whether the Commission is now fully functional; and what detailed objectives have been agreed for the Commission. [191947]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Basra Development Commission (BDC) was announced by Barham Saleh, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, and the Basra Provincial Council, at the third Basra Development Forum on 12 December 2007.

The Commission brings together national, regional and international business knowledge to provide advice on how to increase investment and economic growth in the province. It will serve as a high level advisory body championing inward investment and local business development, but not as a direct delivery agent. Michael Wareing, international CEO of KPMG, has been appointed as co-chair of the Commission. The other co-chair is Munadil al Miyahi, chair of the Basra Provincial Council's Economic Development Committee. Four other Iraqi Commissioners have now been confirmed by the Government. The full Commission met for the first time in Basra on 19 February.

The next step for the Commission is to formulate a Basra Economic Development Strategy, to establish Working Groups and a Youth Unemployment Task Force to consider taking forward priority areas of work, and to lead gatherings for potential investors in Basra. The first will be an 'Invest Basra' conference in Kuwait, March 12-13. The purpose of the conference is to bring external investors together with individuals and companies offering serious investment opportunities in Basra province.

### Ghana: Money

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on Ghana: money, what the exchange rate was on each transfer; how many Ghana new cedis were received for each; what commission was paid on each transfer; which exchange institution or bank was used for each; and what the purpose was of each. [192692]

**Gillian Merron:** Pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, the exchange rates used and cedi equivalents for transactions are noted in the following table.

Standard Chartered Bank is used for all transactions, with transfers from sterling to Ghana new cedis agreed on a no commission basis. Each payment was used to fund local expenditure through the DFID Ghana office.

| | *Value (£)* | *Exchange rate (GHS to £) used* | *Amount in new Ghana cedis (GHS)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 August 2007 | 100,000 | GHS 1.8750 | 187,500.00 |
| 13 September 2007 | 125,000 | GHS 1.8880 | 236,000.00 |
| 5 November 2007 | 170,000 | GHS 1.9850 | 337,450.00 |
| 12 December 2007 | 83,000 | GHS 1.9850 | 164,755.00 |
| 9 January 2008 | 100,000 | GHS 1.9100 | 191,000.00 |

### Kosovo: Electricity

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the availability of supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water in Kosovo; what assessment he has made of such availability in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [192247]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There is near-universal access to electricity, and the proportion of the population with an indoor water tap has risen from 64 per cent. in 2002-03 to 84 per cent. in 2005-06. However, power is frequently interrupted and water quality is uneven.

Donors who are working to improve the quality of power and water supplies in Kosovo include the World Bank, the European Commission and the USA.

The Kosovo Poverty Update 2007, prepared by the World Bank and Statistics Office of Kosovo gives detailed figures for access to water and electricity going back to 2002-03. These are the earliest readily available figures. It is available at:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTKOSOVO/Country%20Home/21541686/KosovoPAvol1.pdf

### Kosovo: Internet

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* the number of internet users in Kosovo and *(b)* the availability of access to internet services; and if he will make a statement. [192264]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Very little data are available on internet access and usage in Kosovo.

According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2006, 75 per cent. of young people report using the internet. This report is available at:

http://www.kosovo.undp.org/repository/docs/hdr_eng.pdf

### Mozambique: Money

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, on Mozambique: money, what the exchange rate was on each transfer; how many Mozambiquan metacais were received for each; what commission was paid on each transfer; which exchange institution or bank was used for each; and what the purpose was of each. [192691]

**Gillian Merron:** Pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, on Mozambique, the exchange rates and amounts received were as follows:

| | *Value (£)* | *Mts* | *Rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 August 2007 | 30,136.40 | 1,524,000 | 50.57 |
| 5 September 2007 | 39,798.04 | 2,056,000 | 51.66 |
| 1 October 2007 | 29,450.04 | 1,530,000 | 51.95 |
| 19 October 2007 | 39,093.97 | 2,048,000 | 52.39 |
| 12 November 2007 | 28,698.14 | 1,524,000 | 53.10 |
| 28 November 2007 | 29,303.91 | 1,455,000 | 49.65 |
| 9 January 2008 | 30,404.22 | 1,410,000 | 46.38 |

No commission was charged. All transactions were undertaken by Standard Bank as this is DFID Mozambique's Corporate Banking Service Provider. The purpose was to pay for locally incurred costs of running the DFID Mozambique office.

### Uganda: Money

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 723-24W, on Uganda: money, what the date was of each transaction; which exchange institution or bank was used for each; and what the purpose was of each. [192690]

**Gillian Merron:** Over the past six months the DFID Uganda office has made four transactions through Barclays Bank Uganda above the value of £25,000 where US dollars were sent from the Department's headquarters in the UK to Barclays Bank Uganda, and were converted to Ugandan shillings in-country. The converted money was used where local payments in shillings are required, for example: local staff salaries; suppliers; utility bills; office rental costs; office supplies; transport and maintenance.

| | *US dollars ($) transformed to shillings* | *Equivalent in £* | *Exchange rate ($ to shs.)* | *Commission*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 August | 200,000 | 98,080.01 | 1,650 | 0 |
| 24 September | 200,000 | 99,642.31 | 1,755 | 0 |
| 18 October | 200,000 | 97,148 | 1,727 | 0 |
| 14 November | 300,000 | 143,929.2 | 1,675 | 0 |

[1] DFID Uganda has negotiated with its bankers not to charge commission on any of its transactions as we do not receive interest from the money in its accounts.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Cetaceans: Conservation

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises in UK waters; [191339]

(2) what steps he is taking to protect the bottlenose dolphin. [191412]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to intentionally kill or injure cetaceans. The Government strengthened the protection given to cetaceans through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which introduced a new offence of recklessly disturbing cetaceans. The first successful conviction under the Act was in December 2007.

All cetaceans are also listed under Annex IVa of the Council Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive), as species in need of strict protection. This directive is transposed into UK law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, protecting cetaceans from deliberate killing and capture.

The UK is also a Party to ASCOBANS—the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North seas—which aims to restore and/or maintain biological or management stocks of small cetaceans at the level they would reach when there is the lowest possible anthropogenic influence and proposes to reach these aims through co-ordinating and implementing conservation measures for small cetaceans.

We realise that the by-catch of cetaceans in some fisheries can be a problem. In an attempt to reduce fisheries by-catch DEFRA and the devolved administrations' fisheries departments published the UK Small Cetacean By-catch Response Strategy in March 2003. An update on the progress of implementing the strategy can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/conservation/cetaceans.htm

As part of this strategy, the UK Government spent around £1.6 million from 2000-05 on research into cetacean by-catch caused by fishing effort and measures to mitigate against by-catch.

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to prevent the closure of the bottlenose dolphin sanctuary in the Moray Firth. [191340]

**Jonathan Shaw:** This matter is within the devolved responsibility of the Scottish Executive. The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the Executive about this matter.

### Coastal Fishing

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the remit is of the study commissioned to monitor the environmental effects of inshore fishing; and if he will make a statement. [188431]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Owners of inshore fishing vessels that target quota stocks and operate (i) off the north east coast centred around Hartlepool, (ii) off the east coast centred around Lowestoft, and (iii) in the Thames Estuary, will be invited to participate. The pilot will collect information on a range of indicators including fishing method, catches, discards, marketing and fuel consumption. This, and other information, will help inform the implementation of Fisheries 2027, a long-term vision for sustainable fisheries. DEFRA officials have spoken with a number of fishermen from the above areas who have expressed an interest in participating in the pilot and, in due course, they will be holding meetings in the three pilot areas to discuss details of the scheme. I have not offered compensation but costs of equipping participating vessels will be met by DEFRA. I will consider extending the pilot to recreational fishing following a review of the first six months of the scheme which I aim to have operational by the summer.

### Energy Using Products Framework Directive

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the EnergyUsing Products Framework Directive does not disadvantage small and medium-sized manufacturers; [190509]

(2) how his Department plans to implement the provisions of the Energy Using Products Directive relating to progressive minimum standards for controls that installers will need to comply with when installing a boiler; if he will ensure that that implementation does not include requirements additional to those in the Directive; and if he will make a statement. [190511]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Using Products Framework Directive (EuP) by itself, does not have any direct impact on industry. Rather it establishes a Framework for the European Commission and member states to develop implementing measures setting eco-design requirements for specific products or product groups. It is only when these implementing measures have been agreed and enter into force that they require manufacturers to take action. Discussions on specific implementing measures are still ongoing.

Similarly, as discussions between the Commission, member states and stakeholders relating to the proposed implementing measure for hot water heaters and boilers are still ongoing it is not yet possible to say what the exact requirements, if any, will be for controls nor what form this implementing measure will take.

My officials have invited key stakeholders, including members of the boiler and water heater industry, to discuss the proposals currently being considered in this area and to raise any concerns on implications for the UK. The Commission is currently analysing responses from the industry and the alternative proposals it has put forward.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pelagic pair trawlers from each country of origin operated within each area in the UK's 12 nautical mile limit in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [190476]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During 2007, six French pair teams and one German pair team were observed. It is difficult to determine if the vessels were pelagic fishing at the time of observation as not all vessels were inspected. The German pair team accessed the UK 12 nautical mile limit in the North sea off the Northumberland coast, the French pair teams were all operating in the English channel. Activity within Scottish and Northern Ireland waters is a matter for those Administrations.

### Fisheries: Enforcement

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what joint operations the Government has undertaken with its European counterparts in relation to fisheries protection and enforcement in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [190474]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The table indicates the number of joint operations undertaken by the Marine and Fisheries Agency with its European counterparts since 2005.

Op Shark relates to joint operations with the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium, or a combination thereof.

Op St. Pierre relates to joint operations with France.

Op Wasp relates to operations with the Republic of Ireland.

Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) are operations under the auspices of the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA).

| | *Op Shark* | *Op St. Pierre* | *Op Wasp* | *JDP* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1 | 1 | 4 | — |
| 2006 | 5 | 1 | 9 | — |
| 2007 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

The aforementioned information does not include any joint operations that may have been undertaken by the Scottish and Northern Ireland authorities.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many joint operations were undertaken between the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron and the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [190475]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No joint operations have been undertaken between the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron and the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency in the last 12 months.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he calculates the level of aerial surveillance required to enforce fisheries rules and regulations; and if he will make a statement. [190943]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Aerial surveillance requirements are a matter for the Marine and Fisheries Agency and take into account a variety of operational needs including levels and types of fishing activity and availability of other enforcement assets.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what vessels from other EU member states undertake fisheries protection and enforcement within UK fishery limits; and if he will make a statement. [190946]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Patrol vessels from other member states may operate in UK waters in the following circumstances:

1. when taking part in Joint Deployment Plans organised by the Community Fisheries Control Agency.

2. when taking part in joint exercises organised by the UK and one or more other member states.

3. when inspecting their own vessels under their own initiative after notifying the UK authorities in accordance with EC Reg. 1042/2006.

4. when inspecting OMS vessels under their own initiative, when permission from the UK must be sought in accordance with EC Reg. 1042/2006.

To date, vessels from France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have taken part in joint operations under options 1. and 2. France have notified the UK and inspected their own vessels under option 3. No vessels have or sought our permission to carry out operations under option 4.

### Fisheries: Navy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect the reduction in the funding to the Marine and Fisheries Agency from 2007-08 to 2008-09 had on discussions over the changes made to the new contract effective from 1 April 2008 with the Royal Navy on the number of Fishery Protection Squadron patrol days to be provided; and if he will make a statement. [190942]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) received formal confirmation of its initial allocation shortly before the public announcement in DEFRA's press release of 21 February 2008. The operational budget has not been reduced. The MFA initial budget for 2008-09 is based on 2007-08 operational responsibilities. Additional resources for any other activities that the MFA may be asked to undertake in 2008-09 will be provided accordingly

The MFA's operational requirements for monitoring, control and surveillance at sea under the new Royal Navy Agreement, were fully taken into account as part of the business planning and budget allocation process.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will decide whether to alter the number of patrol days provided by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron under the new contract; what consideration he has given to changing the number of days to *(a)* 750, *(b)* 650 and *(c)* 600; and if he will make a statement. [190945]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no plans at present to alter the number of patrol days provided by the Royal Navy under the new agreement.

The draft new agreement permits a maximum of 750 patrol days, and not less than 650 days, a year.

### Heating

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the likely effects of Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive on the UK heating controls industry. [190416]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of the implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive based on the Commission's current proposals.

Heating controls play an important role in reducing the energy used by heating systems. DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss the proposals in the public consultation launched on 17 January, which set out indicative standards for better use of existing controls and advanced controls for domestic heating, and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters.

Officials have also held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry in order to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

### Incinerators

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on the minimum levels of energy produced from waste that should be created by new build incinerators; and if he will make a statement. [192728]

**Joan Ruddock:** New incinerators have to meet the requirements of the waste incineration directive (200/76/EC), article 6(6) which requires that

> "any heat generated by the incineration or the co-incineration process shall be recovered as far as practicable".

Guidance published by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government was first issued in early 2003 and deals with this, and all other requirements of the waste incineration directive. It does not, however, stipulate the minimum levels of energy produced from waste that should be created by new build incinerators. The guidance is available on the DEFRA website.

### Marine and Fisheries Agency: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he took of the commitments and likely spending of the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) in the next financial year when reducing the MFA budget from 2007-08 to 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [190944]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The operational budget has not been reduced. The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) initial budget for 2008-09 is based on 2007-08 operational responsibilities. Additional resources for any other activities that the MFA may be asked to undertake in 2008-09 will be provided accordingly.

The MFA received formal confirmation of its initial allocation shortly before the public announcement in DEFRA's press release of 21 February 2008.

The commitments and requirements of the MFA were taken into account as part of the Department's business planning and budget allocation process.

### Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1633W, whether the network of ecologically coherent and well-managed protected areas are those under Natura 2000 network; and if he will make a statement. [191611]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The network of ecologically coherent and well-managed protected areas referred to in the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1633W, will include Natura sites, of which we currently have 76 Special protections areas with marine habitats for birds, and 72 special areas of conservation with marine habitats or species.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been consulting on seven initial offshore sites since December 2007. The consultation is due to close on 14 March 2008. However, we expect that the network will also include a number of marine conservation zones, as proposed under the forthcoming Marine Bill.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the majority of the marine Natura 2000 network protecting species and habitats of key importance to be in place; and if he will make a statement. [191612]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are committed to having the majority of the Natura 2000 network in place by 2010, and is aiming for the network to be substantially completed by 2012.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many offshore marine sites his Department has surveyed for marine protected area status; when they were surveyed; and if he will make a statement. [191613]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has been consulting on seven initial offshore marine sites since December 2007. These include: Braemar Pockmarks, Darwin Mounds, Haig Fras, North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, Scanner Pockmark, Stanton Banks and Wyville Thomson Ridge. The consultation is due to close on 14 March 2008.

Of the potential offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) currently undergoing consultation, DEFRA funded surveys for Wyville Thomson Ridge in summer 2006, and Stanton Banks in summer 2003.

Our programme of data collection and survey will continue to identify further sites. Currently, the 13 areas listed in the table have been surveyed for Natura 2000 sites for Annex I habitats through collaborative and commissioned survey. These areas will then be considered by the JNCC against the selection criteria. As a result, some may be recommended to Government as SACs over the next two years.

| *Site* | *Date of survey* |
|---|---|
| Rockall Bank in the Rockall Trough and Bank regional sea, north-west of Scotland | Autumn 2005, 2006 and 2007 |
| Anton Dohrn seamount, north-west of Scotland | Autumn 2005 |
| George Bligh Bank, north-west of Scotland | Summer 2006 |
| Papa Bank, north of Scotland | Summer 2006 |
| Hatton Bank, north-west of Scotland | Summer 2006 |
| Rosemary Bank, north-west of Scotland | Summer 2006 |
| Possible reefs in the northern Irish Sea | Winter 2006-spring 2007 |
| Possible reefs in the mid-Irish Sea | Spring 2007 |
| Possible reefs in the central and western English Channel | Summer 2006 |
| Possible reefs in the eastern Irish Sea | Summer 2005 |
| Sandbank in the northern Irish Sea | Winter 2005, summer 2005 |
| Reefs west of the Hebrides | Summer and autumn 2004 |
| Submarine canyons in the south-west Approaches | Summer 2007 |

Further areas of search for "reefs and submarine structures made by leaking gases" will be surveyed by JNCC in 2008, 2009 and 2010 on the Scottish Continental Shelf, the offshore area in the North West of Scotland and the Irish sea.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1634W, on seas and oceans: Treaty of Lisbon, what provisions in the Treaty on the European Communities and the Treaty on European Union set out the respective competences of the EU and member states in relation to *(a)* marine biological resources, *(b)* marine biological resources under the Common Fisheries Policy and *(c)* the marine environment; and if he will make a statement. [191737]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The conservation of marine biological resources under the Common Fisheries Policy is an exclusive competence of the European Union.

All other aspects of marine biological resources and the marine environment are a shared competence.

The Lisbon treaty will not change this, and will be reflected in articles 3(1)(d) and 4(2)(d) and (e) of the treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Tofu).

### Waste Management: Finance

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) budget is for 2008-09; and what funding has been allocated to each of the individual organisations within BREW in that year. [191808]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2274W.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the answers given on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1634W, on seas and oceans, were not provided on the named day. [191932]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the due day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department has made on its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191495]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the Annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the Aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

BERR published on 20 December 2007 its Value-for-Money delivery agreement:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategyobjectives/Value%20for%20Money%20Delivery%20Agreements/page43140.html

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180221]

**Mr. Thomas:** Our Department has adopted a selective disclosure log whereby only the most interesting and high profile pieces of information which may be of wider public interest are published on the Department's website. We believe that if the public has greater understanding of the sorts of information a public authority holds, it will enable them to make better informed requests for information in the future.

In 2007 this resulted in 20 responses being published on the website which represents about 4 per cent. of cases which were processed during the year. In the two previous years, 2006 and 2005 since the FOI access right came into force approximately 2 per cent. of cases (13 and 15 respectively) were published on the Department's website.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [191529]

**Mr. Thomas:** The figures for civil servants over the age of 55 recruited by my Department (BERR and before that DTI) in each of the last three years are as follows:

| | *Over age 55* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2006 | 4 |
| 2005 | 4 |

These are overall figures the Department, excluding its agencies and non-departmental bodies.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which private finance initiative projects were approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each. [190753]

**Mr. Thomas:** The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

However I can confirm that BERR has not let any new PFI projects within the last three financial years.

### Fairtrade Initiative

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189511]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department will be promoting Fairtrade Fortnight through its contracted service provider. We will have posters and leaflets promoting fairtrade awareness in our restaurant areas.

We will also have stalls telling customers what products are available that are fair-trade produce.

During Fairtrade Fortnight we will also be hosting stalls from those companies who supply our service provider promoting their produce.

### Frontiers: Security

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent in total by local trading standards units on border security and enforcement in each of the last three financial years. [186418]

**Mr. Thomas:** Border security is a matter for the Home Office.

### Members: Correspondence

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter of 5 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on World Trade Organisation agreements and the approach of the US Administration to on-line gambling. [191359]

**Mr. Thomas:** I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member, this was due to an administrative error. A reply will be issued shortly.

### Overseas Trade: Iran

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of UK trade with Iran was in years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what it is expected to be in 2007-08. [191986]

**Mr. Thomas:** Trade statistics are usually published on a calendar year basis. The Office for National Statistics UK Balance of Payments Pink Book gives the following figures:

*£ million*

| | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|
| UK exports of goods to Iran | 452 | 423 |
| UK imports of goods from Iran | 34 | 70 |
| UK exports of services to Iran | 204 | 212 |
| UK imports of services from Iran | 44 | 43 |
| UK exports of goods and services to Iran | 656 | 635 |
| UK imports of goods and services from Iran | 78 | 113 |

Data is not yet available for 2007 on a balance of payments basis. Using a slightly different definition, HM Revenue and Customs 'Overseas Trade Statistics' give:

*£ million*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK exports of goods to Iran | 463.9 | 431.4 | 400.3 |
| UK imports of goods from Iran | 38.8 | 71.7 | 66.4 |

### Personal Records: Data Protection

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether a Government response was issued to the recommendations of the Council for Science and Technology's 2005 report entitled, Better use of personal information: opportunities and risks. [191094]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply.

There was no formal Government response to the Council for Science and Technology's 2005 report and the Government have not specifically implemented the recommendations. However, the report has been a valuable source of information in developing its thinking on how information is used and protected.

On 25 October the Prime Minister asked Dr. Mark Walport and the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, to carry out an independent review of the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors. The Ministry of Justice are currently considering how the programme should be structured to deliver service transformation.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax: Databases

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates or projections her Department has made of the change in the size of the council tax database due to *(a)* migration, *(b)* demographic and *(c)* household formation changes over the next (i) year, (ii) three years and (iii) five years. [191669]

**John Healey:** The council taxbase projections used in the local government finance settlements for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are based on the billing authority's taxbase as at 8 October 2007 adjusted for student exemptions, increased by the average annual increase between 2005 and 2007. The following link provides a detailed explanation:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/taxbase.pdf

### Electoral Register: Fraud

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether legal guidance has been given to *(a)* the Audit Commission and *(b)* local authorities on the request by the Audit Commission to certain local authorities to use their electoral register data as part of the national fraud initiative. [191631]

**John Healey:** Government have not given legal guidance on this issue either to the Audit Commission or to local authorities. However, we are aware that the Audit Commission has circulated legal advice, which it has received, to the local authorities from whom data has been requested.

### Fire Services: Manpower

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on fire services: buildings, what estimate she has made of the number of staff required at any one time to provide a resilient 24-hour operation. [192351]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The number of staff employed within each RCC is a matter for each individual RCC company.

However, the indicative numbers from the staffing model suggests that the number of control room staff required on duty across the network to provide a resilient 24-hour operation is as follows:

| *Time period* | *Control operators* | *Team leaders* | *Other control room staff* | *Control room management* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 am to 4 pm | 76 | 18 | 9 | 9 |
| 4 pm to 8 pm | 103 | 19 | 9 | 9 |
| 8 pm to 11 pm | 86 | 18 | 9 | 9 |
| 11 pm to 8 am | 59 | 9 | 9 | 9 |

These numbers are for the whole network in steady state, i.e. when all RCCs are fully operational and the network is fully functional, and takes into account the daily fluctuations in call volumes.

In addition to the staff within the Control Room of the Regional Control Centre, there will also be other senior management, technical support, and support staff in each of the nine RCCs.

### Housing Association: Debts

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Housing and Regeneration Bill will make to the status of housing association debt for the purpose of the Exchequer's balance sheet. [189515]

**Caroline Flint:** The ONS have previously judged registered social landlords to be private non-financial corporations, taking into account the existing regulatory framework. HM Treasury advise that the additional regulatory measures being introduced though the Housing and Regeneration Bill are not relevant to the sector classification of registered social landlords. They will therefore have no effect on the status of housing association debt.

### Local Authorities: Assessments

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating, including sub-categories, was of each local authority in each year such ratings have been awarded. [192406]

**John Healey:** CPA scores for single tier and county councils were introduced in 2002. Information on CPA and the scores themselves are publicly available on the Audit Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/index.asp?page=index.asp&area=hpcpa

### Local Authorities: Cost-effectiveness

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities cited efficiencies in *(a)* parking charges and *(b)* parking enforcement in their submissions of (i) forward and (ii) backward look annual efficiency statements to her Department in each year since their inception. [191659]

**John Healey:** Local authorities report their efficiency gains to the Department for Communities and Local Government through annual efficiency statements, which are published on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/deliveringefficiency

Guidance to councils on the completion of annual efficiency statements is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/measuringreporting

This makes clear that the introduction of a new charge or fine, or an increase in an existing charge or fine does not in itself constitute an 'efficiency' and therefore should not be included in the annual efficiency statement.

Councils that referenced 'parking' in their most recent efficiency statements may have made these gains from improvements to any aspect of their parking service, and not simply through more efficient management of parking charges or enforcement.

### Travelling People: Caravan Sites

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on *(a)* the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and *(b)* the refurbishment of existing Gypsy and Traveller sites in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [190110]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government makes Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant available for the provision of new sites and refurbishment of existing sites. In 2007-08, £18.4 million has been approved for new sites or the extension of existing sites, £11.8 million has been approved for the refurbishment of existing sites (which in some cases may bring pitches back into use) and £3.7 million has been approved for schemes which include both refurbishment and extension. £33 million will be available for the grant in 2008-09, and £32 million in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### 1 Carlton Gardens

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W, on 1 Carlton Gardens, whether an empty property council tax discount is being claimed for the property. [189581]

**Meg Munn:** The Department will be claiming the council tax discount for the period the property has been empty.

### Carbon Emissions

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from his counterparts in the EU on the operation of the Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [191174]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I meet regularly with EU counterparts on a range of issues, including the EU Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), as do my Ministerial and policy colleagues. Currently the UK is working with EU partners, including the Commission, to review how the EU ETS can best deliver the necessary reductions in emissions beyond 2012. The UK view is that the review should be ambitious, delivering real emissions reductions (ie 20 per cent. or 30 per cent. as part of an international negotiation) by 2020, as agreed at the spring Council 2007, greater harmonisation and long-term certainty, and maximise its potential to stimulate investment in low-carbon technology. The Commission's proposal for a revised EU ETS from 2013 was discussed by EU Environment Ministers at the Environment Council on 3 March and will also be discussed by EU leaders at the spring European Council on 13-14 March.

The Government agree with Sir Nicholas Stern that a global price for carbon is essential if we are to achieve a low carbon economy. The EU ETS and other mandatory emissions trading schemes being developed around the world are crucial stepping stones towards this. It is a major pillar of both UK and EU climate change policy and is the primary market based mechanism in the fight against climate change. It is fundamental to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by keeping emissions within agreed limits while allowing emission reductions to be made at least cost through trading of allowances.

### Caribbean: Royal Visits

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs his Department expects to incur associated with the use of the Leander yacht by HRH Prince of Wales during his official visit to the Caribbean in March; and if he will make a statement. [190665]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The Department for Transport has overall responsibility for the funding of official travel for members of The Royal Family. This is administered by The Royal Travel Office in Her Majesty The Queen's Household.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the Royal Household he expects to accompany the Prince of Wales during his visit to the Caribbean in March at the expense of the public purse. [191225]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* 14 members of staff will accompany Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at public expense.

### Defence: Foreign Relations

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the US missile defence shield installations in Poland and the Czech Republic on relations between the European Union and Russia. [191066]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** This is not an EU proposal. It is a bilateral arrangement between the US and the states involved. There are regular discussions at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-Russia Council on this matter.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179878]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office gave to him on 3 March 2008 *Official Report*, columns 2206-07W.

### EC Common Foreign and Security Policy: Black Sea

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the European security and defence policy of the EU's border on the Black Sea following the accession of Romania and Bulgaria. [191064]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU considers Black sea issues through the general policy framework provided by the Black Sea Synergy Initiative. This does not include implications of an EU border on the Black Sea for European Security and Defence Policy. The EU would consider defence aspects only in the context of specific developments in the region that might require a potential EU crisis management intervention, which would be planned and conducted through the European Security and Defence Policy.

### Gibraltar: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the people of Gibraltar of *(a)* the new constitution and *(b)* agreement over the airport. [191819]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Gibraltar's new constitution came into force in January 2007. This followed a decision by the people of Gibraltar to accept it in a referendum organised by the Government of Gibraltar in 2006. The new constitution provides for a modern and mature relationship between the UK and Gibraltar.

As my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, set out in his answer to the noble Lord, the right hon. Lord Luce, in another place on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns WA79-80, the airport agreement has

allowed for more connections to and from Gibraltar airport and since December 2006 direct flights between Madrid and Gibraltar have become routine. Gibraltar is also now included in new EU aviation measures.

### International Cooperation: Human Rights

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the Government at the Durban Two Preparatory Committee meeting on 31 August 2007. [191564]

**Meg Munn:** Our Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and members of the UK Delegation represented the Government at the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference on 31 August 2007.

### NATO

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* current and *(b)* future relationship between NATO and the EU. [191067]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are key organisations that have both successfully delivered stability and security to the European region. The Government place a high priority on improving EU/NATO relations, since it is important that the two organisations work effectively together, and will continue to work with partners and allies to deliver more effective co-operation in both Brussels and in operations like Kosovo and Afghanistan. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated in his recent Bruges speech

> "We must [also] overcome the blockages to collaboration with NATO. We welcome the signs of increased willingness on the part of key partners to do so".

### Saudi Arabia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit Saudi Arabia. [191788]

**Dr. Howells:** I can inform my right hon. Friend that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intends to visit Saudi Arabia in the next few months. I visited the Kingdom on 23-24 February 2008.

### Simon Mann

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 10 March to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison Equatorial Guinea. [192481]

**Meg Munn:** Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos travelled to Malabo and visited Mr. Mann in prison on 12 February. Our high commissioner in Abuja presented his credentials in Equatorial Guinea on 6 March and followed up on Mr. Mann's situation. Consular officials aim to visit Mr. Mann again very soon, when they will discuss Mr Mann's welfare with the authorities in Equatorial Guinea.

The authorities have offered assurances that he will be treated well while in detention.

### Spain: Gibraltar

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the average waiting time at the border for those travelling from *(a)* Spain into Gibraltar and *(b)* Gibraltar into Spain in the last 12 months. [191818]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* The September 2006 Cordoba agreements set out new arrangements for the border designed to improve pedestrian and traffic flows between Gibraltar and Spain. These arrangements, which saw the introduction of red and green customs channels in both directions, came into force in December 2006 and have considerably improved border fluidity. Data gathered by the Gibraltar authorities for traffic travelling from Gibraltar to Spain shows a marked improvement when figures are compared to similar periods before December 2006. Queues with measurable delays only build up in peak traffic periods, usually at the end of the working day and Saturdays. The Gibraltar authorities do not gather data on delay times entering Gibraltar from Spain.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1306W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, what assessment has been made of which groups in Darfur continue to obstruct the political process; and if he will make a statement. [192077]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* There has been no further recent progress in the Darfur political process owing to various factors including fragmentation among rebel groups. The African Union (AU) and the UN assess that there are now five main rebel groups in Darfur. They are currently talking to all of these groups both in and outside of Darfur to encourage them to unify further and agree on common platforms for negotiations with the Government of Sudan. The UN/AU will be hosting a meeting of international partners in Geneva on 18 March to set out the current status of the peace process and how to move it forward including in relation to the level of rebel engagement. The UK is discussing that issue with the UN and other partners in the run-up to that meeting.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development, in a joint statement of 27 February expressed concern about recent violence by all sides in West Darfur, and called for continued international attention including by the Security Council.

### USA: Nuclear Weapons

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the United States' plan to site nuclear missile bases in the territory of EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [192486]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK knows of no US plans to site nuclear missile bases in the territory of EU member states. The UK does, however, welcome US plans to place missile defence assets in Poland and the Czech Republic. These plans are an important step towards providing missile defence coverage for Europe.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprenticeships: Teesside

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to involve employers on the Tees to establish and deliver plans to increase the number of apprenticeships on *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Stockton. [189336]

**Bill Rammell:** As part of National Apprenticeships Week in February 2008, the Learning and Skills Council worked with partners including employers and the Tees Valley work-based learning provider network to promote the broad range of apprenticeships available. This built on existing work with apprenticeship providers including in Stockton and the Tees Valley to improve quality and completion rates and to offer the apprenticeships employers and young people demand.

The Government report "World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All available at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/world_class_apprenticeships.pdf

sets out plans to expand the number and range of apprenticeships throughout England. Plans to expand the number of employers delivering apprenticeships include developing more flexible and responsive apprenticeship frameworks, and incentives payments to targeted businesses.

Over the past decade, we have more than doubled the number of young people and adults starting apprenticeships in England. Over the period to 2020 we project that apprenticeship starts will increase to over 250,000 per year.

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to increase the number of apprenticeship in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Stockton. [189337]

**Bill Rammell:** The Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council will build on its existing work with partners including employers, sector skills councils and the Tees Valley work-based learning provider network to increase the number of apprenticeships on offer locally.

Government plan to expand the number and range of apprenticeships in England were set out in 'World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for AH11 available at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/world_class_apprenticeships.pdl

Over the past decade, we have more than doubled the number of young people and adults starting apprenticeships in England. Over the period to 2020 we project that apprenticeship starts will increase to over 250,000 per year.

### Costs

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to date of the establishment of his Department. [180409]

**Mr. Lammy:** The costs of setting up the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills were met within existing departmental budgets.

### Council of Ministers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the A List items are of the next EU Council of Ministers meeting he will be attending. [180167]

**Bill Rammell:** The next meeting of the Education Council is scheduled for 22 May 2008 which I am due to attend for the UK. A items for the meeting will not be produced until shortly beforehand.

The next meeting of the Competitiveness Council is scheduled for 29-30 May. My hon. Friend the Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson) is likely to attend for the UK. A items for the meeting will not be produced until shortly beforehand.

### Departmental ICT

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many websites his Department currently operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites. [162285]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills currently operates three websites,

www.dius.gov.uk.

www.foresight.gov.uk

and

www.bnsc.gov.uk

www.bnsc.gov.uk is operated on behalf of BNSC by Science and Technology Facilities Council, a delivery partner of BNSC.

Following the machinery of government changes the Department was created in June 2007 therefore DIUS did not operate a website in January 2005.

The estimated annual costs are

| | £ |
|---|---|
| www.dius.gov.uk | 300,000 |
| www.bnsc.gov.uk | 100,000 |
| www.foresight.gov.uk | 100,000 |

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172507]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of Government changes at the end of June 2007 and therefore data on the Department's level of recycling has not yet been collected.

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [181325]

**Bill Rammell:** Since its creation in June 2007, estates and facilities management services have been provided to the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills as a shared service by the Department for Children Schools and Families and by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

DCSF headquarters has adopted and is operating the Carbon Trust's carbon management programme within its departmental environmental management system (SUMS) action plans. BERR are developing a programme with the Carbon Trust, including advice on renewables and carbon reduction options.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [181326]

**Bill Rammell:** The last published return on central Government progress on sustainable operations is contained within the Sustainable Development in Government Report for 2005/06. The 2006/07 report is due to be published in March 2008.

As the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was only formed in June 2007, we were not able to take part in this return.

The Department's accommodation is located within buildings managed on our behalf by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and as such, our sustainable operations performance will be returned within their reports.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which agencies under his Department's responsibility use the *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone codes for customer enquiries; how many 0845 and 0870 telephone codes each agency uses; and how much revenue was generated for each of these codes by each agency in each of the last five years. [183888]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

A number of "08" telephones services are administered by the Department for public use.

From central records, the only information that can be provided on the Department's use of 0870 and 0845 telephone numbers is listed as follows.

| | *0845* | *0870* | *Revenue* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK-IPO | 0845 001 0030 | 0870 191 0111 | Call volumes to most numbers, especially the 0870 numbers, are relatively low |
| | 0845 015 0010 | 0870 191 0112 | No revenue was generated from the 0845 numbers |
| | 0845 015 0020 | 0870 191 0113 | |
| | 0845 015 0030 | 0870 191 0114 | |
| | 0845 019 0001 | 0870 191 0115 | |
| | 0845 404 0506 | 0870 191 0116 | |
| | 0845 600 0678 | 0870 191 0117 | |
| | 0845 600 9006 | 0870 191 0118 | |
| | 0845 603 4599 | 0870 240 5927 | |
| | 08459 222 250 | 0870 240 5929 | |
| | | 0870 600 6080 | |
| | | 0870 606 1515 | |
| Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) | | 0870 060 3278 | Since 2005, income of about £300 in the form of expenditure rebate on our 0845 and 0870 numbers |

| | 0845 | 0870 | Revenue |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) | | 0870 000 2399<br>0870 000 2401 (fax) | These are not income generators in any form |
| Construction Industry Training Board (citb) | | | 2006—£33,400<br>2007—£89,538<br>2008—£15,890 |
| Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ecitb) | Seven "0845" numbers | | No revenue |
| Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) | 0845 757 7890 | | 17 June 2005 to 13 February 2008 £1,164.25 |

## Written Questions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many written parliamentary questions have been tabled for answer by his Department this Session; and what the average number of days taken to answer them was. [190240]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department has so far received 908 questions this Session. The Department's PQ tracking system is currently unable to break down the data requested regarding response times and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. However, the software used to monitor and track PQs tabled for both this Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families is being upgraded at the moment and a new enhanced system is close to implementation.

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions from hon. Members for answer on a named day received by his Department and its predecessors have received a *(a)* holding answer and *(b)* substantive answer by the named day in each year since 2001. [190296]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Higher Education: Females

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has undertaken on the impact of removing funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications on women; and what discussions he has had with the Minister for Women on this issue. [177596]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* Nearly 60 per cent. of students are women. The proportion of students studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications who are women is the same. But our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that more of the ten million women of working age who do not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in higher education. I have had no discussions with the Minister for Women specifically on this issue which does not discriminate against women, but offers more opportunities for both men and women without a first higher education qualification.

## Drinking Water

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191253]

**Mr. Lammy:** Hospitality and catering services for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, since its creation in June 2007, are provided on our behalf by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. We do not have separate figures on how much bottled water our Department has purchased.

## Official Engagements

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the engagements of the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education were for *(a)* 5, *(b)* 6 and *(c)* 7 November 2007; who he was scheduled to meet; to whom invitations were issued; what issues were discussed at each meeting; which officials travelled with him on those dates; what transport was used; and which hon. and right hon. Members were informed that he would be visiting their constituencies. [178643]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

## Physics: Degrees

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many first degree physics undergraduates there are; and what the equivalent figures were in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 1998 and *(c)* 1993. [189317]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is given in the table. Due to a change in the methodology for recording subject in 2002/03, comparisons between figures for 2001/02 and earlier, and those for 2002/03 onwards cannot be made; Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that applicants who were accepted to full-time first degree courses in physics in 2007/08 increased by 10 per cent. compared to the previous year.

*Number of first degree physics undergraduates[1] English higher education institutions[2]—academic years 1994/95[3], 1998/99, 2003/04 and 2006/07*

| *Academic year* | *Physics students* |
|---|---|
| 1994/95 | 7,730 |
| 1998/99[4] | 8,035 |
| 2003/04 | 7,795 |
| 2006/07 | 7,835 |

[1] Includes both full-time and part-time undergraduates from the UK and overseas.
[2] Figures from the Open University have been excluded from the analysis.
[3] Figures for first degree physics students are not available for 1993/94 academic year, only for physical sciences as a whole. Therefore, comparable figures for the 1994/96 academic year have been provided as an alternative.
[4] In 2002/03 the methodology for recording subject of study was changed on the student record. Aside from the introduction of a new coding frame, JACS (previously a system called HESACODE was used), students were apportioned between their subjects of study rather than being assigned on a headcount basis to their major subject. As such, comparisons between figures for 2001/02 and earlier, and those for 2002/03 onwards cannot be made.
*Note:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant and are rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## Space Technology: Finance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support the Government has provided to the UK space sector since 1997. [191893]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Information on funding for civil space by the partners of the British National Space Centre was provided to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee for its inquiry into UK space policy, and published in the Committee's seventh report of session 2006-07. The figures provided to the Committee, with the addition of the 2006-07 figures, are as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 183.18 |
| 1998-99 | 184.99 |
| 1999-2000 | 172.62 |
| 2000-01 | 177.38 |
| 2001-02 | 169.18 |
| 2002-03 | 160.20 |
| 2003-04 | 188.65 |
| 2004-05 | 197.94 |
| 2005-06 | 207.61 |
| 2006-07 | 217.88 |

*Note:*
The figures are expressed in cash in the year of expenditure.

## Students: Bankruptcy

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduate students resident in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [187615]

**Bill Rammell:** Provisions were included in the Higher Education Act 2004 to prevent student loans being written off on bankruptcy (mortgage-style loans from July 2004 and Income-contingent loans from September 2004). Currently student loans are not exempt from individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs).

The increase in student loan borrowers with bankruptcies and IVAs should be seen in the context of the increases among the general population. Figures from the Insolvency Service show that between 2002 and 2006 the number of individual bankruptcies in England and Wales more than doubled; the number of IVAs increased seven-fold.

Up to 2004 only combined figures for bankruptcies and IVAs are available from SLC data. After the change in legislation SLC ceased to record bankruptcies, as student loans are excluded from bankruptcy debts and are not written off on discharge from bankruptcy. Figures from 2005 show IVAs only.

Available data are shown in the tables.

*Students with publicly-owned student loans who notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their bankruptcy or individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) while studying[1]. Students domiciled in Suffolk, East of England Government Office Region and England. Calendar years of bankruptcy or IVA 1997 to 2004*

| | *Suffolk[2]* | *East of England[2]* | *England[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | [4] | [4] | 10 |
| 1998 | [4] | [4] | 10 |
| 1999 | [4] | [4] | 20 |
| 2000 | [4] | [4] | 20 |
| 2001 | [4] | [4] | 10 |
| 2002 | [4] | [4] | 10 |
| 2003 | [4] | 10 | 90 |
| 2004 | [4] | 10 | 110 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 borrowers. Students on postgraduate initial teacher training courses can be eligible for loans, and therefore figures may include some who took out loans for postgraduate study.
[2] Income-contingent loans only. Information on mortgage-style loan borrowers who are bankrupt or have IVAs is not available by local authority or Government Office Region.
[3] Mortgage-style and income-contingent loans.
[4] Nil or less than five.
*Source:*
Student Loans Company

*Students with publicly-owned student loans who took individual voluntary arrangements (IVA) while studying[1]. Students domiciled in Suffolk, East of England Government Office Region and England. Calendar years of IVA 2005 to 2006*

| | *Suffolk[2]* | *East of England[2]* | *England[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | [4] | [4] | 30 |
| 2006 | [4] | [4] | 20 |

1 Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 borrowers. Students on postgraduate initial teacher training courses can be eligible for loans, and therefore figures may include some who took out loans for postgraduate study.
2 Income-contingent loans only. Information on mortgage-style loan borrowers who are bankrupt or have IVAs is not available by local authority or Government Office Region.
3 Mortgage-style and income-contingent loans.
4 Nil or less than five.
*Source:*
Student Loans Company.

## Students: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, what assessment he has made of the effect of his decision upon *(a)* women returners, *(b)* older men, *(c)* disabled students and *(d)* black and minority ethnic students. [175798]

**Bill Rammell:** Our policy is a progressive redistribution of £100 million in institutional funding by 2010 away from students who already have a first HE qualification and want to study another one at an equivalent or lower level towards first time entrants which will enable more of the 20 million people of working age without a first HE qualification to participate in higher education and enjoy all the benefits it brings. Within that group without higher level qualifications, there are millions of women returners, older men, disabled students and black and minority ethnic students who will all have more opportunities as a result of the ELQ policy. The majority are likely to be mature learners from non-traditional backgrounds who want to study part-time.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQ) as additional degrees, whether ELQ students of medicine and veterinary science will be *(a)* publicly funded and *(b)* exempt from the withdrawal of funding; and if he will make a statement. [175799]

**Bill Rammell:** We have always recognised that there may need to be exceptions to our general policy to redistribute institutional funding for ELQ students towards other students for particular subjects. We are not going to rush into making special arrangements, other than those subjects we have already identified as requiring support in the public interest—such as medicine, initial teacher training teaching, science (including veterinary science), technology, engineering and maths subjects, area-based studies, and modern foreign languages. But we are asking the Funding Council each year to look at subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and in cases where there is evidence of a fall in demand, advise us on the best way forward. The first review will start in December 2008.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how he plans to fund the 50,000 higher education student places for 2008-11 announced in the comprehensive spending review; and how many of these students will be first-time entrants. [175800]

**Bill Rammell:** The 2 per cent. real terms annual increase in funding we are providing through the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, together with our policy of redistributing £100 million by 2010 away from students studying equivalent or lower level qualifications to ones they already hold, will enable us to provide 60,000 new places in full-time equivalent terms for new students either entering HE for the first time or progressing to higher level degrees to ones they already hold.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, what funding will be available for re-skilling students for higher level qualifications. [175803]

**Bill Rammell:** Our policy is a progressive redistribution of £100 million in institutional funding by 2010 away from students who already have a first HE qualification and want to study another one at an equivalent or lower level towards first time entrants which will enable more of the 20 million people of working age without a first HE qualification to participate in higher education and enjoy all the benefits it brings. However, our policy is a balanced one. There will be opportunities for those with a first HE qualification who want to re-skill in a different subject at the same or lower level, through foundation degrees, and employer co-funded provision and we will continue to fund students progressing to higher level qualifications than the ones they already hold.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, what estimate he has made of the potential costs transferred to *(a)* business and the private sector, *(b)* the public sector and *(c)* the not-for-profit sector. [175804]

**Bill Rammell:** Our policy is a progressive redistribution of £100 million in institutional funding by 2010 away from students who already have a first HE qualification and want to study another one at an equivalent or lower level towards first time entrants will enable more of the 20 million people of working age who do not have a first HE qualification to participate in higher education and all the benefits it brings. But it will also bring economic benefits to employers by expanding the supply of more highly qualified, more productive workers. Lord Leitch's report, comparative data from the OECD, and the fact that the lifetime earnings premium associated with having a first degree remains among the highest in the world, all suggest that employers in this country in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors are themselves, under the current system, paying for the fact that we are not producing enough graduates for our economic well-being.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, what assessment he has made of the effect of his decision to withdraw funding on the viability of courses for first-time entrants to higher education. [175805]

**Bill Rammell:** The outcome of the comprehensive spending review will enable us to support an additional 60,000 new places in full-time equivalent terms for new

students either entering HE for the first time or progressing to higher level degrees to ones they already hold. Despite doubts about the viability of growth and individual courses when we introduced our policies in 1997, there has already been an increase in the number of students in the system of over 300,000 and we remain confident that any sceptics will once again be proved wrong. That assessment is also consistent with Lord Leitch's report and comparative data from the OECD. An extra 5 million people will need to obtain a first higher education qualification by 2020 if we are to be even on the edge of the premier league for world-class skills, with 40 per cent. of the workforce with higher level qualifications.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs) as additional degrees, how many part-time ELQ students he estimates will be affected in institutions other than the Open University. [175806]

**Bill Rammell:** No existing ELQ students will be affected at any institution. Our policy is a progressive redistribution of £100 million in institutional funding by 2010 away from students who already have a first HE qualification and want to study another one at an equivalent or lower level towards first time entrants will enable more of the 20 million people of working age who do not have a first HE qualification to participate in higher education and enjoy all the benefits it brings. The majority are likely to be mature learners from non-traditional backgrounds who want to study part-time.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs) as additional degrees, whether his proposals extend to ELQ students on courses leading to qualifications in *(a)* child and adolescent studies and *(b)* biometric science. [175807]

**Bill Rammell:** Yes. In finalising our proposals, we have decided not to rush into making special arrangements, other than those subjects we have already identified as requiring support in the public interest—such as medicine, initial teacher training teaching, science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, area-based studies, and modern foreign languages. But we are asking the Funding Council each year to look at subjects which might in future be regarded as key because of their economic or social significance, and in cases where there is evidence of a fall in demand advise us on the best way forward. The first review will be in December 2008 and could provide an opportunity to look at these subjects. There will also be opportunities for those with a first HE qualification who want to retrain in these subjects, through foundation degrees, and employer co-funded provision.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs) as additional degrees, what savings he expects to make by ceasing public funding for ELQ students of *(a)* pharmacy, *(b)* psychology and *(c)* educational psychology. [175808]

**Bill Rammell:** None. We are redistributing funding not saving it. The large majority of students already study these subjects as a first HE qualification and as a result of our policy of redistributing £100 million by 2010 away from supporting ELQ students, there will be even more opportunities for students to study these subjects either as a first higher education qualification or a higher education qualification to one they already hold.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications as additional degrees, whether from 2008-09 a student with a higher national diploma studying for an accountancy qualification would qualify for funding. [175809]

**Bill Rammell:** Such a student would only attract institutional funding if the level of that accountancy qualification was higher than a higher national diploma. In other cases, there should still be opportunities available if the accountancy qualification was either a foundation degree or the course leading to the accountancy qualification was co-funded by an employer.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consultation he undertook in advance of his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs) as additional degrees on the effect of his request on the *(a)* administration and *(b)* regulation of the ELQ sector. [175810]

**Bill Rammell:** None because the request to HEFCE was itself a request to consult on the details of the decision we had already taken from first principles and advise us on the way these issues might best be tackled in a way that gets the balance right between regulation and not having an overly bureaucratic system. In all cases, HEFCE will work with institutions to audit fundable student numbers and final HEFCE funding will be determined oh the basis of audited returns and through a robust audit process.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills prior to his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September on funding for equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQs), what research he commissioned on the effect of his request on access to higher education. [175811]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest data from the labour market speak for themselves. There are 20 million people of working age who do not have a first HE qualification, including six million who have qualifications at A level or equivalent but have not progressed to higher education. Over time, new data from the labour market and

comparative date from the OECD will inform future analysis of whether we are producing enough graduates for our economic well-being and enabling enough people with the talent to succeed to access higher education to study for a first qualification.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what forecast he has made of the number of students enrolling for an equivalent and lower qualification (ELQ) as an additional degree between 2011 and 2015 who will no longer receive funding as a result of his request to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 7 September; and how much funding he no longer plans to allocate to ELQ students in each of these years. [175812]

**Bill Rammell:** All we have asked HEFCE to do is to find savings of about £100 million a year by 2010-11. No strategic decision has been taken about whether to reallocate further ELQ funding after 2010-11 and no assessment has therefore been made about ELQ students enrolling between 2011 and 2015.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that students are informed of bursary and scholarship options prior to completing the PN1 student finance application form. [188041]

**Bill Rammell:** Universities and colleges offering higher education provide information about the bursaries and scholarships they offer. Following the publication of their annual monitoring report, the Office for Fair Access has written to all universities with an access agreement saying that not all eligible students have applied for bursaries and asking them to put more effort into advertising their bursaries to students.

DIUS continues to raise awareness of all elements of the higher education student finance package, including bursaries, via literature, web (including an interactive bursary map showing what finance institutions in England) and campaign material.

Information for prospective students on bursaries is also available via the Universities and Colleges Admissions System website.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate students had their university fees (i) partially and (ii) wholly paid for by their employer in the last 12 months. [191165]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on the number of students who had their fees partially paid for by their employer is not available centrally. The latest available information on students who had their fees wholly paid for by their employer is given in the following table.

*Number of undergraduate and postgraduate students[1] who had their fees wholly paid for by their employer—English higher education institutions*

*Academic year 2006/07*

| | *Postgraduate* | | *Undergraduate* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Major source of tuition fees* | *Number* | *Percentage of known* | *Number* | *Percentage of known* |
| Employer[2] | 45,725 | 15.0 | 66,155 | 4.9 |
| Other | 259,700 | 85.0 | 1,283,670 | 95.1 |
| Total known | 305,425 | 100.0 | 1,349,825 | 100.0 |
| Unknown | 4,830 | — | 6,235 | — |
| Total | 310,255 | — | 1,356,055 | — |

[1] Includes both full-time and part-time students.

[2] Employer as major source of tuition fees includes students who were recorded as having their tuition fees paid by "student's employer" and "UK industry/commerce".

*Note:*

Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The Leitch Review of Skills encourages employers to support and fund the upskilling of their work force to level 4 or above to support the nation's international competitiveness. He set a target for at least 40 per cent. of the nation's work force to be qualified to level 4 or above by 2020.

### Training: Employment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the additional number of jobs that will be created for British citizens following the announcement of new training places made on 16 November 2007. [173748]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK has a dynamic and flexible labour market with the highest employment rate in the G7 and 2.8 million new jobs have been created in the UK since 1997. Despite this success there are too many people still missing out on work and the benefits that it brings. This Government are determined to ensure that no individual is left behind. Independent projections suggest that there will be five million fewer low-skilled people in work in 2020, and five million more higher-skilled people in work. This will require significant upskilling of the British population from today's levels.

The announcement of new training places reaffirms the Government's commitment to upskilling British people to provide them with the skills required in a more competitive labour market, to get them off benefits and into jobs and to help them to advance from low skilled to higher skilled jobs. We will continue to help those who need to improve their skills—the overwhelming majority of whom, but not all are British.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Monday 18 February 2008*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by her Department for this purpose. [173846]

*[Official Report, 18 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 1309W.]*

*Letter of correction from Parmjit Dhanda:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 18 December 2007. The correct version of the first two paragraphs is as follows:

**Mr. Dhanda:** In 2004-06, the Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU) recorded staff costs of £1,951,549 and non-pay spend of £755.851. The EDU was responsible for internal equality policy delivery.

In July 2007, the EDU transferred to the Race Equality Unit taking seven posts, a pay budget of £319,000 and a non-pay budget of £16,000. The newly formed Race Equality and Diversity Division has a forecast outturn in 2007-2008 of £1,126,099 pay costs (average 35.55 FTE posts) and £80,260 non-pay costs. Due to Machinery of Government changes it is difficult for the Department to provide more detail.

### Floods: Finance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of funding allocated to Gloucestershire for *(a)* flood recovery and *(b)* the introduction of flood prevention measures has been drawn down. [178791]

*[Official Report, 5 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1023-24W.]*

*Letter of correction from John Healey:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 5 February 2008. The correct version of the first two paragraphs is as follows:

**John Healey:** To date £14,984,900 has been awarded to councils within Gloucestershire to support their recovery from the floods last summer. This includes £2,763,000 in Flood Recovery Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government to the county's six district councils to support flood affected communities. It is for authorities in receipt of grant to decide how to use and distribute any of this funding locally.

Flood affected Local Authorities have also been able to apply to the Department for Communities and Local Government for help through the Bellwin scheme which provides financial assistance to local authorities dealing with emergencies. Exceptionally, the terms of the present schemes, have been made more generous because of the circumstances of the recent floods. Gloucestershire County Council received an interim payment of £1.1 million to help with its costs in clearing up after last summer's floods and Gloucester City Council received an interim payment of £114,000. Both may receive further payments once they submit final claims. Claims have also recently been received from Gloucestershire Police, Worcester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Cotswold District Council.

I have notified Mr. Clifton-Brown of the error and a revised answer has been sent to him.

## JUSTICE

### Probation: Expenditure

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent on probation services in each year since 1997; what expenditure is expected for the forthcoming financial year; and how much of this spending *(a)* was and *(b)* will be dedicated to (i) mental health services, (ii) substance abuse rehabilitation services and (iii) vocational education in each of these years. [144165]

*[Official Report, 25 June 2007, Vol. 462, c. 356W.]*

*Letter of correction from David Hanson to Norman Lamb:*

On 25 June 2007 the Ministry of Justice provided an answer to a written question from the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on spending on probation services in each year since 1997. I regret that although the answer described the figures provided as expenditure, most of the figures were budget figures.

The following table provides expenditure figures from 2001-02, when the probation service was created in its current form. For earlier years local Probation Committees were responsible for delivery and the figures include some estimates.

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Resource* | *Capital* |
| 2007-08 | 976 | 15 |
| 2006-07 | 920 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 906 | 4 |
| 2004-05 | 768 | 28 |
| 2003-04 | 768 | 20 |
| 2002-03 | 660 | 17 |
| 2001-02 | 596 | 39 |
| 2000-01 | 539 | 16 |
| 1999-2000 | 492 | 23 |
| 1998-99 | 466 | 22 |
| 1997-98 | 464 | 17 |
| 1996-97 | 467 | 22 |

*Notes:*

1. The data includes probation boards (and prior to 2001-02 probation committees and local authorities), the National Probation Directorate and latterly relevant expenditure met by the National Offender Management Service centre.
2. From 2001-02 the resource expenditure included in respect of local probation boards is the Net Operating Cost recorded in the annual consolidated accounts of the local probation boards. Following standard accounting practice, local boards' pension contributions are not fully reflected in these figures.
3. Prior to 2001-02 resource figures are based on the expenditure implied by the main grant cash limit plus an allowance for probation hostels and for consistency, an estimate has been used for central expenditure by the sponsoring unit in the Home Office.

4. All figures exclude Electronic Monitoring and contributions to the Department of Health for the pooled treatment budget related to drug rehabilitation.
5. Figures for 2007-08 are planned expenditure.
6. Comparisons over a long period of time are difficult due to machinery of government changes and accounting methodology changes.

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered.

I am arranging for copies of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and I am copying Gerry Sutcliffe in to the reply.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Wednesday 20 February 2008*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166922]

*[Official Report, 4 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 1109-10W.]*

*Letter from Tony McNulty:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Henley (Mr. Johnson) on 4 December 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is in the following tables. Police officer figures for London boroughs were collected centrally from 2003.

*Number of police officers for London and London boroughs: 1997 to 2007*[1]

*Table A: Police officers (FTE) for London: 1997 to 2002*[1]

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* |
| London[2] | 27,536 | 26,919 | 26,851 | 26,217 | 25,581 | 26,987 |

*Table B: Police officers (FTE) for London and London boroughs: 2003 to 2007*[1]

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 360 | 384 | 419 | 426 | 427 |
| Barnet | 522 | 541 | 561 | 554 | 551 |
| Bexley | 315 | 338 | 383 | 361 | 371 |
| Brent | 619 | 683 | 679 | 667 | 672 |
| Bromley | 417 | 459 | 489 | 484 | 493 |
| Camden | 719 | 794 | 850 | 854 | 812 |
| City of Westminster | 1,565 | 1,637 | 1,617 | 1,572 | 1,561 |
| Croydon | 624 | 659 | 692 | 694 | 684 |
| Ealing | 652 | 697 | 686 | 673 | 681 |
| Enfield | 490 | 538 | 575 | 560 | 582 |
| Greenwich | 604 | 583 | 605 | 615 | 632 |
| Hackney | 673 | 766 | 789 | 767 | 744 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 513 | 516 | 526 | 553 | 562 |
| Haringey | 633 | 682 | 683 | 717 | 689 |
| Harrow | 302 | 333 | 342 | 347 | 354 |
| Havering | 340 | 343 | 383 | 380 | 383 |
| Hillingdon | 458 | 484 | 498 | 506 | 495 |
| Hounslow | 467 | 472 | 510 | 501 | 519 |
| Islington | 623 | 680 | 683 | 685 | 678 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 528 | 575 | 562 | 574 | 568 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 272 | 275 | 298 | 307 | 294 |
| Lambeth | 968 | 941 | 984 | 994 | 953 |
| Lewisham | 571 | 625 | 646 | 649 | 619 |
| Merton | 304 | 339 | 352 | 353 | 377 |
| Newham | 692 | 781 | 782 | 781 | 758 |
| Redbridge | 393 | 440 | 459 | 471 | 467 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 284 | 285 | 287 | 294 | 303 |
| Southwark | 838 | 869 | 891 | 873 | 846 |
| Sutton | 266 | 280 | 291 | 307 | 306 |
| Tower Hamlets | 686 | 760 | 761 | 775 | 756 |
| Waltham Forest | 486 | 533 | 546 | 556 | 543 |
| Wandsworth | 557 | 612 | 582 | 607 | 599 |
| City of London | 434 | 445 | 438 | 438 | 412 |
| London[2] | 28,792 | 30,588 | 31,586 | 31,405 | 31,564 |

[1] All figures are full-time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] The London totals comprise officer totals for Metropolitan police and City of London police. They are 'not' totals of the London boroughs because they also include Heathrow and Central Services. Excludes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

A letter has been sent to the hon. Member and made available in the Library of the House.

## JUSTICE

### Police Custody

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on police custody, on how many occasions Operation Safeguard was used in England and Wales between 1 January 2006 and 1 April 2007. [134069]

*[Official Report, 30 April 2007, Vol. 459, c. 1416-17W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 30 April 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Operation Safeguard was reactivated on 22 January 2007. Between 22 January and 30 March 2007, Operation Safeguard was used on 9,640 occasions. This does not correspond precisely to a number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered. I am arranging for a correction to be made in Hansard.

I am copying this letter to Gerry Sutcliffe.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners have been held overnight in police cells or custody suites in Wales; and for how many nights each prisoner has been so held, broken down by police force area. [162846]

*[Official Report, 12 November 2007, Vol. 467, c. 28-29W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs. Gillan) on 12 November 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Hanson:** Figures for convicted prisoners are not held separately. Between 22 January and 7 November 2007, convicted and remand prisoners were held under Operation Safeguard in police cells in Wales on 4,289 occasions. The number of occasions does not correspond precisely to the number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell. This total breaks down by police forces as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Dyfed Powys | 682 |
| South Wales | 1,177 |
| North Wales | 1,628 |
| Gwent | 802 |

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered. I am arranging for a correction to be made in Hansard.

## Police Custody: Wales

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many days police custody suites in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire have been used to accommodate prisoners in 2007; [166247]

(2) how many prisoners have been accommodated in police custody suites in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire in 2007; [166248]

(3) how many cells in police custody units in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire are reserved for prisoners. [166246]

*[Official Report, 28 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 483-84W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 5 December 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the correct number of nights between 22 January and 22 November 2007 that police cells were used in Wales, by Dyfed Powys police force and in Pembrokeshire for Operation Safeguard, and the number of occasions prisoners were held (one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell).

| | *Nights* | *Occasions* |
|---|---|---|
| Wales | 628 | 4,654 |
| Dyfed Powys | 135 | 682 |
| Pembrokeshire | 85 | 372 |

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered. I am arranging for a correction to be made in Hansard.

## Police Custody

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions prisoners were housed in police stations in each of the last six months due to prison overcrowding; and what additional funding has been provided to the police forces providing prison services. [170465]

*[Official Report, 5 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 1261W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 5 December 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the correct number of occasions prisoners have been held under Operation safeguard in England and Wales in each of the last six months:

| *2007* | *Occasions*[1] |
|---|---|
| June | 10,157 |
| July | 810 |
| August | 4,950 |
| September | 7,840 |
| October | 9,565 |
| November | 7,693 |

One occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered. I am arranging for a correction to be made in Hansard.

## Prisoners: Police Custody

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police cells in each police force area in each of the last five years; and at what estimated cost in each year. [172863]

*[Official Report, 7 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 164-66W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 7 January 2008. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table records the accurate figures for the number of occasions on which prisoners have been in police cells under Operation Safeguard in England and Wales in 2006 and 2007. (One occasion is defined as one prisoner night spent in a police cell).

*Table 1: The number of occasions on which prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard*

| *Police force area* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 132 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 414 |
| Cambridgeshire | 212 | 1,262 |
| Cheshire | 103 | 4,437 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 4 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 351 |
| Derbyshire | 113 | 454 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 38 | 1,995 |
| Dorset | 71 | 379 |

*Table 1: The number of occasions on which prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard*

| *Police force area* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Durham | 42 | 1,226 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1 | 682 |
| Essex | 1,009 | 4,387 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 17 |
| Greater Manchester | 15 | 3,086 |
| Gwent | 0 | 962 |
| Hampshire | 65 | 1,555 |
| Hertfordshire | 40 | 1,216 |
| Humberside | 0 | 81 |
| Kent | 335 | 3,654 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 1,802 |
| Leicestershire | 0 | 2,970 |
| Lincolnshire | 168 | 1,569 |
| Merseyside | 196 | 170 |
| Metropolitan | 333 | 10,740 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 20 |
| North Wales | 14 | 1,785 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 39 |
| Northamptonshire | 219 | 1,232 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 1,242 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 187 |
| South Wales | 81 | 1,401 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 1,015 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 2 |
| Suffolk | 83 | 1,171 |
| Surrey | 0 | 107 |
| Sussex | 338 | 262 |
| Thames Valley | 433 | 2,727 |
| Warwickshire | 93 | 1,191 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 63 |
| West Midlands | 570 | 6,959 |
| West Yorkshire | 45 | 3,672 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 91 |

I apologise that this information was not properly provided at the time the question was answered. I am arranging for a correction to be made in Hansard.

## Custodial Treatment: Children

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145W, on custodial treatment: children, how many children of age *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 years were held in custody following incidents of assault in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [175782]

*[Official Report, 9 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 532-33W.]*

*Letter from David Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 9 January. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the number of young people from ages 10 to 13 in custody on remand or under sentence whose principal offence was assault as at 30 June in the three years in question. Young people in this age range are accommodated in either a secure children's home or secure training centre. This data has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

*Number of children aged 10, 11, 12 and 13 years held in custody following incidents of assault on 30th June in 2004, 2005, and 2006*

| | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Remanded* | *Sentenced* | *Remanded* | *Sentenced* | *Remanded* | *Sentenced* |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 13 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand total | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 |

The data include the following offence types: Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault on a person assisting a constable, common assault, malicious wounding/ grievous bodily harm, violence against person, wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

I have arranged for the correction to be included in Hansard.

# Ministerial Correction

*Friday 22 February 2008*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Islam: Females

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the development of leadership skills among Muslim *(a)* women and *(b)* young people in each year since 1997. [183584]

*[Official Report, 4 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 846-47W.]*

*Letter from Parmjit Dhanda:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 4 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was formed on 5 May 2006. Since that date £118,000 has been spent directly by the Department on projects relating to the development of leadership skills of women and £225,000 on projects relating to the development of leadership skills of young people.

DCLG has also provided £6 million 'Pathfinder Funding' to local authorities for work to build the resilience of Muslim communities and some of this work will include building the leadership skills of Muslim women and young people. A full list of all work funded through the Pathfinder Fund is available from the Library of the House.

Other DCLG projects may have supported work to develop leadership skills but it is not possible to quantify the specific impact on Muslim women and young people.

I have written to the hon. Member to advise him of this error and the correction.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Tuesday 26 February 2008*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing: South West Region

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2330W, on housing: South West region, what estimate she has made of the increase in dwellings in each local authority area under the Independent Panel's proposals, expressed as a percentage of the current housing stock in that area. [183499]

*[Official Report, 6 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1182-83W.]*

*Letter from Iain Wright:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 6 February 2008. The answer should have been:

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The following table sets out the information requested.

| | *Total dwellings as at 2006* | *Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy* | *Percentage increase in dwellings for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 73,205 | 18,800 | 26 |
| Bournemouth UA | 80,973 | 16,100 | 20 |
| Bristol, City of UA | 176,987 | 30,000 | 17 |
| Caradon | 39,316 | 6,500 | 17 |
| Carrick | 42,403 | 10,900 | 26 |
| Cheltenham | 50,798 | 8,100 | 16 |
| Christchurch | 22,520 | 3,450 | 15 |
| Cotswold | 38,108 | 6,900 | 18 |
| Dartmoor National Park[1] | — | 1,000 | — |
| East Devon | 61,684 | 17,100 | 28 |
| East Dorset | 38,313 | 6,400 | 17 |
| Exeter | 48,296 | 12,000 | 25 |
| Exmoor National Park[1] | — | 400 | — |
| Forest of Dean | 34,786 | 6,200 | 18 |
| Gloucester | 49,445 | 11,500 | 23 |
| Isles of Scilly[1] | 1,193 | 100 | 8 |
| Kennet | 33,558 | 6,000 | 18 |
| Kerrier | 42,621 | 14,400 | 34 |
| Mendip | 46,086 | 8,300 | 18 |
| Mid Devon[2] | 32,047 | 7,400 | 23 |
| North Cornwall | 40,076 | 13,400 | 33 |
| North Devon[2] | 41,949 | 10,900 | 26 |
| North Dorset | 29,011 | 7,000 | 24 |
| North Somerset UA | 85,581 | 26,750 | 31 |
| North Wiltshire | 55,071 | 13,700 | 25 |
| Penwith | 32,148 | 7,800 | 24 |
| Plymouth UA | 111,317 | 24,500 | 22 |
| Poole UA | 64,032 | 10,000 | 16 |
| Purbeck | 21,122 | 5,150 | 24 |
| Restormel | 44,513 | 15,700 | 35 |
| Salisbury | 49,429 | 12,400 | 25 |
| Sedgemoor | 47,378 | 10,200 | 22 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 105,035 | 30,800 | 29 |
| South Hams[3] | 41,274 | 11,800 | 29 |
| South Somerset | 69,660 | 19,700 | 28 |
| Stroud | 47,711 | 9,100 | 19 |
| Swindon UA | 82,530 | 34,200 | 41 |
| Taunton Deane | 46,859 | 21,800 | 47 |
| Teignbridge[3] | 55,673 | 10,400 | 19 |
| Tewkesbury | 34,090 | 14,600 | 43 |
| Torbay UA | 62,211 | 20,000 | 32 |
| Torridge | 28,362 | 10,700 | 38 |

| | *Total dwellings as at 2006* | *Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy* | *Percentage increase in dwellings for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy* |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Devon[1] | 22,561 | 4,400 | 20 |
| West Dorset | 46,787 | 12,500 | 27 |
| West Somerset[2] | 17,013 | 2,500 | 15 |
| West Wiltshire | 54,100 | 12,300 | 23 |
| Weymouth and Portland | 29,714 | 5,600 | 19 |
| Total | 2,277,546 | 569,450 | 25 |

[1] Estimated strictly local needs provision only.
[2] Housing stock data includes part in Exmoor National Park.
[3] Housing stock data includes part in Dartmoor National Park.

We have written to the hon. Member to advise him of this error and the correction.

## DEFENCE

### Military Equipment: Iraq

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what military equipment the UK gifted to Iraqi forces in each year since 2003; [163033]

(2) what military equipment the Government plan to gift to Iraq over the next 12 months. [163034]

*[Official Report, 21 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 1601-03W.]*

*Letter from Des Browne:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 21 January 2008. The final paragraphs should have read:

*2007 military equipment*

300 L109 hand grenades

Our records indicated that no military or security-related equipment was gifted to Iraq in 2003 or 2004. Currently, we have no plans to gift military equipment in future.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Poverty

14. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Government has made of levels of poverty among disadvantaged groups. [186559]

*[Official Report, 18 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 221W.]*

*Letter from Stephen Timms:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 18 February 2008. The answer should have been:

**Mr. Timms:** The number of children in poverty has fallen by 600,000 in the past decade, the number of pensioners by over a million and the number of individuals living in households containing a disabled person by 900,000. We are determined to make further progress.

# Ministerial Correction

*Wednesday 27 February 2008*

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168597]

*[Official Report, 3 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 912W.]*

*Letter from Douglas Alexander:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) on 3 December 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** 10 laptops have been stolen from the Department for International Development in 2007, all of which had encrypted hard disks. The estimated value of these laptops was £5,962. No other computers have been stolen from DFID in 2007.

# Ministerial Correction

*Thursday 28 February 2008*

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Northcott Theatre

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* his predecessor have had with the Minister for the South West on funding for the Northcott Theatre in Exeter. [183845]

*[Official Report, 7 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1305W.]*

*Letter from Margaret Hodge:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 7 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

**Margaret Hodge:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions on this matter with the Minister for the South West.

The Department has received no representations from the Minister from the South West in his ministerial capacity.

The Department has received two letters from the Minister for the South West (Mr. Bradshaw) in his capacity as a Member of Parliament for Exeter about the Northcott Theatre. There has been one telephone conversation between my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter and a senior official at the Department.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) and my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter briefly discussed the matter in December.

It has been explained in all discussions that the Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the hon. Member for information.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Monday 3 March 2008*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Pension Credit: Overpayments

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overpayments there were of pension credits in each of the last three years; what the average sum involved was; and how much has been or is expected to be recouped from the executors of deceased pension credits claimants. [163335]

*[Official Report, 26 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 138W.]*

*Letter from Mike O'Brien:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 26 November 2007. The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The information relating to the volumes and average value of all pension credit overpayments identified in the last three years are in the following table:

| | *Volume* | *Average value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 29,000 | 225 |
| 2005-06 | 83,000 | 200 |
| 2006-07 | 168,500 | 414 |

The large increase in overpayments identified in 2006-07 reflects the Department's effort in improving the management and recovery of overpayments and in reducing error in the benefits system, including the identification and removal of error from the pension credit caseload. The increase in average value in 2006-07 is due to the priority attached to tackling high value error and the fact that overpayments identified could have existed since the introduction of pension credit in October 2003.

Information relating to how much has been recovered from executors of deceased pension credit claimants is only available from 2006, and is in the following table. Information relating to how much is expected to be recouped is not available.

| | *Amount recovered (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,869,000 |

## TRANSPORT

### Motor Vehicles: Lighting

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the likely increase in annual fuel consumption resulting from the requirement to have daytime running lamps on motor vehicles. [188257]

*[Official Report, 25 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1132W.]*

*Letter from Jim Fitzpatrick:*

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) on 25 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Research undertaken for the Department for Transport indicated that the requirement for new types of motor vehicle to be equipped with dedicated daytime running lamps would result in an increase of about 0.5 per cent. in fuel consumption.

# Ministerial Correction

*Thursday 6 March 2008*

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Commission: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what budget has been set for the Electoral Commission for each of the next three financial years. [186070]

*[Official Report, 26 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1337-38W.]*

*Letter from Peter Viggers:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 26 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

**Peter Viggers:** The Speaker's Committee considered the Commission's budget for the four years 2007-08 to 2010-11 when it met in March 2007 and approved a cash flat resource budget of £23,995,000 (including the £2 million annual Policy Development Grant budget) in each of the four years, subject to reconsideration only in the event that Parliament places new responsibilities upon the Commission during this period.

I have written to the hon. Member to advise him of this error and of the correction.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Friday 7 March 2008*

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the take-up of sports opportunities by users from priority groups; and if he will make a statement. [185845]

*[Official Report, 18 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 333-34W.]*

*Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:*

An error has been identified in the second table that appeared in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 18 February 2008. The table should have read as follows:

| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Percentage Year 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 53.3 | 51.9 |
| Limiting disability | 32.3 | 31.2 |
| Lower socio-economic | 43.4 | 42.2 |
| Women | 47.7 | 46.2 |
| All adults | 53.7 | 53.4 |

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the hon. Member for information.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged 16 and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from low socio-economic groups, *(d)* who are women and *(e)* in total (i) participated in active sports at least 12 times a year and (ii) engaged in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week (A) in each year for which figures are available and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [185847]

*[Official Report, 18 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 335W.]*

*Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:*

An error has been identified in the second table that appeared in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 18 February 2008. The table should have read as follows:

| *Priority group* | *Year 1* | *Percentage Year 2* |
|---|---|---|
| Black and minority ethnic | 53.3 | 51.9 |
| Limiting disability | 32.3 | 31.2 |
| Lower socio-economic | 43.4 | 42.2 |
| Women | 47.7 | 46.2 |
| All adults | 53.7 | 53.4 |

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the hon. Member for information.